

London's São Paulo Forum declares war on the United States

by Gretchen Small

Since 1990, *EIR* has repeatedly warned that the accepted dogma, that the narco-terrorist threat in the Western Hemisphere collapsed along with the Berlin Wall, is strategic folly. *EIR* insisted on three points: 1) that a continental narco-terrorist capability still exists, operating under the centralized command of the Cuban-founded São Paulo Forum; 2) that the Forum is deployed at a higher level, from London, aimed at breaking up the nation-states of the Americas; and 3) that the United States is a principal strategic target of the São Paulo Forum's warfare.¹

The official silence by this hemisphere's national security establishments to these well-documented realities, has had its desired effects. In March, the São Paulo Forum's Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) publicly declared war against the United States, promising to turn the region into a new "Vietnam," should the United States, or any other nation, aid Colombia against the drug cartels. The Forum then opened a new flank of narco-terrorist insurgency: in Bolivia. Led by coca-grower assets allied to the FARC, the foot-soldiers of insurgency in Bolivia, as *EIR* documented a year ago, are an integral part of George Soros's narco-legalization apparatus in the Andean nations.

More "Made in London" than that, you cannot get.

'Vietnam' in the Andes

The announcement that the FARC has ordered its forces to treat U.S. advisers in Colombia as "military targets," was first reported by Britain's Reuters news agency on March 16. Once again, Reuters used its good contacts with the narco-terrorists to gain an "exclusive." FARC Commander Fabián Ramírez issued the pronouncement to a Reuters correspondent who claimed to have "travelled by night and day on the back of a mule" to reach the well-fortified FARC headquarters in "the jungles of Caquetá."

Days later, on March 23, the FARC kidnapped four U.S. citizens. Commander "Edison Romaña," head of the 53rd Front which seized the Americans, threatened that, should it be determined that any of the four worked for the CIA, Drug

Enforcement Administration, FBI, or any other U.S. intelligence agency, they would be killed.

A letter, warning that "if the United States gets involved . . . this will be another Vietnam," followed on March 29. This threat came from the FARC's cohorts in the National Liberation Army (ELN). The letter was sent by Francisco Galán and Felipe Torres, who currently reside in a "high-security" prison in Colombia. But, as the jailed chiefs of the drug cartels can attest, under the Samper government, imprisonment proves no obstacle to continuing a war or a business.

On April 11, the FARC's international spokesman, Luis Alberto Albán Urbano, alias "Commander Marcos León Calarcá," reiterated the threat to the Argentine daily *Página 12*. "The FARC have been very clear, and I underline: those who participate, directly or indirectly, in the war against our people will be military targets, and this includes financial or any other type of support for our enemy," he said. Two weeks later, the FARC sent an "Open Letter to the People and Progressive Sectors of the U.S.," from "Calarcá's" headquarters in Mexico, which, like the ELN, threatened that the United States, should it continue aiding Colombia, would suffer "the loss of innumerable citizens," in a war comparable only to Vietnam.

Both the FARC and the ELN have been members of the São Paulo Forum's steering committee for several years, with the FARC playing a particularly active role.

Soros's coca warriors

The Forum opened the Bolivian flank at the beginning of April. *Cocaleros* (coca-growers) began mass protests against "Plan Dignity," an aggressive coca eradication campaign initiated by the Bánzer government. Initially coordinated with national protests of the Bolivian Labor Federation (COB), clashes between protestors and security forces led to several deaths. While the COB eventually reached an agreement with the government, the *cocaleros* have made ending their protest conditional on one demand: that the government pull the military out of the Chapare—the center of the drug trade in Bolivia.

Clashes in the Chapare between coca-growers and security forces are not new, but this time, both the government and the leadership of the coca forces are determined to stand firm. During a "pull-aside" at the Summit of the Americas in

1. For the most complete treatment of these points, see *EIR*, Nov. 10, 1995; and, Lyndon LaRouche's Oct. 11, 1995 campaign statement, "The Blunder in U.S. National Security Policy."

Chile on April 18-19, Bolivian President Gen. Hugo Bánzer told President Clinton that Bolivia is in a war with the drug-traffickers, and it needs U.S. help, National Security Adviser Sandy Berger reported on April 19. Bánzer told Clinton that they will win this war, but it will not be easy, Berger added.

