

War criminal Guzmán on trial in Peru

by Andrea Olivieri

Shining Path leader Abimael Guzmán was brought before a secret military tribunal in Peru on Sept. 28, where he will face a 10-day trial on charges of treason against the state. It is expected that he will be sentenced to life imprisonment, which is the maximum sentence permitted under current Peruvian law, although, as the *Washington Post* recently pointed out, "some Peruvian legal experts have suggested sentencing Guzmán according to the precedent of the Nuremberg trials in Germany after World War II."

Under the Nuremberg precedent, Guzmán could be executed for war crimes. The death penalty option has been demanded by many Peruvians and is personally favored by President Alberto Fujimori.

U.S. presidential candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche re-

cently observed that the Peruvian government's options for dealing with Guzmán "were best situated under the heading of St. Augustine's work on the subject of justified warfare. The case of Guzmán lies within the area of warfare—irregular warfare is warfare, just as regular warfare is. Guzmán's crime under military justice is a war crime. He should be indicted as a war criminal."

'Red October' on the agenda?

Even as Guzmán is called to account for his crimes—which have claimed an estimated 26,000 lives and cost Peru some \$20 billion in losses over the past decade—his drug-financed organization has launched a new terrorist offensive in his name. Guzmán's so-called Fourth Plan began Oct. 1, the anniversary of Mao Zedong's rise to power in China 41 years ago, and will also reportedly target the Oct. 12 quincentenary of Christopher Columbus's discovery and the evangelization of the New World. It is expected to extend at least through the November elections for a Peruvian Constituent Assembly.

Leaflets have begun to circulate in Peru threatening "reactionary journalists," and the New York-based Spanish-language daily *ElDiario-La Prensa* has already received a warning that its offices will be blown up unless four Peruvian

Billington prosecution shows dirty U.S. policy

The following are excerpts from a Sept. 25 conference with six Peruvian media, conducted by telephone from the United States by Michael Billington. On Sept. 28, Billington, an associate of Lyndon LaRouche, began serving a 77-year jail term in Virginia as a political prisoner in the United States.

Billington: It is appropriate to have the opportunity to speak to you in Peru at a time when my government has been spending a great deal of time and effort condemning your country for human rights violations, for having successfully moved to stop the terror and the drug forces of the hideous Shining Path. . . . Meanwhile, I here am one of the prime examples of the fact that my own government has been forced, in order to maintain its power over a collapsing economy, to resort to a hideous breach of human rights against myself, my political associates, and others in our nation. . . .

Radio Union I want to know if you think Shining Path can survive, especially in light of the fact that Mr. Guzmán . . . made a number of terrorist threats against the life of

the nation. . . .

Billington I think there is indeed a very great threat that Shining Path can survive. Because Shining Path . . . is a movement that only survives because of the backing, both overt and covert, by the international financial institutions which are profiting from the destruction of nations, the looting of nations through the drug process, and the destabilization of governments. And I am sure that Guzmán feels confident to make such threats because he knows that the U.S. government and other governments in Europe are openly protecting spokesmen and activists for their global terror, claiming concern for their human rights while they throw me in prison.

El Comercio You have charged that the U.S. government is supporting Shining Path. I would like you to tell me what you are basing this accusation on. . . .

Billington Were the U.S. government in fact committed to stopping the drug scourge, which it cries so much about, it would have mobilized . . . to support the effort that Mr. Fujimori launched. Instead, the U.S. State Department, U.S. embassies throughout Latin America, and virtually the entirety of the American press and the so-called human rights institutions have come out denouncing what Mr. Fujimori has done as a breach of human rights—as if the right to life and the right to live in freedom and in development is not a fundamental human right. . . .

reporters are fired, since they had written articles hostile to Shining Path. Billboards in Lima are being posterized with warnings that "all uniformed men will be annihilated. . . . All police stations and public dependencies will be burned down in the name of President Gonzalo," Guzmán's *nom de guerre*. Graffiti demanding "respect for President Gonzalo's life" is appearing everywhere.

