

Soviet irregular warfare in Ibero-America makes headway

by Valerie Rush

The year 1988 was the target date set by Moscow's irregular warfare armies for a narco-terrorist takeover of Ibero-America's strategically vital Andean Spine. Under Soviet sponsorship, and with the treasonous complicity of the West's "Project Democracy" networks, their insurgency came dangerously close to succeeding. Selective kidnappings and assassinations, targeted destruction of national infrastructure and, most importantly, a relentless propaganda assault on the foundations of constitutional republicanism, have worn down populations and governments alike, while stripping the already budget-ravaged military, the last bastion of national defense, of its ability to function.

This dramatic advance of Moscow's so-called "partisan armies" across Ibero-America in 1988 has been stalled—but only stalled—because of the decision of a handful of patriots to take action to save the region's armed forces as institutions capable of resisting, and ultimately defeating, the narco-terrorist onslaught. Whether their actions succeed in turning the tide of surrender, or serve only as a temporary holding action, will be determined in the course of 1989.

A nation at war

Colombia is the most illustrative case of a nation under total irregular warfare siege. The nation has been subjected to the most brutal terror, with "military action" by the country's 10,000-strong guerrilla army now matched by escalating anti-civilian terror, including wholesale massacres of innocents. The year opened with the narco-terrorist murder of anti-drug Attorney General Carlos Mauro Hoyos, and his replacement by pro-Communist Horacio Serpa Uribe, who has turned that office into a branch of the Moscow-tied Amnesty International.

The Colombian Armed Forces' proper response to Mauro Hoyos's hideous murder—an aggressive military counter-punch against the networks of the drug mafia—triggered a violent international campaign against this alleged "dirty war" in Colombia. On April 19, the London-based Amnesty International (AI), a global clearinghouse of Communist and terrorist movements which coordinates closely with Moscow, issued a "briefing" on Colombia which accused the Armed Forces of employing "a deliberate policy of political mur-

der," while making no mention of the narco-terrorist bloodshed. AI's Washington, D.C. briefing was addressed by Colombian Senator Pedro Alcántara Herán, an elected representative of the Colombian Communist Party's electoral front.

The Communist newspaper *Voz* simultaneously vehemently defended cocaine czar Pablo Escobar against the alleged "Rambo" actions of one of Colombia's most effective counterinsurgent leaders, Gen. Jaime Ruiz Barrera. On April 24, the *London Observer*, owned by the blue-blood sponsors of AI, the Astors, cited Amnesty's report to blast the Colombian military and demand "the pariah treatment" for "savage, lawless Colombia," while lamenting that its government had yet to heed "powerful arguments for legalization of drugs."

With the Barco government now on the defensive, Moscow's irregular warfare forces struck again. The kidnaping on May 29 of Conservative Party leader Alvaro Gómez Hurtado, and subsequent guerrilla demands for the dismantling of the military as a counterinsurgent force, as the condition for Gómez's release, nearly produced a white flag of surrender from the hapless government of President Virgilio Barco. Only days after the kidnaping, Barco called in a June 7 address to the United Nations General Assembly for the dismantling of the armies of the developing sector, as an "example" to the superpowers!

By early August, the environment for capitulation was such that former Colombian president Alfonso López Michelsen, a.k.a. the "godfather," was able to demand at a public forum that the narco-terrorists be granted official "rebel" status. One astute journalist noted that López would impose the strictures of the Geneva Conventions for wartime conduct upon Colombia's battle against a criminal underworld suddenly endowed with internationally protected "belligerent" status.

President Barco's inability to withstand the combined terror from within and "human rights" pressures from without, produced a strategy of "dialogue" with his nation's assailants. His removal of outraged Defense Minister Gen. Rafael Samudio Molina on Nov. 4, only days after his army had successfully enforced a government ban on a terrorist-sponsored general strike, permitted the emboldened narco-terrorists to carry out a near-miss assassination attempt against

Samudio's successor, General Manuel Jaime Guerrero Paz, on Nov. 22. However, it may also have served as the proverbial "last straw," for on the military's apparent insistence, Barco did an uncharacteristic turnabout on Nov. 25, decreeing life imprisonment for terrorists and ordering the resupplying of the Armed Forces to bring them to battle-readiness.

