

## Andean Report by Mark Sonnenblick

### Moscow endorses Peruvian coup

*Soviet-supported terrorists and CIA-linked labor leaders combine to topple Peruvian President Alan García.*

Since Peruvian Communist Party Secretary General Jorge del Prado called at New Year's for intensified struggle for "the seizure of power," the narco-terrorist gangs, their liberal apologists, and networks historically identified as "CIA-run" labor leaders have stepped up their efforts to destabilize Peruvian President Alan García. Moscow's strategy is to provoke a repressive military coup against the still-popular García. In the ensuing popular insurrection, the Communists would seize power. "We are the alternative," del Prado proclaimed.

Del Prado assured the daily *El Nacional*, "If the danger of a coup arises . . . we would respond very energetically. And not exactly to keep the government in power."

Moscow's Peruvian Communist Party is now publicly backing the barbarous terrorism that is sweeping Peru. Del Prado expressed his respect for the "direct armed struggle" of the narco-terrorist Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA). He said that "there was clearly a nearing of struggle positions" between the MRTA and the political and labor fronts controlled by the PCP. "The MRTA," he said, "does not fight the United Left, nor the CGTP," the Soviet-controlled General Confederation of Peruvian Workers. "Since we do not rule out the possibility of having to defend our conquests by force . . . we would be wrong to condemn armed struggle in general."

Without consulting the labor federation's membership, the Communist leadership of the CGTP called a Jan. 28 general strike to break the Gar-

cía government. The strike call has been consistently supported by *El Diario*, the legal daily newspaper of the Shining Path (Sendero Luminoso) terrorists. Shining Path called for the strike to be violent, and made its point by exploding five charges of dynamite during a CGTP march in downtown Lima on Jan. 13.

Also supporting the strike is Julio Cruzado, the chief of what used to be the labor federation run by President Alan García's APRA party. This shocked APRA leaders, who noted that Cruzado, who had spent over 50 years mouthing anti-Communist rhetoric while spreading AFL-CIO money among his friends, had made an about-face. By defending International Monetary Fund austerity, Cruzado had, over the years, driven one union after another to the Communists. His new embrace with the PCP reflects the worldwide alliance between his American "Project Democracy" controllers and the Soviets.

Shining Path has shifted gears in its war on Peru. Over the past two years, the Army had regained control of 85% of Shining Path's home area in the impoverished Ayacucho region, thanks to García's firm hand and his policies of providing credit, fertilizer, and better prices to the peasants. Shining Path was forced to redeploy to other parts of the country, and is now engaging in assassinations and economic sabotage in several areas of the country.

But, in the past month, the terrorists have regained the initiative in Ayacucho. On Jan. 8, Shining Path comandos walked into the village of

Chaca, a typical Ayacucho town with no electricity or telephone, and gathered its 500 peasants in the square. It called out the names of 22 men and 2 women, including all the village leaders, declared them guilty of loyalty to the Peruvian government, and beheaded them. This is exactly what the group had done in the village of Rumi Rumi a month before.

Shining Path is murdering groups of peasants, agrarian bank employees, and agricultural development engineers in the countryside around Ayacucho in less formal fashion every day of the week. Peasants are abandoning their lands and flocking to towns protected by Army bases.

The shining star of the Reagan administration's "Project Democracy," novelist Mario Vargas Llosa, opined in the daily *El Comercio* Jan. 13, "I don't believe there is any immediate or intermediate possibility of a Shining Path victory. But I do believe that extremist violence could reach such a state of insecurity and chaos for the country that it could open the doors to a military coup."

The military is frustrated by seeing Shining Path's *El Diario* circulating nationwide with impunity every day. One early-January issue contained five "discussion documents" for an upcoming clandestine Shining Path national congress.

García has urged the Congress to rule that "he who distributes a leaflet advocating terrorism is as much a terrorist as he who explodes a bomb." But, he is blocked by members of his own party, who have deals with the terrorists, with the Communists, or with Project Democracy and its international "human rights" lobby. Ultimately, the strongest political shield for the terrorists is the international uproar created by Vargas Llosa last year, when he accused García of "censorship" and "totalitarian tendencies."