

Andean Report by Carlos Méndez

After Guzmán, the 'moderates'

State Department agent and Senderologist David Scott Palmer says the government can negotiate with the "new" Shining Path.

On the same day that Peruvian authorities announced the life sentence of Shining Path's Abimael Guzmán, the U.S. "Senderologist" David Scott Palmer said in Lima that Guzmán's capture "could lead to the emergence of a more moderate Shining Path, which works more broadly among the population without resorting solely to terror." In other words, Palmer is proposing that President Alberto Fujimori make the same type of deal with Peru's narco-terrorists as Colombian President César Gaviria has cut in his country—an arrangement approved by the U.S. State Department.

Palmer, a former State Department employee, even went so far as to suggest that Julio César Mezzich, whom he knew when he lived in Peru in the late 1960s, might be the person to head up the new Shining Path (SL) "moderate" tendency.

Invited to Lima to address the Sixth National Private Enterprise Congress of the business association Confiep, Palmer took the opportunity to deliver the State Department's threat to the Fujimori government: The country must return to "democracy"; otherwise, he warned, there might be a "revival of subversion."

But subversion is already "revived." On the same day that Palmer made his remarks, SL killed four members of the Air Force, and one civilian and two policemen in Lima. It set off several bombs at the University Park and another at the Camino Real shopping center, killing eight people. Moreover, on Oct. 12, it massacred

47 people in Huayllao, in the province of La Mar. The target was the town's self-defense militia, but they indiscriminately assassinated men, women, and children, in many instances beheading and hacking them to death with axes. SL continues to commit the very atrocities for which Guzmán and his cohorts were sentenced to life imprisonment:

- conscious and premeditated use of children from 7 to 10 years of age as "child-bombs";
- assassination of Peruvian and foreign priests, nuns, and ministers, for the "crime" of preaching Christian values;
- physical elimination, by the cruelest methods, of thousands of defenseless peasants for refusing to join them, and systematic destruction of their few worldly goods;
- holding of "people's trials" to physically eliminate their political enemies;
- methodical and cold-blooded use of explosive devices, such as car bombs, in indiscriminate acts of terrorism in urban areas;
- use of so-called annihilation squads against businessmen and public officials.

On Oct. 9, *La República* reported charges by Archbishop Luis Bambarén of Chimbote, that over 200,000 Peruvian children had been abused and killed by SL. Speaking in Geneva, Switzerland at a meeting of the U.N. Convention on the Child, the archbishop reported that SL had set up youth committees "using children for

acts of terrorism. . . . We've had cases . . . of children killed because they were sent into mined areas to detect mines, or children used as bombs." Bambarén warned that under no circumstances must the government give in to the "diabolical" plan to kidnap children to be exchanged for Guzmán.

This evidence of genocide notwithstanding, Palmer repeated the sociological argument peddled by the State Department and others that SL recruits only because Peru is so poor, and dominated by a "white oligarchy," neglecting to mention that those who resist recruitment are terrorized or assassinated.

His line is the same as that of the various indigenous groups that are organizing terrorist activities against the quincentenary of the discovery of America. Shining Path, he says, is "the most recent manifestation of a historic tendency" of indigenous resistance to the Spaniards. In his 1972 doctoral thesis at Cornell University, Palmer wrote that the "Hispanic tradition" of Ibero-America is "authoritarian, traditional, elitist, patrimonial, Catholic, stratified, hierarchical and corporativist." One of Palmer's thesis advisers was State Department fixture Luigi Einaudi, currently U.S. ambassador to the Organization of American States.

Palmer's solutions to Peruvian poverty, as he explained in his address to Confiep, are the labor-intensive "micro-enterprises" which, he said, are the only type of economic entities the "World Bank, and other international organizations" will support. Except for a few loans recently disbursed by the Inter-American Development Bank and World Bank (only to guarantee that Peru continues to pay its debt), the United States continues to veto all economic and military assistance to this besieged country, under the charge that Fujimori has not yet restored "democracy."