

Colombian government provides hit-list to 'Third Cartel' narco-terrorists

by Valerie Rush

In an effort to lure the Third Cartel, otherwise known as the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), back into the farcical "peace dialogue" upon which he has staked his administration, Colombian President Andrés Pastrana has delivered to the FARC a list of names of military and police personnel reportedly under investigation for alleged complicity with "paramilitary" death squads. In terrorist hands, those names constitute a "hit-list" for exterminating military opposition to a narco-terrorist takeover of the country. The list is of individuals *accused* (often by terrorist supporters)—but not found guilty—of human rights violations, and under Colombian law the list is a secret document available only to the courts and other authorities.

Thus, in one stroke, Pastrana has moved from a policy of cowardly appeasement, to outright criminal collaboration with the narco-terrorists out to destroy his country, on London's orders.

The hit-list that the FARC received, was, in fact, compiled by the Colombian Attorney General's office, a pro-terrorist agency and outpost of London's Amnesty International. The first time such a hit list was published in 1992, in the form of a 400-page book sponsored by international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and entitled *State Terrorism in Colombia*, the main contributor was former Colombian Attorney General Alfonso Gómez Méndez. Gómez Méndez today holds the post of Prosecutor General in the Pastrana cabinet.

Pastrana's betrayal follows on the heels of his meeting in Havana with Fidel Castro, whom he pleaded, as one of the FARC's closest friends and sponsors, to act as a "facilitator" in the peace talks. What Pastrana offered Castro for his services is not known. Also attending the meeting was Venezuelan President-elect Hugo Chávez, a participant in Castro's São Paulo Forum who has endorsed the "peace talks" and offered to mediate as well.

Incredibly, Madeleine Albright's U.S. State Department, which has fully backed Pastrana's peace farce all along, publicly endorsed the appeal to Castro, claiming that anything which stops the violence and the drugs is worth the risk. The State Department has adopted the ludicrous argument, that the FARC Third Cartel is only "somewhat" involved with the drug trade, and therefore can be believed when they say they will help "reduce" drug activity in the areas they control—

over the next decade! The State Department sent a U.S. official to Costa Rica in mid-December to hold two lengthy meetings with FARC representatives, despite the fact that the FARC is on the State Department's List of Foreign Terrorist Organizations. According to State Department spokesman Jamie Rubin, the meetings with the FARC were not official negotiations, and therefore did not violate U.S. policy against dealing with terrorists.

Peace 'farce'

Pastrana's "peace talks" were formally launched on Jan. 7, at a gala ceremony in the town of San Juan de Caguán, in a demilitarized portion of southern Colombia about the size of Switzerland, which—on Pastrana's orders—has been under the official control of the FARC since last November. Some have dubbed that area "Narcolandia," since it lies at the epicenter of Colombia's cocaine trade. Pastrana arrived at San Juan with a handful of bodyguards, and was permitted to enter the town by a patrol of armed FARC narco-terrorists, who paid him full honors due a visiting foreign dignitary. Pastrana and FARC chieftain Manuel "Sureshot" Marulanda—who has waged bloody war against Colombia for half a century—were slated to meet, shake hands, and endorse negotiations in this "laboratory of peace."

In the presence of 5,000 diplomats, journalists, NGO representatives, and others, Pastrana waited on a platform—next to an empty chair. Marulanda eventually sent word that he was concerned about security arrangements, and would not be coming. His speech, a "revolutionary" diatribe including violent attacks against both the Colombian military and the U.S. government, was read by a colleague instead. It was later learned that Marulanda had been in the audience all along, and, after Pastrana's departure, held court with a number of foreign delegations.

Pastrana's humiliation continued, as the FARC leaders began to lay down new conditions for beginning the peace talks. First, they demanded passage of new legislation that would establish a mechanism for exchanging prisoners, currently not permitted under Colombian law. There are approximately 400 FARC terrorists in Colombian prisons, for crimes ranging from subversion to kidnapping, rape, and murder. The FARC is currently holding hostage some 250 soldiers

and police officers. Not only would an exchange significantly boost the FARC's cadre force, but more importantly, such legislation would remove the stigma of "insurgency," and give the FARC the respected status of a "belligerent force" under the Geneva Convention.

