

Guatemala targeted for disintegration

by Gretchen Small

The ongoing "human rights" campaign against Guatemala's military, denounced *ad nauseam* as a supposed gang of CIA-run killers, has already achieved one of its immediate goals, a break in official U.S.-Guatemalan military relations. On March 10, the Clinton administration suspended Guatemala's participation in the U.S. International Military and Education Training program. Anti-Guatemalan activists are now gunning for a replay of the diplomatic and political war against Guatemala which Zbigniew Brzezinski ran during the Carter administration. They are demanding that U.S. intelligence and anti-drug assistance be cut, and preferential trade status denied, until the Guatemalan government dismantles its military.

For more than a decade, Guatemala has been subjected to a "Big Lie" campaign. It has now become a virtual axiom of media and policymakers, that Guatemalans today suffer because "brutal military oppressors" still refuse to grant political power to those "poor Indian rebels" supporting the Revolutionary National Guatemalan Union (URNG).

In fact, the URNG is a Serbian-style racist, terrorist movement, formed at the behest of Fidel Castro in 1981 out of four terrorist groups; today it serves on the steering committee of the São Paulo Forum, the Cuban-founded terrorist apparatus. The URNG is committed to breaking up the Guatemalan nation into warring ethnic fiefdoms, and was built up, over several decades, by the same combination of foreign forces which created Peru's Shining Path and Mexico's Zapatista insurgents during the same time frame (see *EIR*, March 31, p. 10). In 1985, *EIR* issued a 109-page *Special Report, Soviet Unconventional Warfare in Ibero-America: The Case of Guatemala*, warning Washington that the URNG was a foreign-run, narco-terrorist insurgency.

The military's crime, the orchestrators of this campaign believe, is that it broke the back of this insurgency on the battlefield, organized the country's rural population—of diverse ethnic backgrounds—to defend itself, and brought some presence of the national state into the underdeveloped regions.

Washington had better start asking questions: Who is orchestrating this operation, and to what ends? What will be the strategic consequences, if the Guatemalan military is dismantled, and the terrorist insurgency revived? Would this not ensure a regional conflagration, as the URNG assault joins the Zapatista insurgency in Mexico?

Foreign policy by soap opera

The current anti-Guatemala campaign was set off by a "news story" about an American lawyer, Jennifer Harbury, who was holding hunger strikes to demand information on the whereabouts, or death, of her Guatemalan common-law husband, Everardo Bámaca. Harbury's tale has been played as a tear-jerker romance by everything from CBS's "60 Minutes" to *People* magazine. The *Washington Post* dubbed the Harbury-Bámaca story "Love on a Volcano"; the *New York Times* headlined one piece, "The Rebel and the Lawyer: Unlikely Love in Guatemala." That story began: "Theirs was the most improbable of intimacies. . . ."

The fact that Harbury is an acknowledged URNG activist is down-played. Yet, she herself relates that she met her husband while visiting one of the terrorist's camps in Guatemala, allegedly to collect materials for her book, *Bridge of Courage: The Stories of the Guatemalan Compañeros and Compañeras*. She is proud that Bámaca, her husband, was a 19-year combatant and high-level commander of one of the URNG components, the Organization of People in Arms.

Everybody seems to agree that Bámaca disappeared during a battle with the military. But how, or even whether he died has not been confirmed. The source of the charge that he was captured alive and tortured by the military is Santiago Cabrera López (alias, Carlos), an URNG commander who claims to have "escaped" from a military base and fled to Mexico. Carlos has now joined the international circuit, appearing in Geneva in 1993 to tell his version of Bámaca's story.

What no one can claim, is that Bámaca was/is an innocent bystander. He commanded a terrorist unit, and he was waging war against Guatemala.

In Washington, Rep. Robert Torricelli (D-N.J.), who admits that *his* current lover, Bianca Jagger (ex-wife of porn and drug-rock star Mick Jagger), "nudged" him to take up the case, has been attacking the Guatemalan military. According to the April 17 *Washington Post*, Torricelli brags that his foreign policy is directed by his lover. "Bianca knows a great deal about Latin America," he told the *Post*; he added that he raised human rights at the Summit of the Americas in December 1994 because, "frankly, she asked me to raise it."

What Torricelli didn't report, is that Bianca, a Nicaraguan, is an activist for the Sandinistas, who also sit on the steering committee of the São Paulo Forum.

The bigger problem is that Torricelli leads the Inter-American Dialogue's monthly congressional caucus on Ibero-American policy issues. In coordination with the IAD, Torricelli promoted the May 1994 Washington appearances of IAD member and Brazilian presidential candidate "Lula"—the co-founder, with Fidel Castro, of the São Paulo Forum. Thus, the IAD, whose ex-president, Richard Feinberg, is now a National Security Council adviser on Ibero-America, has been caught once again promoting a British-sponsored terrorist apparatus which threatens to rip apart the Western Hemisphere.