

that can resolve the real crisis facing the country. Only Gen. Harold Bedoya Pizarro, Presidential candidate of the Fuerza Colombia Movement—which I had the honor to represent in the recent elections, as a congressional aspirant for Bogotá—represents a genuine alternative under the current circumstances in Colombia.

The population's hatred of the current sell-out institutions opens up an enormous potential for change, but this challenge carries with it enormous danger as well. As with what is occurring in Argentina or Venezuela, where the international financial crisis, and its collateral effects in Ibero-America, are sweeping away the old institutions, the dilemma is: What will replace them? Will we remain entangled in a debate over the abstract content of so-called "political reform," without simultaneously addressing the urgent question of economic reconstruction? Will we sink, like Venezuela with Chávez's infamous Constituent Assembly, into another juridical and constitutional limbo promoted by Jacobin anarchists, who are demanding a new Constitution, supposedly as part of "serious negotiations" with the narco-terrorists?

All the world's nations find themselves affected by an existential global crisis which is occurring as a consequence of the final phase of bankruptcy of the International Monetary Fund-based international financial and monetary system. U.S. economist and Presidential pre-candidate for the 2004 elections, Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., is the only statesman who has correctly forecast this strategic crisis, and has proposed solutions necessary to reestablishing the general welfare of the people, as the basis for lasting world peace. The George W. Bush administration is a disaster, and this is aggravating the crisis. Europe's leaders are also failing to take competent action, and are intimidated.

Facing this most difficult crossroads in our existence as a nation, General Bedoya has responded to the challenge:

- Bedoya was one of the first to recognize and denounce the FARC, in 1996, as the "Third Cartel" of cocaine.
- Bedoya has denounced the alliance of Wall Street with the narco-terrorists, captured in the infamous photograph of the "Grasso Abrazo," where the New York Stock Market chairman Richard Grasso travelled to the demilitarized zone to embrace the FARC's so-called "Commander Raúl Reyes," and to coordinate "mutual investments."
- Bedoya has denounced the IMF for wanting to include drug crops as part of the Gross National Product, and for imposing austerity policies that are destroying Colombia and the whole world.
- Bedoya proposes great infrastructure, agricultural and industrial development projects to reactivate our economy, and recognizes the need to reorganize the international financial system, as LaRouche has proposed.

Under these current circumstances, the best guarantee for achieving the successful survival of Colombia as a sovereign nation, is to elect Gen. Harold Bedoya as our next President.

Is Bush's Crusade For Or Against Terrorism?

by Luis Vásquez Medina

The visit that George Bush paid to Peru in late March, the first that a U.S. President has made to this South American country, has left more than one Peruvian cold. Bush's visit not only demonstrated that under his administration, the United States has absolutely nothing to offer Ibero-America, but with his foolish statements, he has left Peruvian national security more precarious than it was before his unfortunate pilgrimage there.

Bush had just come from attending a UN meeting in Monterrey, Mexico, on "financing development," and it too was a great fiasco. He then proceeded to South America, to meet with the Presidents from the Andean region—Ecuador, Colombia, Bolivia, and Peru—at a very difficult moment for the entire continent: with Argentina caught in a spiral of social chaos, resulting from the austerity conditionalities of the International Monetary Fund; with Venezuela on the verge of civil war, due to the IMF Jacobinism of President Hugo Chávez; with Colombia bloodied in the midst of battling a deadly narco-terrorist insurgency. Perhaps Bush and his advisers thought that Peru would be a safe and secure place for his Presidential summit. But in this, too, he was mistaken.

Shining Path Welcomes Bush

On March 20, barely 48 hours before the U.S. President arrived, a car-bomb exploded across the street from the U.S. Embassy in Lima, practically under the beds of the hundreds of FBI, ATF, and Secret Service agents who had come to provide security for Bush, and whose hotel was not more than 300 yards from the explosion. The attack cost the lives of nine people, left 30 wounded, and put an end to the idea that terrorism in Peru was a thing of the past. Today, the terrorism that was defeated by the government of Alberto Fujimori—who was overthrown in late 2000 by the U.S. State Department—has reappeared with a vengeance.

