

## Andean Report by Manuel Hidalgo

### A new military mission

*Peru's Armed Forces have taken on the dual challenge of fighting narco-subversion and building the nation.*

The close working relationship between civilian President Alberto Fujimori and Peru's Armed Forces has been a cause for much teeth-gnashing in one-worldist circles since September 1992, when President Fujimori shut down the corruption-riddled Congress and Supreme Court of Peru, and launched all-out war against the Shining Path narco-terrorist movement. His outstanding victories since, against the narco-terrorism that has plagued the country for a decade, are now recognized by all.

The demilitarization crowd and international self-proclaimed "human rights" lobby, and their allies in Ibero-America, hysterically oppose such a role for the continent's militaries. Their aim instead is to redefine the military's mission, to reduce and eventually eliminate its national role. But with a victory against Shining Path under their belt, the Peruvian Armed Forces and Fujimori have not only refused to yield to these pressures, but have taken a totally new direction. Not only will they escalate their war against the drug mob, but they also intend to forge a major military role in the construction of urgently needed economic infrastructure.

This is London's worst nightmare come true, because Peru's successes on these fronts are being closely watched by all of Ibero-America's Armed Forces, which are similarly under siege by the demilitarizers.

On Dec. 8, on Army Day, President Fujimori unveiled the military's new mandates, and Army commander Gen. Nicolás Hermoza Ríos respond-

ed: "We soldiers . . . are prepared to launch the other battle . . . of consolidating the national peace . . . and our determined action against the drug trade." He stressed "the fundamental role of the military in the fight against poverty and underdevelopment."

This nationalist conception of the military's mission has the oligarchs foaming at the mouth. One-worldist mouthpiece Hernando de Soto, an advocate of drug legalization, threatened in early 1994 that if the Armed Forces continued to do battle with the drug trade, it would be inundated with corruption scandals. In recent weeks, a campaign of precisely such scandals was launched against the former military chief of the Upper Huallaga Valley, Gen. Eduardo Bellido Mora, on the basis of "testimony" from several tainted former officers who had been investigated, thrown out of the military, and are now in exile.

General Hermoza warned in the same speech that "just as the Army yesterday was subjected to discrediting and destabilizing campaigns, today the same actors have launched other tendentious efforts to try, in a Machiavellian way, to halt operations against narco-terrorism. . . . Of these actions, the men in my institution are well aware."

General Hermoza also denounced the human rights lobby, property of the one-worldist oligarchy, as "complicit, through their silence, in the criminal irrationality of the terrorists." He observed bitterly that "thousands upon thousands of Peruvians had to die before the U.N. Human Rights Commission, on July 22,

1992, came out and denounced the 'genocidal nature' of Shining Path and the MRTA."

On Dec. 11, a special supplement published by the Peruvian Army and printed in the daily *Expreso* announced the Army's involvement in construction projects "to unite the coast with the jungle, and the Pacific with the Atlantic." The supplement said that, "in the past three years, military engineers have rehabilitated 4,529.6 kilometers of highway, built another 166.7 kilometers . . . and paved and improved another 128 kilometers." The supplement stressed that this road-building "is strategically important since subversion tries in vain to control transportation in the country in order to implement their anti-development strategies."

The supplement included a detailed map of military engineering projects, and described the various projects designed to unite the country: linking the northern coast to the Marañón River (a tributary of the Amazon River); improving the Mazo-Desaguadero highway, to permit Peruvian links with Bolivia; and improving the Cuzco-Puerto Maldonado-Inapari highway, which links the Peruvian Pacific port of Ilo with the Trans-Amazon Highway that crosses the central states of the Brazilian Amazon.

And in late December, the Peruvian Army signed an agreement of scientific-technical cooperation with Peru's National Engineering University to launch the so-called Neolmar Project, a nuclear-based program which would simultaneously alleviate the severe electricity deficit in parts of Peru, and power a number of development initiatives, from the Bayovar project to mine 750 million tons of phosphoric rock for fertilizer production, to irrigating the Piura and Sechura deserts and bringing close to 1 million hectares of land under cultivation.