

Entente Bestiale

British oligarchy makes a grab for an 'Ashaninka territory' in Peru

by Manuel Hidalgo

In a surprise move, it was announced on Oct. 14 in Peru that Anti-Slavery International (ASI), one of the oldest tools of British colonial operations, had decided to give an award, in London, to an association of Ashaninka Indians in Peru, for its battle against "slavery" and in defense of its "lifestyle."

The prize to the so-called Regional Indigenous Organization of Atalaya (OIRA) gives the green light for an international campaign in favor of forming an "ethnic territory" for the Ashaninkas, one of the ethnic groups most frequently profiled by the anthropologists around Prince Philip's World Wide Fund for Nature. The Ashaninkas live in oil-producing, and geographically strategic, areas of Peru coveted by the British Empire since the last century, areas which have also been a key arena of the narco-terrorist war waged against Peru for the past 16 years.

As shown by **Figures 1 and 2**, Shining Path terrorists, oil, coca plantations, and protected ecological zones all overlap in the region inhabited by the 60,000 natives belonging to the Ashaninka group, a region comprising the Apurimac, Ene, Perene, Tambo, and Pichis river basins.

All indications are that the Ashaninkas were picked as the test case to force Peru to accept separatist plans promoted by the United Nations and the British, to carve every nation-state on the globe into minuscule "ethnic territories." British anthropological networks claim to have identified more than 5,000 "indigenous cultures" worldwide which, they say, should be granted "autonomy" from nation-states, and function under the "protection" of a United Nations world government. In Peru's case, the anthropologists have already drawn a linguistic map of 44 "languages" and 18 groups, which would justify splitting Peru into 18 ethnic zones.

The assault on Peru comes as part of a renewed push to

establish as international law, the principle that the United Nations, and affiliated non-governmental organizations (NGOs), have the right to intervene into any nation where it is claimed that "indigenous autonomy" has been violated. That alleged international right is spelled out in great detail in the so-called *Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, issued by the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations, in 1993. The declaration, which the UN is now presenting to governments for ratification, not only seeks to establish "self-government, with the greatest

autonomy and independence," but would mandate supranational force to be used against any nation which encouraged its citizens of indigenous heritage to be integrated into national life, the which is labeled an act of "ethnocide."

On Oct. 23, the Peruvian government's delegate to a meeting in Geneva of the UN Human Rights Commission's Subcommittee on Indigenous Peoples, protested that the rights allocated to "ethnic groups" in the Draft Declaration of the UN could "assault the legitimate rights of the State and its territorial integrity, security, and sovereignty," and that, if approved, the document would not be enforced in Peru.

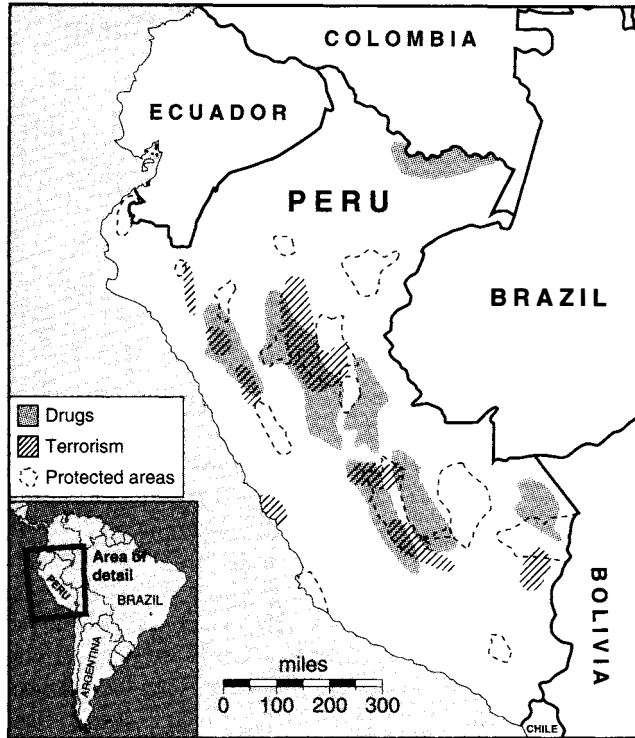
The ASI does not hide the fact that its goal is to eliminate sovereignty. "Sovereignty, once achieved, dies hard," ASI board member Lord Archer of Sandwell complained at the ASI's annual meeting in 1992. But "one battle which is already won, is the recognition in principle that the sovereignty of a government does not extend to a right to ignore the international consensus." The next step, he said, is to enforce sanctions against governments that step out of line.

