

banks, since the United States seems unwilling to provide restitution. That would aggravate our country's foreign debt crisis.

The moral damages and social trauma suffered by the relatives of dead, injured, disappeared, and imprisoned Panamanians and trampled sovereignty could never be forgotten. A brief run-through on this includes the following facts:

1) The tight control over the country by the U.S. Army does not permit any Panamanian institution the access required in order to know the correct number of casualties caused by the invasion.

2) The figures on dead, injured, and disappeared are kept strictly secret. And the obviously altered reports are given exclusively by spokesmen for the Southern Command.

3) The population seeking to locate their disappeared family members has not been informed of the common graves and the concentration camps.

4) Access to those hospitals and public offices which could provide information on the civilians who have disappeared is controlled by U.S. military forces.

5) United States Army troops burned bodies on the beaches near the Chorrillo district. Residents of the sector witnessed this.

6) Citizens opposed to the occupation are detained without arrest warrants issued by Panamanian civilian authorities. An anonymous denunciation is all that is needed for a citizen to be detained.

7) All information on detentions is denied. The courts are not functioning; therefore, it is impossible to present motions for *Habeas Corpus* or injunctions based on constitutional rights.

8) The detainees have been put in concentration camps and their relatives are denied access to them. The prisoners of war are in the open air, under the sun and the rain, and exposed for hours as a generalized form of torture.

9) The occupation forces control all means of communication. The script for all news broadcasts is written by the Southern Command's Public Affairs Office, which acts as the censorship office.

10) All those who oppose the current regime have been ordered fired from their jobs. Labor leaders have been detained to pressure them into acceptance of the puppet government.

11) All homes and offices of the political sectors opposed to the invasion have been raided and many of them destroyed and their property stolen. Political leaders continue receiving threats of being detained.

Friends. These lines are by no means an exhaustive inventory of the atrocities committed by the United States government by means of its occupation forces. With the support of those who embrace the legacy of the Founding Fathers of the great nation of the North and with the support of those who cherish the struggle for human rights led by Martin Luther King, we will move forward.

Anti-Drug Summit Talks

Andean countries face U.S. 'Big Stick'

by Valerie Rush

The three Andean nations of Colombia, Bolivia, and Peru met with representatives of the United States in Santa Cruz, Bolivia on Jan. 10-14, in an attempt to negotiate a common strategy for an effective war on drugs. The U.S. sauntered into the meeting, a preliminary to next month's presidential summit on drugs to be held in Cartagena, Colombia, with a "Big Stick" in each fist: IMF austerity conditionalities attached to anti-drug aid, and the threat of military intervention.

Any illusions of collaboration with Washington in fighting drugs at this time had already been dashed weeks earlier. The U.S. invasion and occupation of Panama, far from fighting drug trafficking as claimed, had instead succeeded in destroying that nation's sovereign military capability while installing allies of the enemy cocaine cartels in power (see *EIR*, Jan. 19, 1990, pp. 26-28). With that precedent, the Santa Cruz meeting was effectively doomed to failure.

Strings attached

Unconfirmed reports from Santa Cruz are that Colombia was seeking at least \$2 billion in aid from the United States, while Peru and Bolivia were asking \$700 million and \$400 million a year, respectively, for weaponry and assistance in drug eradication and crop substitution. According to a Reuters news agency report on the summit, all U.S. offers of economic assistance were "tied to progress in implementing an effective anti-drug program in each country and to the adoption of sound economic policies." Determination of "effectiveness" and "soundness" would, of course, be made by the United States. A 12-hour delay in concluding the Santa Cruz meeting was attributed to reportedly bitter opposition to any such conditionalities by Peru, Bolivia and, Colombia.

Such blackmail schemes are by no means foreign to U.S. tactics. Peru's Alan García was making major strides against the narco-terrorist enemy in that country in 1986 when a campaign—coordinated by the U.S. government—was launched to cut off international credits to that country. The

drug trade rebounded, and so did the terrorism.

