

Terrorist arms cache explodes in Managua

by Cynthia R. Rush

The May 23, 1993 explosion of a weapons bunker in Managua, Nicaragua, did more than blow up hundreds of sophisticated weapons. It exposed the existence of an *active* international narco-terrorist apparatus, run by Cuban and Nicaraguan Sandinista intelligence, responsible today for directing kidnappings, extortion, gun and drug trafficking, and terrorist operations throughout Ibero-America and beyond. The Colombian FARC, ELN, and M-19, the Andean Americas Battalion, Peru's Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA), Ecuador's Alfaro Vive Carajo, Argentina's All for the Fatherland Movement (MTP), and Spain's ETA are only some of the groups functioning as part of this extensive apparatus.

The enormous vault, with hydraulically operated metal doors and chambers connected by tunnels, contained 310 passports from 21 countries, many of them blank, falsified identity papers and documents belonging to a kidnapping ring, as well as several tons of weapons, explosives of the kind used in terrorist bombings, and 19 surface-to-air missiles. One diplomat told the *Washington Post* that the bunker "looked like a one-stop shopping center for terrorist activities, where you could get guns and documents. You would have to be extraordinarily naive to think this was not under the aegis of some part of the intelligence operation of the Sandinistas."

As documented below, the Sandinista-Cuban intelligence involvement is at the center of this still-functioning apparatus. It is no accident that the pajama-clad former Sandinista Interior Minister Tomás Borge, one of this network's top coordinators, was first on the scene of the May 23 explosion, despite the fact that he holds no official post. The Sandinistas have shared power with President Violeta Chamorro since her 1990 electoral victory.

Also under scrutiny is the involvement of the Israeli intelligence agency, the Mossad, which was invited by Chamorro to reorganize Nicaraguan intelligence after she took power. Despite the Mossad's presence, many assets of Middle Eastern terrorism made Managua their home base. When authorities in New York arrested Ibrahim Elgabrowni, a suspect in the February bombing of the World Trade Center in New York City, they discovered five Nicaraguan passports, birth certificates, and drivers' licenses. According to the *Washington Post*, the passports contained photos of El Sayyid Nosair, who was acquitted of the 1990 murder of Rabbi Meir Kahane,

but is currently in prison on a weapons charge.

Backed by parts of U.S. government

The extent of this network's activities not only debunks the arguments of those in the Anglo-American policymaking establishment who assert there is no communist threat to Ibero-America. It points to the complicity of such entities as the Inter-American Dialogue (IAD), which runs the Clinton administration's Ibero-America policy. While the IAD promotes presidential candidates in several Ibero-American countries who are part of this narco-terrorist apparatus, under the aegis of the São Paulo Forum, at the same time it demands the crushing of the armed forces, the only institution capable of defending national sovereignty from narco-terrorist subversion.

These views are shared by Tomás Borge, who considers the armed forces a "cancer" to be eliminated, and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL), whose Ibero-American assets openly defend this terrorist network's operatives (see box).

The Managua explosion also exposed the farce of the Salvadoran "peace process" model which the United Nations wants imposed on other Ibero-American countries. Salvador Sánchez Ceren, a former guerrilla commander, admitted that some of the weapons found in the bunker belonged to his faction of the Farabundo Martí Liberation Front (FMLN), the Popular Liberation Forces. Not only did Sánchez Ceren lie that all the FMLN weapons had been destroyed before the December 1992 deadline established by the U.N., but even after May 23 and the establishment of a new deadline for handing over weapons, another 48 FMLN arms caches were discovered, in El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Honduras.

Contrary to Sánchez Ceren's assertion that no FMLN weapons had been moved from the Managua arms cache since the signing of last year's peace accords, investigators have determined that the bunker explosion was set off when guns and explosives were being loaded from the vault into a car, probably for a sale. A former Salvadoran guerrilla explained, "Nicaragua was a large arms fair, a sort of huge gray market. You could get anything." Authorities in Colombia and Venezuela confirm that particularly since the signing of the "peace accords" in El Salvador, the flow of illegal weapons to both countries has dramatically increased.

'Same old happy people'

Another diplomat in Nicaragua quoted in the July 14 *Washington Post* article explained that "it is just too easy to do these types of things here. The intelligence apparatus that was in place is still there, with the same old happy people."

Who is he talking about?

When the Sandinista National Liberation Front took power in 1979 following the overthrow of Anastasio Somoza, its leaders set up the National Directorate for State Security, modeled on the Cuban intelligence agency, G-II. Those in-

ADL deepens ties with terror mafias

In both Brazil and Argentina, some of the strongest defenders of narco-terrorism are assets of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL). Posing as defenders of human rights, these individuals work hand-in-hand with the Inter-American Dialogue to destroy the armed forces.

