

Thus, the Seventh Forum on Peace and Human Rights had the explicit intention of forcing a renewal of dialogue and negotiations between the government and the Marxist guerrillas, at precisely the moment in which popular pressure has forced the César Gaviria government to suspect those talks.

President Gaviria has rejected the proposal to accept U.N. mediation on several occasions, including earlier this year when he stridently dismissed Nobel Peace Prize winner and former Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, when the latter arrived in Colombia to offer himself as mediator. However, Gaviria does not disagree with the idea of dialogue with the terrorists. Rather, because of widespread popular opposition to negotiating with terrorists who are daily kidnapping, blackmailing, and murdering Colombians, current conditions are considered "inappropriate" for renewing such dialogue.

The communists' forum was, however, intended to change the national consensus, and to try to force the government into a position which would eventually lead to abandoning national sovereignty to a United Nations' supranational government.

Interview: Alfredo Vásquez Carrizosa

The model is El Salvador

The following interview with former Colombian foreign minister Alfredo Vásquez Carrizosa, currently director of Colombia's Permanent Committee on Human Rights, was conducted by Javier Almario during the Seventh Forum on Peace and Human Rights, held in Bogotá on Feb. 19.

EIR: Can you explain for us your proposal for the United Nations to intervene in the Colombian conflict?

Vásquez: The United Nations should intervene because it needs to take account of what factors, what groups are in conflict, to submit a proposal for them to decide. I propose that it be the United Nations which comes to mediate. But it must mediate among two or three adverse groups. Understand that the United Nations cannot come up with a concept outside the framework of what is being discussed here.

EIR: This role of the United Nations in resolving the internal problems of nations is new. . . .

Vásquez: It isn't new. It has already been done in El Salvador, in an internal war in El Salvador. It is doing it and has done it. In Honduras it is doing it. It has done it.

EIR: But it is new for the U.N. to get involved in the internal affairs of a country.

Vásquez: It is new, but there already exists a mediator for an internal war.

EIR: Is what the United Nations did in El Salvador the example for Colombia?

Vásquez: Of course, El Salvador. The Farabundo [Martí Liberation] Front was at war with the government. Peace was achieved with United Nations' mediation.

EIR: Ever since Bush announced the new world order the United Nations has been an instrument of foreign policy of the United States and England.

Vásquez: That the United States has a very great influence in the United Nations is indisputable. But the United Nations is the only world organization to which one can resort to achieve peace in the country.

EIR: How many U.N. personnel would be required to verify the agreements and to eventually oblige the government and the guerrillas to comply with them?

Vásquez: I couldn't know. It all depends on the zone which is going to be verified.

EIR: Don't you believe that this would lead to a foreign military intervention?

Vásquez: Forgive me for not answering because I must go now.

Interview: Manuel Cepeda

U.N. intervention is welcome in Colombia

Colombian Communist Party Secretary General Manuel Cepeda was interviewed by Javier Almario during the Seventh Forum on Peace and Human Rights, on Feb. 19.

EIR: Do the Communists support Alfredo Vásquez Carrizosa's proposal to seek a U.N. intervention to facilitate peace negotiations?

Cepeda: We totally support Vásquez Carrizosa's proposal. We believe that if this alone is achieved as a result of this forum, we will have met our objective.

EIR: Why do you support U.N. intervention?

Cepeda: We think that a U.N. intervention could unblock the negotiations between the guerrillas and the Colombian government, because achieving peace in the country requires the entrance of a major authority. And the United Nations has that strong authority.