

## Andean Report by Ricardo F. Martín

### Cocaine congressman caught in Peru

*President García has just purged from his APRA party a cocaine-trafficking congressman.*

**H**e who goes to cash a narcotics trafficker's check is an accomplice of the narcotics trafficker," Peruvian President Alan García pronounced Oct. 10, when he asked his APRA party to expell from its ranks Congressman Manuel Angel del Pomar.

It seems that on Sept. 28, Del Pomar, holding a Peruvian diplomatic passport issued a few days earlier, had been arrested together with a Swiss named Willy Roland Studer when they tried to cash a 120,000 deutschemark check at Commerzbank in West Berlin.

The check was signed by none other than Manuel García Montes, a narcotics trafficker arrested in Peru after Peruvian police caught his gang on Sept. 12 shipping 40 kilos of the purest cocaine to Germany. They hid the drug inside truck wheel forgings which he exported to Germany and Great Britain. Members of his gang from England, Germany, Yugoslavia, and Peru were arrested in Peru and in Europe.

The account at Commerzbank was in the name of trafficker Manuel García Montes himself. He had been Del Pomar's friend since youth, and Del Pomar had gone to visit him in jail. The narco provided the congressman with 15 signed blank checks and his cash machine card and asked him to move all his funds to a secret account in Switzerland.

Del Pomar tried to lie his way out of the situation, telling Berlin police that he was part of the Peruvian delegation to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) meeting there at the time.

Del Pomar returned to Peru and acted as though nothing had happened. But, a few days later, on Oct. 10, an Interpol telex on the incident arrived at the Peruvian Army's division of communications, and the Army passed it to the President. García got Del Pomar expelled from the APRA parliamentary cell and then from the party.

The Chamber of Deputies has suspended Del Pomar until his trial is over. Unless independent judges are appointed for the case, however, he is likely soon to be back at his old tricks. Just about every judge in Peru owes at least one favor to Del Pomar. For many years, he was president of the National Federation of Bar Associations, which, by law, is represented on the panel which nominates judges. He also has chaired the Chamber of Deputies' Commission to Investigate the Judiciary, which decides whether judges should be fired for their irregularities.

This illustrates how Dope, Inc. has been able to infest all Peruvian institutions. Del Pomar and his ilk have been successful in rescuing any top narcos who get caught. He's not a great lawyer, but he has the connections needed to get charges dropped. This is the kind of political criminal on the inside who must be eliminated before any real war on drugs can be fought.

Peru is currently convulsed by the corruption generated by narcotics trafficking in the legislative branch, as in the Del Pomar case, but also in the executive branch, in the on-going "Villa Coca" trial. In that case, narcotics trafficker Reynaldo Rodríguez López, a number of the highest former

police officials, and personalities from the Fernando Belaunde presidency (1980-85) are being tried. Peruvian television recently showed a video tape of Rodríguez López, a.k.a. "The Godfather," at one of his infamous *fiestas* locked in demonstrative embrace with journalist Mario Castro Arenas, the man recently named Peruvian ambassador to Panama.

Among those linked to "The Godfather," Deputy Luis Percovich stands out. During the Belaunde presidency, Percovich was interior minister, the official in charge of law and order, and then was prime minister. Percovich's long-time personal aide, Luis López Vergara, is now in jail for the protection he offered the Villa Coca cocaine mob. López Vergara's official prime ministry car was found parked at Rodríguez López's luxurious "Villa Coca" complex when an explosion happened to erupt in the cocaine refinery under the mansion on July 24, 1985, just days before Belaunde and Percovich left office.

When Percovich was interior minister, the cocaine trafficking "Godfather" was the chief adviser to the police.

Other Belaunde regime officials were found by the attorney general's office to be linked to the mafia. Congressman Reynaldo Rivera, for example, was thrown out of parliament and tried for his crimes.

The APRA party also has plenty of politicians connected to the mob. Cocaine trafficker Carlos Langberg, now serving 15 years behind bars, tried to buy the APRA party. In September 1981, Langberg was arrested in Acapulco, Mexico, on his yacht, for cocaine possession. With him was APRA powerhouse Jorge Idiaquez Ríos and his family. When Langberg was jailed on charges of owning 587 kilos of basic cocaine paste, he provided Idiaquez with a small fortune to buy a villa.