

Shining Path readies final offensive in Peru

by Andrea Olivieri

The Shining Path terrorists in Peru have launched what could well constitute their "final offensive" to destroy the remnants of civilization in that beleaguered nation. Since the middle of July, their commando units have exploded dozens of car-bombs against primarily civilian targets in the city of Lima, slaughtering men, women, and children and causing enormous damage. On July 22 and 23, Shining Path (Sendero Luminoso) imposed an "armed general strike" in the capital city. On the first day, they bombed schools and supermarkets, torched buses and taxis, and succeeded in emptying the streets of Lima. On the second day, they were less successful, as many courageous residents risked their lives to find ways to get to work.

Nonetheless, the violence continues to escalate and on-the-ground evaluations are that Shining Path is able to strike at will, both inside and outside the city. The central railroad linking Lima with the interior of Peru has been cut by the terrorists, and the Armed Forces are reporting a desperate shortage of both financial resources and the logistical capability to wage effective warfare against the enemy. Determined to drench the nation in blood, the terrorist gang shows no sign of retreat.

A satanic force

Following the July 16 car-bombing in Lima which destroyed four city blocks, killing more than a score of innocents and injuring another 250, President Alberto Fujimori canceled a trip abroad to "take personal charge of the anti-terrorist fight." He is now demanding that the international community face up to "the true nature" of Shining Path's demonic insurgency.

Shining Path identifies itself as a radical Maoist group, whose ideology is Mother Earth cultism based on the alleged

superiority of the "indigenous" races, at one with nature and naturally "communitic." Celebration of the magical death cult of the Wari culture, which preceded the Inca civilization in Peru, is part of the group's belief structure. The consequences of Shining Path's strategy of razing the cities and "collapsing the bourgeois state" are brutally evident from the Khmer Rouge reign of terror in Cambodia, where nearly half that nation's population was slaughtered in the name of stamping out the bourgeoisie. This, *but on a much larger scale*, is what is now poised to seize power in the Western Hemisphere.

Instead of receiving a flood of political, financial and logistical support from the international community to eradicate this cancer before it metastasizes across the continent, Fujimori's administration has been subjected to a crippling diplomatic, commercial, and financial embargo since April 5, when he took the bold action of suspending Congress—a hotbed of Shining Path protectors—and assuming special powers to enable him to confront the terrorists. Under Bush administration prompting, the Organization of American States (OAS) and nations in Europe and elsewhere answered the crisis in Peru by condemning Fujimori's "anti-democratic" actions, and demanding that he begin negotiations with the very pro-terrorist forces he had just ousted from office.

In a statement released July 24, U.S. presidential candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche described the implications of this diplomatic isolation of Peru. Shining Path "is not endemic to the Andean Spine," he said, "but is rather something which has been created in the Andean Spine by many foreign influences, including the old Communist International, including the French Synarchists, including the French ethnologists who are, in some cases, the same thing as the Synarchists—by the same circles in France which educated and created Pol

Pot, the genocidalist of Kampuchea.

"It is also clear, that this Sendero Luminoso has support from many strange quarters, including high-level diplomatic and related circles inside the United States. Sendero Luminoso may not be joined by members of the State Department, but is being used by certain State Department circles as an instrument for 1) population control—collapse of the economy of Peru, and mass extermination genocidally of the population of Peru, through the consequences of this kind of insurrection; 2) Sendero Luminoso is a pawn of those associated, for example, with Luigi Einaudi of the U.S. State Department, who are determined to destroy the military institutions of all of Central and South America.

"In this situation, it is time to put aside all double-talk, all diplomatic lying for the sake of good relations of various states, and to state plainly the truth: that this Andean Spine operation . . . is being employed by persons in the so-called western industrialized powers for the twofold purpose of genocide against the peoples of the Andean Spine, and for the destruction of the military and other sovereign institutions of those countries."

