

of Fidel Castro's closing speech to the Fourth Congress (see box), the Cuban dictator urged attendees not to lay down their weapons: "Who is going to surrender his weapon only to be murdered later? Who can believe in the intentions and promises of the imperialists?"

A Colombian 'Chiapas' in the works?

El Tiempo also revealed that Colombian military intelligence had prepared a three-page classified report on the Havana congress, charging that one of the primary purposes of the meeting was to put together "a strategy to pressure the [Colombian] government, through bodies such as Amnesty International and Human Rights [sic], to hold dialogue with the guerrillas." Right on cue, Amnesty International issued a violent attack on the Colombian Armed Forces and government in mid-March, claiming that the military and its "paramilitary thugs" were responsible for more than 70% of all human rights abuses in Colombia, and the guerrillas only 2%! Amnesty has declared that the purpose of its report is to pressure the next government of Colombia (which will be elected in May) to rein in the Armed Forces—and presumably to negotiate a peace agreement with the National Guerrilla Coordinator.

The *El Tiempo* revelations have already turned into a diplomatic incident, with Colombian Foreign Minister Noemí Sanín requesting a "clarification" from the Castro regime. The revelations come at an especially sensitive moment, as relations between Cuba and Colombia were only restored last year and five Colombian government ministers were planning to visit Cuba in April to sign economic agreements, possibly including the sale of up to 20,000 barrels per day of crude oil to the fuel-strapped island nation.

Castro responded with a personal telephone call to Minister Sanín, assuring her that no such terrorist conclave was held in Havana, much less under his government's sponsorship, and that none of the cited individuals were in Cuba. Castro's protestations bring to mind his speech to the Fourth Congress, at which he regretted that he had to "refrain from bluntly saying everything we think. Were we to speak our minds, diplomatic relations with many, or some, countries would be broken."

El Tiempo's exposés have also triggered a fight within the Colombian Catholic Church, which unfortunately has within its ranks numerous clerics vying for the role Bishop Samuel Ruiz has played in Mexico as spokesman and messenger for the EZLN terrorists. Chief among these in Colombia is Bishop Nel Beltrán, who has served as a "mediator" in government-guerrilla talks for five years and who, according to *El Tiempo*, was active at the guerrilla summit in Havana. Bishop Nel Beltrán has insisted that he was on a 15-day vacation in the United States during the period of the Cuba events, but Colombian Prosecutor General Gustavo de Greiff has confirmed *El Tiempo's* charges. The Colombian Bishops Conference is now threatening to sue De Greiff.

Kidnapping, Inc., business in Ibero-

by Carlos Méndez

While the climate of destabilization spreads in Mexico in the aftermath of the Jan. 1 Zapatista insurgency, the kidnapping industry in Mexico—and throughout Ibero-America—continues to flourish. On March 14, Alfredo Harp Helu, billionaire president of the administrative council of the financial group Banamex-Accival, was kidnapped in Mexico City.

Like his cousin Carlos Slim Helu, owner of the privatized company Teléfonos de México, Harp Helu was one of 77 Mexicans named on a list of businessmen targeted for kidnapping, found in the secret arms cache that exploded in May 1993 in Managua, Nicaragua. The explosion of that bunker revealed many things and confirmed others, such as the participation of the Basque ETA terrorists and, above all, the existence of a narco-terrorist international whose foci are Cuba and Nicaragua.

Since the fall of the Berlin Wall, this narco-terrorist international has been much more active, since terrorist subversion is no longer financed by either the former Soviet Union or the former East Germany. Drug trafficking, bank robberies, blackmail, and kidnapping today provide the financing for Ibero-America's narco-terrorist international. In Mexico alone so far this year, there are officially registered more than 500 kidnappings, with ransom demands in some cases exceeding \$15 million.

The Mexican 'industry'

The recent kidnapping of banker Antonio Harp Helu is but one of more than 2,000 kidnapping cases registered in Mexico in recent years. "Viewed as the second best source of funds after bank robbery, the kidnapping of businessmen has become a highly successful 'industry' in Mexico," reported the Mexican daily *El Economista* March 15. According to the newspaper, authorities report that kidnapers have received multimillion-dollar ransoms—\$5, \$10, \$15, even \$50 million in one case—but some of their victims have also been assassinated. "In the past two years, kidnappings in the country have grown 200%, of which more than 50% did not end well, reported sources from international security agencies."

