

This world order must presume that each nation has natural and inalienable rights whose sovereignty must be respected, which at the same time forms a unity.

Universal progress

This is possible, because the human species—despite all of its diversities—is nonetheless unified, as Cardinal Nicholas of Cusa termed it, through the *spiritus universalium*—the spirit of universality. A lasting peace can only then be obtained, if each country can develop, and thereby has an interest in its neighbor similarly developing. New scientific discoveries mean such a great gift for humanity, that they should be put at the disposal, without delay, of all nations. That means above all a massive transfer of technology into the developing countries, and, beyond that, the realization of this “plan of a universal and balanced progress of all,” which Pope John Paul II called for in his latest encyclical *Laborem Exercens*.

It has been demonstrated that the available institutions which should be serving the demand for understanding between peoples in this sense—such as the United Nations, for example—are motivated too divisively, and proceed from an excessively pragmatic standpoint.

The Club of Life shall therefore be an instrument for those individuals who, on the eve of a possible collapse of human society, want to intervene with passionate commitment and political decisiveness in behalf of a new worldwide humanism. The Club of Life shall be supported upon the philosophical convictions which Judeo-Christian humanism and classical humanism produced in the last two and a half thousand years at its high points, and will make these convictions known worldwide. The Club commits itself to the idea of technological progress and to the value of human beings, which are inseparable from one another.

In order to effectively as possible begin the fight against the increasing disregard for life, politicians, trade unionists, scientists, and church representatives are called upon to come together as quickly as possible for the formal founding of the Club of Life.

The general tasks will be to disprove for good the unscientific character of the Club of Rome and of all other Malthusian organizations; and on the other hand, to make known the thoughts of the great humanists of the past and the possibilities within science for solving today's problems. If there can be quickly found individuals in enough countries who want to devote themselves to these great ideas, it is still possible to defeat the culture of pessimism, and again provide human beings with trust in their creative abilities.

The goal of the Club of Life is nothing less than to bring mankind a good step further on its path of establishing justice upon earth.

Colombia

The real winners in the March elections

by Cynthia Rush

The apparent winner in Colombia's March 14 congressional elections was the slate of former Liberal President Alfonso López Michelsen, the candidate publicly identified with efforts to legalize Colombia's drug trade and destroy what remains of productive economic activity in the country. With 2.3 million votes, compared to the 2.1 million of his conservative opponent Belisario Betancur, and with control of the Liberal party machinery, López is likely to be elected president in the elections scheduled for May 30.

The López victory can by no means be construed as a popular mandate for his drug and deindustrialization policies however. It is well known that many of the 2.3 million votes for López are the result of backroom deals and promises made to provincial “caciques,” [bosses] as well as the activation of the party's vote-buying machine. Sources in Bogotá told *EIR* that López secured votes from the drug-infested Atlantic Coast region by promising local cronies that he would remove all anti-narcotics forces from the region if he were elected president. *EIR* also learned that López Michelsen had strong backing inside the U.S. State Department from proponents of integrating Colombia fully into the Caribbean drug zone, under cover of various “development” schemes.

In areas where the party's vote-buying apparatus worked less efficiently, as in the case of the capital city of Bogotá, López was overwhelmingly defeated by the 37-year-old liberal dissident Senator Luís Carlos Galán Sarmiento. Galán, head of the “New Liberalism” movement, won in Bogotá by capitalizing on the population's hatred for López and by adopting portions of the pro-industry, anti-drug platform of candidates Maximiliano Londoño and Fausto Charris of the Andean Labor Party (PLAN). Although he garnered 600,000 votes nationwide, fewer than predicted, in the province of Cundinamarca Galán won seven out of eight senate seats and almost half of the seats in the Bogotá city council. His senatorial slate in Bogotá also roundly defeated Ernesto Samper Pizano, López Michelsen's campaign coordinator, who has been denounced by antidrug coalitions on three continents for his proposals to legalize production

and trade of marijuana between Colombia and the United States.

