

Andean Report by Valerie Rush

Narco-terror resurges in Peru

Shining Path is again laying siege to Peru, with help of the IMF and the UN's human rights thugs.

Peruvian Independence Day, July 26, should have been an occasion for patriotic festivities. Instead, it was met with an outbreak of bloody terrorism on the part of the country's two leading narco-terrorist groups, Shining Path and the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA). Although virtually dismantled by a strong military offensive through the end of last year, these terrorist gangs have managed to regroup, in large part thanks to human rights non-governmental organizations (NGOs) which have launched an international pressure campaign to defend the narco-terrorists, and calling on the Fujimori government to pull the Army out of drug cultivation areas which are, not coincidentally, the narco-terrorists' strongholds.

Two car bombs were set off in the capital city of Lima the last week of July, claiming nearly a score of victims. A former community activist was slain by a terrorist squadron in Lima; a 100-man column of Shining Path Senderistas besieged a town in the northeastern highlands of Huancaavelica, and destroyed construction equipment for a new road being laid; 250 terrorists assaulted another town in the Upper Huallaga Valley, engaging in gun battles with the police that left several civilians dead and policemen wounded.

Army intelligence sources cited by the daily *Expreso* claim to have evidence of an alliance between Peru's narco-terrorists and the Colombian drug cartels running the so-called "coca strikes" in southeastern Colombia.

There are as many as 50,000 coca-farmers and "indigenous peoples" car-

rying out marches, airport takeovers, town occupations, and highway blockades, to demand legalized coca production in Colombia. These sources say that the drug cartels are trying to establish "liberated zones" throughout the region, where the mafia could reign supreme.

In televised comments to the nation, President Alberto Fujimori acknowledged that this latest narco-terrorist offensive was due to his withdrawal of Army bases from the terrorist strongholds; he even promised to reopen the bases. He said that the government would have to be on the alert for several more years, since the terrorists were apparently regrouping, and he suggested that some guerrilla leaders who had been imprisoned before he introduced tougher anti-terrorist legislation in 1992, had been released from jail, only to return to terrorism. These, he promised, would face life imprisonment if recaptured.

What Fujimori did not address, however, was the blackmail of the international creditor community, led by the International Monetary Fund, which insists that the Peruvian military downsize, at precisely the moment of terrorist resurgence. During a late May visit, IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus issued an unequivocal demand that the Army be "modernized" and "professionalized," by axing immediately 3,000 officers (out of a total of 5,000!), along with 2,500 police officers. He urged that civilian employees of the military be replaced by female recruits, who would live on tips instead of wages. And so on.

Camdessus's "proposals" were, of course, accompanied by threats to "in-

terrupt" IMF assistance should Peru abandon its belt-tightening and privatization pledges.

But blackmail from Peru's creditors is only part of the story. Every pro-terrorist "human rights" NGO has jumped into the picture, with the express intent of reversing Peru's anti-terrorist successes. Exemplary is the London-based Amnesty International, which has been lobbying for abolition of Peru's anti-terrorist tribunals (which Amnesty has dubbed "a new inquisition"), and for release of "innocent prisoners" such as Shining Path's founder Abimael Guzmán. Amnesty International leader Juan Vivanco arrived in Lima on Aug. 5 to pursue that agenda.

One day after Shining Path set off its car bombs to "celebrate" Peruvian Independence Day, another NGO, the George Soros-funded Human Rights Watch, demanded that Peru's military tribunals be replaced by an "independent" commission to review the cases of "unjustly accused" terrorists. At the same time, a UN "committee of experts" issued their findings, in which they recommend the release of 4,000 jailed terrorists.

These pro-terrorist NGOs had already scored one victory, in forcing the creation several weeks earlier of the post of "People's Defender," which plans to modify the "faceless judges" system used to try terrorists. A second victory was won Aug. 4, when the Fujimori government announced the formation of a high-level commission to review terrorist cases, and present the President with recommendations for pardon. Six hundred cases will be taken under review, but the NGOs are demanding that 4,000-7,000 "innocents" be freed. Fujimori's representative on the commission will be French priest Fr. Hubert Lansiers, godfather of these NGOs and chaplain of the largest prison for terrorists.