Although authorship of the terrorist attack has not yet been claimed by any group, in the view of experts, everything points to Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path). This would be a new version of Sendero, modernized and with more advanced training, which would explain the sophisticated bomb with which Bush was welcomed. Shining Path's "enhancements" could well have been acquired through the narco-terrorist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), which is itself growing as a result of the financing and logistical



Presidents Bush and Toledo were able to agree on something.



capability acquired from the lucrative drug trade in the Amazon regions it controls.

The unsubstantiated statements made by Peruvian President Alejandro Toledo and Interior Minister Fernando Rospigliosi, to the effect that the terrorist attack was probably authored by a group linked to the Fujimori government and its military allies, only proves how distraught the current Peruvian government is with this new terrorist upsurge.

In the first place, this new Shining Path has been very active in the past seven months. Between October and November of last year, at least eight electricity towers throughout the country were dynamited, including two in the department of Lima. There was a massive theft of dynamite from mines in the Peruvian Sierra, and an organizing presence by Shining Path was detected in the periphery of Lima, where the openly pro-Shining Path labor federation MOTEP operates.

In the coca-growing zones, thanks to the government's willful blindness, there are already four zones where Shining Path forces now operate: Yurimaguas Valley, Huallaga, Apurimac-Ene, and the Ucayali Valley, with a total of at least 1,000 men under (modern) arms.

In the second place, this terrorist wave not surprisingly ended in mid-February, at the very point that a hunger-strike was begun by the 3,500 terrorists in Peru's prisons. It was an action planned and led by Abimael Guzmán, the head of Shining Path, who is serving a life sentence in a Peruvian prison. The strike had the intention of forcing the government into a "dialogue" on prison conditions, and on a peace agreement that would "legalize" both Shining Path and the equally narco-terrorist Tupac Amaru (MRTA), a possibility that has been well received by certain elements in the Executive Branch.

The hunger strike was lifted just hours before the attack against Bush's security team, thanks to the mediation of Jesuit

Bishop Luis Bambarén, who met for more than six hours on the day of the attack with Abimael Guzmán, MRTA chief Víctor Polay, and five other terrorist leaders, at the Naval Base of Callao. After that meeting, Bambarén publicly insisted that neither Shining Path nor the MRTA could have been the authors of the terrorist attack.

For Shining Path, Against the Armed Forces

Undoubtedly contributing to this resurgence of Shining Path, is money from the drug trade and "technical advice" from the FARC, whose footprints have already been detected, even in southern Peru. But this entire process could never have gotten off the ground were it not for the complacency of the Toledo government, and its predecessor, under Javier Paniagua. These two governments had released from jail, under one pretext or another, hundreds of captured terrorists. They also annulled all the military trials of many still-imprisoned terrorists, creating the legal basis for even Guzmán himself to file a *habeas corpus* appeal and get out of jail.

All this has occurred while the national intelligence services have been deliberately dismantled, the national security archives have been thrown open to the public, and numerous military outposts have been shut down, above all in the drug-trafficking strongholds. These are perhaps the only acts which the Paniagua and Toledo governments have carried out efficiently. By late 2001, practically the entire leadership of the Armed Forces had been ousted, under a "restructuring" which has forcibly retired nearly 800 officers. Military budget cut-backs have been such that not only have outposts and bases in the interior of the country been closed, and military service reduced to a minimum, but the main Army headquarters in Lima can only operate from one day to the next, lacking sufficient funds even to pay its electricity bill.

But most dramatic has been the political and judicial per-

secution of officers, and also soldiers, who fought subversion in the 1990s, under the Fujimori government. They are now being accused of human rights violations. It has reached the point that charges have been filed against the military heroes who risked their lives, and rescued hundreds of hostages who had been seized by the MRTA in 1997, at the residence of the Japanese Ambassador. Now, the judiciary—clearly under pressure from the Executive—has accused these heroes of being assassins. Hundreds of officers who saved the nation in the '90s are today in the dock of the accused, without so much as the funds to pay their lawyers. Others have gone into hiding.

