

Brawl over 'Bush Plan' breaks out in Bolivia

by Gretchen Small

A brief visit to Bolivia on July 22-31 by *EIR*'s Brazil-based correspondent Lorenzo Carrasco, left an uproar in its wake. Carrasco gave a series of presentations on the global strategic and financial crisis to hundreds of military, political, and student leaders, in the capital, La Paz, and Santa Cruz. What caused the greatest storm, were Carrasco's denunciations of the operation to dismantle the armed forces in Ibero-America, begun by George Bush back in the 1980s, in order to secure the area's submission to the globalist "new world order."

Two weeks after Carrasco's trip, newspapers throughout Ibero-America reported on Aug. 14, that Gen. Lawson Magruder, Commander of the U.S. Army South, which operates out of the U.S. Southern Command in Panama, had flown into Bolivia for a three-day visit, during which he publicly denied that there is any such thing as a "Bush Plan" against the armed forces, blaming discussion of such a plot upon *EIR* founder Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. According to the Spanish news agency EFE, "General Magruder said that there is no 'Bush Plan' for the gradual elimination of the armed forces of Latin America, it has never existed as official policy; this has been claimed only by an American political figure, Lyndon LaRouche, but it hasn't been supported by the President of the United States, Bill Clinton."

"Diplomatic sources" in La Paz, EFE reported, have been telling people that LaRouche "is currently in jail in his country, charged with fraud," an assertion which, like Magruder's denial of the "Bush Plan," is a flat-out lie.

LaRouche: a power to be reckoned with

Bolivia is located in the heart of the South American continent, a strategic crossroads for Andean development, and potentially one of the richest countries in Ibero-America, were the necessary investments ever made. Used historically instead as a source of cheap raw materials, since the 1970s, Bolivia has been relegated to being a coca producer for the world drug trade, with the consequent collapse in living standards and national institutions. Its current President, Gonzalo Sánchez de Losada, is a representative of British mining interests; a member of the Inter-American Dialogue, a bankers' think-tank; and an outspoken drug legalizer. His vice president, Víctor Cárdenas, an indigenist activist, was recently in Paris coordinating separatist movements against the Americas.

It is not surprising, therefore, that Carrasco found during his visit, that *EIR*'s book *The Plot to Annihilate the Armed Forces and Nations of Ibero-America*, has circulated widely in Bolivia. *The Plot* documents how the "Bush Plan" against the military was concocted as part of a global strategy to eliminate the nation-state, deploying indigenism and the drug trade as well.

Carrasco met with leaders from every political faction, but they all had one thing in common: Each had their copy of *The Plot* close at hand, underlined, and well-read.

Before mouthing off, Magruder might have studied how the heavy-handed harassment by U.S. embassy officials in La Paz during Carrasco's visit, had already failed. Embassy officials ran around threatening Bolivians that they "should not commit the mistake" of hosting anyone associated with LaRouche, whom they referred to as "a criminal and crypto-leftist," yet *EIR*'s correspondent met with active-duty and retired military officers from all branches of the Bolivian Armed Forces. All that the embassy's hysteria accomplished, was to convince people that the State Department certainly views LaRouche and his representatives as a power to be reckoned with.

A history to this fight

EIR's issue of Aug. 16 ("LaRouche Stalls Globalism in Ibero-America; Plotters Protest") reported on the continent-wide fight provoked by circulation of *The Plot*, including the warning in the Spring 1996 issue of U.S. National Defense University's *Joint Force Quarterly*, that "students of Latin American affairs will ignore this book to their own detriment."

This is not the first time *EIR*'s charges against the "Bush Plan" have become the center of national politics in Bolivia. In December 1991, a month-long debate raged in Bolivia's newspapers over the existence, or not, of a strategy by international financier interests to destroy the institutions of the nation-state, after a La Paz daily, *Ultima Hora*, published an *EIR* article by this author and her husband on "The Bush Manual to Eliminate the Armed Forces of Ibero-America." The debate became the subject of front-page banner headlines in the country's prestigious *Presencia* daily, until Bush administration officials applied the usual threats to silence any discussion. Public debate receded, but a banner headline by *Presencia* at the time captured just how credible the Bush denials were: " 'There Is No Bush Plan,' But Armed Forces Will Be Drastically Reduced."

The reaction in 1996 was no different. On Aug. 14, along with Magruder's denials, Bolivia's *El Mundo* quoted retired Gen. Lucio Añez, an internationally recognized anti-drug fighter who is now a member of the Bolivian Congress, insisting that there "has been for many years a 'Bush Plan' to dismantle the armed forces, not only of Bolivia but of many other countries in the world, mainly in the Americas."