

national oligarchy's offensive to smash the sovereign nation-state. With his tough stance against narco-terrorism, President Alberto Fujimori is an obstacle to be removed. Thus, while the press attacks the President for allegedly resorting to "authoritarian excesses" to defend his country, it favorably covers Cerpa's complaints about his group being called "terrorists." Bowen, also the head of the Foreign Press Association in Lima, went on at length about how "international norms" and the *Financial Times's* style manual prohibited her from using the word "terrorist" to describe the MRTA.

Nor is the press role limited to lying. Foreign and some domestic media have breached security on numerous occasions to get into and near the residence, and in the case of Japanese Asahi-TV reporter Tsuyoshi Hitomi, to serve as a courier for the MRTA. Although Hitomi was found carrying MRTA extortion and ransom messages to the Japanese government and to corporations whose executives are held hostage, Bowen rushed to Hitomi's defense when he was detained by anti-terror police upon his exit from the residence.

When the government publicized the MRTA's extortion demands, Cerpa accused Fujimori of lying, and self-righteously claimed "money does not interest us." The British wire service Reuters backed him up, saying: "Although the MRTA has in the past kidnapped businessmen and politicians to raise money, there has been no evidence that this was their aim in the current crisis." No wonder the MRTA's "international spokesman," Isaac Velazco, whose diatribes are broadcast courtesy of CNN from Germany, put out a message on the Internet saying, "there does not exist a fear on our part of speaking with journalists or to journalists observing what is happening inside the residence."

After the Hitomi incident, the government was reported to be considering widening the security cordon around the residence to prevent unauthorized entries. "The media are hardly helping us," a government source said. "In fact, without them, we would be far closer to solving this." In an article in *El Sol* on Jan. 10, pro-government Congressman Rafael Rey angrily wrote that the MRTA "is a terrorist group, narco-terrorist. That reality won't be changed either by the term 'rebel group' or 'social fighters' which some foreign agencies, such as Reuters, have used." Another *El Sol* commentator, Gonzalo Quijandria, expressed outrage at *Newsweek's* characterization of the MRTA as "young revolutionaries confronting the Peruvian military." One would expect to find such terminology in the MRTA's clandestine propaganda pamphlet, *Rebel Voice*, he said.

The government's public relations firm, Promperu, has countered media lies in a special report sent to foreign correspondents, which describes the MRTA as part of a "terrorist international." And on Jan. 16, police Col. Fernando Zapata ordered reporters who were staked out on a roof opposite the residence, to get down. "You are all coming down tonight," he said. Although local journalists obeyed him, foreign reporters did not, and were not forced to do so.

'Worldwide Web' of terrorists back MRTA

by Jeffrey Steinberg

In a radio interview with "EIR Talks" on Dec. 31, 1996, Lyndon LaRouche warned that the ongoing hostage crisis in Lima, Peru is a foretaste of the kind of terrorism that will soon be unleashed against the United States:

"We now have use of terrorism as an instrument of policy, in the attempt to shape the decline and elimination of the nation-state as an institution, elimination of military

agencies; to come to peace agreements, so-called, with terrorist forces and deal with them as political dissident forces; in general, globalization of everything. So, we're in a period in which one can imagine that any day, some of these terrorists will pull the same kind of stunt, somewhere inside the United States, that they pulled in Lima recently. And you will find that CNN, perhaps, or other news media, will play the same role that CNN International played in the Lima terrorist act."

In the interview, LaRouche noted that the Internet has become the cyber-safehouse for a vast support apparatus, backing the operations of the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) in Chiapas, Mexico, the Túpac Amaru Revolutionary Movement, and other narco-terrorist gangs. "If you look on the Internet inside the United States," he said, "you will find that there are agents of the Chiapas group, the Chiapas terrorists and other terrorist groups, operating as intelligence operators inside the Internet network inside the United States itself. I've even had threats against me coming from these terrorists, aided by agents of international terrorism, operating from inside the United States."

A recent survey of Worldwide Web sites, turned up names such as, "Arm the Spirit (Autonomist/Anti-Imperialist Resource Page)," "MRTA Solidarity Page," "Euskal Herria Journal (Basque ETA)," "Revolutionary People's Liberation Party-Front (Kurdish)," "International Emergency Committee to Defend the Life of Dr. Abimael Guzmán," and "Committee to Support the Revolution in Peru," revealing that an extensive communications infrastructure is providing every-



Homepage of the MRTA in Europe

thing from propaganda support to marching orders to terrorist cells all over the world.

