

Terror International launches new insurgency in Ibero-America

by Valerie Rush

Exactly one year ago, the Pentagon issued a report entitled "U.S. Security Strategy for the Americas," which argued, among other things, that the impact of insurgent and guerrilla forces in the Americas was happily on the wane, an argument which *EIR* founding editor Lyndon H. LaRouche blasted as a devastating blunder in U.S. policy assessment. Today, narco-terrorist insurgencies are under way in several Ibero-American nations—including just south of the U.S. border—and are threatening to spread across the continent.

In Mexico, nearly 200 well-trained and heavily armed terrorists burst onto the scene during the night of Aug. 28, and throughout the next day, carrying out bloody assaults at half-hour intervals against targets in six Mexican states, and leaving at least 35 dead and wounded—including civilians—in their wake. The People's Revolutionary Army (EPR) has announced in its messages to the media, that it is committed to the overthrow of the Mexican government.

The well-equipped EPR is said to be financed through kidnappings and the drug trade. Military intelligence reports that its cadre have received training from South American and European terrorist organizations, appear to be confirmed by hostages and others who have had contact with them.

The influence of Peru's Shining Path narco-terrorists appears particularly striking: Peruvian accents have been noted among some of the EPR's leaders, and the especially brutal methods employed in the Aug. 28-29 assaults—hacking security guards to death with machetes, torturing and hanging prisoners, shooting the legs off policemen—is all too similar to Shining Path's *modus operandi*. Shining Path is known to have cadre in various clandestine organizations in Mexico, which are believed to have coalesced into the EPR.

Seventy thousand Mexican troops are now searching the core states of Guerrero and Oaxaca, where the terrorists are said to be concentrated and which are also important centers of opium poppy and marijuana cultivation. International human rights groups have also deployed to the area, calling the Mexican military and police "the worst human rights offenders" in the country, and demanding that detained EPR suspects be treated as "prisoners of conscience"!

Drug cartel warfare in Colombia

Even those long accustomed to the horror stories of violence and terrorism from Colombia were stunned by the si-

multaneous deployment of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), otherwise known as Colombia's "Third Cartel," in 14 of the country's 33 provinces on Sept. 3. Thousands of the FARC's narco-terrorist troops slammed into town after town, hitting especially military, police, and government targets, and causing 100 deaths in a 24-hour period. In the case of Las Delicias Army base in southern Putumayo province, bordering Peru, an Army base specializing in coca eradication was overrun and razed to the ground by 500 terrorists wielding rockets and mortars. The surrounding area had been mined by the FARC, preventing the soldiers from fleeing. Dozens of troops were killed, and an estimated 67 were seized as "prisoners of war."

The attacks have continued, both in the south, where the FARC has been deploying tens of thousands of coca-farmers for months on a violent rampage against the army's coca-eradication program, as well as in the north and northeast of the country. An Army patrol was ambushed and slaughtered in Northern Santander province, on the border with Venezuela, and a reported 12,000 terrorist-controlled peasants are on the march in that region of the country. Whole regions of the coun-



France's former First Lady Danielle Mitterrand, supporter of the terrorist insurgency.

try have been paralyzed, due to FARC threats that any transport vehicle—be it cargo or passenger—will be shot off the roads.

The FARC itself has issued a communiqué calling on “all of Latin America to rise up in solidarity with Colombia’s combatants” and against “Yankee imperialism.” Conditions for just such a narco-terrorist “Tet Offensive” are quickly ripening in places like Bolivia and Peru, where the coca-growers are already mobilized into militias by the drug cartels and Shining Path narco-terrorists; or in Brazil, where the so-called Landless Movement (MST) is escalating its bloody provocations; or in Venezuela, where efforts to destabilize the Caldera government are being coordinated between the country’s drug bankers and the MBR-200 underground movement coordinated by retired Army colonel Hugo Chávez.

That’s no lady!

The common mother of all these forces is the Fidel Castrol São Paulo Forum, a terrorist umbrella group for Central and South America, tied especially into British and French circles promoting “indigenist” and “environmental” rights. More than 100 member organizations of the São Paulo Forum met in El Salvador in late July, including representatives from most of the terrorist and pro-terrorist organizations named above. Facilitating that conclave was the former French first

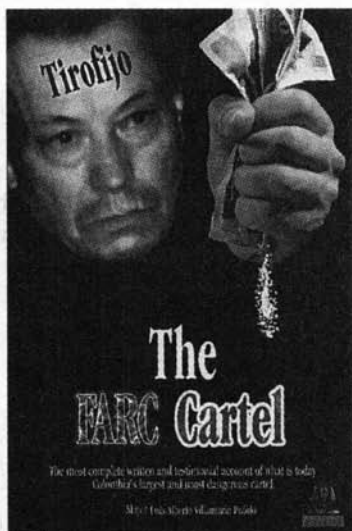
lady Danielle Mitterrand, a notorious terrorist sympathizer who shuttled between countries organizing financing and transport for the delegates.

The Forum meeting was followed the next week by an international gathering in Chiapas, Mexico, hosted by the Zapatista National Liberation Front, again with the support of Mitterrand, and including many of the same figures. The sudden emergence of the EPR terrorists in Mexico, and the dramatic escalation of FARC narco-terrorism in Colombia, in the aftermath of these meetings, represent a serious and continent-wide insurgency, timed to exploit the deepening misery of the Ibero-American population under the free-market dictates of the International Monetary Fund.

Mexico is one of the most vulnerable targets of such a scenario, because of the free-trade looting of that country under the former Carlos Salinas de Gortari government, and the consequent bankruptcy of the economy following the December 1994 peso meltdown. And yet, Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo told a Presidential summit meeting in Cochabamba, Bolivia on Sept. 3, that the problem of poverty in Ibero-America is due to “resistance to democracy and the free-market”! The refusal of governments like Mexico’s—and that of the United States—to recognize, and remedy, such vulnerability, can only play into the hands of the narco-terrorist enemy.

The FARC Cartel

On Aug. 21, Colombian Army commander Gen. Harold Bedoya Pizarro gave a press conference in Bogotá to present a new book, shown here. Written by a member of his staff, Maj. Luis Alberto Villamarín, *The FARC Cartel* documents the FARC’s current role as Colombia’s most dangerous narcotics cartel, which General Bedoya characterized as “the worst threat to our democracy and our institutions. We want our friends to recognize and understand this, and collaborate in this vast fight in which we are engaged.” General Bedoya described the book as a first



step in presenting the truth, “to organize, materialize, and document the specter of the nightmarish criminal organization which is murdering our future.”

Bedoya challenged Colombians—and the corrupt Samper administration—on the issue of whether the nation-state can survive such an onslaught. “Can these groups be defeated? Can narco-terrorism be isolated and destroyed? Yes, absolutely yes, as long as the strategic balance leans toward the state’s *moral* component.” Make no mistake, Bedoya warned: “In Colombia a group of mafiosos disguised as a political insurgency intends to carry out the robbery of the century, the illegal appropriation of an entire State, through violent blackmail and illicit enrichment.”

The foreword to the new book concludes: “This thesis is an analytic proposal, informing public opinion of the threat to republican stability represented by a subversive group moving boldly within the drug market. The FARC Cartel is a criminal group with terrorist capacity, and thanks to drug traffic, it has achieved a strong economic position, and this is important in modern war. What were previously suppositions and subjective appraisals, have turned out to be an objective reality that can be verified and measured. This reality hovers as a new threat of total war, where all shades of criminals will profit.”