

London, Opus Dei Ran Argentine Atrocities

by Cynthia R. Rush

When Argentine Federal judge Raúl Acosta ordered the arrest of former President Marí Estela Martínez de Perón on Jan. 12, charging her with responsibility for atrocities carried out under her 1974-76 government, it set off a political firestorm in the country, while attracting significant international media attention. The 75-year-old “Isabelita,” as she is known, became President in 1974 following the death of her husband, three-time President Juan Domingo Perón. Overthrown in a March 24, 1976 military coup, she went into exile in Spain after serving eight years in jail.

Acosta, followed a few days later by Federal judge Norberto Oyarbide, charged that Mrs. Perón had issued three decrees while President, whose wording to “annihilate the actions of subversive elements” authorized the death squad activity of the Argentine Anti-Communist Alliance (AAA) and the illegal detention centers set up in several regions of the country. Run by the fascist occultist José López Rega, who served as Social Welfare Minister, the AAA kidnapped, tortured, and murdered approximately 2,000 people over a period of 30 months in 1974-75—a foretaste of the Operation Condor butchery that would follow the 1976 coup.

A Coverup

The Jan. 12 arrest order sparked fierce debate inside Argentina, with factions spanning the political spectrum taking sides on whether Isabel were guilty or innocent, what she knew and didn’t know, what other Cabinet ministers were involved, etc.

But as Lyndon LaRouche pointed out on Jan. 16, this whole discussion is a fraud, being used to cover up for those actually responsible for the atrocities committed in Argentina, that began well before the Perón government, and continued afterward. As Mrs. Perón’s lawyer Atilio Neira asked, “Why aren’t López Rega’s international connections being investigated?”

It was the London-based Anglo-Dutch financial oligarchy and allied synarchist elements, including those inside the “Catholic” Opus Dei and the fascist Propaganda Two (P-2) lodge, that ran the death squad activity in Argentina, to impose free-market economic policies and dismantle the sovereign nation-state. The same trio that installed Chilean fascist Augusto Pinochet in power in the 1973 coup, and backed his fascist repression—former U.S. Secretaries of State George Shultz and Henry Kissinger, and synarchist financier Felix

Rohatyn—was at the center of the events that led to Argentina’s “dirty war” of the 1970s and 1980s.

According to Robert Hill, former U.S. Ambassador to Argentina after the 1976 coup, it was Kissinger himself who in June of 1976 urged Argentina’s Foreign Minister to “clean up the problem” of subversion, demanding that it be done “quickly.” The David Rockefeller and Kissinger crony who became the Finance Minister of the 1976-83 military junta, the British-trained José Martínez de Hoz, not only imposed the economic policies of Shultz’s University of Chicago, but also backed savage “anti-subversive” repression.

As President Néstor Kirchner noted in a March 24, 2006 speech marking the 30th anniversary of the 1976 coup, de Hoz represented those “powerful economic interests” and “ultramontane nationalists” that “knocked on the barracks door” to demand a coup. They used military might because it was “the only way they could impose a political and economic project to replace the process of industrialization that substituted imports with a new model of *financial valuations* and structural adjustment.”

P-2 and Synarchy

Known as the “sorcerer,” José López Rega belonged to P-2, whose Grand Master, Licio Gelli, was protected by Opus Dei, which has historically provided cover for an array of fascist and synarchist elements operating internationally.

Gelli captured an ailing and vulnerable Juan Perón during the latter years of his exile in Spain, and used López Rega, who had made himself indispensable to the Perón couple in Madrid, to gain increasing control over both of the Perón Presidencies between 1973 and 1976. P-2 members, such as Adm. Emilio Massera, were installed in key ministries in both governments.

The network of Opus Dei and synarchist operatives to which López Rega was linked both in Europe and the Americas, included such figures as Italian fascist Stefano Delle Chiaie, and assorted other Nazis and Falangists with proven records of involvement in terrorist activities and overthrowing governments. It was well known that the AAA collaborated with Augusto Pinochet’s DINA, the secret police agency that preceded Operation Condor and with which Delle Chiaie had closely collaborated.

Military intelligence agencies that had infiltrated both the left and the right in Argentina obviously helped orchestrate the AAA’s crimes. But atrocities of this kind hardly began with López Rega or the Isabel Perón government. Anti-semitic “Catholic” operatives associated with Opus Dei, together with French and Spanish fascist networks, had sunk their hooks into Argentine civilian and military circles decades earlier.

Nor did they limit themselves to shaping the ideology of the ultra right. Many of the well-educated, upper middle-class leaders of Argentina’s leftist guerrilla groups, including the Montoneros and the People’s Revolutionary Army (ERP),



Isabel Perón is being held responsible for death-squad atrocities that began before she became President, and continued after a military coup ended her presidency.

began as members of the “Catholic nationalist” pro-Nazi Tacuara group, whose spiritual advisor was the anti-semitic fascist priest Julio Meinvielle. They later declared themselves to be “Marxists” and “revolutionaries.” Thus, the synarchists of the “left” and “right,” who battled each other beginning in the 1960s, came from the same mother.

In the late 1950s and early 1960s, members of France’s Secret Army Organization (OAS), the synarchist grouping that devised the policy of torture and disappearances used in the Algerian War of the 1950s, and tried to assassinate French President Charles de Gaulle on several occasions, began training the Argentine Army in these same “counter-revolutionary” tactics. For years, OAS officers rotated through Argentina’s Superior War College, teaching classes to an entire generation of military officers, several of whom became members of the junta that overthrew Mrs. Perón in 1976. Groups of Argentine officers also traveled to France for further training.

Mrs. Perón is being held responsible for the notorious 1975 “Operation Independence,” the anti-subversive sweep in the province of Tucumán typified by indiscriminate arrests, torture, and clandestine detention centers. But its main architect was the brutal and sadistic Gen. Acdel Edgardo Vilas, a longtime admirer of the OAS’s torture policy. He boasted that he ran a “parallel government” in Tucumán to get around norms established after the issuance of the three 1975 decrees, to ensure that those accused of subversive activities would be accorded due process and constitutional protections.

It was Opus Dei that controlled the 1966-70 military regime of “Argentine Franco” Gen. Juan Carlos Onganía, under whose rule illegal kidnappings and murders became common practices. His Cabinet largely included members of Opus Dei as well as of the integrist Christian Catequists (*cursillos de Cristiandad*), originally founded in Franco’s Spain, and the French synarchist *Cité Catholique*, which also had established cells within the Armed Forces.