

Sendero Luminoso, drugs, and the Jesuits

by Gretchen Small

Current investigations by Peruvian intelligence services into the origins, funding, and controllers of Sendero Luminoso, the gang of brutal killers terrorizing Peru under the mantle of class warfare, may prove the most important counter-intelligence break in Ibero-America since the government of Siles Suazo began arresting and extraditing Nazi drug-running terrorists from Bolivia for trial in Europe last October.

Peruvian President Fernando Belaunde Terry charged June 4 that international aid and human rights organizations, foreign-financed religious congregations, and international institutions carrying out social research were fomenting and financing Sendero's activities within Peru. Money, given under the cover of "sentimental postures," is "simply to give tips to intellectualoids who, instead of building [the country], indirectly back discord and death within our borders," the Peruvian president charged. "Peru cannot convert itself into a battlefield for outside quarrels as is happening today in Central America."

Belaunde's speech has triggered a national mobilization against the support apparatus for Sendero Luminoso (the "Shining Path").

To facilitate the investigation of the controllers of the terrorists, the heads of the Peruvian Investigative Police (PIP) and civil guard were removed after the imposition of a 60-day state of emergency in the wake of Sendero's May 27 bombing spree. Interior Minister Luis Pécovich Roca announced June 14 that every agency receiving international aid in Peru is currently under investigation by both police and military intelligence services for connections to Sendero Luminoso.

"As the investigation advances, the cases which are not proven to be involved in actions outside the realm of international aid will be discarded, and responsibility will be established in those cases in which this responsibility exists," the minister warned.

Sendero Luminoso identifies itself as a radical Maoist grouping, a follower of Cambodia's Pol Pot, the Chinese-run fanatic whose regime exterminated half the population to wipe out all traces of modernity, learning, and culture. President Belaunde's charges have now called attention to the nest of University of Sorbonne-trained anthropologists and Jesuit-trained *indigenista* activists within Peru who, with outside support from Amnesty International and the *New*

York Times, are the masterminds of Sendero's genocide. Sendero's ideologues, self-proclaimed "defenders" of the poor Indians of the highlands against the oppression of Peru's capitalist state, can be traced back a decade to a core team trained by "action" anthropologists at the University of Huamanga in Ayacucho.

On May 27, Sendero Luminoso moved into a new phase of activity, striking simultaneously in several cities nationwide and concentrating actions for the first time on the capital city, Lima. The terrorists used dynamite to blow up 10 electrical towers, several of them near Lima, leaving the capital without light. More than 40 bombs exploded in banks and offices across Lima.

The message: Sendero Luminoso's activities are no longer confined to impoverished rural areas around the province of Ayacucho, but it can strike national terror where it will. Random bombings have continued into June. Sendero squadristi blacked out the cities of Arequipa and Cuzco for hours, and electricity sources for Lima were hit a second time.

A wave of terror and counter-terror, as in Central America, is projected for Peru. Such international insurance companies as Lloyds of London understood the message, and upped their premiums on Peruvian customers.

In the climate of terror that Sendero has unleashed, some forces in the country have moved to swing the investigations against nationalist currents in the military, attempting to polarize the country between right and left and destroy civilian and military nationalists alike. If, however, the Italian-style investigation just launched against the international controllers of these terrorists is carried out in full, the whole game could blow apart.

Positive proof of cooperation between cocaine traffickers and the terrorists is in the hands of the intelligence agencies, Interior Minister Pécovich announced the same day Belaunde spoke. In return for arms and financing, Sendero Luminoso runs protection for the drug traffic, Pécovich charged, citing such Sendero favors for the drug networks as a recent attack on the Ayacucho jail in which the terrorists took care to release all the drugrunners first!

Bolivian sources warned *EIR* a few months ago that the cocaine mafias of the Andean region had set into motion plans to organize a regionwide "Indian rights" movement out of peasants caught in the coca-producing racket. The escalation of Sendero Luminoso's operations is the first shot of that plan. Overt separatist movements, seeking to dismember the nations of the region entirely, can be expected to follow.

The Peruvian authorities are also investigating the links between Europe's mafia-run terrorist apparatus and Sendero. U.S. intelligence sources report members of the Red Brigades used Peru as a safehouse after the 1978 murder of Italy's Prime Minister Aldo Moro. West German terrorist involvement in Peru was established with the arrest May 1 of Renata Hear, a member of the Baader Meinhof gang who is charged with participating in some 25 attacks within Peru since her 1980 return to Peru.