

ies of Colombia. One could disagree with him, especially on economic matters, in which he defended the system of “free trade,” but despite this, one can categorically state that he deeply loved his country, vehemently defended it, and lived and died as a patriot. Unfortunately, few like him remain in the political class. The new generations of “politicians,” in the style of Samper Pizano, are bought and sold for a fistful of silver.

## Alvaro Gómez spoke up for Colombia

*The following is a chronology of Alvaro Gómez Hurtado's activities and statements in 1995.*

**Feb. 28:** Gómez Hurtado calls for the dissolution of Colombia's Congress. “The [congressional] chambers have returned to the same behavior that discredited them in 1991, to the point that they have even revived benefits banned by the Constitution.”

**April 5:** Gómez's newspaper, *El Nuevo Siglo* of Bogotá, publishes a photomontage showing Colombian President Ernesto Samper Pizano's head on the body of Panamanian Gen. Manuel Noriega, being led away in handcuffs by two Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agents.

**April 5:** The Bogotá daily *El Espectador* publishes a statement by Gómez calling for the reconstruction of the Conservative Party: “The Conservative Party hardly exists any longer because it has no bloc in Congress, nor in the assemblies, nor in the city or district councils, nor does it have any opinions or programs.”

**April 28:** The opposition daily *La Prensa* reports that Gómez again called for the dissolution of the Colombian national Congress because it represents “a corrupt regime. To be able to have honest politics, the Congress must be dissolved.”

**May 10:** Gómez defends Samper during a Channel 3 television interview, saying he is “a good and honest man, but is prisoner to a regime that is corrupt.”

**July 28:** In a statement to radio network RCN, Gómez comments on Samper's decision to request an investigation of himself by the Accusations Committee of the House of Representatives, after his former campaign treasurer, Santiago Medina, and former campaign manager, Fernando Botero, are arrested on orders of the Prosecutor General: “The President faces a very difficult situation because he must clarify what happened in his Presidential campaign, and he has appealed to the only recourse to investigate his behavior, which is one of the most discredited commissions in Con-

gress, which is in no position to produce anything considered legitimate. Thus the commission has gained the nickname of ‘commission of absolutions.’ I propose that an Ad Hoc Court be named, with guarantees of impartiality, to be in charge of investigating and judging the President. Therefore, I insist that the system must be overthrown for the country to function.”

**July 28:** Gómez's brother, Sen. Enrique Gómez Hurtado, begins a fight in Congress to force the Conservative Party to withdraw support from the Samper government.

**Aug. 16:** In an *El Nuevo Siglo* editorial, Gómez Hurtado writes that all past Colombian Presidents, faced with similar circumstances—where their administrations were placed in doubt and it was impossible for them to govern—resigned “with humility and nobility.” He mentions Gen. Rafael Reyes, Marco Fidel Suárez, Alfonso López Pumarejo, and Gen. Gustavo Rojas Pinilla.

Enrique Gómez Hurtado wins the support of 40 congressmen, and of former Justice Minister Enrique Parejo González, to form a National Committee for Decency, dedicated to demanding Samper's resignation. Students affiliated with the group begin a signature campaign demanding that Samper's mandate be revoked.

**Aug. 21:** Alvaro Gómez writes an editorial in *El Nuevo Siglo* demanding that the same vigor be applied in pursuit of the leaders of the narco-terrorists as has been used to go after the heads of the Cali Cartel. In particular, he accuses Interior Minister Horacio Serpa Uribe of being “a permanent obstacle for effective action by the authorities against the seditious assault” against the nation.

**Aug. 22:** In statements to RCN radio, Gómez repeats his argument that the FARC and ELN guerrillas must be fought “with the same vigor with which the drug trade has been fought. Unfortunately, U.S. Ambassador Myles Frechette is not demanding the heads of the seditious groups as he is demanding the heads of the drug lords.”

**Aug. 22:** In an *El Nuevo Siglo* editorial, Gómez denounces those who equate the violence of the narco-terrorists with the necessary law enforcement measures of the police and military against them. “We conservatives and Christians in general cannot adopt an attitude of moral indifference in the face of violence. To try to equate them, as the decadent left does . . . is to evade an ethical obligation. . . . There is the great theory of Just War,” he explains, “so eloquently presented by those great theoreticians of the [Catholic] Church and of conservatism, St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas, and doctors Vitoria and Suárez, who have so influenced the formation of Colombian legal criteria.”

**Aug. 30:** Gómez's *El Nuevo Siglo* newspaper publishes an EFE wire reporting on the threats to the lives of *EIR* correspondent in Colombia Javier Almario and Ibero-American Solidarity Movement leader Maximiliano Londoño.

