

Andean Report by Mark Sonnenblick

Who runs Peruvian terrorism?

Barbarism is overwhelming the country—thanks to the same “academics” who helped create the Khmer Rouge and Kohmeini.

Eight Peruvian journalists were stoned, hacked to death with machetes, and buried at a hamlet in the guerrilla-infested mountains surrounding Ayacucho, Peru on Jan. 27. When their well-shredded corpses were exhumed and re-interred in Lima a few days later, 10,000 people marched in the funeral procession.

Why were they killed? The first story was that the local peasants had lynched them as suspected Maoist guerrillas, as they had reportedly done a week earlier to seven real guerrillas. Few believed either story. Then, Peruvian TV and the world's wire services carried the claim of the reporter who had set up his dead comrades' trip, but had not gone with them. He said the peasants explained to him that “the Sinchis [the elite army unit set up by the U.S. Green Berets] told us that our friends only arrive by air and our enemies by land, and that we should kill those who come by land, burn their clothes, and throw their bodies to the dogs.” Until shortly before his TV statement, however, the same reporter had insisted that the Sinchis themselves had done the deed, because the journalists found evidence that the Sinchis had begun mass assassinations of young peasants.

For example, the 22 rolls of film found on the murder site by the “first” Sinchi patrol to reach it were exposed before they reached the investigating authorities—except for one shot. That showed a man wearing the century-old peasant blanket and cap costume,

but also a wristwatch and a ring. Near-starvation illiterate peasants in Peru do not have wristwatches and rings. That offers a good clue that the Sinchis—who boast of disguising themselves as peasants—killed the journalists, and suggests why.

The Sinchis were trained by the Green Berets during the Vietnam War. They, like Guatemalan president Rios Montt's counter-insurgency forces, engage in wanton violence and even cannibalism against civilians, which drives the civilians into the hands of the insurgent terrorists and creates “prolonged war.”

The Sendero Luminoso guerrillas come out of the same European oligarchic think tanks as the counter-insurgency forces. Prof. Abimeal Guzman has had direct hands-on control since the Maoists split out of the pro-Soviet Communist Party in 1962. The University of Huamanga, re-opened the year before in Ayacucho, the capital of the most excruciatingly backwards region of America, has served as Guzman's base. His student mob has had substantial control over everything at the university.

But that is only the surface. Sendero was created in Paris, by the same Sorbonne anthropology professors who trained Khomeini's Bani-Sadr and the Cambodian president under Pol Pot, Khieu Samphan. Like the feudalist butchers of Iran and Cambodia, the Senderistas preach that “the countryside shall encircle the cities.” They, too, kill teachers and other carriers of

modern culture, and they seek to starve out urban civilization.

I studied at the University of Huamanga in 1964. Among my professors was Dr. Yaranga, who had just returned from Paris armed with his doctorate in cultural anthropology. Dr. Yaranga was certainly one of the most cosmopolitan figures in backwater Ayacucho. Did he urge his students to bring modern education, culture, and medicine to the Indians? No. Yaranga taught barbaric Indian witchcraft such as healing a sick baby by wrapping it in urine-soaked sheep pelts and incanting prayers using Christian words in prayers of pseudo-Incan devil worship. And Dr. Yaranga professed to believe in the superior efficacy of this witchcraft.

A number of such agents on the faculty created the psychotic atmosphere in which Guzman recruited. The Sorbonne and London's Tavistock Institute chose Ayacucho for their nest because the relations between lords and serfs and the degradation of the peasantry there are so shocking as to foster revolutionary impulses. With the help of the ideology of 1920s Peruvian savant José Carlos Mariategui, whose Marxism was shaped in the same stinking “cultural relativist” salons of Paris as Yaranga's, well-intentioned students have been turned into the shock troops of the New Dark Ages.

Why induce in Peru the internal warfare which in Italy is called the strategy of tension? One reason is to destroy the creditability of all national institutions, including the military itself, which under President Juan Velasco (1968-75) served as a catalyst for nation-building. Another is the cocaine trade, which flourishes in precisely the same areas as the Senderistas and the corrupted military elements who are stimulating the bloodshed.