

1977. This law grew out of the old Trading with the Enemy Act of 1917; during the 1970s this law was “divided” into a wartime National Emergencies Act, and the non-wartime IEEPA. This is part of a series of “national security” and “national emergency” types of legislation which have increasingly put dictatorial powers into the hands of the Executive Branch. (The creation of FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, should immediately come to mind.) The entire “emergency powers” push comes from the Trilateral Commission’s “end of democracy” crowd, the Council on Foreign Relations, and similar institutions, which overlap heavily with the Ditchley Foundation referred to above.

Limited sovereignty

Coincident with the trend toward concentrating emergency powers in the hands of the Executive Branch in domestic affairs, is the drive for limited sovereignty in foreign affairs. The common thread of both is the notion of the “postindustrial society,” in which a shrinking economic pie and austerity make democracy a luxury which can no longer be afforded. The exemplary case of this in international affairs is the Brandt Commission on North-South Relations, which foresees a future of no-growth and “appropriate technologies” for the underdeveloped sector. This IMF-type austerity requires supranational legal institutions, that have no respect for national sovereignty or national laws, the same way that executive orders and executive agreements under “emergency powers” legislation in the United States are permitted to proceed without congressional sanction.

Our nation was created as a constitutional republic, requiring unlimited national sovereignty in the conduct of foreign affairs. A nation subject to any higher temporal authority is not and cannot be a republic, for its citizens, acting through republican institutions, can no longer determine the nation’s course.

Likewise, the Constitution created a defined separation of powers between the Executive, the Legislative, and the Judicial branches, to ensure that the will of the nation could be exerted against any tendency toward either popular or executive tyranny.

The Iran hostage agreement as signed by Jimmy Carter is therefore shown to be in violation of some of the most fundamental tenets of our republic—the absolute sovereignty of the United States and the division of powers among the governing branches. The agreement is a repudiation of the U.S. Constitution: it is therefore obligatory upon the President, the Congress, and the Supreme Court to repudiate that agreement in the interests of preserving the United States as a sovereign constitutional republic.

Colombian terror targets Reagan

by Valerie Rush

In the first act of terrorism directed against the new Reagan administration, the Colombian terrorist group M-19 has kidnapped an American citizen and demanded that President Reagan meet its demands if the victim’s life is to be spared. The victim, Chester Allen Bitterman, is an employee of the Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL), a body of Protestant missionaries, whose worldwide proselytizing and translations of the Bible into native languages has for years been denounced as a cover for CIA infiltration and social-profiling activities. The M-19 is demanding that President Reagan order the withdrawal of the linguistics institute, a private institution, from Colombia and the publication of an M-19 communiqué in the *New York Times* and *Washington Post*.

The M-19’s demands, coming on the heels of the Iranian hostage affair, are no coincidence. Rather it represents part of a deliberate conspiracy of escalating blackmail against the United States designed to subject the U.S. to “Italian-style” assaults on its national sovereignty.

According to a State Department spokesman from the Office of Consular Affairs, the U.S. government will not yield to the M-19 demands, nor will it negotiate with the terrorists. The U.S. press has carried almost nothing on the incident; neither has the Colombian press, suggesting an agreement between the two governments to keep the publicity, and therefore the damage, to a minimum. Whether the Bitterman affair blows over or not remains to be seen. As a “forecast” of what is to come, however, the incident bears closer scrutiny.

M-19 and the Socialist International

The M-19 was catapulted into the international limelight in February 1980 when a commando squad, disguised as soccer players, stormed the embassy of the Dominican Republic in Bogotá and took more than 50 diplomats, embassy employees and guests hostage. During the next two months, as negotiations for the release of the hostages were conducted, the M-19 used its vantage point of holding nearly 15 countries captive to create a precedent in which an international “crisis-

management” team successfully imposed a distorted concept of *international law* over national sovereignty.

