

province, is murdered.

Jan. 30, 1995: Prime Minister Anatole Kanyenkiko is forced out of office by demonstrations and massacres led by Uprona party leader Charles Mukasi. Although an Uprona member, Kanyenkiko had refused to back Uprona's drive to remove Minani as Assembly Speaker. Kanyenkiko was then ousted from Uprona on grounds of "treason." Kanyenkiko is replaced by current Prime Minister Antoine Nduwayo.

January 1995: Administrators of Kanyosha, Mubimbi, Bwambarangwe, Mpanda communes (districts) are murdered.

March 3, 1995: Home of Frodebu MP Deo Nkinahamira is attacked by Tutsi youth gangs; Nkinahamira barely escapes with his life.

March 13, 1995: Minister of Energy and Mines Ernest Kabushemeye is assassinated.

March 1995: Provincial governor Malachie Surwavuba is murdered.

June 25, 1995: Frodebu Foreign Minister Jean-Marie Ngendahayo flees to South Africa.

July 1995: Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Stany Claver Kaduga, a Frodebu Tutsi who signed the exoneration petition for LaRouche, flees the country after two armed attacks on his home.

July 20, 1995: President's chief of staff Mames Bansubiyeko survives assassination attempt.

September 1995: Justice Minister Melchior Ntahobama, a non-party Hutu, is forced out of office by Prime Minister Nduwayo.

Summer 1995: National Security Council leader Bukuru Zacharie, an Uprona Hutu, flees the country.

Aug. 29, 1995: Transport Minister Innocent Nimpagaritse flees the country, stating from Nairobi, "I am very disappointed by the government, which has shown itself to be incapable of assuring security in Burundi." He had escaped several assassination attempts.

Sept. 21, 1995: Interior Minister Gabriel Sinarinzi of Uprona is forced out of office, for his attacks on U.S. Ambassador Robert Krueger, when Krueger called for investigation into the military's slaughter of 67 civilians.

Oct. 12, 1995: Foreign Minister Paul Munyembari is forced out of office by Uprona/military agitation.

November 1995: Governor of Bubanza province resigns, due to fears for personal safety.

November 1995: Former intelligence chief Audifax Ndabitoreye flees to Zaire.

Dec. 12, 1995: MP Innocent Ndikuimana, a Tutsi in the Frodebu party, is murdered. Ndikuimana had signed the petition for LaRouche's exoneration.

Dec. 22, 1995: Bede Nzobonimpa, governor of Ngozi province, is murdered.

Dec. 22, 1995: MP Juvenal Manirambona is murdered.

January 1996: Frodebu MP Kassien Bucumi is summarily imprisoned by the military.

John Paul II brings hope to Venezuela

by David Ramonet

All of Venezuela ground to a halt the afternoon of Feb. 9, to receive Pope John Paul II, and the country remained at a standstill until his departure for Rome on Feb. 11, capping a week-long apostolic visit to four countries of Ibero-America. Venezuelans crowded the streets through which His Holiness would pass; tens of thousands of youths waited for him, day and night, at the residence of the Papal Nuncio; and Caracas's notorious violence—so extensive and brutal nowadays that the media compare Caracas to Bosnia—ceased while the pope visited Venezuela. Despite the enormous crowds, for that weekend, Caracas enjoyed peace and freedom of movement, at all hours of the day and night.

Conservatively, it is estimated that 13% of the population, 3 million people, took to the streets, or participated in the almost non-stop religious events, while virtually every Venezuelan closely followed the pope's activities and messages throughout.

Two weeks before the pope arrived, the country was swept with rumors and threats that a new "explosion" was imminent, reminiscent of that which erupted on Feb. 27, 1989, when mobs of the poor, enraged at the economic shock package adopted by President Carlos Andrés Pérez, looted and burned stores in several cities. One rumor warned that the poor from the Catia district in Caracas, together with people from the impoverished slums which cover the hills surrounding the capital, "would come down to loot."

