

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.”