When the President doubted that Congress would be willing to pass such a law, FARC military chieftain "Mono Jojoy" gave an interview (see *Documentation*) in which he threatened to order a rash of kidnappings that would change their minds. If there is no prisoner exchange, he said, "There will be many politicians joining the 'retained' military and police officers." Not surprisingly, Pastrana succeeded in "convincing" the Congress to approve a temporary exchange mechanism; whereupon the FARC turned around and insisted that only a *permanent* exchange law, which could survive any possible breakdown in the peace talks, would be acceptable.

Before Pastrana could act on this new demand, the FARC proclaimed the peace talks "frozen," until further notice. The FARC presented another condition—total "restructuring" of the Armed Forces and elimination of the military's internal justice system. The FARC then announced that the talks would not resume until April 20, requiring an automatic government extension of the 90-day demilitarization of "Narcolandia," which was otherwise scheduled to end in a few weeks.

Fully aware that his surrender of national sovereignty to an army of narco-terrorist criminals is not exactly winning popularity at home, Pastrana has planned a nine-day trip to Europe (he calls it his "diplomacy for peace"), where he will be meeting with the heads of nearly every one-worldist institution, especially the World Bank, and other UN organizations. At the end of his trip, Pastrana plans to have a private audience with Pope John Paul II, where he hopes to pry some form of blessing of his peace farce from His Holiness.

No matter how many endorsements Pastrana brings home with him, however, it will not still the opposition to his treason. Former Armed Forces Commander Gen. Harold Bedoya (ret.), also a former Presidential candidate, is one of Pastrana's more outspoken critics. In a column published Jan. 23 in the daily *El Tiempo*, Bedoya writes: "In withdrawing the Army from the [southern] region, Pastrana Arango also withdrew from governing, and from his role as Commander-in-Chief of the Military Forces. He presented himself [in San Juan de Caguán] as a foreign personage, without the dignity and respect that only the legitimate forces of the state are capable of guaranteeing him. . . . And now, the President—like the Wandering Jew—travels the world seeking sponsors for a peace which is what neither [FARC leader] 'Sureshot' nor the Colombian people want. . . . We ask President Pastrana: How much further are you going to take the country, when violence, kidnapping, hunger, and thirst clamor for justice and find no response whatever, and when national unity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity are shattered by Colombia's own President?"

Documentation

'Mono Jojoy' speaks

The following are excerpts from an interview with FARC military commander Jorge Briceño (a.k.a. "Mono Jojoy") in the weekly Semana, published just days before the peace talks between the FARC and the Pastrana government started.

The interviewer stated that legal specialists in Colombia were insisting that a law allowing prisoner exchange could only be approved by tearing up the Colombian Constitution.

"Mono Jojoy": If the exchange law isn't approved, some of the political class will end up keeping the [hostage] soldiers company. . . . If they don't want to do it the easy way, there are other means. But the law must be passed. We don't give a damn about the Constitution and the laws, because we are outside the law.

Q: Then the legal arguments against the [prisoner] exchange mean nothing to you?

A: They mean something to the state. That is something they will have to deal with. Not us. . . .

Q: You are referring to plans to kidnap politicians and Congressmen?

A: So far, no decision has been made. Politicians will have to be taken, as was done with [ex-President] Gaviria's brother.

Q: And when are you going to start kidnapping?

A: There will be a meeting on the 20th of this month [January]. We hope to see solutions so that more prisoners won't have to be taken. But there will be more prisoners with each week that passes. The best thing would be to solve this immediately. We are more than willing. Further, the little we have to give are the prisoners. We hand them over, and you release ours. That's easy.

Q: How do you view the participation of the United States in the Colombian conflict?

A: The United States has wanted to invade us militarily, politically, and economically. They have already done so. What we propose is that they get to know the FARC and why we are fighting. We are inviting the gringos to look closely at the Colombian situation. To avoid problems and not to confront them. If they force us, that will be another story. If some day those troops invade this territory, we will do battle with them.

Q: The FARC feels prepared to engage in combat with an army like that of the United States?

A: Of course. If they set foot on Colombian territory and come to kill us, we will have to strike first. If they come, we will await them with open arms, either to dialogue or to shoot, because there is no other way.