

strong State.” Yet in July he traveled to Cuba to meet for several hours with that well-known “democrat,” Fidel Castro.

The GOL first became visible when it sent a delegation to Panama in 1990, shortly after George Bush’s invasion, in order to support the “democratic” government of Guillermo “Porky” Endara, also a toady of the Cali cartel. GOL’s coordinator at the Mexican conference, who introduced the other speakers, was one César Lepervanche, a former executive of the Venevisión television network whose owners are the very dirty Cisneros family. Lepervanche was a producer of the network’s “anti-drug” programs, two of which were most revealing: One was an interview with the Cali cartel’s favorite “anti-drug” leader, Gen. Miguel Maza Márquez, and the other was an interview with an official of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), in which Lepervanche unsuccessfully tried to get the official to attack *EIR* founder Lyndon LaRouche.

During the press conference which followed the Mexico City conference, Alvarez Paz, Guillermo de León, and Castillo Peraza promoted the Kissingerian thesis of limited sovereignty. According to journalist Héctor Landaeta of the Caracas daily *El Globo*, Alvarez proposed the creation of “a world, or continental anti-drug international which should restate the concept of sovereignty and national security in order to confront the drug trade with greater power,” and called for a “new security theory” on the basis of which national armed forces should be redeployed.” Alvarez Paz emphasized that such a supranational apparatus would also be useful for “economic integration.”

Just how the São Paulo Forum and its neoconservative allies are working together is seen in their joint coordination of efforts to overthrow the government of Venezuelan President Rafael Caldera. On Aug. 23, Venezuelan intellectual Arturo Usler Pietri, an advocate of the Chilean model for Venezuela, organized a gathering at his home which brought together the so-called “Notables,” who played such a key role in dumping former President Carlos Andrés Pérez, and several luminaries of the São Paulo Forum. This was the second meeting of this type held to plot Caldera’s ouster, which included a representative of Oswaldo Alvarez Paz, well-known bankers and politicians, as well as retired military officers belonging to the MBR-200 (Revolutionary Bolivarian Movement). The latter grouping, led by the jacobin leftist, ex-commander Hugo Chávez Frís, is also a member of the São Paulo Forum!

Also among the attendees were Pablo Medina, a leader of the Causa-R party, also a member of the São Paulo Forum, and his fellow party member José Lira, who had just returned from the narco-conference in Buenos Aires. Manuel Quijada, an adviser to Hugo Chávez, was also there. Alvarez Paz was not able to attend personally because he was in Mexico City, participating in the above-mentioned International Seminar on Drug-trafficking, Society, and Politics.

## Peña Esclusa refutes Usler Pietri on Chile

Venezuelan Labor Party Secretary General Alejandro Peña Esclusa has exchanged letters with Venezuelan intellectual Arturo Usler Pietri, on the economic alternatives confronting Venezuela and Ibero-America. Extracts follow.

### **Peña Esclusa to Usler Pietri, Aug. 23, 1995:**

In an article published recently . . . you recommended to the Venezuelan government that it implement the Chilean economic model. With all due respect, Dr. Usler, I would like to warn you that the propaganda published by the media on the “Chilean economic model,” is a fraud, a fairy tale, an invention of the City of London and Wall Street, to con Latin Americans. . . . I hold you in such high esteem, Dr. Usler, that I want to save you from the embarrassment of looking bad in the eyes of the country, when the Chilean economy collapses in a few months. Remember that, in 1984, many illustrious voices arose to praise the Mexican model, among those, that of our dear friend Alberto Vollmer, who, 48 hours before the maxi-devaluation of the peso, wrote an article recommending that [Venezuelan President Rafael] Caldera follow the economic prescriptions of [Mexican President Carlos] Salinas de Gortari. . . .

### **Usler Pietri to Peña Esclusa, Aug. 24, 1995:**

I greatly regret to inform you, that, at no time, have I proposed for Venezuela, the economic model of any other Latin American country, without excluding Chile. Rather, I have been fighting, and I am still fighting, to some day bring to an end the enormous folly, which has caused so much ruin among us, of a statized, command and subsidized economy. . . . You announce, with evident pleasure, the coming crack of the Chilean economy. Unfortunately, mankind has not yet succeeded in inventing an economic system of perfect stability and assured progress . . . but, at the same time, neither have we ever found a system to replace the market economy and its proven capacity for economic and social growth. . . .

### **Peña Esclusa to Usler Pietri, Aug. 26, 1995:**

With all due respect, Dr. Usler, it seems to me dangerous for Venezuela that, being who you are, you think that the free market constitutes a solution for the country. I believe that models do exist which have functioned successfully in the past, as, for example, that promoted by U.S. Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton in the 18th century. . . . I consider it of vital importance for Venezuela’s security and defense, as well as for the survival of Ibero-America, that a broad national debate on economy immediately begin, in which you and I, and all those persons who wish to join us, discuss publicly the economic alternatives which our nation requires. . . .