At the same time, there were daily violent student protests, led by hooded extremists identified with former Lt. Col. Hugo Chávez's Revolutionary Bolivarian Movement 200, in various cities. The daily *El Nacional* reported on Feb. 17 that the Security, Intelligence, and Prevention Directorate (DISIP) had prepared an official report which documented that the student disturbances were being coordinated by the São Paulo Forum, Fidel Castro's continental terror apparatus, of which Chávez is a member, along with the Radical Cause (Causa R) party, whose members also participated in the protests.

Because of his resistance to imposing the genocidal policies of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) upon his country, President Rafael Caldera has been a target of a destabilization campaign combining economic pressures and political uprisings, orchestrated by various international forces deployed, in each case, by the international financial elite. Pope John Paul II's visit, elevating the Venezuelan

people above their day-to-day worries for those three days, buried the pessimism upon which those destabilizations have been premised.

People did "come down from the hills," but to greet the Holy Father, and to celebrate with outright jubilation, his presence in Venezuela. After the welcoming ceremony at the international airport, on his way into Caracas, the pope stopped at the Catia de las Flores Prison to bless the prisoners, and to urge that the rights of individuals be respected under all circumstances. Tens of thousands of people from the poorest slums of the city—whom not even the organizers of the visit expected—awaited the pope in Caracas, waving the flags of Venezuela and the Vatican.

The Venezuelan people identified with the message of hope brought by the pope, and left aside their pessimism. On Feb. 11, people formed a 40-kilometer-long human chain along his route, while others packed restaurants and cafés, to follow the ceremonies by television.

The response in one restaurant in the Chacao commercial and residential district, exemplified the intangible transformation evoked by the pope's visit. During the airport welcoming ceremony, when President Caldera's voice trembled as he began his speech, some of those watching the TV began to scoff and joke about Caldera, while most laughed. But as Caldera continued, his voice broken by emotion, they

grew silent. By the end of his short speech, when Caldera broke down and wept, those watching broke out into applause. "This people venerate you, Your Holiness. This people receives you with filial emotion. This people, Your Holiness, is determined to cross 'The Threshold of Hope' with you," Caldera concluded. The words of their President were endorsed by a majority of Venezuelans.

Man in the living image of God

In Venezuela, where national debate is centered on the economy, the pope did not take up the issue of economics directly, but he posed a positive conception, clearly opposed to that of the IMF. In a "Meeting with the Builders of Society," an event organized so that the pontiff could personally address the political, business, trade union, cultural, and other leaders of the country, he laid out with clear simplicity the principles of the Social Doctrine of the Catholic Church. The principle of justice and equity is inherent to the fact that man is the living image of God, the pope said, and it is from this, that all else flows. He told "the builders" that, in the task of constructing "a new society, founded upon justice, dialogue, and service, capable of confronting the challenges of the future, it is necessary to begin by promoting, unceasingly, the dignity of man, which respects his own truth, image of God, and path of the church. This contributes to the elevation of society, because, from the 'social character of man, it follows that the development of the human person and the growth of society itself are intimately related.' "

"The necessary change, which must be of 'mentality, behavior, and structures,' will favor a culture of solidarity, which shall prevail over the will to dominate or an egotistical life, as an economy of participation will prevail over a system of accumulation of goods, which creates a large gulf between, not only different States, but also between citizens of the same country," he said.

In the homily which he gave in the mass at Caracas's national airport, attended by 2 million people, he said that "the evangelical mission leads man to overcome *the definite idolatries*" (emphasis in the original). "The idols of today are, amongst others, materialism and egoism, from which follow sensualism and hedonism, violence, and corruption." He developed the same theme in a meeting with nearly 200,000 youths, whom he told, "In the face of temptation by the idols of power, money, and pleasure, Christ makes us free."

"Be protagonists of your history, and artisans of social renovation," the pope told them. He concluded by pointing out that, "with active participation in the political, economic, social, and cultural life, you are called upon to become the dawn of a new Venezuela, in which, by overcoming all forms of injustice, work and effort are recognized, and 'the common good, as the good of all men and of every man,' is promoted."

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