

paigned accusing the PAN of “treason to the nation.” This has sharpened the division in the ranks of the PAN between a more moderate grouping, also called the “loyal opposition,” and the radical faction, known as the “Bolsheviks,” headed up by the PAN leaders in Sonora. The split has cropped up already in the state of Mexico, where 70% of the country’s industry is concentrated. In effect, the moderate group led by state PAN president Abel Vicencio Tovar blocked the candidacy to the municipal presidency of Naucalpan—the town with the highest budget in Mexico—for the PAN, even though the prospective candidate, José Armando Gordillo, was overwhelmingly elected deputy in 1982. Gordillo belongs to the Bolshevik faction of the PAN. On Sept. 20, Gordillo came out in favor of armed struggles in a statement to the Mexico City newspaper *El Universal*, where he said, “The citizenry no longer asks votes from me but arms” to defend the election results.

Of course the Bolshevik leaders of the PAN calculate that violence will break out because the government will not recognize their “electoral triumphs” in the 1985 elections, the year when the House of Deputies and the governors of seven states are up for reelection.

Some long-standing observers of the PAN think that the threats of violence are intended to pressure the de la Madrid government for major political and economic concessions. These sources indicate that the man behind the pressure campaign is Pablo Emilio Madero, the current president of the PAN and former manager of Vitro, a major company in Nuevo León headed by Rogelio Sada Zambrano. Madero has not one iota of independence. His appointed mission is to keep the de la Madrid government from abandoning the policies of the International Monetary Fund.

The PAN bosses think the only way to guarantee this is for the PAN to get more positions of power in Mexico. For this reason, they have put forward another of their flunkies as the candidate for governor of Sonora, Adalberto Rosas López. The PAN desires to obtain 200 federal deputies’ seats next year. They are using the threats of social violence in an attempt to blackmail the de la Madrid government into letting the PAN win that number of positions. Although privately the PAN leaders admit that this figure is stratospheric, they project that 100 seats could definitively shift the balance of power in Mexico.

In the face of this, the PRI’s strategists are no longer discussing whether the PAN gets aid from abroad. They take that for granted. Some of them say that the decisive foreign support to the PAN came from the International Monetary Fund and the creditor banks, advised by Henry Kissinger, when they refused to accept the de la Madrid government’s proposal to renegotiate the foreign debt. The key aspect of that proposal was the request to not pay interest nor principal during 1985, in order to use all economic resources to reactivate economic activity, to not punish the electorate further, and thus to better situate the PRI to face the PAN.

Venezuela is hit by

by Gretchen Small

The drug war has come to Venezuela with a vengeance.

Within 24 hours of Venezuelan President Lusinchi’s call to the United Nations General Assembly on Sept. 24 for an international war against the drug trade as a “crime against humanity,” the drug mob had issued threats against his life. The same week, Venezuelan anti-drug fighters organizing support for the President’s efforts were threatened by Venezuelan collaborators of the Universal Christian Gnostic Church of Colombia, a group already implicated in the abduction and brainwashing of Colombian anti-drug fighter Patricia Paredes de Londoño last July 26.

The Caracas weekly, *Elite*, reported the plot against the President in its Oct. 4 issue. “President in danger,” was the first cryptic message delivered by an unidentified caller to *Elite*’s journalist Rafael del Naranco on Sept. 26, one day after Lusinchi’s speech. The voice was the same, however, as had advised Naranco previously of other mafia actions. A second call that night expanded the message: “What I said about the President is true. The international mafia will not let him step into the drug world. The organization has him in their sights. He put himself on top of the mountain; his bravery could cost him dearly.” Describing the threats, Naranco warned that terrorists could easily hit the presidential palace in a truck-bomb operation such as that used against the U.S. embassy in Beirut.

For the past decade, Venezuela has served as both a key transshipment point for marijuana and cocaine traffic from Ibero-America to Europe and the United States and as a money-laundering center. At the point of seizing wholesale power over governments and countries in the region, the mafia has now targeted Venezuela for expansion of all phases of the trade, including production and consumption.

The Lusinchi government has become a major roadblock to the mob’s plans. Initiating a domestic war on drugs within a week after Lusinchi took office in February 1984, Venezuela’s Congress passed one of the continent’s toughest anti-drug legislative packages. President Lusinchi directed his administration to begin active coordination with Colombia’s leading drug-fighter, Justice Minister Rodrigo Lara Bonilla, through his counterpart, Venezuelan Justice Minister Mánzo González.