Such supranational forces as the International Red Cross and the Human Rights Commission of the OAS had representatives in the thick of the negotiations, defending the “human rights” of the victims, the terrorists and the government alike. Today, those representatives are virtually running the trials of suspected M-19 and other terrorists in Colombia under the guise of defending their human and civil rights.

Colombian ex-president Alberto Lleras Camargo, one of the leading social democrats in Latin America, played a dominant, if behind-the-scenes, role in the government/M-19 talks, while Socialist International spokesman Bruno Kreisky, Chancellor of Austria, was also brought into the negotiations at the top.

Through classical brainwashing methods that alternated between attacking the government for not moving fast enough to resolve the crisis, and then praising it when it made concessions to the terrorists, these forces produced a situation in which reality was turned on its head. The murderous M-19 terrorists, who had assassinated leading political and labor figures in Colombia, kidnapped dozens of others, and threatened to assassinate all the hostages held in the embassy, walked away from the incident as virtual heroes, described even by their captors as “brilliant, idealistic young democrats.” Even Colombian President Turbay was obliged to extend an invitation to the M-19 shortly after the embassy affair had ended to return to Colombia as a legitimate political party!

International law expert Prof. Robert Woetzel commented at the time of the Bogotá hostage incident:

... the situation in Colombia, as well as Iran, requires two things. First of all, an agreement on principles of how to treat each other ... [and] an agreement on a code of offenses. The next step is ... the commission of inquiry. ... That's what's at stake in Colombia, the strategy of leverage. In other words, the big powers have to come to an agreement that they will treat the guerrilla forces according to international law.

A collapse of authority

The collapse of government authority in the wake of the M-19 “experiment” has caused a splintering of traditional political forces in Colombia. Sections of the social-democratic Liberal Party have begun to express growing sympathy with the M-19's “neither capitalist nor socialist” call. The powerful Union of Colombian Workers (UTC), traditionally conservative, nearly lost its leadership to an M-19-allied faction which disrupted

the federation's congress last December, forcing President Turbay from the speaker's platform amid a chorus of boos. The UTC leaders adopted the M-19's program for a “worker's party” at that congress, promising heightened government/labor confrontation in the weeks and months ahead.

One of the most dangerous developments arising from the M-19 offensive in Colombia has been a dramatic policy shift on the part of the Colombian Communist Party (PCC) within the social-democratic environment created by the M-19. The PCC, which has traditionally maintained a prodevelopment and anti-terrorist orientation, has, especially since its December 1980 conference, adopted an increasingly “Jacobinist” outlook, which in the estimation of *EIR* could rapidly take the mass-based PCC into the M-19 camp.

With the Communist Party neutralized as a popular antiterrorist political force, Colombia will become increasingly susceptible to the kind of extended guerrilla warfare which ravaged Nicaragua and is now destroying El Salvador.

Increased terror

Despite its sudden surge in “popularity,” the M-19 has, if anything, *increased* its terrorist activities. In the past few weeks, the M-19 has carried out several kidnappings, assaulted buses, bombed key oil pipelines, and set off explosions at the construction site of one of the most important hydroelectric projects in a country currently suffering four hours of electricity blackout each day under a government rationing program.

Ironically, the M-19 has threatened to kill the general manager of public services of one of Colombia's major cities, Medellín, for imposing electricity rationing on the population!

The predictable government response to the increased terrorism has been to launch one of the most massive military counter-mobilizations the country has seen. Colombia's specially trained counterinsurgency forces have been called to the front lines under the personal command of General Commander of the Army Landazábal Reyes, a man universally despised in Colombia for his brutal record of repression. Several brigades have been pulled into rural regions where the Communist Party has broad popular support; bloody confrontations are expected. Even the military brigade in charge of patrolling the marijuana-producing region of the Guajira Peninsula has been pulled out and redeployed, leading observers to anticipate a substantial increase in drug exports from Colombia in the immediate period ahead.

Under such conditions of heightened tension, an accelerated scenario of right-left confrontations as in El Salvador can be expected.

What is Colombia's M-19?