A two-front assault

Fujimori is well aware that he is up against a two-front war, the one internal and the other external. In a statement following the July 16 assault, Fujimori took direct aim at the Shining Path support networks abroad—and by implication at the governments which harbor them—when he promised that "the victims of the attack would weigh upon the consciences of all those, at home and abroad, who give their support [to Shining Path]. What do those students and workers who collect money [for Shining Path] in London or Paris, in Mexico or in Washington, think as they become anonymous messengers of death, sponsors of genocide?"

However, as LaRouche points out, the "Sendero International" goes far beyond students and workers. One of the most ardent defenders of Shining Path's "vision" is former State Department official David Scott Palmer, who wrote in the preface to his just-published book on the Peruvian terrorists, "I am forced to respect the dedication and zeal of the Shining Path leadership as it tries to forge a new and more meaningful reality for peripheral Peru's long-suffering citizenry."

In a July 20 interview in the Peruvian magazine *Caretas*, Palmer insisted that Fujimori's April 5 action "really helped Sendero in its long-term goals of taking power." Palmer, who reportedly still does consulting work for the Bush administration, is clearly speaking for his "former" State Department employees when he demands that Fujimori submit to an OAS timetable for restoration of "democracy": "Until there is some guarantee of a return to a democratic regime . . . there will be no resumption of military aid." Palmer draws the obvious conclusion: "To the degree that Peru has no funds, and doesn't reinsert [itself into the international financial community], it has a ferocious problem, similar to

what happened to [President] Alan García in 1988." (A profile of Palmer was published in *EIR* on June 12.)

Palmer's allies inside Peru include terrorist apologist and journalist Gustavo Gorriti, who argues that Shining Path cannot be fought with guns: "The best weapon against the insurgency is democratic legitimacy, and the active exercise of democratic life. I firmly believe the coup on April 5 was the biggest sabotage of efforts to defend the state and of Peruvian society since the start of the war on subversion." Gorriti has been in the forefront of attacking the Peruvian military for "human rights violations" against the nation's terrorists and their support network.

Gorriti and his ilk provide the "democratic" façade for arguments already circulating in Washington and elsewhere which suggest that war-ravaged countries like Peru and Colombia are incapable of confronting the narco-terrorist enemy, especially now that their defense forces are weakened by the combination of International Monetary Fund (IMF) austerity dictates and the human-rights lobby's battering ram. It is precisely such arguments which are being used to justify the deployment of U.S. special forces to the Bolivian Amazon and elsewhere.

Defending national sovereignty

Not one of the critics of Fujimori's war against the terrorists has dared to address the real issue behind the crisis in Peru, which is not one of civilian versus military rule, but of preservation of the nation state and its sovereign institutions. This poverty-stricken, disease-plagued nation at war currently spends 42% of its annual budget on debt repayment, while its military expenses are only 13%, comparable to the amount spent on health and education. According to knowledgeable sources, Shining Path receives an estimated \$720 million a year in profits from the narcotics trade, while the annual budget of the Peruvian military is less than \$500 million!

The issue of the military's survival was at the center of a seminar given by *EIR* in Lima on July 17, entitled "Who Is Trying to Destroy the Armed Forces, and Why?" The conference was attended by 45 people, the majority of them high-level active and retired military personnel, despite the fact that the conference hotel was in the "battle zone" which had been hit by a Shining Path car-bomb the evening before.

At the seminar, *EIR*'s Luis Vásquez described the blackmail campaigns of former World Bank head Robert McNamara, Trilateral Commission ideologue Samuel Huntington, and former Peru presidential candidate Mario Vargas Llosa, among others, to force the reduction and eventual elimination of the continent's armed forces. Vásquez challenged Vargas Llosa, whose recent call for "the disappearance of the armies" enraged the Peruvian military, to a debate "anytime, anywhere." Other speakers, who included two retired generals and one retired colonel from the Peruvian Army, attacked the IMF's free-market prescriptions as an "imperialist offensive" against the continent's military budgets.