

# Death toll mounts in Colombia: Samper is also a narco-terrorist

by Javier Almario

One general killed, more than 100 dead, most of them soldiers, and the terrorization of the population: This is the toll so far of the offensive led by the narco-terrorist groups known by the names of Armed Revolutionary Forces of Colombia (FARC) and National Liberation Army (ELN), with the goal of taking the entire Colombian nation hostage. For the first time, these groups carried out attacks on various towns surrounding the city of Bogotá, the national capital, and even in Bogotá neighborhoods, among them La Candelaria, a few blocks from the Casa de Nariño, the Colombian "White House."

According to intelligence reports, this is phase one of an offensive begun by the so-called Guerrilla Coordinator (composed of the FARC and ELN) to show the new government its military power and as a foretaste of the upcoming mayoral and gubernatorial elections. In the past two years, reports say, the FARC and ELN exerted huge pressure on mayors and governors, which assured these groups of the political control of 249 municipalities (25% of the municipalities in the country). In this timeframe, they assassinated 87 political leaders of these towns and kidnapped another 30. The political leaders of these regions are the ones who are now pressuring the national government to start negotiations as soon as possible with the narco-terrorist insurgents.

The problem is not just a Colombian one. The FARC is training and financing other narco-terrorist groups in Ibero-America. On the other hand, the Patriotic Union (UP), a party created at the initiative of FARC, invited Hugo Chávez to a series of meetings in Colombia oriented toward coordinating joint regional actions. Chávez is the pro-terrorist leader who headed a failed coup d'état in Venezuela and who is threatening "surprises" against Venezuelan President Rafael Caldera.

## Secret negotiations

The daily *La Prensa* revealed that Colombia's President-elect, Ernesto Samper Pizano, has been holding secret negotiations since the beginning of the year with FARC and ELN. Hopes for future "peace" talks would have been one of the motives for the terrorists getting up the gumption to start the current rampage. The aim is to show their muscle, get notoriety, and win points at the negotiating table.

Samper, for at least the last 18 years, has been at the beck and call of those who want to legalize drug trafficking. This, in turn, is one of the principal sources of funding for "Marxist" terrorism in Colombia. The revelation of audio tapes, on which the chieftains of the Cali cocaine cartel talk of huge donations to the presidential campaign of Samper, has been an international scandal since June of this year.

Samper was politically sponsored by former President Alfonso López Michelsen, known as the political godfather of the drug traffic. Samper himself, as López's campaign manager in 1982, received big money from the cocaine traffickers during that year, and, as a presidential pre-candidate in 1990, he also took money from the drug traffickers. López, nicknamed "The Chicken," although he is already senile, continues to be the brain controlling Samper. Samper also has favored the "Marxist" terrorists. In 1991, when he was minister of development under President César Gaviria, he set up an "informal" commission of businessmen to help the terrorists get jobs and teach them to manage their own businesses.

In the last two years, the Colombian Army has dealt some well-aimed blows to the terrorists by capturing a number of their top leaders. Nonetheless, thousands of terrorists are just about to get out of prison because of the inefficiency and corruption of the judicial system, which has not even started to put them on trial. But while the Army and police were capturing terrorists and fighting on the battlefields, then-presidential candidate Ernesto Samper Pizano was negotiating with the narco-terrorists, at least since this past February. Some accords with the terrorists were reached by Fernando Botero Zea, Samper's designated defense minister, and Horacio Serpa Uribe, his interior minister, advised by Alvaro Leyva Durán, professional negotiator of kidnappings and "peace" deals, and Antonio Navarro Wolf, chief of the legalized narco-terrorist group M-19. But, naturally, the terrorists are not gentlemen who keep their word. Thus, Samper, besides being the narco-President, is a narco-terrorist.

What accords were reached has not been revealed. However, on July 11, Samper announced that his education minister, starting on Aug. 7 when he assumes the presidency, will be Eduardo Pizarro León-Gómez, a former combatant in the legalized narco-terrorist band M-19. Pizarro is the brother of

Carlos Pizarro León-Gómez, who was the top leader of M-19 until he was assassinated in 1990 and was replaced in the job by Antonio Navarro Wolf. Pizarro will use his new post to push, from the Executive branch, reforms intended to induce the terrorist mentality among students.

