

Bedoya will resist pressure for pact with Colombia's narco-terrorists

by Valerie Rush

One-worldist plans to dismember the nation-state of Colombia, and to distribute its bleeding parts to the narco-terrorist armies of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and National Liberation Army (ELN), have hit a snag, in the form of the Presidential campaign of former Armed Forces commander Gen. Harold Bedoya Pizarro. His unexpected election challenge has driven both the FARC and the ELN terrorists, and their drug legalization and "human rights" defenders, into a rage, while the United Nations and other one-worldist agencies of the British Empire are pushing frantically to lock in an internationally mediated pact with the terrorists, before Bedoya's civil-military alliance for a national recovery becomes unstoppable.

Bedoya was fired in late July by the country's drug-trafficker-financed President Ernesto Samper, when the general refused to rubber-stamp Samper's treasonous appeasement of the terrorists. Since then, he has built up a political movement dedicated to bringing peace, and reconstruction, to Colombia, by the only means possible: purging the nation of drug-related corruption, and annihilating narco-terrorism. As Bedoya told a seminar in Bogotá on Sept. 9, "I am a warrior for peace."

The Samper government has already attempted to use its own dirty tricks to try to rid itself of Bedoya's candidacy, including claims that his several-day stint as acting defense minister a year ago somehow disqualified him from seeking the Presidency. While an inquiry into the challenge is under way, General Bedoya has dismissed such crude maneuvers by his enemies, and insists that he will persist in seeking the Presidency, "because I am not a candidate of the corrupt, nor of the machines, nor of the government, nor of the drug trade."

British opposition to 'military solutions'

Typical of the nervousness Bedoya's campaign has triggered abroad, is a lengthy article appearing in the Aug. 17 *Washington Post*, by human rights lobbyists Robert Weiner and Ana Carrigan, the latter a mouthpiece for the "former" M-19 narco-terrorists with her own close ties to the British Empire. The article blames the vast majority of political

assassinations in Colombia on the Armed Forces' so-called "dirty war," and claims it is the military, and not narco-terrorism, which runs amok and "is the greatest threat to Colombia, its neighbors, and the interests of the United States." The conclusion of these authors is that the United States must *not* lend its support to General Bedoya, who is described as "a leading proponent of military solutions to the problems of narcotics and insurgency," and must instead focus on shackling the Armed Forces through a single-minded focus on their supposed violations of the human rights of narco-terrorists.

A similar viewpoint was offered by Edgar Dosman, professor at Toronto's York University and the former executive director of the semi-official Canadian Foundation for Latin America (FOCAL). In an interview with a journalist for *Resumen Ejecutivo*, the Spanish-language version of *EIR*, this agent of the British Crown, also a member of the Inter-American Dialogue, blamed the "fragmentation" of Colombia on the Clinton administration's "hard line" toward the Samper regime, which Dosman insisted had led to the "militarization of drug policy."

This is precisely the viewpoint of President Samper, and especially of his hand-picked candidate Horacio Serpa Uribe, otherwise known as "Comandante Serpa" for his close links to the ELN narco-terrorists. Dosman pointed out that his native Canada did not perceive narcotics as a military issue, and urged the United States to adopt "more innovative" approaches to the problem.

Dosman's FOCAL has just issued a report calling for legalizing narcotics, as has the Inter-American Dialogue.

A strategy of 'ungovernability'

With General Bedoya's Presidential campaign, Colombians are offered an alternative to such "innovative" solutions as surrender to the enemy. However, before the May 1998 Presidential election rolls around, the narco-terrorist armies of the FARC/ELN are determined to sabotage the Oct. 26 municipal elections, with the intent of forcing Colombians to crawl to the "international peace mediators" of the United

Nations for another “innovative solution.” Part of that solution will be the carving up of Colombia into drug-dependent “neutral” enclaves under FARC/ELN control.

The FARC/ELN strategy of causing ungovernability is already far advanced. Out of 1,000 municipalities in the country, nearly 15% have already been forced to suspend the October elections, because their candidates for mayor, town council, or provincial assembly have been either kidnapped, killed, driven into hiding, or forced to withdraw their bids for public office under threat of execution (see *Documentation* below). Nearly 50 such candidates in the northern state of Bolívar alone have been kidnapped in the past few weeks. Candidates in at least a half-dozen other provinces have also been marked as “military targets” of the FARC/ELN. At least 24 municipalities in the northern oil state of César, along the Venezuelan border, are without candidates, and the Samper government’s only answer thus far has been to urge candidates to sleep in military barracks until after the election!