They have also issued broadsides against the chief U.S. foe of their policies, Lyndon LaRouche, and against his wife, German political leader Helga Zepp-LaRouche.

One such individual is leftist Jair Krischke of the Justice and Human Rights Movement (JIDH) of Porto Alegre, Brazil. Along with agencies such as the Simon Wiesenthal Center, Krischke has been instrumental in promoting international Nazi-hunting campaigns, such as that involving Nazi official Josef Mengele, which was

used to exert fierce political pressure on Brazil in early 1992. In fact, he handed over to Brazilian Judge João Carlos da Rocha Mattos the secret report prepared by Israeli Police Col. Menachem Russek to ensure that the Mengele case would not be closed.

In May 1989, Krischke echoed the ADL's line that Lyndon LaRouche "is a danger to Latin America; using the pretext of uniting left and right in a nationalist project, he seeks to impose fascist, Nazi, and anti-Semitic ideas." Krischke was particularly irate that numerous Brazilian congressmen had signed a statement calling for a full review of the politically motivated frameup of LaRouche in December 1988.

Some months later, in August 1989, speaking on a Brazilian television program, Krischke issued a violent personal attack on Helga Zepp-LaRouche, who had visited Brazil to press her husband's case.

But Krischke is very selective as to whose human rights he defends. In October 1989 in Porto Alegre, he hosted a group from the Committee of Mothers and Family Members of the Dead, Disappeared, and Political Prison-

involved in creating it included Sandinista founder Tomás Borge, Sandinista Lenin Cerna, and Argentine Enrique Haroldo Gorriarán Merlo. Cuban involvement came via Renán Montero, a colonel in the Cuban Interior Ministry who posed as a Nicaraguan to help set up and run the new intelligence agency. Gorriarán, formerly of the People's Revolutionary Army (ERP), subsequently founded the All for the Fatherland Movement (MTP) which staged the January 1989 terrorist assault on the La Tablada Infantry Regiment in Buenos Aires in which 39 people died. Lenin Cerna was only recently removed from his post in Nicaraguan military intelligence, to which he had been assigned after Chamorro took power, as a sop to Chamorro's political opposition which wants Sandinista Humberto Ortega removed as defense minister.

These are the forces which ran Ibero-American terrorism in the 1980s, and still do so today, despite some name changes. Under the direction of Tomás Borge, Gorriarán Merlo led the squad which in September 1980 assassinated Anastasio Somoza in Asunción, Paraguay, personally pumping 30 bullets into the former Nicaraguan dictator. Hailed as a Nicaraguan national hero, he then set up headquarters in São Paulo, Brazil—supposedly so as not to "implicate" the Sandinista government—from where he traveled frequently to Managua, Peru, and Ecuador.

As reported in the book *Gorriarán: La Tablada and Latin America's "Intelligence Wars,"* by Juan Salinas and Julio Villalongas, Gorriarán proceeded to organize the military machinery of Peru's MRTA, Ecuador's Alfaro Vive Carajo, and established contacts with Colombia's M-19, at that time

linked to the two other groups in the regionwide "Americas Battalion." Only days before the La Tablada assault, the MTP was preparing a warm welcome for Inácio "Lula" da Silva, the head of Brazil's Workers' Party and founder of the São Paulo Forum, to Buenos Aires; but the trip was canceled at the last minute.

According to the Aug. 1 *Miami Herald*, Tomás Borge admitted that Renán Montero used a network of "Guatemalans, North Americans, Venezuelans . . . Argentines" to carry out acts of terrorism throughout the 1980s. "It was a strong unit," Borge said, "helped a little by the solidarity of the people who came to us." In exchange for that solidarity, the Sandinistas granted Nicaraguan citizenship to 890 foreigners from more than 30 countries in the two months prior to relinquishing power, according to diplomats and other sources cited in the *Washington Post*.

Evidence presented by the *Miami Herald* points to the Sandinista role in the 1984 attempted assassination of former Sandinista leader Eden Pastora. Argentine ERP member Vital Roberto Gaguine, who lived in Managua in the early 1980s and was trained in weapons use by the Sandinistas, has been positively identified as the man who planted the bomb at a press conference of Pastora's. Known by the pseudonym "Martin," Gaguine was killed in the January 1989 attack on La Tablada, as was MTP'er Roberto Sánchez, who served as Managua's deputy police chief in the early 1980s. According to Vincent M. Cannistraro, former CIA chief of counterterrorism, the weapons used by the MTP at La Tablada came from the Sandinista arsenal.

ers of La Tablada, a front group for the Argentine All for the Fatherland Movement (MTP), which led the January 1989 assault on the La Tablada Army base in Buenos Aires. Krischke not only disseminated the MTP's lying justification for assaulting La Tablada, but offered protection to MTP members who took refuge in Brazil. In February 1991, he held a well-publicized meeting with another Argentine terrorist asset, former Montonero leader Mario Firmenich.

