
Peru

Inter-Action Council's Ulloa hails Soviets

by Carlos Méndez

Manuel Ulloa, the champion of "free enterprise" and the "informal economy" so beloved of the Wall Street bankers, has just exposed himself as the leading propagandist for Moscow in Peru.

The former Peruvian prime minister and finance minister gushed to the Soviet news agency Novosti in an interview, "In my opinion, the Soviet Union has already helped us a great deal. It has perhaps been the most flexible and interested of countries. There are those who say it is for political reasons. I don't believe that. Today, there is a clear awareness that it is our natural ally for economic development, for our cultural independence."

Ulloa was in Moscow traveling as part of a select group of the so-called Inter-Action Council. His comments were published in part by the newspaper allied with Peru's ruling APRA party *Hoy*, on May 25.

Referring to the Reagan-Gorbachov summit in his interview with Novosti, Ulloa said, "I believe that the whole world cannot but await with anxious concern the concretization of what seems to have already been agreed to. But beyond that, it is important that the Soviet Union and the United States . . . have a decisive influence on ending the greater part of the regional conflicts."

In his statements, "free enterpriser" Ulloa shares the viewpoint of the new Peruvian prime minister, "leftist" Armando Villanueva, who last January declared during a trip to Czechoslovakia that "*perestroika* is an advance toward peace, and those in the West who believe the opposite are ignoring the historic development of the Soviet Union."

Villanueva and Ulloa also coincide in opposing Peruvian President Alan García's refusal to subordinate the economy to the debt collection demands of the International Monetary Fund. In April of 1987, the Inter-Action Council met in Manila, Philippines to talk about the foreign debt problem. Ulloa wrote on April 27, 1987 in his newspaper *Expreso*, that the Council concluded that García's move to limit Peru's debt payments to 10% of export earnings fell "in a juridically illegal framework."

On March 10, 1988 Ulloa attacked García's economic policies again, and demanded "reshuffling of the team that designed and applied the heterodox program, which has been

a failure." ("Heterodox" is a buzzword for any departure from the "rules" of economic behavior set by the international creditors.) At the beginning of May, Ulloa threatened that there will be no credits from abroad until García leaves power, or until he is reconciled with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

What is the Inter-Action Council?

That Ulloa can simultaneously support both the Soviet Union and the Western bankers' IMF should surprise no one, above all if one considers the nature of the Inter-Action Council. The IAC is a private group, made up of nearly 70 has-been world leaders, mostly Social Democrats like former German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt.

The IAC has two policy thrusts: paying the debt and reducing population. In early 1987, the IAC chose Rome as the site of its meeting in favor of birth control, in a defiant gesture toward the Catholic Church. On April 27, the editorial of the Ulloa-owned daily *Expreso* urged approval of the law for female sterilization in Peru, and said that those who oppose such a law "seek to leave Peru submerged in medieval taboos."

The IAC held its first meeting in Moscow on May 16-19, 1988, under the title "Perspectives for the Coming Century." The objective of the meeting was to propose a kind of Marshall Plan—not for the Third World, but to provide Western capital to the Gorbachov regime.

Almost immediately afterward, on May 24, a Permanent Dialogue Committee was formed among spiritual and lay leaders internationally, headed by none other than Manuel Ulloa, to discuss how to encourage population reduction programs globally.

In mid-April 1988, Ulloa participated in a Global Forum of Parliamentarians and Religious Leaders to Debate the Possibilities for Human Survival. At that forum, held in Oxford, England, Ulloa was designated head of the movement for a four-year term, representing political leaders.

All of this, of course, helps to explain why Ulloa, who has been such a perfervid foe of the García government, came out in support of the speech given at the United Nations June 2 by Peru's new foreign minister, Luis González Posada. Ulloa congratulated González Posada for "such a brilliant speech."

On June 4, the Ulloa-linked columnist Manuel D'Ornelas in *Expreso* put his finger on the policy reasons the speech would please Ulloa's cronies among both the bankers and the Kremlin. He wrote, "The foreign minister's speech is an unusual oratorical piece within the rhetoric of the current regime," since "there were no . . . unexpected condemnations of imperialism, no flaming attacks on the IMF." González Posada's speech proposed the creation of a "fund against hunger" to come from the funds "of the arms race" (one of the favorite slogans of the Soviets), but mentioned neither the IMF, nor the World Bank, nor the debt problem.