

U.N. takes up cause of Peru's terrorists

by Gretchen Small

Reports that Peru's savage Shining Path narco-terrorists have launched an international organizing campaign to protect their "civil liberties," confirm the evaluation of those in Peru who warn that the terrorists are preparing to launch their "final offensive" within a matter of months. The terrorists view international pressure against the Peruvian Armed Forces and government as the crucial margin of force required for their ultimate victory, and a key step toward recognition of their planned government.

On Jan. 16, the West German news agency DPA reported that the former editor of Shining Path's newspaper, *El Diario*, Luis Arce Borja, has been invited to attend the United Nations' upcoming 45th session on Human Rights in Geneva. He is touring Europe, denouncing a "systematic curtailment of freedom of the press" in Peru, and government violation of human rights. Arce is no mere radical sympathizer, but a hardcore member of Shining Path's command structure. His newspaper, published freely for years, is selling on newsstands throughout the country, precisely through the support of the international "human rights" lobby.

El Diario not only hails the "successes" of Shining Path's extermination squads in blazing headlines, but publishes hit orders against targeted individuals and provides the terrorist killers with an above-ground communication network. Yet every proposal to shut the paper down, or even to investigate its editorial staff, provoked howls that the government was violating "freedom of speech" from liberal journalists ranging from the *New York Times* to Lima social democrat César Hildebrandt.

Arce's July 1988 "exclusive" interview with Shining Path founder, Abimael Guzmán, alias "President Gonzalo," from a clandestine location, proved too much, however. After *El Diario* published that interview for the fifth time, the paper was finally shut down by the government. Arce spent a few weeks in jail, but now, it appears, enjoys the protection of the United Nations.

Plans for the final siege

According to intelligence leaks published by the Peruvian weekly *Caretas* on Jan. 16, some Peruvian authorities believe Shining Path strategists have set the month of June as the target-date for a plan to lay siege to Lima. The plan is to cut the capital, where one-third of the country's population lives, off from all supplies and services, such as electricity

and water. These sources believe that several recent Shining Path operations have been test-runs for this June plan.

Whether the June date is accurate or not, Shining Path has dramatically stepped up its military capabilities in the past two months. In the first 12 days of January alone, they murdered 33 policemen around the country, including both the chief of police and the head of the anti-terror division in the department of Arequipa.

Shining Path has now established operations in a new area of Peru, the department of Madre de Dios, an unpopulated jungle area which borders on Bolivia and Brazil. Defense Minister Enrique López Abujar reported on Jan. 3. Several squads have moved out of Cuzco and the Central Huallaga region, he stated. For three years, *EIR* was one of few voices internationally which insisted that Shining Path had to be fought as a narco-terrorist operation. The marriage between the Shining Path and the narcotics mob is now uncontested, the *Wall Street Journal* reported Jan. 17—after the terrorists have established hegemony in the drug-centers of the country.

"The evidence now is overwhelming that the insurgents control the region [of the Upper Huallaga Valley] and work closely with cocaine producers," the *Journal* reported. Gen. Luis Toledo, head of anti-drug operations for the National Police, believes that Shining Path takes some 10% of the earnings of each cocaine base shipment out of the region—which, if true, puts their earnings in the range of \$150 million a year. (Bankers are also regular visitors to the cocaine region, in search of money, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration officials told the *Journal*.)

Peru is "currently in an advanced state of disintegration," the *Journal* concluded, and added that "a military coup or some other upheaval may be imminent." Indeed, many international media are now trumpeting that there is the danger of a military coup, with ABC News on Jan. 18 naming a Peruvian coup as the likely first foreign policy crisis to hit the Bush administration.

As things are now headed, the military coup just may be carried out by narco-terrorist armies first. Army Gen. Clemente Noel Moral (ret.) summed up the crisis when he warned on Jan. 8 that the terrorists have reached the "insurrectional stage." Three phases now follow, he told the Peruvian daily *Expreso*: First, "the generalization of violence," in which sabotage and terrorist acts intensify. The second phase will see the "creation of zones under their control and the appearance of a revolutionary government." This phase "requires international support and recognition." Once that is achieved, comes the "general insurrection."

Noel also issued a reminder much ignored in Washington: Insurrection in Peru is no local matter, but reflects a decision made by "international communism at its highest level. . . . The subversive war has been conceived by the promoters of political violence as the principal instrument of communist revolutionary war."