

## Andean Report by Manuel Hidalgo

### Peru questions U.S. rights record

*The Peruvian Congress is demanding that the U.S. government supply information on Lyndon LaRouche's human rights.*

Nationalist Peruvian forces have begun to counterattack the campaign launched against their nation under the pretext of presumed violations of human rights. On March 15, the president of the Human Rights Commission of the Peruvian Congress, Roger Cáceres, announced that he would be seeking a formal explanation from the United States government for the violation of the human rights of jailed American economist and statesman Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

Cáceres called on Peru's Foreign Relations Ministry to use its diplomatic channels to "request from the United States government a detailed and precise report on the repeated charges of human rights violations we are getting from numerous citizens of this country and from other nations of the world, regarding the abuses and violation of the human rights of American politician Lyndon LaRouche and his movement, as detailed in the attached documents."

The letter added, "It should be noted that it would be inadmissible for the aforementioned government to raise so many objections and demands regarding human rights in our country, if within the United States itself there exist such grave and sensitive situations."

Cáceres made his request following testimony presented to his commission that same day by a representative of the Ibero-American Solidarity Movement (MSIA), regarding the role of the Inter-American Dialogue in using human rights as a weapon against the Peruvian state. The MSIA spokesman also denounced the judi-

cial persecution of American political prisoner LaRouche in the United States. The importance of the denunciation against the Inter-American Dialogue is that its former president, Richard Feinberg, was named by U.S. President Clinton to the Latin American Affairs desk at the National Security Council.

The MSIA has been setting the parameters for battling the Inter-American Dialogue and the so-called non-governmental organizations (NGOs) which are promoting the human rights assault on Peru. On March 19, at a Lima seminar, the MSIA explained that the NGOs are an invention of the United Nations to subvert governments and institutions which do not meet the approval of the United States, and denounced the Dialogue as a front group of the oligarchy which uses human rights rhetoric as a means of destroying Ibero-America's armed forces and imposing its concept of "limited sovereignty."

A few days earlier, several Lima newspapers had denounced the March 10 hearings of the House Foreign Affairs subcommittee on western hemisphere affairs, chaired by Rep. Robert Torricelli (D-N.J.), for their unfounded attacks against Peru's military for alleged "systematic violation of human rights." At the hearings, it was proposed that any aid to Peru be channeled through the NGOs. The daily *Expreso* exposed the "double morality" of one such human rights organization, the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA), which demanded sanctions against Peru for closing its corrupt Congress, but which rejected

sanctions against the Chamorro-Sandinista ruling alliance in Nicaragua for doing the same thing.

At the March 19 seminar, MSIA President Luis Vásquez explained how human rights are used as part of a "strategy of tension" to "humiliate the Armed Forces and favor subversion." Vásquez asked, "Is it that they seek to repeat what happened in El Salvador, where the Armed Forces defeated subversion, only to end up seated in the dock and judged by those same 'ex'-subversives?"

The next day, *Expreso* published the MSIA's denunciations of the role of the NGOs in the campaign against the Armed Forces and their strategy of forming "a parallel state system."

Another speaker at the conference, lawyer Juan Noel, explained how subversion exploits the issue of human rights. Noel served as lawyer for Gen. Clemente Noel (ret.), when the latter was the political-military chief of Ayacucho province. The human rights lobby attempted to incriminate him in a massacre of eight journalists in 1983, the result of which was that the Army was forced to abandon its successful offensive against the narco-terrorist Shining Path at a moment when a military victory would have been much simpler to achieve.

Noel suggested that the current offensive of the human rights lobby might perhaps be intended to prevent the dismantling of Shining Path's remaining terrorist cells following the capture of that organization's leader, Abimael Guzmán. As *Expreso's* correspondent in Washington, Edgar A. Triveri, noted in a March 28 column, the Inter-American Dialogue has itself proposed that following Guzmán's arrest, "there could perhaps for the first time exist the possibility of beginning negotiations to resolve the civil war [sic] in Peru."