
Strategic Map

The Andean Spine

In early 1986, several of the key irregular warfare armies of Soviet subversion on the South American continent joined forces in the so-called Americas Battalion, which claimed to adopt Simón Bolívar's dream of continent-wide "liberation" and "one great fatherland." At first representing guerrilla forces from Peru, Colombia, and Ecuador, the Americas Battalion was led by the Cuban-supplied, narcotics-financed terrorist M-19 of Colombia. It also included the Alfaro Vive, Carajo of Ecuador (believed created by the Ecuadorian Communist Party) and Peru's MRTA (Tupac Amaru), linked both to Cuba and Moscow's Peruvian Communist Party. The remnants of Venezuela's largely defunct Red Flag gang were also loosely affiliated.

During 1987 and 1988, the guerrilla arm of the Moscow-run Colombian Communist Party, the FARC, undertook to forge inside Colombia the most effective insurgency force to date, as the spearhead for Andean-wide penetration and takeover. It sponsored the creation of the narco-terrorist Simón Bolívar Guerrilla Coordinating Council, which brought in the M-19 (and thus, the resources of its Americas Battalion regional allies), plus the Cuban-trained and sponsored ELN (Ejército de Liberación Nacional) and the Maoist EPL (Ejército Popular de Liberación). The FARC, which has some 45 different fighting fronts in Colombia and dates its origins to the Communist Party's defense squads of the so-called *Violencia* period of the 1950s, effectively deploys these terrorist groups at Moscow's command.

Superbly armed and financed by the profits of the drug trade in Colombia, the Guerrilla Coordinating Council has successfully challenged the Colombian armed forces on at least a dozen different fronts, while blackmailing the government through a combination of selective terrorism at home and pressure from Moscow-controlled "human rights" lobbies abroad. The Barco government has only recently showed tentative signs of resistance, after having virtually offered the narco-guerrilla a white flag of surrender following the January 1988 terrorist killing of Attorney General Carlos Mauro Hoyos.

Over the past 12 months, Colombia's narco-guerrillas have moved to consolidate an infrastructure in Venezuela. They already have a network of corrupt judges, politicians, and others working on their behalf. Last year, a Superior Court judge freed a group of Medellín Cartel cocaine traffickers from a Venezuelan jail, after being bribed by elements

linked to the Venezuelan Communist Party. Venezuelan congressman and Gnostic "bishop" Walter Márquez has used his parliamentary immunity to flout the law by sheltering two suspected terrorists wanted for interrogation by the courts.

The Colombian ELN has a contract to run protection for marijuana and coca growers on the Venezuelan side of the border; the June 12, 1987 massacre of nine Venezuelan National Guardsmen deployed to eradicate marijuana in the Sierra de Perija zone is attributed to the ELN. The ELN has been generously financed by Occidental Petroleum, the property of Moscow agent Armand Hammer.

Peru: From 1980, when Shining Path narco-terrorists entered "armed struggle" until Nov. 21, 1988, the terrorists caused 12,201 deaths, according to a congressional study group headed by leftist senator, Enrique Bernales. During that period, 6,663 subversives, 4,745 civilians and 793 members of the armed forces and police were killed. These figures do not include at least 150 more people reported dead during the last nine days of November. The statistics show the body count through Nov. 21 to be 1,775, up 50% from the 1987 total. November was the bloodiest month of the entire armed insurgency, with an average of 13 reported dead each day.

Former President Gen. Francisco Morales Bermúdez stated in *Oiga* weekly, Nov. 28, "They dominated the Andean ridges, then moved toward the coast and the mountain ranges. . . . The subversive movement currently controls over 80 areas, especially in the northern mountain range, the southern mountain range, the central and northeastern jungles and Lima." He found it interesting that Shining Path, which grew undisturbed during his military government, began armed actions just weeks after he handed power over to civilians. Morales Bermúdez argued, "Subversion has reached dangerous levels to the extent that national security is at serious risk. We do not know what will come next, whether it be a coup or civil war." He volunteered to lead a coup against President Alan García.

The terrorists are trying to provoke such a coup, since Morales Bermúdez's IMF austerity policies would drive into their arms the Peruvians who still hope García will provide them with a better life. On Nov. 22 a Shining Path army of at least 300 launched an offensive to eliminate all government anti-drug troops from Peru's key cocaine growing area, the Huallaga Valley, proving the truth of the expression "narco-terrorists."

Shining Path has done an estimated \$10 billion in material damage, dynamiting electric lines, factories, railroads, and government offices. Its savagery is characterized by daily murders of elected government officials and economic development experts and the leaders of peasant communities who cooperate with the Peruvian government. On Nov. 22, it invaded a village near Ayacucho and exterminated 68 peasants accused of being militia members. Shining Path raided an agricultural extension station and killed over 1,000 imported hybrid cattle, part of the García government's plan to rescue the highlands from poverty.

Terrorist expansion in the Andean Spine

