

## Andean Report by Gretchen Small

### Shining Path steps up war in Peru

*Behind both the resurgence of terror and growing military unrest lies the government's pro-IMF program.*

After a several-month period of disorientation, the Shining Path terrorists launched a series of politically pinpointed attacks in Lima during the last half of December, their first significant military acts since the police and Army succeeded in capturing not only chieftain Abimael Guzmán, but most of the Maoist gang's Central Committee last September and October.

Whether the weakened Shining Path has been able to reconstruct its command structure sufficiently to sustain this renewed military offensive in the capital for any length of time remains to be seen. The problem is, however, that the government of President Alberto Fujimori has run up against two critical constraints on its ability to prosecute the war; these must be overcome if it is to carry out its intention to eradicate terrorism from Peru by 1995.

The first, is the need to take apart the aboveground political and intelligence infrastructure without which Shining Path and the other terrorists could not function. These include the fifth column which dominates the "human rights" groups, and has heavily penetrated much of the press and the so-called legal left, largely untouched by the government's crackdown thus far.

The second is the government's continued commitment to the brutal anti-growth policies of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Among other things, this insane course has left the government so bankrupt that it is sending its soldiers to the battlefield bootless and without ammunition—while paying out \$750 million last

year on its foreign debt.

How these two problems feed each other was brought home by Shining Path's December attacks.

The most politically devastating was the assassination Dec. 18 of Pedro Huillca, secretary general of Peru's largest trade union group, the General Labor Confederation (CGTP). Huillca's murder exhibited all the characteristics typical of Shining Path's *modus operandi*: A seven- or eight-person "annihilation squad" machine-gunned the labor leader and his son as they left their home. The son was gravely wounded, while a woman leader of the squad delivered the *coup de grace* against the labor leader at point-blank range.

Shining Path had circulated leaflets threatening Huillca in the weeks before his death. But Huillca's friend, former President Alan García, and the CGTP immediately issued statements denying that Shining Path had killed him, and blamed the government instead.

García, who from his exile in Colombia has been coordinating closely with the U.S. State Department in its war against the Peruvian government, accused President Fujimori of having personally ordered Huillca killed. The CGTP, founded and controlled by the Peruvian Communist Party, went one step further, demanding that a U.N. commission come to Peru to investigate their charge that the government ordered the killing.

The Garcia-CGTP line played right into the hands of Shining Path, which sought to use the murder to set off full-scale war between the govern-

ment and the labor movement. The latter was already enraged at the government's commitment to IMF austerity, and Huillca had led a march against these economic policies the day before he was killed.

Shining Path's gambit failed, however, when police arrested six of the terrorists who had participated in the attack, and they were, indeed, found to be members of Shining Path.

But instead of being able to advance against the enemy, the Fujimori government now faces growing factional conflict in the military. A foreign diplomat based in Lima went so far as to predict to the *Miami Herald* of Dec. 21 that "there is a real possibility that the institution [of the Army] will collapse."

Here the U.S. State Department has played a particularly dirty role in encouraging dissension inside the military, charging that Fujimori's war against terrorism violates "democracy" and therefore has isolated Peru from its allies. But the only reason State Department meddling has gotten as far as it has, is due to spreading anger within the military over the absolute poverty into which IMF policies have driven the military and population alike.

The rebellion in military ranks against these economic policies did lead Fujimori to send IMF managing director Michel Camdessus a letter shortly before Christmas advising him that Peru needed more time to "evaluate" whether the terms of the 1993-95 accord negotiated with the IMF "fit within the principal medium-term national objective, which is the defeat of terrorism and national pacification." No sign has appeared yet, however, that Fujimori has faced the fact that only a break with IMF policies, and the adoption of a national war economy, will generate the economic resources and morale required to win the war.