A Project Democracy victory

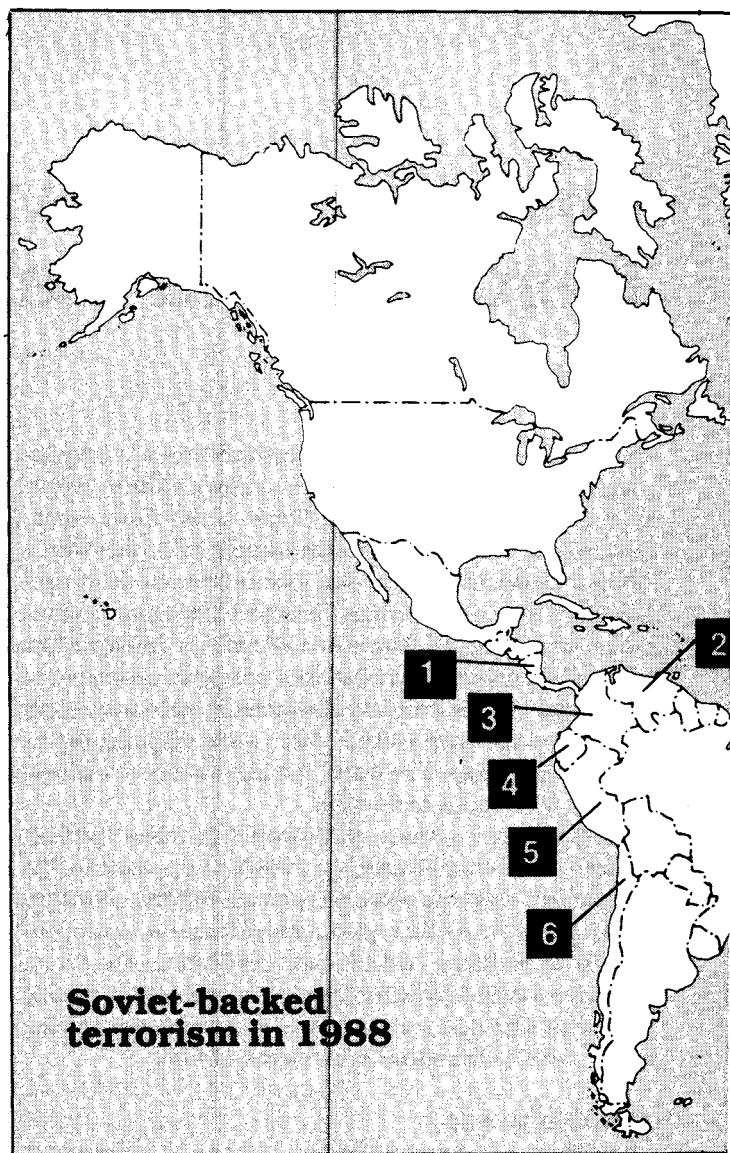
While Colombia ends an otherwise tragic year on a hopeful note, neighboring **Venezuela** has less cause for optimism. The campaign to destroy the continent's armed forces, detailed by Project Democracy's "Inter-American Dialogue," claimed an early victim with the March 28 forced resignation of Venezuela's Justice Minister, the strongly anti-drug and pro-military José Manzo González. Defense Minister Eliodoro Guerrero Gómez, under similar attack, ultimately retired from office.

The surfacing of narco-Communist and Gnostic circles in defense of terrorism during the course of 1988 is made particularly dangerous because of the political support these elements have received from newly-elected Venezuelan President Carlos Andrés Pérez. Pérez, whose own ties to drug networks have been a matter of speculation for years, has repeatedly given credibility to the anti-military ravings of Project Democracy's agents, such that rumors of a military coup in the event of a Pérez victory were rife just prior to the Dec. 4 election.

Narco-terrorist destruction of **Peru**, economically and politically, is perhaps the starkest Ibero-American tragedy of 1988, with that country now hovering on the brink of a fascist takeover—from the left or right. And with the crumbling of national defenses throughout the Andean Spine, debt-strapped and mis-led nations like Brazil, Chile, and Argentina, are becoming ripe for the picking by Moscow's irregular troops.

President Alfonsín in **Argentina** has been in the forefront of the assault on the military as an institution, as he has in capitulation to the International Monetary Fund. The forced retirement of nationalist elements of the military, the jailing of numerous officers who fought the British during the Malvinas War, the calculated budgetary starvation of the Armed Forces, finally led to a carefully-planned military action on Dec. 2 by Malvinas War hero Col. Mohammed Ali Seineldín, who demanded that both the dignity and the capacity of the Armed Forces be restored.

Through a series of negotiations with the government, and with the military united behind him, the fervent nationalist Seineldín succeeded in forcing a number of concessions to insure the survival of his institution, including critical wage increases for the troops. While not a revolution, Seineldín's 96-hour action has provided inspiration for the entire continent and, as such, has stalled the planned destruction of its military defenses. It now remains for his Ibero-American counterparts in both the political and military realm to follow suit.



1. Central America: Long-term Soviet presence in Cuba and Nicaragua has served to turn those nations into launching-pads for irregular warfare. In Guatemala, El Salvador, and even Honduras, Soviet strategy has been to employ narco-terrorist insurgencies to sow chaos and economic dislocation.

2. Venezuela: One of the newest additions to the map of Soviet irregular warfare in Ibero-America. Gnostic/Communist elements have run cover for an infiltration of neighboring Colombia's full-fledged insurgent movement. A major target of the narco-terrorists and their allies has been the Venezuelan Armed Forces.

3. Colombia: The guerrilla forces of the Moscow-dominated Colombian Communist Party alone maintain a 10,000-man army in 42 "fronts" across the country, complemented by thousands of armed lunatics from various other