

New evidence shows Inter-American Dialogue threat to Ibero-America

The following memorandum was issued by EIR's Ibero-American desk on April 20, and is being circulated throughout the continent. For additional reference, see "Inter-American Dialogue 'Sharpen's Dagger' Against National Sovereignty" (EIR, Jan. 8, 1993).

I. Introduction

New information has come to light confirming *EIR's* earlier warnings that the Inter-American Dialogue constitutes a grave threat to national sovereignty and security in Ibero-America. The Dialogue, ostensibly a private group of Western Hemisphere bankers, policymakers, and politicians, has been found to deploy an extensive network of "non-governmental organizations" (NGOs) which defend terrorists and, in their own words, seek to eradicate "the very concept of national identity and national culture" from the Americas.

The Dialogue continues to exercise undue influence over Clinton administration policymaking toward Ibero-America, holding four cabinet-level posts and other key positions. This is one of the most striking cases of policy-holdover from the Bush administration, as it was the same Inter-American Dialogue which dominated policymaking towards Ibero-America under Bush—a point noted recently, and favorably, by the Brazilian Ambassador to the United States, Rubens Ricupero. Furthermore, the Dialogue has placed a number of current and past Dialogue members in key positions in various Ibero-American governments as well. The latest Dialogue newsletter brazenly reports that these individuals are "on loan" from the Dialogue to their respective governments—which raises the question of where their real loyalties lie.

As outlined in the December 1992 report of the Dialogue, "Convergence and Community: The Americas in 1993," the overall goal of the Dialogue is to impose upon the Western Hemisphere a new order based on limited sovereignty, the radical free trade of neo-liberal economics, and demilitarization of the Ibero-American countries.

II. The Dialogue and Americas Watch

Peter D. Bell, named permanent co-chairman of the Inter-American Dialogue on March 11, 1993, is also chairman of Americas Watch, a division of Human Rights Watch, on whose executive committee Bell also serves.

Americas Watch is one of the leading "human rights" NGOs operating in the region. In the case of Peru, Americas

Watch has functioned as a de facto support group for the Shining Path terrorists, focusing its campaigns against the Peruvian government and military and their war to defeat terrorism.

In April, Bell's Americas Watch issued the most open piece of pro-Shining Path propaganda yet: a report which charges that human rights violations became "significantly worse" last year in Peru and that Shining Path's military capabilities were "undiminished" by the capture of hundreds of top Shining Path leaders—both bald lies. The much-publicized report alleges that the arrest and trials of Shining Path's known front-groups of doctors and lawyers, such as Socorro Popular (People's Aid) and the Association of Democratic Lawyers, are violations of human rights, and declares that members of these known Shining Path associations are "neutrals" in the war. The report even includes Shining Path chief Abimael Guzmán in its list of "Individuals Unfairly Prosecuted"—supposedly because he was tried by a military court. On these and similar grounds, Americas Watch demands that the U.S. government continue to restrict international credit to Peru, and maintain diplomatic pressure.

The government of Thailand recently accused Asia Watch, another division of Bell's Human Rights Watch, of being run by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. On March 30, the head of the Thai government delegation to the Inter-Governmental Asian Regional Meeting for the Second World Conference on Human Rights, former Foreign Minister Thanat Khoman, charged that Asia Watch is "actually [a] front for the CIA," which uses "human rights as a means to extract and extort economic or political concessions" for the industrialized countries.

III. The U.S. National Security Council and the NGOs

Richard Feinberg, U.S. National Security Council director for Latin American affairs, is playing a central role coordinating Dialogue policy with the NGO structure in the Americas. Feinberg was president of the Dialogue before being named to the NSC at the end of January 1993. When he was appointed to the post, Dialogue chairman Peter Bell stated, "Richard's leadership infused the Dialogue with new energy and visibility—both in Washington and Latin America. I know of no one better suited to help shape U.S. policy toward Latin America in the coming period."

Barely a month after assuming office at the NSC, Fein-



Rigoberta Menchú, Nobel Peace Prize winner identified by Lyndon LaRouche as "the woman from hell."

berg met with representatives from the NGOs which deal with Ibero-America for a private off-the-record briefing. The briefing was sponsored by the D.C. Liaison Committee on Latin America, a group established by the Dialogue with the express purpose of "build[ing] stronger bridges between the NGO community and the U.S. government."

In the meeting, Feinberg stressed the "strategic importance" of NGO-U.S. government coordination. U.S. government strategy toward Peru, Haiti, and Nicaragua, and the North American Free Trade Agreement were discussed. According to the Dialogue's report, all participants agreed on the importance of "multilateralism and a rethinking of the Organization of the American States" to strengthen the latter's intervention capabilities in the region.

IV. The Dialogue foments ethnic conflict

The Dialogue has opened a new flank in its war against sovereignty. In February 1993, the Dialogue set up a new special project entitled "Ethnic Divisions and the Consolidation of Democracy in the Americas." Heading the project is Dialogue staff member Donna Lee Van Cott, a specialist in "ethnic conflict." Serving on the advisory committee for the project are leaders of several "indigenous peoples" NGOs, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Inter-American Foundation, and the Organization of American States. Van Cott toured Colombia and Ecuador in the first two weeks of March developing material for the project.

The Dialogue announced that the goal of the project is "to stimulate a debate among the peoples of the hemisphere on the relationship between governments and indigenous peoples," and that it plans to issue a report of "practical policy recommendations" on ethnic conflict at a later date.

The true goal of the project, however, extends far beyond merely "stimulating a debate." On Nov. 4, 1992, the *Christian Science Monitor* published an article by project director

Van Cott which championed the so-called indigenous movement as a means to splinter the nation-states of Ibero-America and eradicate "the very concept of national identity and national culture." The article was dedicated to Guatemalan terrorist spokesman and Nobel Peace Prize winner Rigoberta Menchú.

Van Cott wrote: "In virtually every country in Latin America, indigenous cultures are challenging the legitimacy of nation-states that exercise dominion over their ancestral territory. They challenge not just the state's disposition of their lands, languages, resources, and heritage, but the very concept of national identity and national culture. . . . In Bolivia and Ecuador, federations of Indian peoples have challenged the legitimacy of the Hispanicized state, demanding that their governments acknowledge the local autonomy and cultural separateness of the indigenous peoples. As these nations and others in Latin America struggle to consolidate recent democratic gains, they must also address the indigenous groups' assertion of a variety of nationalisms, an assertion that requires a more tolerant and pluralistic model of democracy."

V. Who's who

The Dialogue is not simply a group of influentials. In addition to its strong presence in the Clinton administration, the April 1993 issue of the Dialogue's Washington newsletter reports on the "Latin American members currently 'on loan' to their governments":

- Argentine Defense Minister Oscar Camilión;
- Brazilian Foreign Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso;
- Chilean Finance Minister Alejandro Foxley;
- Colombian Trade Minister Juan Manuel Santos;
- Mexican Ambassador to Cuba Beatriz Paredes Rangel; and
- Mexican Ambassador to Spain Jesús Silva Herzog.