

proved by the U.S. courts.

The Rodríguez López case has become a true Pandora's box; from it is expected to come to light the real story of the drug wealth encrusted in the highest spheres of the Belaúnde government. The cocaine mafia covered its real activities with a maze of more than 30 companies—tourist agencies, language centers, etc.—through which many of their drug carriers, or “mules,” were recruited and sent abroad, principally to Mexico and the United States. In the companies that were raided, documents were found compromising a shocking number of police officials and high officials of the previous government.

At the present time, the activities of some 158 PIP and Civil Guard officers are being investigated, among them some 41 generals. Out of fear of exposure, 16 PIP generals have presented their resignations. President García, however, refused to accept their resignations, saying that all implicated officers would be tried and publicly thrown out of office if found guilty. “Punishment will also reach those officers who have played dumb,” said García, “because there are crimes both of commission and omission.”

Among the compromised generals thus far exposed are **Gen. José Jorge Zárate** and **Gen. Rómulo Alayza Tejada**. The first, until recently director of the Peruvian Fiscal Police, was a close companion of Reynaldo Rodríguez López and the nephew of **Zoila Jorge**, of Lebanese extraction and the wife of a PIP general, also named by U.S. naval intelligence as head of one of the most important South American drug-trafficking networks in the 1940s. General Alayza had been cited by Australian law enforcement for his role in the smuggling of Peruvian cocaine to that country.

On Aug. 15, the daily *La República* published a photo that shook the nation, under the headline “Belaúnde on the Shoulders of the Drug Trade.” The ex-President appeared on the shoulders of a man named **Juan Rodolfo Serra Paredes**, his former security chief whose links to López Vergara, Pércovich's adviser, have been uncovered. The surprise and general indignation grew when it was learned that former Vice-President Alva Orlandini, who had maintained iron control over the police apparatus in the country, had personally intervened to give the mafia free access to all the leading airports of the country.

Later, former Prime Minister Pércovich was called before a judge in charge of investigating the case. A militant in the gnostic Tradition, Family, and Property sect, Pércovich was forced to return to Peru from his Miami residence.

As the days pass, more and more names of the hierarchy of the previous administration will be coming to light. Although the “Man from the Bahamas,” Manuel Ulloa, has not yet been directly linked to the Rodríguez López mafia, it is common knowledge that sooner or later the war on drugs in Peru will knock at the doors of his financial empire. Already in the streets of Lima, wall slogans have appeared saying, “The Godfather is Ulloa!”

‘Operation Condor’

by Sara Madueño

The strike against Peru's biggest known cocaine-refining facility, carried out under the personal direction of President Alan García on Aug. 13, was the first phase of “Operation Condor,” the largest operation ever launched against the Ibero-American drug mafias. This was the first collaborative military action of its kind in history, involving the armed forces and police of Peru and Colombia, with the aid of three agents of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Landsat photos provided by NASA were used to pinpoint and capture the refinery—shutting off about one-third of the cocaine flowing into the United States, in one fell swoop.

Operation Condor is the first step in implementing the strategy outlined by Lyndon LaRouche in a speech in Mexico City on March 13 (see *EIR*, April 2, 1985, “A proposed strategic operation against the Western Hemisphere's drug traffic”). LaRouche explained: “Without closer cooperation among the United States, Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela and other nations of the hemisphere, neither the United States nor any of the other republics will be able to defeat this monstrously powerful network of financial and political criminal forces led by the international drug trade.” To defeat the transnational occupation force known as Dope, Inc., declared LaRouche, all that is lacking is “a war plan of common action against the international drug traffickers on the part of the governments of this hemisphere willing to carry it out.”

The assault on ‘coca city’

Operation Condor was planned, according to the Lima press, by Alan García, in close coordination with Colombian President Belisario Betancur. The first blow dealt by Operation Condor was in the pre-dawn hours of Aug. 13, when a contingent of 60 Peruvian police officers and three DEA agents descended in three Colombian-piloted helicopters on the largest cocaine-refining complex ever uncovered: Callaru, or “coca city,” located deep in the Peruvian Amazon jungle in the region known as Caballococha, near Leticia, Colombia. Responsibility for Operation Condor was delegated by Interior Minister Abel Salinas, who put his deputy minister, Agustín Mantilla, personally in charge. The commander of the forces which took Callaru was Gen. Walter Andrade Romero, of the Peruvian Civil Guard.

Operation Condor has just begun, and will move on, as

hits dope pushers

Gen. Andrade Romero pointed out, to the destruction of more than 250 cocaine refineries scattered throughout the Peruvian Amazon. Of these, 121 are immediate targets, 110 having already been located through NASA satellite technology, and the others discovered as a result of the Callaru bust.

The assault on the "coca city" was an operation planned under the strictest secrecy, so as not to alert the drug traffickers. Those who made up the assault force were rigorously chosen for their moral integrity. Such was the secrecy maintained during the preparations for the attack, that the policemen who participated only learned of their orders—written and enclosed in sealed envelopes—when already aboard the planes headed for Callaru.