Bucking the mafias

Galán's victory in Bogotá demonstrates resistance to the implementation of the drug and austerity policies that are planned for Colombia regardless of who becomes the next president. This has little to do with Galán personally. The young Jesuit-trained oligarch spent most of his campaign cultivating his populist image and engaging in demagogic rabble-rousing. His backing by men like former presidents Carlos Lleras Restrepo and Alberto Lleras Camargo, individuals who have spent most of their lives attempting to destroy the nation, make any of his calls for creating "a new Colombia" highly suspect. Rather Galán's adoption of entire sections of the Andean Labor Party program in the latter part of his campaign, focusing on the need to modernize the Colombian economy through high-technology development and eliminate the financial networks that coordinate and control terrorism and drug-running, showed that a broader desire exists among the population for economic and technological progress. Galán's shrewd appeal to this sentiment contributed to his upset victory over López in Bogotá.

In the last weeks of the campaign, statements by Galán and his backers echoed the Labor Party's charges that López was a follower of Milton Friedman's Chicago School and that the policies applied during his first presidential term had encouraged the drug trade and devastated industry and agriculture. The only ones to benefit from these policies, wrote the pro-Galán newspaper *El Espectador* on March 10, were the large financial groups and the "extra-legal economy" created by the *bonanza marimbera* (drug economy). *El Espectador* also followed the lead of the Colombian Anti-Drug Coalition, which has repeatedly exposed López Michelsen's links to the international drug trade by publishing cartoons showing López and Samper Pizano waving marijuana plants. If López follows through on his proposal to affiliate the Liberal party to the Socialist International, Carlos Lleras caustically remarked, Colombia will see a strange brand of "socialism" which combines the Socialist International with the Grancolombiano financial group run by López's backer and cousin Jaime Michelsen, whose major activity is buying up Miami banks.

Liberal Party split

Before the March 14 elections, López mooted that he would consider withdrawing his candidacy in favor of a "third alternative" if he did not win a majority of the votes. On March 17, López reported that he would remain the official party candidate but made overtures to Galán in hopes of securing his support for a "uni-

fied" Liberal candidacy. Galán replied that he will make no deals with López and will continue his campaign up to the May 30 presidential elections. While he is not expected to win, Galán poses a threat of splitting the Liberal Party badly enough to hand a victory to Conservative party candidate Belisario Betancur.

Since the civil war that wracked Colombia in the 1940s and 1950s—La Violencia—no Conservative candidate has been able to win a presidential majority. The Conservatives have only occupied the presidency through the power-sharing agreement of the National Front by which Liberals and Conservatives alternated in power over a 16-year period beginning in 1957. To the staunchly Liberal Colombian electorate, the idea of a Conservative presidency is anathema, linked in their minds to the fascist dictatorship of former Conservative Party chieftain Laureano Gómez. In the current economic crisis and large-scale Liberal disaffection with López Michelsen, conservative Belisario Betancur is hoping that his "national unity" strategy will swing enough liberals and independents over to his side for victory.

If Betancur were to win, he would offer no better alternative to López. His attacks on the "dehumanizing" influence of both capitalism and socialism—reminiscent of Mussolini's ravings—are characteristic of his peasant rallies and appeals to the lumpen population in the nation's cities. The Conservative Party program is based on the same Friedmanite "free enterprise" thrust applied so disastrously by Liberal governments over the last eight years.

Sources close to Conservative faction leader Alvaro Gómez have told *EIR* that López is assured of defeating Belisario because Gómez—also a longtime advocate of legalizing Colombia's drug economy—is secretly planning to swing his Conservative support to the Liberal López ticket. Although ostensibly supporting Belisario Betancur, Alvaro reportedly stands to gain more from a López victory. He and López agree on most major issues, such as eliminating the last vestiges of republicanism from the Colombian constitution through a complete "reform," and further "federalize" the nation to enhance the autonomy of the local drug mafias.

López is also claiming that he is the only true "candidate of peace" in the country, capable of bringing terrorist groups like the Socialist International-backed M-19 to the negotiating table. The M-19's top leader, Jaime Bateman, virtually endorsed López in an interview with a kidnaped reporter on March 10 and then ordered a bombing offensive to sabotage the March 14 elections altogether. Launched to demonstrate the group's rejection of conditional amnesty recently decreed by President Turbay Ayala, the terrorist offensive sets the stage for the future declaration of an unconditional amnesty, which López favors.