

# The British hand behind Cuba's narco-terrorist deployments

by Valerie Rush and Carlos Méndez

Using such time-tested methods of destabilizing nations as terrorism, border conflicts, and human rights scandals, the British oligarchy and its assets abroad are having a field day sowing chaos across Ibero-America, at precisely the moment when the dramatic collapse of the British-inspired "free-trade" economic model is challenging the continent to unify in defense of its political and economic sovereignty, and against its common enemy. Deployed as part of this scenario is former Venezuelan Army Col. Hugo Chávez, who is currently on a continental organizing tour on behalf of the São Paulo Forum—a group of leftist movements sponsored by Cuba's Fidel Castro, and supported by the Inter-American Dialogue, a Washington-based bankers' think-tank.

Chávez's agent role first came to light after the bloody assault on Feb. 26 against a Venezuelan military border post by the Colombian narco-terrorist National Liberation Army (ELN). Eight Venezuelan infantrymen were massacred, and their bodies horribly mutilated, in what was reported to have been a drug-induced orgy of sadism by the ELN assassins. An outcry by Venezuelans disgusted with the Colombian government's appeasement policy toward the narco-terrorists rapidly raised tensions between the two neighboring countries.

Documents later seized by Venezuelan authorities from members of Chávez's Revolutionary Bolivarian Movement (MBR-200) revealed that the scenario was to force a deployment of Venezuelan troops to the border with Colombia, leaving the Venezuelan interior unprotected and incapable of an adequate response to planned uprisings on March 15, particularly in the capital city of Caracas. As part of the March 15 scenario, congressmen and government officials were to have been assassinated, the headquarters of the political police blown up, and looters unleashed in cities across the country. Dozens of Chávez's MBR-200 supporters were arrested, and the plot defused.

On March 15, Colombian authorities announced that they had documented Chávez's links with the ELN, including one or more meetings between the Venezuelan and guerrilla leaders, and that the two forces were in the process of organizing a Greater Colombian Revolutionary Alliance. Chávez denied any links to the ELN, but a few days later,

the ELN's magazine *Dignidad* came out with a feature article, "The Bolivarian Ideal," hailing Chávez as a model leader for the continent.

The ELN is a Theology of Liberation creation of Fidel Castro, which made its fame and fortune in the employ of Anglo-Soviet "Trust" agent Armand Hammer back in the 1980s, running a protection racket for Hammer's Occidental Petroleum facilities in Colombia. Its guard service for Hammer's Occidental did not inhibit the ELN from carrying out hundreds of assaults, bombings, and kidnappings against other oil companies, with the Colombian oil company Ecopetrol being a special target for sabotage. The ELN is a part of the so-called Simón Bolívar Guerrilla Coordinator, an umbrella group for Colombia's narco-terrorist movements which is also a member of Castro's São Paulo Forum.

The rapid responses of both the Colombian and Venezuelan governments in denouncing the narco-terrorists as their common enemy have, for the moment, prevented a full-scale confrontation between the two countries. But to fully disarm this destabilization scenario, the British hand behind Chávez and his string-puller Fidel Castro must be exposed.

## Following the Chávez trail

A glimpse of Chávez's British sponsorship was offered by the man himself when he complained at a March 19 press conference in Caracas that Venezuelan President Rafael Caldera had blocked his planned visit to London on invitation of the British government. Chávez charged that President Caldera had made a number of protest calls to the British authorities, leading to the trip being cancelled. One week earlier, the Caracas daily *El Nacional* reported that Chávez had lunched in an elegant restaurant with adviser to the British Embassy in Venezuela Paul Webster Hare.

Chávez's submission to the British gameplan for the continent is perhaps best expressed in his March 30 comments to the Argentine daily *El Cronista*, where he stated that his movement is proposing to "reexamine the neo-structuralist theories of [Argentine economist Raúl] Prebisch . . . in opposition to neo-liberalism." Prebisch is well known in Argentina as a British agent who had worked under the direction

of the Bank of England's Otto Niemeyer to organize the Argentine central bank back in the 1930s. Prebisch was also involved in negotiating the Roca-Runciman Treaty of 1933, according to which Argentina signed a trade deal with England to assure payment of the Argentine debt. After the 1955 overthrow of Juan Domingo Perón, Prebisch helped bring about Argentina's first agreement with the International Monetary Fund in 1957.