The first person to arrive at the site of the Managua explosion in May 1993 was Tomás Borge, the Sandinistas' former

a flourishing America

interior minister. Borge is also an official biographer of Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari and a prominent member of the São Paulo Forum, the Cuban-run coordinating body of the narco-terrorist international (see article, p. 34).

The Managua bunker hid tons of weapons belonging to the People's Liberation Forces, a faction of El Salvador's Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN). The FMLN is also a member of the São Paulo Forum, as are the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), the Colombian M-19 and Revolutionary Armed Forces (FARC), Mexico's Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD) of Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas, and many others.

Also discovered in the bunker were 310 passports from 21 countries, many of them blank, and the material and instruments for forging immigration documents. According to the *Washington Post*, diplomats and other forces said at the time that during the last two months of the Sandinista government, as many as 890 foreigners from more than 30 countries were given Nicaraguan citizenship. More recently, Nicaraguan authorities from the Violeta Chamorro government have charged that in the final days of their government, the Sandinistas provided false identities to hundreds of terrorists.

Spawned in Cuba

In his recently published book, *Utopia Unarmed* (Editorial Joaquín Mortiz, 1993), communist political scientist Jorge G. Castañeda writes that Manuel Pineiro, Cuba's deputy interior minister from 1961 to 1974 and for many years afterwards Cuba's intelligence and security chieftain, organized the kidnappings and bank robberies that financed much of Ibero-America's subversive activities during the 1980s. Castañeda says that Pineiro—also the official coordinator of Ibero-American terrorism in that period, through Castro's Americas Department—planned the operations, transferred the required weapons to the country in question under diplomatic cover, and sent money to Cuba by the same channel.

Castañeda writes that "Massetti, who was posted in Mexico City as a mid-level Department official from 1980 through 1983 when he was expelled by the Mexican government, is categorical about his own experiences. Weapons

would be flown into Mexico, bank holdups, kidnappings, or other crimes would be carried out, and the proceeds would be handed over to the Department for safekeeping. It would then spread them around to revolutionary movements to purchase arms with. . . . A number of bank robberies in Mexico City and Panama and several kidnappings in Mexico and Brazil of very wealthy businessmen that were later attributed to Southern Cone ex-revolutionaries acting on their own . . . can be presumed to have been Departmental activity."

According to Castañeda, Pineiro has been directly involved in the FSLN and in the training of the Sandinista government in Nicaragua; in the FMLN of El Salvador; in the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Union (URNG), and in the rest of Ibero-America's leftist organizations. He has also had links to the Spanish Basque ETA terrorists, who found Cuba a safe haven for their operatives.

Castañeda says that more recently, Pineiro has been very active in meetings of the São Paulo Forum.

On Jan. 6, 1994, the Brazilian daily *Folha de São Paulo* reported that the U.S. State Department had concluded its investigation into the kidnapping and terrorism international uncovered by the FMLN weapons bunker explosion. According to *Folha*, the State Department confirmed that there was a network of kidnapers, that the weapons did indeed belong to the FMLN [as the FMLN itself admitted], and that the groups affiliated to this terrorist international "coordinated among themselves." However, the State Department investigation inexplicably concludes that this entire network "probably became inactive with the fall of communism."

Mexico and Nicaragua, ETA bases

In its Nov. 15, 1993 issue, the Spanish magazine *Cambio 16* reported that it had gained access to a confidential memo by the Spanish Interior Ministry, which contained the names of 22 ETA activists now living in Mexico. The magazine reminds the reader that the Managua bunker was in the name of Miguel Antonio Larios Moreno, "a false identity behind which hid one Eusebio Arzallus Tapia, one of the most dangerous activists" of the ETA, who was given Nicaraguan citizenship in 1990. In a report published the first week of February 1993 in the Mexican magazine *Impacto* (No. 2293), journalist Jorge Alejandro Medellín wrote that Arzallus Tapia "managed to leave Managua, weeks later penetrating Mexican territory where he still remains, according to Spanish intelligence. As far as is known . . . he entered Mexico using a false Honduran passport in the name of Julio Aguilar Cruz."

Cambio 16 also reported that other documents found in the bunker "confirm ETA's participation in the kidnapping of Brazilian Abilio Diniz, in December 1989." Further, ETA has deployed to other countries from Nicaragua, and "the weapons were sent abroad under diplomatic cover, while economic financing to carry out the operations was under the charge of the Fifth Directorate. The ETA terrorists always entered and left the countries in which they operated through

Mexico." The Fifth Directorate was a dependency of the Nicaraguan Interior Ministry, headed by Tomás Borge.