A former chairman of the Parliamentary Group for World



FIGURE 1

Peru: drugs, terrorism, and protected areas



Government and of Amnesty International in Britain, and 12-year member of the executive committee of the Fabian Society, Lord Archer exemplifies the oligarchs deploying this fraudulent “humanitarian” operation. The ASI was founded in London in 1839, as a covert arm for British imperial policy. It used the slavery issue to provoke the U.S. Civil War, and to undermine and take over the slave-based empires of Britain’s imperial rivals, France and Portugal. (The British by then were maintaining their Indian coolies at a far lower subsistence level even than were black slaves.) The group has always been controlled by Quaker “chocolate baron” and banking families, such as the Barclays, Cadburys, Frys, Rowntrees, and Buxtons, who have been among the most savage imperial oppressors of Africa. The ASI works closely with Prince Philip’s World Wide Fund for Nature (formerly the World Wildlife Fund, WWF) and its “humandivision,” Survival International, which leading ASI members helped found.

The Peruvian ‘Yanomamis’

Meanwhile, the networks of UN- and WWF-run NGOs which control the “ethnic groups” moved into action on Oct. 22, organizing marches of Ashaninkas in Lima to demand that the Ashaninkas be given legal title to “ethnic” territories, and that “communal reservations” be set up, such as the reservation in Sira and others in the area. Just weeks before, the Shining Path terrorists had unleashed a broad offensive in the extensive zone where the Ashaninkas live in the departments

of Junin, Cuzco, and Ucayali, necessitating a massive Peruvian Army mobilization in response.

Why did the WWF-linked anthropologists pick the Ashaninkas for their separatist schemes?

According to anthropological profiles dating back to the 1960s and produced by Cultural Survival (a spin-off of the WWF apparatus), the Ashaninkas—an ethnic group of about 60,000, spread over a broad region in five departments comprising the Apurimac, Ene, Perene, Tambo, and Pichis river basins—have a long tradition of “cultural resistance” and rebellions against national integration. The tradition started with the Juan Santos Atahualpa rebellion in the 1740s, a bloodbath which wiped the Franciscan missions in the region off the map. In 1979, the Ashaninkas organized their own rebellion, to segregate themselves from the *mestizo* tenant farmers with whom they had previously shared the territory. In the 1980s, however, the Ashaninka militias, organized in Ucayali department, could not prevent the Shining Path terrorists from enslaving the Ashaninkas in concentration camps, and killing an estimated 3,500 of them.

But what the Anti-Slavery Association of London is attacking is not this Shining Path genocide, but the Peruvian state, which it charges is the direct and indirect cause of the enslavement of Ashaninkas by the tenant farmers, oilmen, and rubber planters, and even by Brazilian traffickers. Moreover, the British are defending the Ashaninka “lifestyle,” which is limited to the extremely primitive mode of fishing, hunting and gathering, and agriculture to which ecologist policies and British “ethnicity” have condemned human life in the Peruvian Amazon basin. In fact, it is the same British anthropologists who, since 1970, established the ecological policies and communal territories as law in Peru, which created the vacuum in the region into which drug trafficking and Shining Path savagery so easily moved. Already in 1971, the WWF succeeded in turning the Apurimac Reserve into an even more restricted national park, the Cutivereni.

British colonialism in the Peruvian jungle

This is not the first time that the British have controlled this extensive zone of the Peruvian jungle. In 1890, as a result of the British-inspired War of the Pacific, British bond holders received from defeated Peru, besides its mines, the railroads, and 2 million hectares of land in Junin, where Ashaninka and Yanasha Indians lived. From that time until the 1950s, the Peruvian Corporation formed from that early debt-for-equity deal, administered the first plantation of half a million hectares, located between the Perene and Ene rivers. The Perene Colony exported tea, coffee, and cacao, reaching its apogee at a time when the whole of the Peruvian Amazon was “the rubber dispensary for British Imperialism.”

