

Bush, after Bush had left office.

The Western media have defended the IMF, by citing its urgent warnings to Albania, issued in November, that the funds were soon to go bankrupt. The IMF's concern, however, was not the people of Albania, but the continued stability of its "model pupil," the Berisha regime.

Is a Pinochet model coming?

Everything will be done to keep Berisha in power, including making Albania the candidate to abandon the facade of democracy and become the first outright dictatorial "Pinochet model" in eastern Europe. Albanian government denials to the contrary, a virtually indefinite "state of emergency" already exists in the country. The presence of Army units in Tirana, guarding all important government buildings, the State TV and Radio Center, and other important installations, and a similar presence in every major city, has become a new fact of life in the country.

The process toward the "Pinochet model" was already clearly in evidence in the massive vote fraud in the May 1996 elections, in which Berisha's Democratic Party won more than two-thirds of the seats in the new Parliament, allowing him at any time to legally convert Albania into an open dictatorship. A step in that direction was visible in the Jan. 29 roundup of opposition Socialist Party figures, who were accused of having instigated and led the riots.

In the protest wave that swept Albania, Socialist Party leaders had addressed the rallies, demanding that the government resign, followed by early elections. The Socialist Party had vowed to emulate the tactics seen in Serbia and Bulgaria, of staging daily protests in the capital until those in power relented, and agreed to the opposition's demands.

The Berisha regime has decided to try and nip this process in the bud. A full-scale crackdown began on Jan. 29, after a three-day, around-the-clock barrage by State TV and Radio, accusing the ex-communist Socialist Party of using agents of the former communist secret police, the Sigurimi; of leading the riots and of arson; and charging the other opposition parties with involvement. The general secretary of the Socialist Party, Rexhep Meidani, and the leaders of the Social Democratic Party, Gjinushi Skender, and the Democratic Alliance, Arben Imami, were arrested. Dozens of Socialist Party officials and hundreds of those involved in the protests were also imprisoned. President Berisha issued a statement blaming "activists and regional leaders of the Socialist Party," working together with former Sigurimi members, for the "acts of violence" during the protests "They lost the elections, and have now chosen the path of burning and destroying," he said. Berisha declared that the opposition as a whole, the Socialist Party, and the "Sigurimi agents," were engaged in "attempting a coup."

The real coup being attempted is that of the IMF, using the Berisha regime to initiate the process of bringing the IMF's "Pinochet model" to eastern Europe.

Peru's Fujimori gamers support vs. terrorists

by Valerie Rush

Peru's President Alberto Fujimori is back in Peru, after a Jan. 31-Feb. 4 trip, first to Canada and then to Washington, D.C., where he met with the Japanese and U.S. heads of government. In his meetings, Fujimori assured them that he would not yield to the blackmail demands of the MRTA terrorists, who are holding 72 high-level government and business leaders hostage at the residence of the Japanese ambassador in Lima.

In a joint statement issued Feb. 1 by Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and by Peru's Fujimori, the two agreed that there could be no concessions to the terrorists. The statement specified that "Prime Minister Hashimoto supported President Fujimori in his rejection of the MRTA's demand for the release of the MRTA terrorists currently in incarceration." Fujimori later clarified that release of the imprisoned terrorists "would not only threaten Peru, but the international community as well. We shall not release such people."

Fujimori also reiterated his earlier pledge to seek a peaceful solution to the hostage crisis, as long as the hostages were unharmed.

Fujimori had convened the meeting with Hashimoto, following the Japanese government's publicly expressed nervousness over the hard line he has taken in dealing with the MRTA. Without apologies, Fujimori was apparently able to convince the Japanese prime minister that international solidarity, not concessions, was the only way to defeat the terrorist hydra.

Continued strong support from President Clinton was undoubtedly a critical factor on Fujimori's side. The Peruvian President's visit to Washington, following the Canada summit meeting, was to express gratitude to the U.S. government for that support. Despite the fact that President Clinton had apparently been urged by some advisers to not meet with Fujimori, supposedly for fear of possible terrorist reprisals, a meeting between the heads of state did in fact take place at the White House, where Clinton did not hesitate to express his admiration and respect for Fujimori's deft handling of the crisis.