Perhaps more destructive than Shining Path's bomb, was the appeal for clemency for terrorist Lori Berenson, an American citizen, which Bush delivered to his Peruvian counterpart, according to U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell. To intercede for Berenson in Peru is tantamount to a foreigner traveling to the United States, and asking for the release of someone implicated in the attack on New York's World Trade Center. Berenson was convicted after being caught red-handed preparing to blow up the Peruvian Congress, where, along with her MRTA cohorts, she had planned to take hostages to exchange for the release of MRTA prisoners.

Peruvians were stunned that Bush, after all his public declarations against terrorism, would ask for the freedom of a confessed narco-terrorist like Berenson.

Equally foolish was Bush's explicit backing for the "Truth Commission," which he said he would support with an additional \$3.5 million in financing. The Truth Commission in Peru, far from doing honor to its name, is heading up the persecution of military personnel who fought narco-terrorism during the 1990s, thereby setting a precedent for what will happen to any soldier who dares defend his country against a new round of narco-terrorist warfare. One look at who makes up this Commission suffices to reveal its true nature:

Foreign Minister Diego García Sayán, financial speculator George Soros' operative in Peru, who openly calls for drug legalization and an end to the war against drugs. García Sayán made jail conditions of terrorist prisoners more flexible, and has freed with impunity dozens of these terrorists, while handing over the prisons to Shining Path and MRTA.

Iván de Gregori, a "Senderologist" from the Institute of Peruvian Studies, financed by the Ford Foundation, and an anthropologist with a degree from the San Cristóbal University of Huamanga, where Abimael Guzmán taught.

Carlos Tapia, who was a sympathizer of armed struggle in the 1970s, and a member of the ILA (Iniciación de la Lucha Armada) movement then headed by Guzmán in Ayacucho. It is said that Tapia distanced himself from Shining Path when Guzmán stole his girlfriend, Augusta la Torre, whom he ended up marrying.

Alberto Morote Sánchez, nephew of Efraín Morote Best, one of Shining Path's bloodiest commanders.

The Jesuit **Msgr. Luis Bambarén**.

Why are millions of dollars going to these men, from a President who says he is at total war against world terrorism?

Intelligence Intrigues Erupt in Blair's Britain

by Alan Clayton

As political tensions in Great Britain mount, because of the collapsing economy and intensifying opposition to Prime Minister Tony Blair's support for a new American war against Iraq, the fissures and frictions among the political elites may be reflected in a number of strange episodes in the domain of intelligence and security. While no clear pattern yet emerges from these disparate episodes, they all bear watching as signs that things are not exactly "in order," in Her Majesty's domain. There are three such peculiar developments in recent days.

On the 20th of March, the Blair government announced an independent inquiry into the theft of highly sensitive intelligence documents from a top-security police base in East Belfast, in Northern Ireland. Suspicion fell, in this unusual case, on the police themselves; or possibly, on British secret agents. The police refused to reveal the content of the stolen papers, but they are believed to relate to informants. There are fears in certain British security circles, that some of these sources could be at risk and that vital counter-terrorist work may be compromised. Britain is the "headquarters" location for the majority of the 29 organizations on the terrorist list circulated by the U.S. State Department.

A Very Strange Break-In

The chief constable of Northern Ireland, Sir Ronnie Flanagan, appointed the most senior detective in Belfast, Chief Superintendent Phil Wright, to head a criminal investigation into the break-in at what was once Northern Ireland's main terrorist interrogation center and is still one of the most closely guarded police premises in Western Europe.

Security sources hinted that the raid on the Special Branch office within the fortified complex at Castlereagh in Belfast, bore the hallmarks of an "inside job." They suggested it might have been carried out by disgruntled police officers trying to discredit Special Branch, or by M15 (domestic intelligence), or by military intelligence for some as yet unknown motive. "We are keeping an open mind but it is fair to say at this stage it looks like the perpetrators had detailed insider knowledge of Castlereagh and the security system," said a police source. "It doesn't have the calling card of paramilitaries." "Paramilitaries" refers to the heavily armed Northern Ireland organizations of "Protestant" or "Catholic" profile.