

## Editorial

# Give Colombia Immediate Help, Not Troops

*EIR* for years has identified the Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces (FARC) as a narco-terrorist force of extraordinary international danger, and has denounced the open financial negotiations with the FARC by Wall Street leaders including New York Stock Exchange President Richard Grasso. In the offensive which the Colombian government of Andrés Pastrana has now launched against the FARC, the United States should confine its support to the Colombian military to logistical and intelligence matters, but should not intervene militarily. To cite *EIR* founding editor Lyndon LaRouche on Feb. 22, if U.S. assistance “is confined to logistical and intelligence support, that is proper, because we are not breaching the sovereignty of the Colombian government. We don’t go into another country, and conduct warfare there, even as an ally, in a way which breaches the sovereignty of that country, and we don’t need to.” With sufficient support, logistical support and intelligence support, Colombia can defeat the narco-terrorists on its own.

LaRouche was responding to a proposal made by Alvaro Uribe Vélez, a purported hard-liner against the FARC who is considered the front-runner in Colombia’s Presidential elections, scheduled for May 26. Uribe Vélez expressed support for Pastrana’s current offensive, but insisted that Colombia requires international mediation to force the FARC back to the negotiating table, as well as international military aid. In his Presidential campaign, Uribe Vélez has insisted that Colombia requires the intervention of United Nations “Blue Helmets,” or other supranational forces, to secure peace.

“Candidate Uribe Vélez should study my important policy directives on dealing with drug-related international terrorism,” said LaRouche. He referenced two documents, which Uribe Vélez and others should study: what became known as his “GUATUSA” policy of the 1980s, which specified the parameters for cooperation in fighting narco-terrorism between Guatemala and the United States; and “A Proposed Multi-National Strategic Operation Against the Drug Traffic for the Western Hemisphere,” a document first presented in Mexico

City in March 1985, now famous as LaRouche’s 15-point war-plan against drugs.

The offensive launched by Colombia’s military on Feb. 21, to retake control of the FARC-run demilitarized zone in the south of the country, “is obviously necessary,” said LaRouche. “If someone is serious about trying to contain international terrorism, and they are not taking measures against the drug-running empire of the FARC, then they are not serious about fighting one of the more serious components of international terrorism in the more recent period.”

But LaRouche rejected as “crazy” a proposal made by Peter Romero, former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for the Western Hemisphere, for the U.S. military to “cross the line” and intervene in Colombia. Romero said the United States should follow “the rules of engagement it does in the Philippines,” where American troops have joined the Philippines Army offensive against the Abu Sayyaf Muslim insurgents, under the guise of joint maneuvers.

Romero is a partner in the New York-based investment company Violy, Byorum & Partners. He speaks for the Wall Street interests which struck a public deal with the FARC in 1999-2000. Violy, Byorum & Partners played a key role in pulling together the so-called “Millennium Group” of Wall Street and other foreign money-bags, specifically to back peace—and commerce—with the FARC. Figuring prominently in the Millennium Group, are New York Stock Exchange President Richard Grasso, who in June 1999 paid a visit to the FARC-controlled demilitarized zone, where he embraced the chief of FARC finances, “Raúl Reyes,” and invited FARC leaders to come visit Wall Street; and America Online founder Jim Kimsey, who also visited the demilitarized zone, exchanged caps with the commander of the drug-running FARC, Manuel “Sure-shot” Marulanda, and returned to the United States calling for the FARC to be invited to address the U.S. Congress.

So Romero’s dangerous foolishness brings us right back to the source of the narco-terror problem: “the Grasso factor” from Wall Street.