With the assassination of Justice Minister Lara Bonilla by the mafia on April 30, Venezuela recognized, like other Andean governments, the implicit threat to itself, and the focus of Venezuela’s action shifted to international coordi-

the drug war

nation. Under Lusinchi's personal direction, Venezuela took the lead in coordinating a continental anti-drug fight. A "Quit to Declaration" declaring drug-trafficking a crime against humanity, drafted by the Venezuelan presidency, was adopted by the Andean Presidents and representatives attending the inauguration of the Ecuadorian President on Aug. 11. Then, at the United Nations, Lusinchi elaborated to the entire international community his proposal to "go to the source" of the problem—economic poverty—by creating an international fund to finance the war on drugs of nations unable to compete with the amassed wealth of the mafias.

Within Venezuela, the civil association the Andean Labor Party (PLAN-V) moved quickly to mobilize the population behind the President's initiative. On Sept. 27, the PLAN-V placed an advertisement in *El Nacional*, one of the country's leading dailies, addressed "To All Venezuelan Patriots." "Support the Proposal of President Lusinchi Against Drug Traffic!" the statement read, directing readers to clip it out and mail it to the President. "A determined government, such as that of President Lusinchi, backed by Venezuelan patriots, can lead this struggle and win," the PLAN argued. Response to the advertisement was immediate from around the country, and within a week, it was rerun in *Ultimas Noticias*, Venezuela's largest circulation newspaper.

On Oct. 2, eleven senators and congressmen from the Venezuelan state of Tachira which borders on Colombia took out an advertisement in several Venezuelan papers to denounce the PLAN-V, calling on the Congress, the National Executive, and the Supreme Electoral Council to investigate and censure members of the PLAN-V civil association. The statement, issued in the name of the Parliamentary Bloc of Tachira, but not signed by any means by all the state's representatives, charged the PLAN-V with slandering another Tachira deputy, Walter Márquez, an independent elected on the slate of the left-wing "Green" Party of Venezuela, the Movement to Socialism (MAS).

Signatories of the call were members of various parties, including the powerful independent senator from Tachira, Ramón J. Velásquez, and Abdon Vivas Terán, a leader of the left faction of the Christian Democratic party—all jumping to attack the PLAN in defense of the MAS Deputy from Tachira, Márquez.

Why their fury?

Walter Márquez is a leading bishop of the Venezuelan branch of the Universal Christian Gnostic Church, a cult

headquartered in Mexico and Colombia which this magazine documented to be involved in drug-running and terrorism, following the kidnapping and drugging by cult members of a leader of the Colombian Anti-Drug Coalition and Andean Labor Party-C, Patricia Paredes de Londoño in July. When *EIR*'s charges against the Colombian branch of the Gnostic Church circulated internationally, several Gnostic Churches in the Caribbean area rushed to separate themselves from the Universal Christian Gnostic Church, issuing public statements that *they* had nothing to do with kidnapping or drug-running.

Not so Walter Márquez, who flew personally into Colombia to investigate the case. Upon his return, Márquez brought into Venezuela one of the Colombian Gnostics featured in the *EIR*-PLAN-C exposé, to aid him in mounting an operation against the PLAN-V! Accompanying Walter Márquez in Caracas at the beginning of September was Gnostic leader José Vicente Márquez, the secretary to the Seventh Commission of the Colombian Congress who works closely with ex-President Alfonso López Michelsen, now public spokesman for the Colombian drug mafia. Together, the Márquezes presented complaints against the Venezuelan Labor Party's charges to the Ministry of Justice and Interior.

The activation of the Gnostic network in Venezuela in such flagrant collaboration with the drug-implicated Colombian Gnostic Church identifies a key network for immediate investigation by the Venezuelan government's anti-drug forces. In a half-page announcement in *El Nacional* on Sept. 20, the PLAN-V association outlined the security implications for Venezuela of the Márquez case. Reviewing the role of the Colombian Gnostic Church in the Londoño case, in defending the M-19 terrorists, in opposing the utilization of herbicides against marijuana and coca plantations in the Guajira, and in defending López Michelsen—who admits he speaks for the mafia—the PLAN statement concludes: "In view, then of the above, and in view of the fact that Walter Márquez forms a part of the Anti-Drug Commission of the House of Representatives, which gives him access to information sensitive for national security," the PLAN calls for an investigation into Walter Márquez's relations to the Gnostic Church of Colombia and such members as José Vicente Márquez.

What worries us, concludes the PLAN ad, "is to think of the mere possibility that Walter Márquez could make the Nazi and racist theses espoused by the founder of the Universal Gnostic Christian Church, Samuel Aun Weor, a reality in Venezuela." The ad quotes from Weor's published praise for Hitler as a "reformer" whose only "error" was to believe that "only the German peoples are Aryans. It is necessary to know that all the races which populate the world are Aryans, except the Jews."

from the book *The Social Transformation of Humanity*, by Samael Aun Weor, whom Walter Márquez recognizes as his principal teacher.