Many of the so-called Websites listed above are formally affiliated with the Revolutionary International Movement (RIM), a coalition of some 30 narco-terrorist organizations from the Americas, Europe, and Asia. RIM was established in 1984 by fugitive members of the U.S. Revolutionary Communist Party (RCP), a Maoist group spawned in the 1960s with Ford Foundation backing, that, for a period during the 1970s, was visibly involved in terrorism inside the United States. RIM includes vicious terrorist groups such as Peru's Shining Path, Sri Lanka's Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the Basque separatist Euskadi Ta Askatasuna (ETA), and, more recently, the EZLN.

RIM is, not surprisingly, headquartered in London. During its first decade of operation, its world headquarters was at Russell House, Nottingham, the home of the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation, an unofficial arm of British intelligence.

While RIM and its U.S. RCP affiliate have not been caught carrying out major acts of terrorism inside the United States in recent years, the group has been linked to race riots and other "ethnic" violence in Miami, Los Angeles, and Washington, D.C., during the 1990s (see *EIR*, Nov. 17, 1995, "RIM: London's Narco-Terrorist International," for a detailed dossier on RIM-RCP); and, they have concentrated their recent efforts in the African-American, Hispanic, and Asian ethnic communities. It was, in part, this in-place apparatus to which LaRouche was referring, when he warned, on Dec. 31, that a Lima-style terrorist atrocity is soon likely to occur in the United States.

The case of Lori Berenson

If there were ever any doubt that a terrorist sub-culture and an extensive recruitment and support apparatus do exist inside the United States, those doubts were dispelled on Nov. 30, 1995, when Peruvian police arrested Lori Berenson, a 26-year-old Massachusetts Institute of Technology anthropology student, who was charged with, and eventually convicted of, participating in an MRTA plan to seize the Peruvian Congress, in a spectacular hostage-taking operation that presaged the more recent takeover of the residence of the Japanese ambassador in Lima.

While a human rights hue and cry has gone up over the life sentence meted out to Berenson for her part in the terrorist plot, and while the major American media have sought to cast Berenson as, at worst, a "dupe" of sophisticated manipulators, a review of her itinerary over the past decade presents a very different picture. Details still remain to be filled out, but it appears certain that Berenson was tracked into the terrorist milieu, while studying cultural anthropology at MIT.

The Harvard/MIT university complex in Cambridge, Massachusetts, is the home of Cultural Survival USA, a group of sophisticated radical ethnologists, who provide the crucial "academic" arguments and cultural profiles for the hundreds

of indigenist and separatist insurgencies that have been created in recent decades by their army of field operators. Peruvian Stefano Varese, a board member of Cultural Survival USA, now at the University of California at Davis, has been personally linked to the MRTA support operations.

Berenson made her first trip to Central America, as an MIT freshman, in 1988, to participate in a university-sponsored exchange program. According to classmates who were also participants in the MIT program, the El Salvador trip put Berenson in contact with Central American radicals. A year later, she was back in Central America, this time on behalf of the Committee in Solidarity With the People of El Salvador (Cispes). She spent the next months working for Cispes in Boston, New York, and Washington, but, by 1990, she had moved to Nicaragua. From there, in 1992, she moved to El Salvador, where she reportedly became the personal secretary of Salvador Sánchez Cerén, one of top dogs of the Farabundo Martí Liberation Front (FMLN). Two years later, she was living in Peru, apparently, already an accepted member of the MRTA underground. In 1995, Berenson briefly returned to the United States, where she obtained credentials as the Lima-based correspondent for two magazines, *Third World Viewpoint* and *Modern Times*. According to Peruvian authorities, she used these credentials to gain access to the Peruvian Congress, and prepare maps of the building that were used in planning the takeover.

By 1994, Berenson was already shuttling from Panama to Ecuador to Peru, carrying out assignments for the two top MRTA leaders, Néstor Cerpa Cartolini and Miguel Rincón Rincón, including the arrangement of illegal arms shipments to the group (when police raided the safehouse that she rented in the Lima suburb of La Molina, where the Congress hostage takeover plot was hatched, they found stockpiles of 8,000 rounds of ammunition and 3,000 sticks of dynamite). Peruvian authorities first caught wind of the MRTA cell, when police in Bolivia broke up an MRTA operation to kidnap a wealthy businessman, and identified Berenson's La Molina "roommate," Rincón, as the mastermind.

It can happen here

Sources familiar with the Berenson case have told *EIR* that the "MIT connection" to the MRTA is an important feature of a very broad-based pro-terrorist infrastructure, housed in many prominent universities, think-tanks, "charitable" foundations, etc., that could be activated at any point. In a period of U.S. history, marked by the World Trade Center bombing, the Oklahoma City, Oklahoma bombing of the Federal building, the Unabomber case, and the growth of secessionist militias and eco-terrorists, it would be the height of folly to dispute LaRouche's warnings, that it *can* happen here. As he concluded, on Dec. 31, "The problem is, we have a *much-reduced* anti-terrorist intelligence capability. I would hope we would build one up fast, because we're going to have to deal with this problem."