When the ADL's director for international affairs, Rabbi Morton Rosenthal, visited Buenos Aires in early May and publicly attacked LaRouche, his attack was almost immediately repeated by socialist Dep. Alfredo Bravo. Bravo, along with several leftist deputies, claimed that *EIR*'s report on ADL espionage in the United States was an "insult" to Rosenthal, and alleged that LaRouche was financing the political activities of jailed Army Col. Mohamed Alí Seineldín. He demanded an investigation of all visitors to the Magdalena prison where Seineldín is jailed, and introduced a resolution into the Congress demanding that *EIR* itself be investigated. He also ranted

about the alleged "privileges" enjoyed by imprisoned Army nationalists.

Bravo is the vice president of the Rights of Man League, a group which has been organizing to obtain amnesty for jailed MTP members who assaulted La Tablada. Among other things, he claims that the MTPers' human rights were violated when the Army repressed their bloody attack. Bravo also collaborates with the local Committee of Mothers and Family Members of the Dead, Disappeared, and Political Prisoners of La Tablada, which Jair Krischke welcomed in Brazil, to obtain unprecedented privileges for the jailed MTPers. Security and intelligence officials have expressed the suspicion that many of the MTPers' visitors are themselves terrorists, and that their extended visits in prison include planning sessions for future terrorist attacks.

According to a 1987 report on the MTP prepared by the Argentine State Intelligence Service (SIDE), Alfredo Bravo was one of the founders of the Trade Union Training and Studies Center (CEFS), which organized with the MTP. — *Cynthia Rush*

'Democratic' terrorists?

If the Inter-American Dialogue is to be believed, "former" Ibero-American terrorists have given up their nasty ways and are vying for political power in a more respectable fashion in several countries. Even the Cubans are leaning toward democracy, the IAD affirms.

Sure. In 1981, the Colombian government broke diplomatic relations with Cuba to protest its training of Colombia's Marxist guerrillas in Havana. According to Colombian military sources today, that hasn't changed. The most recent "graduating class" of Cuban-trained guerrillas arrived from Havana in January of this year and were immediately incorporated into Colombia's National Liberation Army (ELN), created with Cuban backing in the 1960s. While President César Gaviria told the daily *El Tiempo* that "Cuba no longer supports the Colombian guerrillas," sources close to the presidential palace reported that Gaviria and his closest advisers have had in their possession since early 1993 detailed evidence of Cuba's role in training ELN cadre and yet have failed to make any public revelations of this fact.

During the July 23-26 meeting of the São Paulo Forum, Sandinista leader Daniel Ortega met with representatives of Colombia's National Guerrilla Coordinating Committee (CNG) which groups together all of the country's narco-terrorists, and praised them for desiring a "dialogue and a peaceful solution" to the country's armed conflict. Peaceful? A special report published in the Aug. 9 issue of Bogotá's *El Espectador* revealed that the CNG has just launched a new plan for generating "income," based on extortion of oil com-

panies, bombing of pipelines, kidnappings, and confiscation of lands whose owners fail to pay taxes to the guerrillas. Ortega neglected to report that one of the CNG's conditions for dialogue is that the government agree to dramatically reduce the size of the Armed Forces.

Kidnapping, Inc.

According to Brazilian Romeo Tuma, vice president of Interpol for North and South America, documents found at the bunker reveal the existence of a large, currently active kidnapping ring, run by Spanish Basque ETA leader Eusebio Arzalus Tapia, who traveled to Managua in the early 1980s to establish ties with the Sandinistas and the FMLN and organized an international network of 35 kidnapers. Among the papers found in the vault were a list of 77 "kidnappable" businessmen, 65 of whom were Brazilian, as well as photographs and other documents relating to the 1989 kidnapping of Brazilian supermarket magnate Abilio Diniz.

Tuma explained that the Diniz kidnapping, carried out by Chilean, Argentine, and Canadian leftists, offered the first hint that Ibero-American terror groups had allied sometime in the late 1980s to form a kidnapping ring. According to Mexican sources, hundreds of kidnappings have already occurred in that country in 1993 alone, although the government of Salinas de Gortari is doing everything possible to cover it up. That is hardly surprising, given the fact that Tomás Borge is Salinas de Gortari's official biographer and travels to Mexico frequently to consult with the Mexican President.