London used its control in the region to stir up border conflicts between Peru and Colombia over the Putumayo River basin. Slavery and the extermination of the natives, promoted by Britain’s own Amazon Rubber Co., was attributed to the Peruvian rubber growers, and then used as a pretext

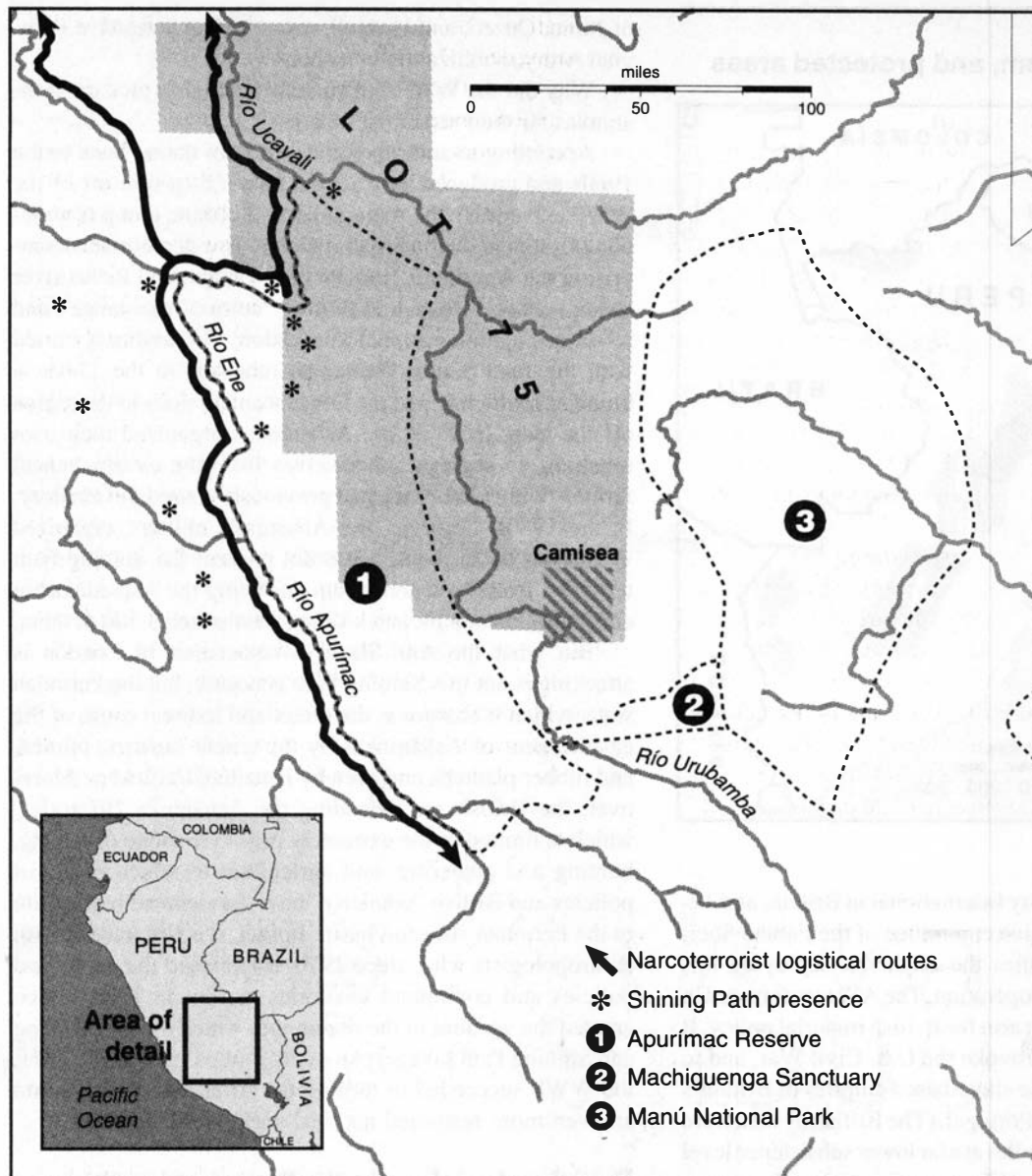


FIGURE 2
**Protected,
 narcoterrorist,
 and oil areas**

by British geopolitics to stir up such conflicts.