Another report published in the Mexican magazine *Proceso* on June 7, 1993, indicated that "the Spanish newspaper *ABC* reveals in its May 7 [1993] issue that 150 ETAers . . . are in Mexico trying to reorganize themselves. According to anti-terrorism experts consulted by the Spanish daily, ETA is behind some of the kidnappings that have been occurring in Mexico."

In its Nov. 29, 1993 issue, Spain's *Cambio 16* published an extensive report on ETA activities in Ibero-America, which noted that the Spanish Interior Ministry estimates that there are between 100 and 200 ETA activists currently living in Mexico, and listed some of their names. On Dec. 29, 1993, *ABC* reported that the main centers of ETA activity in Mexico are in Mexico City, and in the states of Hidalgo, Querétaro, Nuevo León and Guanajuato. *Cambio 16* added that the ETA terrorists operate "under the presumably innocent cover of environmental or social consulting firms," companies which—according to official sources—"have reached into highly important levels of government, as it is known that they work both for the OAS and for the United Nations, as well as for other Mexican entities."

On Jan. 22, 1994, *ABC* reported that Mexico has asked Spain's collaboration in investigating the ETA connection to the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN). Mexican sources confirm that there are ETA members in Chiapas, where the Zapatistas launched their uprising.

Brazil, Colombia, Peru . . .

Kidnapping, Inc. has infested all of Ibero-America. Apart from Brazil and Mexico, Colombia and Peru are today the countries most afflicted. In 1993, Colombia officially registered more than 1,000 kidnappings, and so far this year, another 50. Further, the number of victims who pay "war taxes" or "quotas" to protect themselves from kidnapping—or worse—is immense. The kidnapers include the FARC, the National Liberation Army (ELN), and the People's Liberation Army (EPL).

In Peru, in addition to Shining Path, the major kidnapers are the narco-terrorists of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA), closely linked to Colombia's M-19, the Sandinistas, and to Cuba, as well as to the so-called Americas Battalion, which includes Colombia's narco-guerrillas and others. On Oct. 15, 1993, Peru's anti-terrorist police rescued MRTA kidnap victim Raul Hiraoka Torres. In freeing the businessman, they dismantled an entire MRTA network of "people's jails" and captured several terrorists, including four Chileans. One of these, Francisco Castillo Petrucci, headed up the MRTA's "Special Extortion and Kidnapping Unit."

According to the Statistical Department of Peru's National Police and the Interior Ministry, the number of kidnappings registered between 1989 and 1993 was 1,763.

Is a green hand behind Hydro-Quebec bombing?

by Raynald Rouleau

The author is a journalist for the French newspaper Nouvelle Solidarité.

A high-voltage transmission tower was bombed near St. Basil, about 25 kilometers south of Montreal, Canada. The damage was discovered on March 14 by a maintenance crew, in the course of a routine inspection. According to Quebec's provincial police, the explosion had occurred on Feb. 24 at around 3:30 a.m. One leg of the pylon had been entirely severed at its base, while another leg had been damaged by a partial explosion of a second charge. The structure was still standing, held up by the power lines. A third charge, 10 sticks of dynamite, was also found, intact, on an adjacent pylon. According to experts, the authors of the act had some knowledge of the engineering of power lines, knowing in particular that the total destruction of a single tower would not necessarily bring down the line in a domino effect, unless a second pylon were at least partially damaged. If the domino effect had taken place, it would have taken weeks to repair. As it was, electricity to about 175,000 residents was interrupted for a few hours, while experts deactivated the device that had not exploded.

The next day, the remains of another device were found, on the Kahnawake Indian reservation, near Montreal. One leg on this bigger pylon, holding the 300 Megawatt (MW) cables going over the St. Laurent River, was slightly warped by the explosion.

Two weeks earlier, on Feb. 11, an explosion reportedly caused an interruption of service in the region of Cornwall, Ontario, near the United States-Ontario-Quebec border. That attack was claimed in an anonymous telephone call, supposedly in relation to a strike by the employees of Quebecor, the company that owns the *Journal de Montreal*.

What is going on here?

One possible scenario would link the attacks with the export of electricity to the United States, for the explosions took place at a time when hearings were scheduled to begin in New York State, on the renewal of contracts between Hydro-Quebec and New York State. The Feb. 11 attack had caused the interruption of electricity deliveries (150 MW) to New York State, and the two other failed attempts would also have interrupted services to the United States. One