Pizarro, a closet Marxist, belongs to the "violentologist" group, made up of "political scientists," "sociologists," and pro-terrorist academics who allege that violence in Colombia is due to the "lack of tolerance" generated by an "authoritarian education" inspired by the Catholic religion. According to this group, the solution lies not in defeating the narco-terrorists but rather in imposing a "democratic culture" where Christian morality will be replaced by a "civil ethics" dominated by the political consensus of the moment. If that weren't enough, Samper announced that Navarro will also get an important post in his government as "peace" adviser, i.e., adviser for the negotiations and discussions with the terrorists.

### **Terrorist offensive**

Here are the recent events: On July 17, the FARC and ELN attacked the installations of the state oil company Ecopetrol in Orito, Department of Putumayo (in Colombia, the departments are like states in the United States), leaving a toll of 27 soldiers murdered. On the same day, they briefly seized the cities of Ibagué and blocked all the roads in the Department of Putumayo.

On July 19, in a complex operation, they assassinated Gen. Carlos Julio Gil Colorado, commander of the Fourth Division of the Army, with dynamite. On July 20, they took La Calera and two other towns located on the outskirts of Bogotá. On July 21, they attacked various neighborhoods inside Bogotá and blockaded some access highways to the capital. On July 22, there were dynamite attacks on police posts a few blocks away from the Casa de Nariño, the President's home and office. On July 23, they left Ciudad Bolívar, one of the poorest sectors of the city, where terrorists are often recruited, without electricity. With the capital's traffic jams it was very easy for the terrorists to block the streets and prevent the Army from reaching the places that were being attacked. On July 24 in Antioquia, near Medellín, they killed 10 soldiers of an engineering battalion who were repairing a highway.

As we write, the Departments of Putumayo, Caquetá, and Nariño were completely incommunicado because the terrorists were not letting any kind of vehicles get through. Meanwhile, the terrorists are trying to take over a part of Bogotá and keep food shipments and other commodities from arriving in the capital, which has 7.5 million inhabitants. Samper, however, is not ruling out negotiations with the terrorists. "There will be no peace dialogues until they cease the attacks," said the incoming defense minister, Fernando Botero Zea.

Colombia already has had 12 years of extremely violent

"peace," which began in 1982 with the government of Belisario Betancur and has continued to the present day. Since that time, dialogue and negotiation have only served the growth and influence of the narco-terrorists.

### **The role of the British**

In the United States, a sector of the Bill Clinton government is very disgusted with the Samper presidency because of his close relations with the drug cartels. But the European Social Democracy (Spanish Prime Minister Felipe González and French President François Mitterrand) and John Major, the Tory prime minister of Britain, are backing Samper, who went on an unofficial tour of Europe prior to his inauguration.

But this is hardly a surprise. The first thing outgoing President Gaviria did, on his official visit to Great Britain last year, was to talk with the people at Amnesty International, one of the fronts for foreign intelligence operations of the British empire. Gaviria promised them that he would do whatever is necessary to better control the military and keep them from fighting. The Colombia Attorney General's office has been converted, at the behest of the ruling elite, into a branch office of Amnesty International whose task is to bring legal proceedings against any military man who even thinks about fighting terrorism.

Samper in London confirmed a series of accords which were signed by Gaviria. For example: British "aid" to the Colombia security institutions, a promise that the Colombian government will never expropriate British investments, a promise that the government will pay any damage that the British oil companies, British Petroleum and Shell, might suffer through the actions of the terrorists, as well as a series of secret financial accords.

The "security" accords, by which the secret services of Great Britain would train agents of the DAS (federal security administration, roughly equivalent of the U.S. FBI), police, and Army, create a new danger of terrorist actions in the nation.

In addition, the British have supported Samper in his policy of legalization of the drug traffic. At least, this was stated by Gustavo de Greiff, Colombia's attorney general, drug negotiator, and partisan of legalization of the drug traffic. The British, said De Greiff in a radio interview from London last April 20, "welcomed and understood my thesis on legalization of drugs." "Here [in London] the subject is treated with more rationality, without the hysteria which exists in Colombia." Referring to the opposition of the Clinton government to drug legalization, he stated: "Moreover, [Britain] is a country with dignity and pride which does not let itself be pressured by other countries."

But, as *EIR's* investigative team proved in the first edition of the book *Dope, Inc.* 16 years ago, Britain ought to be very "proud" of its independent policy on drug legalization. After all, the British elites invented it, with the Opium Wars of the last century.