At the same time, the Andean countries resisted—apparently successfully—the U.S. proposal to use its military forces to police international waters and air space surrounding the drug-producing Andean zone. The Andean governments were forewarned of U.S. intentions by the Pentagon's unilateral decision Dec. 27 to deploy elements of an aircraft carrier battle group off Colombia's Caribbean shores, allegedly to interdict illegal air and sea narcotics shipments.

According to a Jan. 7 *New York Times* story, U.S. military planners actually intended an amphibious helicopter ship included in that battle group to become *the* command and control center for Colombia's war on drugs. The ship, reportedly similar to one deployed off the coast of El Salvador, is equipped with electronic equipment capable of monitoring all communications between military units, police, and government posts.

Colombian reactions to leaks of the U.S. military deployment were immediate and furious, with many observers noting the similarity in U.S. tactics to the Panama intervention, and the threat to Colombia's military. The anti-drug daily *El Espectador* editorialized Jan. 11: There is "a clear pattern: first, the armies of our country—pressured in part by Washington—involved themselves in the fight [against drugs] because the police were corrupt. Now the Americans say that because of corruption, they should personally intervene to help us in the anti-drug fight. . . . How far is Bush going to keep 'helping' us?"

In the face of official Colombian objections, President Bush ordered the U.S. flotilla to halt its advance toward Colombia on Jan. 8—until, said U.S. officials, agreement could be reached with the Colombian authorities. However, Colombia's adamant opposition to such a move, which would hand the drug cartels the anti-imperialist mantle they crave, remained steadfast at the Santa Cruz pre-summit, and will presumably remain so at the Feb. 15 presidential summit in Cartagena, Colombia.

Thus, the result of five days of behind-doors confrontation between the drug-producing nations and the U.S. representatives was little more than a weakly worded resolution committing all four nations to combined anti-drug efforts, more military involvement by Peru and Bolivia in battling the drug trade, and increased economic aid from the United States. No dollar figures mentioned, of course.

Washington stands fanatically committed to a policy of destroying military institutions throughout the Americas, as part of its power-sharing arrangement with the Soviets. And a nation without a military capability cannot defend itself from the drug cartels. What Ibero-America is learning—albeit the hard way—is that the basis of any anti-drug cooperation with Washington must be respect for sovereignty. Economically and militarily strong nations can defeat the narco-terrorist threat; weak satrapies occupied by American "Rambos" must—like Panama—fall to the cartels.

Interview: Adrian Vasilake

Romania: Superpowers are miscalculating

by Leonardo Servadio

The Committee for the Rebirth of Romania has been constituted in Milan, made up of Romanian expatriate intellectuals and a handful of Italians. It was born as a Committee for the Liberation, but the rapid fall of Ceausescu suggested the change in name. We spoke with its founder, Professor Adrian Vasilake, a 35-year-old pianist who has lived in Italy for 10 years as a political refugee, about what is happening in Romania, and what the Committee plans to do.

"The Red Cross is doing a good deal," Vasilake told us. "The city of Milan has already sent the first aid, and more will arrive. There are people here who want to help; there will also be a sister-city relationship between Milan and Timisoara. We of the Committee for the Rebirth intend above all to study how to rebuild the economy over the medium and long term. For this, we have gotten in touch with professors at the Faculty of Economic Sciences at the University of Bucharest, asking for information on the situation of the country. But this data does not exist. The Communist government only had data on the elephantine production of steel sought by Ceausescu, who had made Romania, in the early 1970s, into one of the countries with the highest rates of development and with the second highest level of steel production per capita. People did not eat, but they produced steel—in the most unheard-of and least suitable places. What sense does it make to produce steel at all costs in a country which has the highest potential for agricultural yield in the world, when steel is produced in other places with a cost equivalent to less than one-tenth of what it costs to produce it in Romania?"

"But with communism, the *plan* dominated over everything, and the *plan*, utopia, had to be carried out without regard to real conditions. Even though Romania is best fit for agricultural development and small and medium industry, Ceausescu's *plan* called for developing heavy industry. And in communism, if the *plan* does not work, it is not because it is wrong and has to be redone; no, it's the people's fault, and they have to bear the consequences."

Lack of data

"The general state of decay of the economy today is known, but there are no statistics, and the potentials are not