

Colombian leaders outline way to peace

The following is the text of a nationwide television broadcast in Colombia on Nov. 17 by Ibero-American Solidarity Movement (MSIA) leaders Maximiliano Londoño and Javier Almarío.

Londoño: Good evening fellow citizens. My name is Maximiliano Londoño Penilla and I head the Ibero-American Solidarity Movement. Today we are going to talk about how to consolidate a scientific peace in our country, as Rafael Nuñez and Miguel Antonio Cano did in the last century, by consolidating the principle of authority and industrializing the country so that there will be productive employment for all Colombians.

The Colombian Armed Forces have the necessary ability and training to militarily defeat the narco-guerrillas; the problem is that the political leadership of the country doesn't want this to happen. . . . There has not been the political will to put an end to the guerrillas.

It may seem attractive in principle that the hostilities finally come to an end, and that peace and public tranquility be consolidated. However, what is taking place is the complete opposite. What the Samper administration is doing is to continue the policy of dismantling the Armed Forces that was pushed in our country by former President César Gaviria Trujillo.

After the fall of the Berlin Wall, groups like the Inter-American Dialogue, which defend Anglo-American interests in seeking to eliminate the concept of the sovereign nation-state and to turn the U.N. into the seed-crystal of a new world federalist empire, have emphasized the urgency of liquidating the armed forces of Third World countries, on the pretext that "communism is finished." What is happening is that the oligarchic financial circles which control the International Monetary Fund and World Bank are very worried about the imminent collapse of their international monetary and financial system. . . . To prevent a civil-military process from emerging, like that which [President Alberto] Fujimori headed in Peru, the international financiers prefer to get rid of the military first.

It comes as no surprise to many that dismantling the Armed Forces and co-ruling with narco-terrorists is the common agenda of the Samper government, the Guerrilla Coordinator [the guerrilla movements' umbrella group], the U.S. State Department, and the British government. That is what happened in Panama after the armed U.S. invasion destroyed the Panamanian Army. That is what happened in El Salvador,

under the aegis of the United Nations. . . . That is what is occurring in Haiti, again through U.S. armed intervention and under the pretext of a "collective defense of democracy."

Less than three months after Samper Pizano took office as President, we are witness to a major juridical and legislative offensive against the military forces. In the Congress there are numerous bills, all with impressive titles, designed to liquidate the armed forces: One is a bill on "forced disappearances"; another approves Protocol II of the Geneva Convention; another would reform the military penal code, and so on. . . .

So, what dominates is the law of the jungle. . . . But to achieve the peace, it is not enough to simply reestablish authority. The nation must be economically developed. And that is what MSIA Vice President Javier Almarío will now address.

Peace based on development

Almarío: Although more than 50% of Colombians live in poverty, the country is not a poor one. Nonetheless, we have allowed ourselves to be treated as a colony. For example, it is well known that the plains and the Amazon have oil that is being explored and exploited primarily by British companies like Shell and British Petroleum. We also know that there are productive wells like Cusiana, Cupiagua, and Volcanera, and periodically new oil discoveries are announced, but little publicity is given to these announcements, so that we Colombians do not demand that the oil be used for national development. . . .

The plan of the British and of the International Monetary Fund is that the oil money not be used in the nation, but rather deposited in bank accounts abroad to provide liquidity for the bankrupt international monetary system while leaving the country in a state of division and without means of communication, because there are no serviceable highways, railways, or waterways to unify our nation; we are facing new electricity blackouts in the coming months because of lack of infrastructure investment.

The oil income must be sown to reap a scientific peace based on truly productive employment in the construction of the Atrato-Truando inter-oceanic canal; the construction of a national railroad system using magnetic levitation (maglev) trains; the construction of a highway system with four-lane roads, at least, which uses tunnels and bridges to rapidly traverse all our mountain chains; making the necessary improvements in our rivers to transport passengers and cargo; investing in electricity generation; and investing in the development of a cadre of scientists who would allow us to achieve scientific and technical sovereignty. To achieve these proposals, both the National Planning Department and the Central Bank—truly enclaves of the International Monetary Fund inside the country—must be nationalized; and it is necessary to have a solid Armed Forces to defend our national sovereignty.