The April 19 Movement, better known in Colombia as the "M-19," has been described by journalists as "increasingly the most important urban terrorist group in Latin America." It sprang into international prominence one year ago when one of its "commandos" seized the Dominican Republic embassy in Bogotá during a gala party, taking more than 50 people—including 15 ambassadors—hostage. Since then, it has won the growing sympathy and even outright collusion of leftist and other layers inside Colombia.

What is the M-19?

The M-19 was formed in 1970 as a subversive splitoff from the right-wing ANAPO party of former military dictator Gustavo Rojas Pinilla. Its ranks were comprised primarily of ex-military officers as well as former and active members of the Society of Jesus. Its first publicity stunt was to steal the sword of Colombia's "Liberator" Simón Bolívar. After that it effectively disappeared for several years, with only occasional Robin Hood-style hijackings of trucks carrying chickens or milk for distribution to the poor.

In February 1976, the M-19 stunned Colombia with the kidnapping and subsequent murder of José Raquel Mercado, the president of Colombia's largest trade union federation. Despite evidence of military complicity in the affair, court-ordered investigations under the control of a military tribunal failed to produce any convictions. From that point on, the M-19 embarked on a career of assassinations and other terrorist acts with total impunity. In September 1978 members of the so-called Workers Defense Movement (MAO), a front group of the M-19, murdered former interior minister Rafael Pardo Buelvas. The M-19 simultaneously took over several radio stations to threaten that other ministers would face the same fate. In January 1979, 4,000 weapons were seized by the M-19 in a spectacular raid on a major military arsenal. In February 1980 the Dominican embassy was seized.

The ease with which the M-19 has struck again and again, garnering huge ransom fees and extensive publicity along the way, is not surprising when one looks closely at the controllers pulling its strings:

- **Society of Jesus:** Colombia's leading Jesuit, the "right-wing" Sen. Alvaro Gómez Hurtado, is reliably reported to be a principal controller of the "revolutionary" M-19. The newspaper Gómez directs, *El*

Siglo, employed one Camelo Franco, the MAO member who was arrested for the 1978 murder of Interior Minister Pardo Buelvas. Arrested with Franco were two Jesuit priests, Luis Alberto Restrepo and Jorge Arango, who were leftist activists working out of the Jesuit social action center, CINEP (Center of Popular Research and Education.)

The M-19 holds as its "patron saint" the murdered guerrilla-priest Camilo Torres, who during the sixties served as a Jesuit asset for channeling social ferment into "revolutionary violence" on the continent.

- **Socialist International:** The M-19 issued statements to the press at the time of the Dominican embassy takeover describing themselves as "social democratic" in orientation. The model for the kind of society they want to create in Colombia is Austria's "popular democracy," in the words of the M-19's "Comandante Uno." Not accidentally, Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, a leading member of the Socialist International, participated in the M-19/embassy negotiations, and eventually sent the M-19 a telegram thanking them for their early release of the captive Austrian ambassador. When the hostages were finally released, part of the negotiated deal with the M-19 was to provide passage to Cuba, and then to Austria, where the terrorists had been offered asylum.

- **Military Intelligence:** When the M-19 first publicly emerged in 1974, it was widely acknowledged to be a paramilitary rightist creation whose members maintained close links to at least one faction of Colombian military intelligence. As recently as February 1980, the Colombian ambassador to Mexico told the press: "The M-19 was founded by ultra-rightists. . . . The fascists of the battered ANAPO group constituted themselves as a subversive group."

Striking is the case of Tony López Oyuela, a former magistrate of the Superior Military Tribunal and chief of the Judicial Police of the political police (UAS). In 1976, López Oyuela was in charge of the investigations into the murder of labor leader Raquel Mercado. The leading witness in the case was inexplicably dismissed by López Oyuela. Since then it has been uncovered that the witness was a close friend of López Oyuela. In 1979, López Oyuela—one of the highest judicial officers in the Colombian military—was arrested for criminal collusion with the M-19.