

Perry, Christopher blunder 'arm in arm' in Ibero-America

by Gretchen Small

U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry visited Chile and Venezuela March 10-14, in a mission closely coordinated with Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who had just visited five Central and South American nations on Feb. 26-March 3. Such diplomatic attention was long overdue: While British cabinet ministers have become regular visitors in the region in the past two years, Christopher was the first American secretary of state to tour Ibero-America since 1988, and, as Perry noted, he was the first Clinton cabinet official to visit Venezuela under the Caldera government.

The policy package brought by both secretaries, however, reasserted, and worsened, the fundamental policy blunders identified by Democratic Party Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche in his October 1995 campaign document *The Blunder in U.S. National Security Policy*, as assuring "fatal consequences" for the United States, as well as its neighbors. These blunders include:

- the absurd assertion, as Perry put it in his speeches on the trip, that there is "a decline in insurgencies" in the Americas;
- an insistence that 200-year-old border conflicts must be settled now, through supranational mechanisms—a guaranteed formula for conflict; and
- pressure on governments in the region to impose participation in United Nations global deployments upon their national militaries, as their priority mission.

The premise underlying that so-called "democracy" agenda, is the continuing insistence that regional security requires sticking with the British dogma of free trade, even as it drives Ibero-America into Africa-like collapse. The trips were thus shaped by the myth that London's Chilean free trade project is the model to follow, and that Caldera's Venezuela, because of that government's obstinate refusal to bow before the International Monetary Fund, is the economic basket-case to be avoided by other nations.

In a March 2 speech before the American Chamber of Commerce in São Paulo, Brazil, Christopher outlined a thoroughly globalist agenda, including an alarming de facto endorsement of the São Paulo Forum, the continental narco-terrorist apparatus founded by the Cuban Communist Party and the Brazilian Workers Party (PT).

According to the Brazilian press, Christopher had re-

quested to meet with the Catholic cardinal of São Paulo, Paulo Evaristo Arns. Arns, a notorious proponent of witchcraft, sexual perversity, and liberation theology, serves as "chaplain" of the São Paulo Forum, and is one of the most prominent ideologues of the PT. The meeting did not occur because the cardinal found it politically inconvenient, but Christopher used his March 2 address to endorse Arns as a leader of continental importance. "Honoring those who fight for human rights sends a powerful message as well. In the examples of Cardinal Arns and the movement to protect street children, Brazilians and South Americans can find strong new hope for the future," he said.

Perry told the press at the outset of his visit, that he had received a detailed, personal memo from Christopher, reporting back on his trip, and "looking forward to my trip." When it comes to military policy and democracy in Ibero-America, "it's a case of where we have to work arm in arm, and are working arm in arm, with the State Department," Perry emphasized. He characterized his trip as an effort to further the so-called "Williamsburg Process" (the globalist free trade and democracy agenda imposed at the July 1995 meeting of Defense Ministers of the Americas in Williamsburg, Virginia), and to implement the objectives outlined in the Pentagon document, *U.S. Security Strategy for the Americas*, the agenda rebutted by LaRouche in his *Blunder* campaign statement.

Perry initiates Chile alliance

The cutting edge of Perry's trip was the establishment of a U.S. security alliance with Chile, one of the most British-oriented countries on the continent. At the end of his trip, Perry said that "relations between Chile and the U.S. were at an all-time high," and that Christopher had also been "very bullish about Chile."

The security alliance involves an active Pentagon role in restructuring relations between the Chilean government and the country's military, establishment of a formal structure for regular collaboration on domestic and regional security policy, and discussion of renewed U.S. arms sales to Chile. It has already set off alarm bells among Chile's neighbors, as Perry announced that he had received briefings from the Chileans on the situation in Argentina, Bolivia, Peru, and Venezuela.

One of the points on Perry's agenda was to get the Chileans to play a more active role in U.N. "peacekeeping" operations, which the Army has been reluctant to do. At the end of the visit, Perry and civilian Defense Minister Edmundo Pérez Yoma announced that Chile had agreed to send troops and helicopters to join U.N. operations against Iraq immediately, and to draft a new policy facilitating Chilean participation in U.N. supranational forces on a regular basis. As Pérez Yoma explained, whereas Chile used to decide, case by case, whether to participate in a U.N. mission, by considering "if it serves the general interests of Chile," the new policy will set "guidelines for responding more quickly and precisely to the requirements of the United Nations."