

# Suspect U.S. role in Shining Path's spread

by Cynthia Rush

One of the fruits of the Bush administration's policy of dismantling the institution of the armed forces in Ibero-America is the unhindered expansion, not only of Peru's Shining Path (Sendero Luminoso) narco-terrorists, but the emergence of similar groups beyond Peru's borders.

Apologists for Shining Path and its clones, lodged at the U.S. State Department and in several Ibero-American capitals, say narco-terrorism's expansion is due only to the "brutality" and "human rights violations" of the continent's armed forces. This is simply a justification for destroying the armed forces while giving free rein to the narco-terrorists to take power. Although Peru is the key battleground right now, the entire continent is threatened by Washington's insane policy.

In Bolivia, which has been free of narco-terrorism since the Che Guevara days of the late 1960s, a group known as the Tupac Katari Guerrilla Army (EGTK) recently distributed videocassettes to the local media showing hooded individuals shouting revolutionary slogans and making death threats against government officials. Like Shining Path, the EGTK claims to represent the interests of the country's indigenous populations. On July 6, two children near the city of Sucre were killed when they found a bomb planted by the EGTK near an oil pipeline.

Bolivia's interior minister denies that there is any link between Shining Path and the EGTK; however, as far back as December 1989, according to the May-June issue of the Peruvian magazine *Quehacer*, a pro-Shining Path group in La Paz assassinated Peruvian naval attaché Juan Carlos Vega Llona. The group, the Revolutionary Workers' Movement (MOR), claimed that Vega Llona was responsible for repressing Shining Path members during a 1986 attack on Lima's El Frontón prison. *Quehacer* notes that while the MOR hasn't reappeared since 1989, Shining Path's own internal documents indicate their great interest in Bolivia, and emphasize the importance of maintaining a base in the southern Peruvian state of Puno, because of its location on the border with Bolivia.

Other pro-Shining Path or Shining Path-like groups have appeared elsewhere. In late May, the "Heroes of Canto Grande" bombed the Foreign Ministry building in Quito, Ecuador, claiming retaliation for a Peruvian police attack on Lima's Canto Grande prison earlier that month, where tens of Shining Path members were wounded or killed. At about the same

time, in the northern Chilean city of Iquique, the Revolutionary Guerrilla Coordinator for a Free America sent letters to several businessmen, demanding payments in exchange for "security." The group, which emerged only a few months ago, expressed its solidarity with Shining Path and called for armed struggle against the "clandestine government" it alleged is run by former Chilean President Gen. Augusto Pinochet.

## A new revolutionary front?

The emergence of a variety of new "revolutionary" groups in the recent period would seem to bear out the warning issued recently by U.S. presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche to expect a new wave of terrorism in the aftermath of the U.N. Earth Summit, held in June in Rio de Janeiro. Cuban President Fidel Castro's overt embrace of the summit's eco-fascist agenda, and the subsequent meeting of several armed narco-guerrilla groups in Rosario, Argentina to discuss the creation of a new leftist movement for the continent, suggest that a terror wave is about to begin.

Carlos Manuel Acuña, a commentator on military issues for Argentina's daily *La Prensa*, has noted in several columns this year that a terrorist upsurge appears to be under way particularly in the Southern Cone of Ibero-America, a region which suffered tremendous devastation from the terrorist offensive of the late 1960s and 1970s. He warned that the activities of several groups which were active during that period, such as Uruguay's Tupamaros, the Argentine ERP, as well as the more recently formed Chilean Communist Party's Manuel Rodríguez Patriotic Front, and the Argentine All for the Fatherland Movement (MTP), deserve close scrutiny.

In an article in *La Prensa* in May, Acuña also reported that the emergence in Uruguay of a group calling itself the Eastern Revolutionary Movement coincided with "rumors and unconfirmed reports" of an extension of Peru's Shining Path and MRTA narco-terrorists "into neighboring territories, including in Argentina."

Since Washington is committed to destroying the continent's armed forces, the reports on the expansion of narco-terrorism are combined, not surprisingly, with the suggestion that foreign military intervention may be required to do what the "corrupt" or "inept" Ibero-American militaries cannot. *Quehacer* reminds its readers of the proposal made last May by Argentine President Carlos Menem, calling for the creation of a continental military force to combat Shining Path because "Peru cannot do it by itself."

Chile's President Patricio Alwyn has made similar remarks, and the implication of statements by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Bernard Aronson, to the effect that Shining Path is close to "taking over" in Peru, is that foreign military forces may be needed. With reports of U.S. troops already present in northern Argentina, eastern Bolivia, and parts of Colombia, this is the scenario for turning Ibero-America into a new Vietnam.