'The MRTA are terrorists'

One of the repeated themes of Fujimori's visit was his emphasis that the MRTA are neither "rebels" nor "guerrillas,"

as the international media has persisted in portraying them, but rather “delinquents, criminals, kidnapers, terrorists. Any number of adjectives describes these terrorists. We have to tell the world what they are. There are no guerrillas in Peru. These are terrorists.”

He ridiculed the MRTA’s demand for improved prison conditions in Peru, a demand which has been defended by the likes of Cable News Network and other establishment news media. During his conference at the National Press Club in Washington, Fujimori reminded the press that before he cracked down on terrorism in 1992, “Our prisons were under the total control of MRTA and Shining Path. There was no state authority inside the prisons. We have completely changed the situation. We have built 23 new prisons with an investment of \$100 million, which is a big amount for Peru. And we have improved the prisoners’ conditions. . . . Now, of course, as we are a poor country, we didn’t have the economic ability to give them tools, machines, and so on. First, we will give these to the schools. There are some priorities in my country. I insist that first our children will have these kinds of things.”

Fujimori added, “We will not return control of the prisons to the terrorists, and that is why they are complaining. By the way, regarding prison conditions, do you remember the MRTA’s so-called ‘people’s prisons’ [for kidnap victims]? They were underground, five meters below the surface, a very narrow cell with just a two-inch-diameter tube for ventilation. . . . By comparison, our prisons are in fact almost palaces.” Asked to comment about the prison conditions of U.S. citizen Lori Berenson, who is serving 25-30 years in a Peruvian jail after being caught red-handed supplying the MRTA with weapons and plans for a terrorist siege of the Peruvian Congress, Fujimori commented, “She is in Llanomayo prison, which is not so bad. Of course, it’s in high altitudes, above 3,900 meters. But the department of Puno is the most populated part in all Peru. There are almost 1 million people living there.”

Pro-terrorist NGOs

Throughout the hostage crisis, which began Dec. 17 of last year, the Fujimori government has been subjected to tremendous pressure, both from leading international media and from a variety of “non-governmental organizations” (NGOs), to yield to MRTA demands, supposedly to prevent bloodshed and “achieve peace.” Some NGOs, such as the George Soros-funded Human Rights Watch and London’s Amnesty International, have repeatedly chosen to present the terrorists as “political prisoners” and human rights “victims,” while portraying the Peruvian government as a dictatorship, and the Armed Forces as assassins. The years of drug trafficking, bombings, assassinations, and kidnappings by the terrorists are conveniently ignored.

Other NGOs, such as the International Red Cross, have used their “neutral” or “humanitarian” cover to openly aid



Peru’s President Alberto Fujimori is dealing firmly with the MRTA, despite international media support for these British-sponsored terrorists. Here, Fujimori in Washington on Feb. 3.

and abet the MRTA terrorists, serving as their protectors, their couriers, and their mouthpieces throughout the hostage crisis.

During Fujimori’s National Press Club conference, a reporter for *EIR* raised the question of interference in Peru’s handling of the crisis by the NGOs, “such as Soros’s Human Rights Watch. Also, more recently, the Red Cross. There is also the issue of several fugitive terrorists, such as [Shining Path’s Maximiliano] Durán in Paris, and [Adolfo] Olaechea in London, whose extradition your government has sought, or at least that their activities be curtailed.”

Fujimori’s reaction: “The question is very interesting. That’s why I insist that this journalist also ask his question in English.” Implying that his government shared the assessment of foreign involvement implicit in the reporter’s question, Fujimori joked, “If he weren’t a well-known journalist, you might have thought he was a member of [Peru’s] National Intelligence Services.” Fujimori went on to say Peru was no longer interested in the extradition of Durán and Olaechea. “If there are other terrorists in other countries, fine. Stay there; don’t send them to Peru.”

On the day prior to Fujimori’s departure for Canada and the United States, *EIR* gave a press conference in Lima to release its new Spanish-language security memo, “British Indigenism Spawns the MRTA and Shining Path.” And on Jan. 31, *EIR* presented a strategic assessment of the hostage crisis to a select audience, including representatives and directors of national institutions, security agencies, Congressional advisers, the Congressional defense commission, and the Office of the President.