The commando force deployed against Callaru went by way of the Colombian city of Leticia, where the Colombian chief of the Southern Command, Gen. Díaz Contreras, provided them with helicopters and logistical support. From there, they headed for their jungle objective inside Peru, while a ground force of nearly 80 police officers encircled the cocaine compound. It took just 15 minutes to occupy the "coca city."

Five turboprop planes equipped with sophisticated electronic systems for blind landings were captured; three were registered in Colombia, one in Bolivia, and one in the United States. The complex had an 800-meter runway, alongside which were constructed four airplane hangars and 15 other buildings in which modern computerized laboratories capable of producing 300 kilograms of pure cocaine a week were discovered. Two underground warehouses for unprocessed coca paste were found, as well as modern communications equipment capable of reaching every corner of the world, radar instruments, a control tower to direct the night-time blind flights of the smugglers' airplanes, a cache of weapons, two hydraulic dams, three power generators, and comfortable housing for some 100 persons. Nearby was found still another laboratory where 1,500 kilograms of coca paste were being held.

These "superlabs," capable of producing more than 1,800 kilograms of cocaine per month, fed the U.S. market via Colombia, Mexico, and the Bahamas, according to Deputy Minister Mantilla. The Peruvian official also revealed that the cocaine complex was the property of Colombian cocaine czars Pablo Escobar Gaviria and Carlos Lehder Rivas, both

of them fugitives from Colombian law following the April 30, 1984 mafia assassination of that country's justice minister, Rodrigo Lara Bonilla.

More than two years ago, reported the official daily *La Crónica*, "the Colombian government alerted the governments of Peru, Ecuador, and Panama of the plans of these drug kingpins to transfer their centers of operations to those countries."

What Belaúnde knew

General Andrade Romero revealed to the press that he had briefed the previous Peruvian government of President Fernando Belaúnde Terry, but that nothing had been done. "Last July," he said, "I presented a plan for the capture of the Callaru complex, but the President did not consider it convenient to carry out." Andrade explained that the military high command knew all along of the existence and precise

The new Peruvian government has already handed the Ibero-American drug mafia one of its worst defeats. "We knew of the situation, and we acted," declared President Alan García. Even those who play dumb must be punished, he said, "because there are crimes of omission as well as crimes of commission."

location of the jungle airports and laboratories, thanks to satellite photographs provided by NASA. "We presented the same proposal to the new government, and he [President García] immediately ordered the raid," said Andrade.

The new Peruvian government, which was just inaugurated on July 28, has already handed the Ibero-American drug mafia one of its worst defeats. "We knew of the situation, and we acted," declared President García, to explain why one could not claim ignorance when the drug trade was so obvious to the rest of the world. That is why, he said, even those who play dumb must be punished, "because there are crimes of omission as well as crimes of commission."

And they *did* know, of this there is no doubt. Colombian diplomatic sources told *La Crónica* that "the Colombian government had hoped for the support of Peru in eradicating the drug trade, but received no response to its warnings, despite repeated diplomatic messages sent." One official of the DEA said that his agency "knew that the Peruvian drug trade was

blessed, anointed, and sacred. It was not a question of a few dollars more or less; it was simply that it was impossible to aid a fight that did not exist, since in Peru no one fought the drugs."

During his inspection visit to the region, Deputy Minister Mantilla corroborated that "all of the Caballococha population over 10 years of age actively participated in the construction of the cocaine complex's enormous runway." How could it not have been known, he asked, if the drug traffickers constructed a modern pier to change the course of the Tigre River? How were they able to bring in huge quantities of construction material without alerting the authorities? To reach Cabuco (the town adjacent to the cocaine complex, and the only route to reach Callaru), noted Mantilla, "it was necessary to pass the administrative complex of Puerto Alegría, inaugurated two years ago by Belaúnde. . . . It was impossible to bring heavy machinery from Colombia or Brazil without passing Puerto Alegría."

Total warfare

"We will eradicate the drug trade, no matter at what cost or who falls," pledged President García in an address to the leadership of Peru's trade union movement. Interior Minister Abel Salinas agreed: "The battle against the drug trade will

be total; there will be no truce. . . . This is only the beginning. We are going to increase our actions to halt and eradicate the drug trade in our country. . . . This is a war in defense of our future generations."

Everything indicates that this is, indeed, an irreversible commitment on the part of the Peruvian government. The Peruvian press continues to report on other operations, as well as on preparations for joint military incursions together with other countries. On the agenda, for example, according to the press, are joint anti-drug operations with Bolivia.

The war against the drug trade will also encompass destruction of Peru's vast illegal coca plantations, according to Gen. Andrade Romero, who reported on plans to proceed with the destruction of 125,000 of the 135,000 hectares of coca cultivation thus far identified. To supply the cocaine required by the pharmaceutical industry, only 10,000 hectares of coca are required. Gen. Andrade Romero added, "We have under study a method of chemical fumigation with guaranteed effectiveness against the coca plant, but which will not destroy the fertility of the land."

To be total, the war on drugs must now proceed against the drug money "laundries," many of which enjoy the cover of prestigious banks and financial institutions. There will be found the true godfathers of the dope trade.

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—Lyndon H. LaRouche

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