In addition to the kidnappings and assassinations of selected political and military targets, the FARC/ELN is also terrorizing entire towns with car-bombs and raids against public offices, banks, police stations, even schools, leaving civilian casualties in their wake. They have also gone from bombing oil and gas pipelines, to mining highways and electricity towers. On Sept. 4, a critical hydroelectric facility in the industrial department of Antioquia was seized and its control room blown up, disrupting energy supply to 20% of the nation.

The narcotics cartels

In the face of renewed congressional debate over lifting restrictions on extradition, the narcotics cartels have added their own considerable terrorist capability to the picture. On Sept. 4, a huge truck-bomb carrying 250 kilos of plastic explosive was left in front of the IV Army Brigade headquarters, in a residential section of the Antioquian capital of Medellín. Suspicious neighbors were able to alert authorities in time to deactivate it; had it exploded, it would have levelled homes and offices in a half-mile diameter. The so-called “Extraditables” claimed the bomb as their own, and promised more to come: “This first car-bomb failed us, but the others may not. . . . A new terrorist era begins.”

“Negotiate!” cries UN agent Augusto Ramírez Ocampo, a former Colombian foreign minister who played a key role in designing the El Salvador “peace pact” which handed to the terrorist FMLN the political power they couldn’t win in a decade of warfare with the state. “Negotiate!” cries Oscar Arias, former Costa Rican President and Nobel Peace Prize winner, who insists that “dialogue can produce miracles, and is the only way to end the violence. In Colombia, the military still dreams of the possibility of a military victory, of annihilating the guerrilla, but this isn’t so.”

“Negotiate!” is also the demand of prominent Colombian

“intellectuals” Gabriel García Márquez and Eduardo Pizarro Leongómez. García Márquez is the Nobel-winning author whose longstanding friendship with Cuba’s Fidel Castro and with Colombia’s guerrilla movements has turned the man into an unofficial mouthpiece for the FARC/ELN, while Pizarro is the professor brother of the late and unlamented M-19 narco-terrorist leader Carlos Pizarro Leongómez.

“Negotiate!” cries the British Empire’s magazine the *Economist*, which editorialized in mid-August that “Dialogue with the guerrilla may not open the path to peace, but rejecting dialogue certainly won’t.” The Canadian government, of Her Majesty’s Commonwealth, is also pushing negotiations with the narco-terrorists, through a contribution of about \$18,000 to Samper’s “Citizens Mandate for Peace,” the vehicle his narco-government created to get negotiations with the terrorists off the ground. The UN has even gotten into the act, in its own name, with High Commissioner for Human Rights in Colombia Almudena Mazarrasa issuing a public call for the FARC/ELN to “sit down at the negotiating table.”

Desperate to end his disastrous term in office with at least one “success” story, President Samper has bent over backwards to try to get the FARC/ELN to the negotiating table. First, he acceded to their demand that he oust General Bedoya. He then dispatched his top peace advisers to Mexico, to meet with leaders of the FARC on setting the ground-rules for peace talks. More recently, Samper announced his willingness to pull the military out of several zones where the FARC/ELN want total sway, despite General Bedoya’s warning that such surrender of national territory to the narco-terrorists will be judged as treason.

Samper has also just announced another major revision of the military’s justice code, which, among other things, would require the participation of civilian judicial officials in all future military trials. Such repeated dilution of the military’s legal jurisdiction could be seen as a *casus belli* by many inside the Armed Forces.

Documentation

Recent terrorist attacks

The following is a chronology of recent narco-terrorist operations in Colombia, which are part of the FARC/ELN’s sabotage campaign against next month’s municipal and local elections.

Aug. 4: FARC attacks the town of Gachala, Cundinamarca. They use explosive charges to break into Caja Agraria

bank. Two civilians accused of being army/police informants, are killed.

Aug. 6: Four mayors are kidnapped in Nariño department, from the towns of Ricaurte, Cumbal, Mallama, and Ipiales. Two are killed, two wounded, and various buildings are destroyed following FARC attacks on Valparaíso and San José de Fragua, in Caquetá. A dynamite attack is carried out on Ecopetrol transport infrastructure in Barrancabermeja, Santander.

Aug. 11: FARC/ELN dynamite toll-booth in Tunia, on Pan-American Highway between Popayán and Cali, after stealing 10 million pesos. Three bombs are set off in the center of Cali. A deputy from César department is taken from a bus, and is killed in front of passengers.