Children, in particular, are being targeted. Anti-terrorist police commander Gen. Vidal Herrera, who has been credited with Guzmán's capture, has had to pull his son out of school following threats against the child. Numerous schools in Lima have received bomb threats, and rumors are flying that the children of military personnel, especially, are being targeted for kidnaping, to be held in exchange for Guzmán. The schools of Callao, where Guzmán's trial is occurring, were saturated with Shining Path leaflets threatening revenge Sept. 30, forcing many of them to shut down. Latest reports from Peruvian military intelligence are that 100 Shining Path commandos freshly trained in Libya are returning to Peru.

'Human rights' for terrorism

The Fujimori government, aware that the capture of Guzmán is but the beginning of an all-out offensive against the narco-terrorist Shining Path, is sticking to its guns in pursuing a serious war strategy. Decrees increasing the severity of sentences for "terrorist apologists" are being issued, the extradition of Shining Path's "ambassadors" in Europe and the United States is now being sought, and the judicial system is being revamped to meet the requirements of war.

Predictably, the international human rights lobby and their media outlets, terrified that Fujimori's successes might prove a model for other besieged Ibero-American nations, are raising a hue and cry over the "potential for human rights violations." Thus, the *New York Times* of Sept. 27 condemned the "faceless tyranny" of Peru's courts, which have used anonymity to protect Peruvian judges from terrorist intimidation and reprisal. Such tactics, the paper protested, "only incite the Shining Path to escalate violence" and "take Peru yet another step away from the democratic process." The *Wall Street Journal* has uttered similar garbage, clearly intended for external consumption only, since the Peruvian population couldn't be more jubilant over its government's aggressive stand against narco-terrorism.

Joining these terrorist apologists in the media are the U.S. and British governments, which in the name of protecting "freedom of expression" have refused to collaborate in the prosecution of Shining Path terrorists in their respective countries. An international "pluralist commission" of human rights activists, lawyers, and "intellectuals" is currently being put together by those terrorist "ambassadors" abroad, to go to Peru and demand "respect for Guzmán's rights." It remains to be seen whether the Human Rights Commission of the Organization of American States, which has made a campaign in recent years of defending the rights of imprisoned Shining Path terrorists, will get in on the act as well.

Medellín Cartel kills Escobar's judge

by Andrea Olivieri

Judge Myriam Rocío Vélez of Medellín, Colombia was gunned down by cocaine cartel assassins on Sept. 18, on the eve of her decision to convict fugitive Medellín Cartel chieftain Pablo Escobar of the 1986 murder of newspaper publisher Guillermo Cano. Judge Vélez was one of the so-called faceless, or anonymous, judges allegedly protected by the César Gaviria government. She is the fourth person related to this particular case to be murdered since the murder of Cano himself, and the third judicial official to be slain this year by presumed mafia hit men.

Judge Vélez's conviction of Escobar of the first serious crime with which he has been formally charged would have posed a major obstacle to President Gaviria's pursuit of a new non-aggression pact with the drug cartel. Thus, in one sense, her murder gives both Escobar and the Gaviria government more legal "breathing space" in conducting their negotiations. At the same time, her murder confirms what everyone in Colombia already knows: that Escobar has never ceased to wage a two-front war against the nation, of both selective terrorism and cooptation of the most corrupt elements of government, *starting with the presidency itself*.

Indeed, many suspicions are raised by the fact that government officials as high-level as Justice Minister Andrés González Díaz and Attorney General Carlos Gustavo Arrieta insist that no evidence exists to link Vélez's assassination with her imminent ruling on the Cano case! That the Gaviria government is desperate to renew its failed pact with Escobar and avoid an all-out war with the drug cartel was made explicit by Arrieta's public plea: "I pray that this event does not signify a return to periods of violence that have been superseded, and that this remains an isolated case."

Judge Vélez had only days earlier protested the government's failure to provide her with a bullet-proof vehicle. Medellín Police Commander Col. Daniel Alfonso Peralta told the press that those seeking an explanation for her lack of protection should inquire with the DAS, the Justice Ministry-linked political police. He further insisted that the intellectual author of Vélez's murder was "indisputably" Pablo Escobar.

Return of 'the Notables'

In the immediate aftermath of Vélez's murder, the forces favoring capitulation to the cartel have intensified their appeasement scenario. First, on Sept. 22, President Gaviria