

Andean Report by Gretchen Small

Endgame being played in Peru?

Desperate to stop the anti-terror war in Peru, Marxists and human rights lobby stage a new "bones" scandal.

Leaders of Peru's political party structure, left and right, spent much of June in Washington seeking funding, instructions from U.S. officials, and a renewed international war against their own government.

A more abject crew would be hard to find. From the Woodrow Wilson Center to the halls of Congress, they pleaded for foreign intervention to destabilize the Fujimori government, stating openly that unless "the international community" helps them provoke a crisis, Peruvians will continue to reject the "democracy" project of the new world order.

The gaggle of beggars warned that as things now stand, voters are expected to approve constitutional changes sought by the Fujimori government in an August referendum. The government will thereby consolidate its rule, and be positioned to finish off the bestial Shining Path terrorists. Following them into the dustbin of history, will be these same political interests who protected the terrorists until President Alberto Fujimori unceremoniously ran them out of office on April 5, 1992.

Enemy number one named by these politicians was Commander General of the Peruvian Army Gen. Nicolás Hermoza, who has led the successful war against Shining Path over the last 18 months. As long as Hermoza remains in command, the Fujimori government cannot be overturned, these fellows argued.

Thus, on July 8, some 20 days before the President is scheduled to announce annual military promotions, the international "human rights" lobby and their Marxist allies inside Peru

set off a new anti-Army scandal, with General Hermoza as its target.

For 10 years, the human rights crew have run campaigns painting the Peruvian Army, not Shining Path, as the real terrorists in the country. But the scandal begun on July 8 surpasses any previous.

Sometime around July 1, a map mysteriously arrived at the office of Ricardo Uceda, director of *Sí* magazine, purporting to identify the clandestine grave sites of nine students and a professor who disappeared last year from Lima's La Cantuta University after an Army raid on the campus, long a known recruiting center for Shining Path. Uceda next got an "anonymous" phone call with a "tip" to the same effect. Uceda visited the site "to verify the information."

Sí magazine, whose board of directors is headed by Carlos Maravi, grand master of Peruvian Freemasonry, has opposed the government's anti-terror war at every step. *Sí* claimed its anonymous source was a group within the military which wishes to see a return to party "democracy." Indeed, in November 1992, a masonic lodge within the military had been caught plotting the assassination of Hermoza and the overthrow of Fujimori.

On July 4, a delegation from Amnesty International, led by the Latin American director of that British intelligence-linked body, Peter Achard, arrived in Peru.

By July 8, the stage was set. Uceda returned to the gravesite accompanied by a group of Marxist congressmen, prosecutors from the attorney general's office, family members

of the supposedly "disappeared," representatives of the local human rights lobby, and 200 members of the domestic and international press corps. But police authorities were not notified!

Achard ran the excavation of the sites, all dutifully filmed for a planned Amnesty International documentary on the case. Achard later offered to bring in at least three of Amnesty's own forensic experts to analyze the charred bones found in the graves.

Despite professional estimates that a full month of forensic research will be required to identify the remains, including whether they are animal or human, their gender, and the cause of death, the anti-government media immediately started churning out headlines like *La Nación's*: "Cantuta's Dead Accuse Military." Avowed Marxist congressman Henry Pease, who kicked off the first La Cantuta scandal in April based on similar "anonymous" documents from alleged military dissidents (which were later found to be fabricated), demanded that the Organization of American States get into the act, and send in its international experts.

Expreso and *La República* dailies are already speculating about who will replace Hermoza. But will the gambit work, to get Fujimori to dump Hermoza by July 28, before the allegations can even be proven?

As recently as June 13, the President had reiterated on national television that the general had his "complete support." His critics are "ill-intentioned," he charged, because under Hermoza's leadership, the Armed Forces and police began eradicating the other terrorists, something that had not occurred in 13 years. Those attacking Hermoza and the Armed Forces in this context are either terrorists, or working in collusion with them, Fujimori stated.