

Andean Report by Valerie Rush

The military is in the crosshairs

Attacks on Ibero-America's militaries are escalating and narco-terrorists are stepping into the breach.

A new wave of attacks on the armed forces in Ibero-America is occurring at the same time that narco-terrorist forces of the so-called São Paulo Forum, backed by Cuba, are making a combined bid for continental power.

The case is clearest with respect to Colombia, where *The Palace of Justice*, a book on the tragic November 1985 siege of Colombia's Supreme Court by the narco-terrorist M-19 and authored by Colombian-Irish journalist Ana Carrigan, has just been published which blatantly whitewashes the M-19's links to the drug cartels and openly accuses the Army of responsibility for that massacre. The book's unsubstantiated charges have the same pro-terrorist stench as *State Terrorism in Colombia*, released earlier this year by a gaggle of "human rights" organizations, which identifies 500 military targets, by name, rank, photo, and background, for assassination.

The appearance of the Carrigan book is also apparently intended to boost the electoral chances of Antonio Navarro Wolf, chieftain of the since-amnestied M-19 guerrilla group, and now one of the São Paulo Forum's presidential candidates. Navarro Wolf is infamous for his assertion that the Supreme Court was chosen as an M-19 target because it "was one of the last, if not the last, respectable institution in the country."

Carrigan's book dovetails with ongoing efforts by the Colombian Attorney General's office to curtail and ultimately dismantle the Armed Forces, which remains the last bastion of

national defense against narco-terrorism. In the recent period, alongside the ousting of numerous hard-line military commanders by civilian Defense Minister Rafael Pardo Rueda, the Attorney General's office has won increasing oversight over military functions, in the name of protecting "human rights."

On Nov. 22, the Attorney General's office proposed a "radical transformation of the Armed Forces' disciplinary regimen," and announced that it would be presenting the Congress with a bill early next year that would give it greater control over the military.

This office is infiltrated from top to bottom by narco-terrorists. Former Deputy Attorney General Guillermo Villa Alzate was fired from his post this fall when his close ties to the Cali cocaine cartel were uncovered. Even as investigations were ordered to see how far the corruption has spread, a new scandal broke on Nov. 27, when it was discovered that several bodyguards of Attorney General Carlos Gustavo Arrieta were members of the FARC narco-guerrillas. The bodyguards had been recommended by former Attorney General Horacio Serpa Uribe, who is now the campaign manager of Liberal Party presidential contender Ernesto Samper Pizano.

Despite the recent increase in bloody warfare on the part of the FARC and ELN terrorists, the Gaviria government has persisted in seeking "peace negotiations" with these murderers. As part of these efforts, it has just named Ricardo Santamaría Salamanca as Colombia's new ambassador to Cuba. Santamaría, who was

Gaviria's "peace adviser" during the past year, was a coordinator of the 1991 Constituent Assembly which banned extradition of drug traffickers as part of a deal with the cartels, and during 1987-90 was heavily involved in the negotiations that led to an amnesty for the M-19 and three other narco-terrorist groups.

While the Colombian military struggles to survive, its Peruvian counterpart is facing a renewed onslaught by the international financial elites who see it as the last obstacle to wholesale looting of the country. These elites' favorite battering ram, as always, is the international human rights lobby. As international speculator George Soros, who has been buying up Peruvian debt paper, recently demanded in a *New York Times* interview, "civilian control of the military" is the condition for foreign investment in Peru.

As if on cue, the "Cantuta affair" (the alleged kidnapping and murder by the Peruvian military of 10 terrorist sympathizers on La Cantuta campus in 1992) has been revived with the discovery of several skeletons, and bits of hair and clothing, at a military shooting range. The anonymous informant is the same who provided a hand-drawn map several months earlier which led journalists to a separate gravesite, at which suspected human remains were also discovered. DNA testing in London is being conducted to determine whether the remains belong to the "Cantuta 10."

Then, as now, the head of Army Commander Gen. Nicolás Hermoza is being demanded by leftists and "human rights" militants both at home and abroad, despite the lack of serious evidence implicating the Armed Forces. Not accidentally, one of the loudest voices is the human rights group Americas Watch, on whose board sits George Soros.