**Aug. 30:** Gómez, in an editorial in *El Nuevo Siglo*, calls for the investigations against Samper to be made public.



Alvaro Gómez Hurtado was the most prominent Colombian figure campaigning against President Samper's deals with the drug traffickers, and demanding that the "corrupt system be overthrown."

**Sept. 8:** Gómez editorially backs the call by former Colombian President César Gaviria (today secretary general of the Organization of American States) for "the truth" to be revealed on the financing of the Samper campaign. The editorial reiterates Gómez's earlier support for the Declaration for Decency calling for Samper's resignation.

**Sept. 28:** In an *El Nuevo Siglo* editorial, Gómez criticizes the statements of Interior Minister Horacio Serpa Uribe to the effect that the DEA is conspiring to overthrow President Samper. "All of these adventures and gratuitous finger-pointing could be leading toward the ultimate argument to justify the coverup, coverup, coverup."

**Sept. 29:** Gómez states that Samper and Horacio Serpa are going crazy with their desperation and that is why they attacked the DEA and the United States.

**Oct. 5:** In an *El Nuevo Siglo* editorial, Gómez defends Gen. Alvaro Velandia, who was unjustly expelled from the military by the pro-terrorist Attorney General's office in collaboration with the "human rights" lobby, accused of having supposedly permitted the kidnapping, torture, and murder of an M-19 militant by one of his subordinates. Gómez also defends Army Commander Gen. Harold Bedoya, when his denunciation of the "human rights" prosecutor who persecuted Velandia gets the Army leader in trouble.

**Oct. 6:** Gómez, in an editorial in *El Nuevo Siglo*, says that a new consensus is required "in the event that the elected Presidential formula can no longer rule. Already mentioned are Juan Carlos Esguerra Portocarrero, Juan Manuel Santos,

Carlos Lemos Simonds, Pedro Gómez Barrero, Nestor Humberto Martínez Neira, Carlos Lleras de la Fuente, and Hernando Durán Dussán, as figures who have the stature to take charge of the executive and get a majority backing in Congress, should the moment arrive in which the President finds it impossible to continue exercising his post."

**Oct. 9:** In an *El Nuevo Siglo* editorial, Gómez calls on the President to voluntarily resign, instead of waiting "for an accumulation of adverse circumstances to overtake you and force you to impose a solution against your will." Gómez complains that "President Samper isn't falling. There is no one conspiring to overthrow him: not the political party opposition, which doesn't exist, nor the [economic] associations," but "the President cannot remain. This won't work. There is no leadership. No one expects any act of government."

**Oct. 10:** In an *El Nuevo Siglo* editorial, Gómez criticizes Antioquia Gov. Alvaro Uribe Vélez and Apartadó Mayor Gloria Cuartas for traveling to Europe in search of support for their plan to bring international authorities into the violence-racked Urabá region. This trip, however well-intentioned, cautioned Gómez, "is going to cause, if the oversight arrangement goes through, unthinkable damage to national sovereignty." Gómez points to the U.N.'s disastrous intervention in Bosnia, noting that it solved nothing and required the military intervention of NATO.

Gómez observes that the Urabá region and adjacent Chocó province are the site of a possible new interoceanic canal, and thus Urabá "represents an area of invaluable strategic importance." Bringing in international overseers and the U.N.'s blue helmets, wrote Gómez, "would destroy national sovereignty, reiterate the government's internal incapacity to control public order, and could serve as an argument for the separation from our territory of one the richest regions in the country. That is, in the face of our rulers' ineptitude, these same rulers are promoting another Panama."

**Oct. 12:** Gómez criticizes the head of the congressional "Accusations Committee," Heyne Mogollón, in an *El Nuevo Siglo* editorial, warning that Mogollón is preparing a quick absolution of the President and that "Mogollón's electoral hanky-panky disqualifies him as judge." Gómez warns that such an absolution would leave Colombia "a narco-democracy."

**Oct. 14:** An editorial in *El Nuevo Siglo*, Gómez's paper, warns President Samper that he is very wrong if he thinks that with "absolution given him by the accusations committee, his problems will be over. That is a mistake, because the political and moral judgment of [popular] opinion will continue, and this is what is causing the crisis."

**Oct. 20:** An editorial in *El Nuevo Siglo* says the 1996 budget approved by Samper includes allocations favoring the departments from which members of the Accusations Committee come, and that this is how he bought "rapid absolution."