Chávez went public with his membership in Castro's São Paulo Forum on Dec. 14 of last year, when he was personally received by Castro at the Havana airport. Said Castro, "It's never been more appropriate to come to this airport than it is for me to receive a visitor such as Lt. Col. Hugo Chávez. I hope I will have many more such opportunities to greet figures as important as he." Replied Chávez, "It is an honor which, in truth, I don't believe we merit yet. . . . I hope that we will soon be worthy."

Castro's embrace of the Venezuelan was especially surprising given that Castro was one of the first to send Venezuelan ex-President Carlos Andrés Pérez a telegram of support after the failed coup attempt by Chávez in February 1992. Even more surprising—or was it?—was Pérez's defense of Chávez on March 20, when, in a videotaped presentation to a forum at Venezuela's Central University, the disgraced ex-President, who is currently under house arrest on corruption charges, said that the charge linking Chávez to the Colombian narco-terrorists is but "one more [Venezuelan] government maneuver to discredit its enemy, instead of facing it."

Castro's own dealings with the British have begun to be revealed publicly as well. In early February, British Conservative Party leader Baroness Young visited Cuba at the head of a delegation of 40 British businessmen. She met at least twice with Castro and praised the Cuban dictator for "having adopted great changes in the economy," many of which she had discussed with Cuban officials during her visit 18 months earlier. Castro's recent high-profile visit to France is viewed by knowledgeable observers as the result of an Anglo-French initiative.

### Castro's 'Bolivarian' deployment

Immediately following his December 1994 trip to Cuba, Chávez went to Santa Marta, Colombia, where on Dec. 17-18, he met with a handful of retired military officers from around the continent to plot strategy for a so-called Second Amphictyonic Conference in Panama, on the 170th anniversary of the conference called by Simón Bolívar to promote the unification of the continent around his ideal of a "Greater Fatherland." The Colombian Communist Party newspaper *Voz* hailed the Santa Marta "preparatory meeting" as designed to "ratify the just Bolivarian aspiration of the unity of the Latin American and Caribbean nations, to confront the aggression, abuse, and violation of the rights and sovereignty of our peoples." The Colombian Communist Party runs that

country's largest narco-terrorist army, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, and its leader Gilberto Vieira is an active collaborator of the São Paulo Forum.

Among the participants in that Santa Marta meeting with Chávez were Argentine "military strategist" Norberto Ceresole and former Argentine naval officer Raúl de Sagastizabal. Ceresole, a "leftist" geopolitician with links to former Soviet and East German intelligence circles (see article, p. 33), and De Sagastizabal, head of the "Argentina in the World Studies Center," sponsored Chávez's late March trip to Argentina.

Exploiting the fact that Chávez is a retired military officer, the British and Castro are using him as part of their effort to annihilate the armed forces of Ibero-America. As journalist Carlos Manuel Acuña wrote in the March 24 *El Informador*, under the title "A Plan to Refloat the Left," Chávez's trip to Argentina should be seen in the context of the upcoming meeting of the São Paulo Forum in Montevideo, Uruguay, which Chávez will reportedly be attending. Said Acuña, Chávez's visit is related to the launching of a continental Bolivarian movement which, "under leftist banners, will try to counter the existence of other currents which exist . . . based on nationalist principles, and on a definition of professional roles for the armed forces within a more orthodox framework."

It comes as no surprise, therefore, that Chávez's collaborator and adviser Ceresole has just written a detailed proposal on how to dismantle and "restructure" the Argentine military. That proposal has been submitted to presidential candidate José Octavio Bordón, a member of the Inter-American Dialogue, which has its own ties to the São Paulo Forum and which is virulently anti-military.

Significantly, Ceresole's proposal found an echo in the mouth of a self-confessed British agent-of-influence, former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. Deliberately choosing April 2—the anniversary of Argentina's 1982 retaking of the Malvinas Islands from Great Britain—as his arrival date, Kissinger held a closed-door session with Argentine Defense Minister Oscar Camilión (also a participant in the Inter-American Dialogue), with whom he discussed the "restructuring of the Argentine Armed Forces," according to the Mexican news agency Notimex. In particular, there was discussion of how to use Argentine forces in United Nations "peace missions" and in "regional defense" rapid deployments.

The British deployment of both Chávez and Kissinger into Argentina coincides with a human rights scandal dredged up from the war against subversion of the 1970s. Driven by the British-spawned international human rights lobby, the scandal has the potential to destroy what remains of the Argentine Armed Forces, and possibly those of other nations in the region as well.

That is precisely what Castro's narco-terrorist collaborators in the São Paulo Forum are waiting for.