

Andean Report by Valerie Rush

The containment of García

Shining Path does the dirty work of the IMF and Socialist International, keeping the President home and hamstrung.

A powerful explosive was detonated just meters away from the official platform where Peruvian President Alan García was to preside over the pledge of allegiance to the national flag, at a special ceremony with the country's leading military figures June 7.

The explosion took place a mere two minutes before García's arrival at the Lima central plaza.

When the ceremony had ended, another bomb exploded near the platform, killing three people and critically wounding several others. Two more bombs exploded on the perimeter of the plaza shortly thereafter.

The attack against the President exemplifies a bloody terrorist escalation in the war of the Shining Path (*Sendero Luminoso*) gang against the García government. In this ongoing offensive to destabilize the government, the communist labor unions as well as the drug mafia are playing a leading role.

An immediate objective of the terrorist wave is to prevent President García from leaving Peru to pursue his organizing drive for an Ibero-American presidential summit. His trip to Panama—where the agenda of the summit was to be worked out in detail—has been postponed for the fourth time, while trips to Europe and Mexico have also been indefinitely put off.

In addition to blocking García's efforts to fight for Ibero-American integration against the International Monetary Fund, the brutal Shining Path offensive poses the danger of

triggering a "dirty war" of indiscriminate repression, Argentine-style, which could fuel Shining Path's anti-government rampages. Defense Minister Flores Torres spoke directly to this at the end of the June ceremony where the bombings had occurred:

"The armed forces are the sustainers of democracy, in the face of the escalation of violence. [Shining Path would] destroy our traditional values to replace them with totalitarian ones . . . were the armed forces to deteriorate" into lawless death squads using "disturbing methods which are repugnant to the conscience of patriots, democrats, and Catholics."

The offensive against García has escalated as the date of the annual conference of the Socialist International draws near, a conference where the anti-usury crusade of García will be pitted against the pro-IMF Socialist forces headed by its president, Willy Brandt.

That conference is scheduled to be held in Lima from June 20 to 23, where the faction controlled by Brandt is expected to defend the KGB-backed Shining Path just as it does the Green Party terrorists currently rampaging in Germany. In 1984, speaking from Lima, Brandt said, referring to Shining Path: "It would be an error to say that what is happening in the country is part of a terrorist international movement." Brandt has also gone on public record in support of the International Monetary Fund.

It is obvious how well Shining Path's current terror offensive is serv-

ing the interests of the Fund.

In fact, on March 29, in a nationwide address, Interior Minister Abel Salinas reported on the cost to the nation of Shining Path's crimes, a cost which weakens the García government's ability to sustain its battle against the IMF. Salinas said that in the past few years, the anti-terrorist effort alone has cost more than one billion soles. He reported that 285 members of the military and police forces have been killed, 116 civilian authorities assassinated, and more than 13,000 civilians fallen to Shining Path's terrorism.

With the exception of the war with Chile in the last century, Peru has never had such a costly and bloody war.

García's job in eradicating the Shining Path threat has been made that much more difficult by the support Shining Path receives among influential members of the ruling party. Exemplary is APRA Secretary General Armando Villanueva, who has insisted on "dialogue" with the narco-terrorists, despite Shining Path's own assertion that dialogue with the government's Peace Commission "would mean negotiating the [country's] historic destiny, and betraying it."

In an interview carried May 11 by the magazine *Visión*, Villanueva virtually justified Shining Path's crimes with the statement: "Shining Path is a movement made up . . . of youth. But they are youth with no comprehension of our reality. They have arrived too late with a strategy and a tactic that might have been successful 50 years ago."

Villanueva also negotiated, during his recent trip to London and Paris, a visit by Amnesty International to Peru to "inspect whether human rights are respected." Amnesty International serves as the Socialist International's arm of destabilization against targeted governments, like that of García.