Aug. 12: FARC uses the corpse of a person kidnapped in Villeta, Cundinamarca a week earlier, to lure a group of judicial commission investigators to the site, and then ambushes them with grenades and rifle fire, killing three and wounding one. FARC distributes leaflets at various military barracks, warning that family members and girl-friends of officers, are now considered military targets. Two such girl-friends have already been assassinated.

Aug. 13: FARC sends an ultimatum to bus drivers in northeast Antioquia, notifying them that any vehicles on the roads during next three days will be burned. In the past two months, the terrorists have burned 100 vehicles.

Aug. 20: Seven municipal officials or electoral candidates are kidnapped in Santa Rosa, Bolívar department. Candidates in San Juan de Arama and Vistahermosa, in Meta department, withdraw their names under threat. Council candidates in Mesetas announce that they, too, will resign if they are not provided with protection. A bomb destroys the electoral registrar's office in Ciénaga, Magdalena department. ELN/FARC dynamite two energy towers in Antioquia, which supply Urabá and the Atlantic Coast. Four intercity buses and three cars are set afire by the ELN.

Aug. 21: The president of the town council of Giraldo, Antioquia, is murdered.

Aug. 22: ELN forces 40 town council candidates and three mayoral candidates from San Pablo, Bolívar, to withdraw their bids for office.

Two FARC fronts of 250 guerrillas seize the town of Cabrera, Cundinamarca, kill two police agents, wound six more, destroy most city offices, and raid the local branch of the agricultural loan bank.

Aug. 25: The former mayor and two town council candidates of La Gloria, in southern César department, are kidnapped.

Three council candidates in Cimitarra, Santander department, are kidnapped by ELN, along with the mayoral candidate of Landazuri.

ELN car-bomb attack on combined military/police highway patrol in La Union, eastern Antioquia, killing three police officers and wounding four soldiers.

Aug. 28: ELN attacks police station in Valledupar with fragmentation grenades, wounding one. FARC hits police station in Cerrito, department of Valle, killing one and wounding one.

Aug. 29: A horse-bomb containing 70 kilos of dynamite is exploded in front of military base of Pueblo Viejo de la Estrella, killing one soldier and wounding three. FARC seizes town of Salazar de Las Palmas, in Norte de Santander department, killing two police and wounding others. ELN kidnaps 11 members of Yondo council, in Antioquia.

Sept. 1: FARC steals 1000 electoral registration cards in three municipalities of Putumayo.

Sept. 1: Mass resignations by threatened candidates in the towns of Supia, Riosucio, Anserma, Viterbo, and Marmato (department of Caldas), and candidates are kidnapped in towns of Cocorna, San Luis, San Francisco and Granada (department of Antioquia). Mass resignation of all candidates in Remedios, northeast Antioquia. Mayoral candidate in Ovejas (Sucre department) are murdered, as is the brother of a mayoral candidate in San Jacinto (Bolívar department).

Sept. 4: A 250-kilo car-bomb in the center of Antioquia capital, is deactivated in time. Some 4,000 electoral registration cards are burned in a FARC/ELN raid. A hydroelectric facility providing power to 20% of Colombia, is sabotaged in Antioquia. A U.S.-donated military helicopter protecting two crop-dusters fumigating coca crops in Caquetá department, is shot down. FARC threatens to kill the mayor of Neiva, capital of Huila department.

Sept. 8-9: FARC kills four electoral candidates in departments of Antioquia, Caquetá, Putumayo, and Santander. FARC threats force the mass resignation of all mayoral and council candidates in Quinchia, department of Risaralda; in Riosucio, department of Caldas; and in Jagua de Ibirico; department of César.

A councilman is assassinated in Alvarado, department of Tolima, as is the former mayor of San Agustín, department of Huila. Two mayoral candidates are kidnapped in San Bernardo, Cundinamarca. A radio station is dynamited in Ipiales, Nariño department. Two political party offices are bombed in Bogotá, and a bus is burned at the National University in Bogotá. Two bombs are set off at political offices in Medellín, Antioquia. A bus is burned in San Carlos, Antioquia, as is a banana packing plant in Ciénaga, Magdalena department, and an electoral registrar's office in Puerto Lleras, Meta. More kidnappings of candidates in towns of Becerril and Tamalameque, both in César department.

Once again, the FARC uses the trick of luring judicial and medical investigators to pick up the corpse of one of their kidnap victims, which is booby-trapped with a bomb. Fortunately, this time the explosive charge does not detonate. The Chamber of Deputies meets to declare its readiness to seek a protection pact with the narco-terrorists if the government refuses to provide protection for themselves and their families.