

Therefore, the court's experts concluded, it would take the CSE's handwriting expert at least a year and eight months to examine the number of signatures which he pronounced to be false just a few weeks after the CSE had received them. He would have had to spend less than 3 minutes apiece on signatures he rejected from some states. The experts also observed that he had provided not the slightest explanation for why he had declared thousands of signatures to be false.

"Unless the CSE amends this extremely grave irregularity and immediately registers the PLV on the national level," PLV secretary general Alejandro Peña Esclusa, warned, according to the May 10 *Ultimas Noticias*, "the country's nationalist institutions and the citizenry in general will think the Constitution has been intolerably trampled." "Who would accept the election results as valid if a fraud of this magnitude is committed against a small political party?" Peña asked. The daily also published the PLV statement, "To strengthen the democratic system, the Supreme Court of Justice should hurry its decision in our favor; in any case, even before that happens [elections board chairman] Dr. Carlos Delgado Chappellín should legalize the PLV or resign as a signal of protest. Those are the only honest choices he has."

The next day, *Ultimas Noticias* published the reaction of the man at the CSE in charge of political party legalization, Luis Carlos Calatrava. He still claimed the signatures presented by the PLV were false and that "this was scientifically proven by a handwriting expert." However, the official had to admit that Venezuela lives under the rule of law and that "it will be the court who decides who is right, the PLV or the CSE."

Interview: Alejandro Peña

Alejandro Peña, secretary general of the Venezuelan Labor Party (PLV) gave EIR the following exclusive interview May 12.

EIR: Why do you claim there is a plot against democracy and against the PLV?

Peña: Everything began when the PLV began a massive campaign to fight narco-terrorism and dirty money laundering. In response to the publication of the book, *Dope, Inc.*, considered in Ibero-America to be the best war manual against narcotics traffic, Rockefeller-linked forces organized a raid on PLV headquarters in February 1985. The raid was run by a chief of my country's political police, the DISIP, who is now in jail for drug trafficking.

The PLV understood that it had gone to the heart of the country's drug finances. So, we publicly warned that these

forces would retaliate. They used their influence to shut up the only force which stood in the way of their definitive seizure of power. Exactly what we warned happened.

PLV legalization on a national level, necessary for running a presidential candidacy, was sabotaged by means of absurd handwriting examinations. Reliable sources assured us that, among others, U.S. Ambassador Otto Reich personally participated in this sabotage. He is linked to the Iran-Contra scandal and has worked for Rockefeller for decades.

EIR: How has the PLV responded?

Peña: Immediately after the CSE [Supreme Electoral Council] decision, the Labor Party appealed to the Supreme Court of Justice to invalidate that act. The court decided to contract three handwriting experts—among them the president of the Latin American Association of Graphotechnicians—to review the methodology used by the CSE. They found irregularities typical of a totalitarian regime like Nicaragua's.

We have asked the CSE to immediately legalize the PLV, even before the Supreme Court rules in our favor, so that we can participate in December's presidential elections. In the meantime, we are continuing the case, not only in national courts, but in international courts. And we will not rest until justice has been done and we jail the guilty.

EIR: What would happen if the court's decision were delayed until after the elections?

Peña: Then, Venezuela and the whole world would see that the CSE is a fraudulent agency. Nobody would believe the election results. The consequences could be really grave. It is very dangerous for the Constitution and the human rights of thousands of Venezuelans to be trampled at the caprice of the "untouchables" who run drug finance. We would soon have a drug-runner government in Venezuela. . . .

EIR: Could you sum up the PLV's program?

Peña: What Venezuela needs is a nationalist movement, an alliance between the basic institutions, like the armed forces and the Church and the people. It needs a force capable of opposing neo-colonialism, such as Torrijos built in Panama. That is what we are building. We will make reality what Pope John Paul II proposes in his latest encyclical, *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis*.

Of course, that requires reorganizing the international financial system along the lines of Lyndon H. LaRouche's famous study, *Operation Juárez*. In fact, we cite it in the PLV's own bylaws. Based on that, we propose building a number of great projects that would generate two million jobs in two years. Don't forget that Venezuela has 16 million people (half of whom are children) and 2 million unemployed. But, on the other hand, we have an immense potential, loads of mineral and energy resources, and a large professional middle class capable of turning those resources into usable wealth.