**Oct. 23:** Insisting that the President should voluntarily

resign, Gómez writes in an *El Nuevo Siglo* editorial that "there would be a way out [for the country] if there were greatness" in our leaders. Gómez insists that Samper hasn't yet fallen only because no sector of the country wants to see him replaced by another representative of the same corrupt regime. "But it is clear that the President cannot remain. A country which doesn't advance, which daily shows more symptoms of dissolution, will eventually find a solution. We have said it many times: The regime must be overturned. This may appear an invitation to the use of force. That is not our intention."

**Oct. 31:** In an *El Nuevo Siglo* editorial, Gómez says, "The attitude taken by the fired Gen. Luis Bernardo Urbina has a character of respectability that should be recognized." General Urbina was kicked out for having given a news program a tape in which Accusations Committee head Heyne Mogollón receives instructions on how to falsify certain documents, and in which he acknowledges that Samper is going to reward him for absolving him. Gómez comments that, in contrast, Interior Minister Serpa Uribe accepted sealed testimony from Samper's former campaign treasurer that was stolen from the Prosecutor General's office, and yet "they are going to reward him with an ambassadorial post in Europe."

**Nov. 1:** *Voz*, the weekly newspaper of the Colombian Communist Party, argues that there is a "conspiracy of the ultra-right," who supposedly want a military coup. Supposedly involved are Army Commander Harold Bedoya Pizarro, Gen. Fernando Landazábal Reyes (ret.), constitutionalist lawyer Luis Carlos Sachica, "Alvarismo" (that is, the followers of Alvaro Gómez), leaders of the industrial and agricultural associations, U.S. Ambassador to Colombia Myles Frech-

ette, and the daily *El Tiempo*.

In its conference in Barranquilla in late October, the Communist Party furiously defended Samper, attacked the supposed conspiracy of the "ultra-right" to overthrow the President, and supported as their Presidential candidate former theology of liberation priest Bernardo Hoyos, the former mayor of Barranquilla, who worked alongside ELN founding members Camilo Torres, Manuel Pérez, and Domingo Laín.

**Nov. 2:** In a *El Nuevo Siglo* editorial, Gómez comments that the Clinton government has just identified 105 companies which have lent themselves to the laundering of drug dollars. Gómez suggests that Phillip Morris, producer of Marlboro cigarettes, should be on that list as well: "What is certain is that for many years, and even more today, Colombian territory is inundated by contraband cigarettes belonging to that known American brand." Cigarette contraband, says Gómez, is a great source for money laundering, "because there is no other way foreign cigarettes could be sold in Colombia at prices so below those of domestic brands."

**Nov. 2:** During his last class at Sergio Arboleda University, which he helped to found, Gómez spoke about the music of Bach, Handel, and Haydn, and of the need to organize Classical music choruses throughout Colombia, as well as for more technical voice training. According to a tape of the lecture made by his security guard (one of his students, who was murdered along with Gómez): In the United States and in Europe, "there are choruses on every corner, at every gas station, in every college, in every school, capable of singing complex polyphonic music." In Colombia, too, he said, "we should have a polyphonic chorus on every corner." In Colombia, he said, "we have very good rhythm, but lack voice."

## 'When Gelbard speaks, Colombia should listen'

"When Bob Gelbard testifies, the Colombian government should listen, very carefully, to his testimony, because it is testimony that represents the policy of this government." This was the response of U.S. State Department spokesman Nick Burns to a question from *EIR* at a Nov. 3 press briefing, regarding Colombian President Ernesto Samper Pizano's dismissal of Gelbard's criticism of his government's anti-drug efforts.

One week earlier, Assistant Secretary of State for Anti-Narcotics Matters Robert Gelbard had told a U.S. congressional committee that the only reason Colombia had finally captured the heads of the Cali Cartel, was that the Clinton administration had threatened to deny the country's certification. Samper had dismissed Gelbard as

a "minor official" and insisted, "I have Clinton's support."

Said State Department spokesman Burns, Gelbard "is a very competent, very intelligent, very highly placed official. In this government, he is the leader of our government's efforts, working for the President and the secretary of state, to try to work with the Colombian government to destroy the cartel. Especially regarding [any problems] between Colombia and the United States, Bob Gelbard has the absolute confidence of the President and the secretary of state. . . . Anyone who knows Bob Gelbard, knows him well, would never make such a statement."

Another senior administration official told *EIR*, "Gelbard's got the title, but he's got more influence than the title. Gelbard is *the* lead guy. And [Secretary of State Warren] Christopher has great confidence in Gelbard. He's really one of the most respected people in this government. If he testifies, that's the word of the U.S. government! And for anybody to say, well, that's Gelbard but Clinton and I have a different deal, is just plain wrong."