Later, the British replaced their control of the area through the moribund Peruvian Corporation, with that of the local branch of the WWF, founded in the early 1960s. Already in 1965, the same region was the stage for the Obando Guerrilla War, a Castroite uprising which was rapidly put down, but which highlighted the strategic importance of the area.

Today, the Apurimac basin, with its 17,000 hectares of coca, produces 13% of the coca grown in Peru, and production is expanding such that it could soon replace production in the Huallaga Valley. Many of the *mestizo* peasants living in the coca region, assisted by the Army, were organized into citizen defense patrols against Shining Path. Now, the NGOs are promoting the idea that these patrols, many now financed by drug money, should be turned against the state and be re-staged as a “new Chiapas” in the area. At the same time, the

left bank of the Apurimac River, in Ayacucho department, is the site of the headquarters of one of the last remaining rural columns of Shining Path, in Vizcatan.

The entire area is crawling with NGO operatives, who have been deployed through programs to “return displaced people to their homes.” Various of these agents openly sympathize with the Zapatista rebels who have been wreaking havoc in the Mexican state of Chiapas, and who, moreover, flaunt their past collaboration with Shining Path. The Ashaninkas set up patrols to collaborate with the Army against Shining Path, but the NGOs are fomenting discontent to set the Ashaninkas against the military, the only effective state presence in the zone. The NGOs have actively plotted to prevent state actions from leading toward the Ashaninkas’ incorporation into the life and economy of the nation with authentic development programs, and the IMF’s austerity programs

have contributed to that result. Thus, the area is a tinderbox on the verge of exploding.

Royal Dutch Shell moves in

Almost all the pieces are now in place for the British to set up a new enclave in the oil-rich zone. Ashaninka territory has located within it, the "super" oil Lot 75, an area of 795,220 hectares, as well as the adjacent Lots 77 and 78. Currently, Shell is negotiating with the Peruvian government for an exploration and exploitation contract on Lot 75.

Royal Dutch Shell, owned, and run, as a joint property of the British and Dutch royal families since the 1880s, is renowned for its sophisticated geopolitical planning, with leading figures of the British intelligence and foreign policy establishment taking key positions in Shell Transport and Trading (the British division of the company) throughout this century.

Shell already has one scalp in its belt: In May 1996, it received the concession, for 40 years, for the gigantic gas deposits of Camisea, which surround the Apurimac reserve on the east. There are 350 million barrels of oil reserves, and gas reserves equivalent to 2.2 billion barrels, and Camisea is presented as the flagship investment of the "oil boom." Shell's only competition in the area is Elf-Aquitaine, the French petroleum company, which was awarded Lot 66. Elf-Aquitaine discovered that Shell had a network of NGO-steered Ashaninkas in its service, and so it quickly fostered a Council of Indigenous

Unification of the Central Jungle, which began its operations by issuing denunciations against the Shell-WWFNGOs.

The government of Peru has signed oil exploration and exploitation contracts on more than 13.5 million hectares, and negotiated others on another 12 million hectares, almost all in the jungle. Occidental, Mobil, Shell, Exxon, Chevron, and oil companies from around the world have signed contracts, and Conservation International has accused various oil firms of contaminating or threatening the ecological protected zones—but Shell and its partners have escaped all criticism. Conservation International and the WWF succeeded in August in creating the Bahuaja Sonene National Park, and ecological reserves now occupy more than 10% of Peru's national territory.

On Nov. 5, Lord Frazer of Carmillye, the British energy minister, arrived in Peru and headed for the Camisea fields. In the second week of September, John Gummer, Britain's environment minister, was in Peru (it is getting common for British missions to show up in Lima) and went straight to Camisea in company with the directors of Royal Dutch Shell. Gummer made himself right at home with the natives, and warned that all supplies for the exploitation of Camisea will come, not through Peru's coastal cities, but along the Amazon River and its tributary, the Ucayali River—a route which traverses the Ashaninka territory, and is currently used by the drug traffickers.

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