

Andean Report by Valerie Rush

Cuba's new terrorist international

In its death throes, Fidel Castro's Cuba is planning a new terrorist rampage to "set Latin America on fire."

In early October, Colombian police discovered evidence that terrorists from five countries were in Colombia for an intensive training program in communications, explosives, and weapons handling. The "training school" was reportedly sponsored by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the leading element in the communist Simón Bolívar Guerrilla Coordinating Group. Attending the "school," in addition to the host Colombians, were Venezuelans, Peruvians, Bolivians, Ecuadorans, and Dominicans.

Several of the Dominicans were afterwards captured by agents of the DAS (Colombia's equivalent of the FBI), and they revealed that their liaisons with the Colombian guerrillas were Manuel Cepeda, a leading figure of the Colombia Communist Party (PCC) which has served as the above-ground parent to the narco-terrorist FARC for 40 years, and Aida Abella, president of the PCC's electoral front, the Patriotic Union (UP). Both the PCC and the UP hold a number of congressional seats.

The existence in Colombia of this multi-national terrorist training camp goes hand-in-glove with a resurgence of radical left activity sponsored by the Cuba-spawned São Paulo Forum, and often appearing in the guise of "indigenous" or "human rights" movements, or the so-called "Theology of Liberation." Beneath such apparently innocuous cover, however, is narco-terrorism as raw and virulent as that practiced by Guatemala's URNG, a member of the São Paulo

Forum and one of whose acknowledged spokesmen is Nobel Peace Prize winner Rigoberta Menchú.

The head of the DAS, Fernando Brito, told *La Prensa* on Oct. 22 that "the current subversive escalation and international guerrilla school of the FARC, the Patriotic Union, and the Communist Party form part of Cuba's totalitarian plan for Latin America." That plan, Brito said, is to "again set Latin America on fire, as in the '60s."

The plan is well advanced, for even as the assassins of Shining Path are getting battered in Peru, their murderous tactics have already been adopted by their Colombian counterparts, and will soon be "internationalized," if the FARC has its way. On Oct. 19, the Simón Bolívar Coordinator Group, which includes the Cuban-backed National Liberation Army (ELN), launched an eight-day terrorist offensive across more than a dozen provinces. Heavily armed terrorists blockaded major highways leading into the country's most important cities, demanding tribute, commandeering vehicles, and threatening to incinerate, with their drivers inside, any truck or bus which continued to carry passengers or cargo that week.

Several townships were occupied by terrorist squads, police stations bombed, banks robbed. At least one Army convoy was dynamited, killing 11 soldiers. Thirteen buses were simultaneously burned in different parts of the capital city of Bogotá, one businessman was murdered, several others kidnaped, and so on. Transportation was paralyzed in nearly half the

country in tactics frighteningly similar to Shining Path's so-called "armed strikes," always enforced through sheer terror.

According to a DAS report just issued entitled "Guerrilla Strategy in Colombia," the FARC's strategy is to simultaneously build up its army to a force of 32,000, capable of infiltrating urban centers where the FARC has always been at its weakest, and to achieve "international recognition and presence."

The emergence of so-called "Bolívar militias" in several of Colombia's major cities is one indication that the FARC is advancing according to plan. On Sept. 17, the Bogotá daily *El Tiempo* interviewed the head of one such "militia" in the oil refining city of Barrancabermeja, in Santander province. He confirmed that the FARC had trained and armed at least 1,000 "combatants" and an equal number in an "espionage network." Uniformed police and military personnel cannot cross into militia territory without becoming immediate targets.

These "militias" are made up of gang youths, former mafia hit-men, and homeless kids. "We are the product of the social disintegration of this city," boasts the militia leader, who adds that his forces serve as a crucial element in the FARC's political-military plan to capture the cities. "Barrancabermeja is surrounded by six [FARC] fronts, that are drawing ever closer."

The stated objective of the latest offensive is to force the Colombian government of César Gaviria back to the negotiating table, where the terrorists seek their "quota of power." If the government's latest statement, that no extraordinary measures will be taken to confront this latest terrorist escalation, is any indication, the FARC-ELN may not have long to wait.