

Andean Report by Valerie Rush

São Paulo Forum readies new 'Chiapas'

The black population of the Colombian state of Chocó is being primed for a rebellion against the government.

The long-standing conditions of impoverishment and neglect in Colombia's Pacific Coast state of Chocó drew the attention of the *New York Times* on March 29, with a prominent article on the awakening of "black consciousness" in the area. While filled with details on the admittedly horrendous living conditions of people in that predominantly black state, the article reveals the deeper purpose of its sudden "concern," in a brief comment mid-article. "Just as Mexico has Chiapas," intoned the *Times*, "Colombia has Chocó."

The fact is that the priming of Colombia's black poor to be deployed as cannon fodder against the nation-state is far advanced. Just as in Chiapas, whose Indian population has been under intense scrutiny since the early 1970s, so too have "ethno-anthropologists" been profiling Chocó on behalf of Anglo-American intelligence services for years.

It should come as no surprise that anthropologists are trying to revive a virtually non-existent "Afro-Colombian" culture, replete with worship of African deities, among the Catholic population of Chocó. It was precisely such laboratory experiments in Haiti that produced Jean-Bertrand Aristide's murderous Lavalas mob.

Today, the region is not only crawling with these "specialists," but also with narco-terrorists and Marxist theology of liberation fanatics—precisely the witches' brew that went into the making of Mexico's "Zapatista" uprising in Chiapas.

Not only is Chocó, which borders

Panama, a choice transit point for Colombia's drug traffickers; it has also been the victim of myriad secessionist efforts over the years, many of these financed and encouraged by the traffickers themselves.

More recently, Chocó has become the target of the Cuba-linked Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the narco-guerrilla army which has come to be known as Colombia's Third Cartel, due to its extensive involvement in the production and smuggling first of cocaine, and now of heroin.

The FARC is a leading force in the National Guerrilla Coordinator (CNG), which in turn is a founding member of the Havana-spawned São Paulo Forum. The forum, which met in Havana in January, represents pro-terrorist and terrorist groups from across Ibero-America that are being re-tooled in the aftermath of the Berlin Wall collapse to lead Mexico-style "ethnic insurgencies" throughout the continent.

The FARC recently announced the creation of an all-black military "front" in Chocó, which has begun to finance itself by kidnapping prominent businessmen. But the FARC has been active in Chocó for some time. The *Times* quotes the head of one Chocó slum-dwellers' organization: "If the government does not have the political will to invest in our people, we will have to follow the lead of all the other groups in this country—a turn to arms!"

Also, according to the *Times*, it was "street protests, and even guerril-

la action," which helped produce last year's "Negritudes Law," through which the Gaviria government acknowledges the existence of a "black culture" in Colombia.

Exemplary of the way the Negritudes Law works were last month's congressional elections, where two seats in the Chamber of Deputies had been set aside for members of a "black slate." One frustrated black candidate told *EIR* that, despite winning over 10,000 votes—enough for a congressional seat on an ordinary political slate—he lost his bid to represent his district because *as a black* he was outpolled by two other black candidates nationwide. The candidate, rueing his decision to run on the basis of his blackness, denounced the Negritudes Law as racist.

Another political force in the country, one which got smashed at the polls, has every intention of turning Colombia's budding "ethnic" movements to its advantage. The "formerly" narco-terrorist M-19, also a founding member of the São Paulo Forum, has just announced the endorsement of the country's Negritude Movement for its presidential candidate, Antonio Navarro Wolf. To be on the safe side, Navarro has also taken on as his vice-presidential running mate one of Colombia's "indigenist" leaders, said to be a good friend of Nobel Peace Prize terrorist from Guatemala Rigoberta Menchú.

While the Negritudes Law, which among other things is designed to "punish" racial discrimination, is admirably described by the *Times* as "the most far-reaching in Latin America," its real authors have other directions in mind. According to sources at the Jesuit-run Research Center for People's Education (CI-NEP), a stronghold of the theology of liberation in Colombia, a new "Theology of Negritude" is now coming into being.