Amid rumors of the emergence of a "Chapareño National Liberation Army," the longtime head of the Andean Council of Coca Producers (CAPHC), Evo Morales, in a press conference in Bolivia's Congress on April 27 (he is a Deputy for the United Left party), threatened an "imminent armed uprising," should the government not immediately pull the military out of the Chapare. Bolivia faces immediate "Colombianization," he promised.

Morales knows what "Colombianization" means: He and his CAPHC (which operates in both Bolivia and Peru) are active members of the São Paulo Forum. In August 1996, at the height of the FARC-run *cocalero* uprising in the Caquetá and Putamayo departments of Colombia, Morales visited Caquetá to offer international support for the FARC uprising. In August 1995, the São Paulo Forum had featured Morales as a speaker at a conference in Buenos Aires, where his proposals for drug legalization and regional "resistance" against "imperialist" anti-drug plans, were cheered by delegates from around the Americas.

International support is a requisite these days for armed insurgencies. The groundwork for this has been systematically laid by Soros's agents. As we documented (see *EIR*, Jan. 31, 1997, pp. 46-65), Morales's CAPHC is an integral part of the Andean drug legalization machine run by Soros: CAPHC shares overlapping personnel and joint projects with the Andean Commission of Jurists, a group of drug legalizers which functions as a subdivision of Soros's Human Rights Watch/Americas. Soros has not only been one of the primary financial benefactors of HRW/Americas from its founding, but he continues to play an active role on its board of advisers.

In 1995, Human Rights Watch established a special project dedicated to challenging alleged "human rights violations caused or exacerbated by efforts to curtail drug-trafficking internationally." Bolivia, and specifically the Chapare region, was its first target. At the same time, Morales's CAPHC, the Lindesmith Center (the drug legalization team at Soros's Open Society Institute), and a group of European non-governmental organizations launched an international organizing drive for the legalization of coca. The project, called "Coca 95," provided a cover for international "networking," picking up the tab for members of the CAPHC travelling in Europe.

A conference, entitled the "International Meeting on Current Scientific Studies on the Effects of Coca Consumption on Humans," in Lima in March 1996, pulled the operation together: Co-sponsored by Soros's Andean Commission of Jurists and the CAPHC, the featured speaker was Anthony Henman, a British anthropologist who is the Lindesmith's top man in Europe. Morales attended.

Also, there are Soros's business interests in Bolivia, which increased greatly this year with the purchase of Bolivia's silver-rich San Cristóbal mine, by Soros's Cayman Islands-based Apex Silver Mines.

Follow the 'Calarcá' trail

What will be the role of the other branches of the São Paulo Forum in the Americas, as their Andean offensive escalates? One place to investigate, is the travels of "Commander Calarcá." In exile in Mexico since 1993, Calarcá handles international coordination for the FARC (internet communications, negotiations, message delivery, and so on), including participation in the public side of the São Paulo Forum's activities, such as the Forum's August 1997 confab in Pôrto Alegre, Brazil, where he was a speaker.

A window onto his more clandestine activities was opened when Bolivian authorities, with Interpol back-up, arrested Calarcá on March 25, when he arrived at the La Paz airport on a flight from Lima. Bolivian authorities reportedly had information that he had contacted residual MRTA networks while in Peru. Calarcá told Argentina's *Página 12* that he was returning from a "São Paulo Forum preparatory meeting" in Montevideo, Uruguay, and planned to meet in La Paz with the Communist Party and the Free Bolivia Movement (MBL)—the latter on the steering committee of the Forum since that body was set up in 1991. Calarcá was to meet with MBL Deputy Alonso Alem, the man who toured Europe in 1992 for the Forum, before being named Foreign Minister in the Sánchez de Losada government.

According to a profile of the FARC leader's recent activities reportedly assembled in Bolivia, Calarcá began a tour of Central and South America on Feb. 24, to line up continental political and logistical support for the FARC offensive. He reportedly started with meetings with the Nicaraguan Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN); his contacts in South America were said to include friends of Venezuela's Col. Hugo Chávez (ret.). Chávez had been assigned to coordinate the Forum's networks in the region's militaries, during his December 1993 visit to Havana, where he received a hero's welcome from Fidel Castro.

Chávez is now a leading contender in the upcoming Presidential elections in Venezuela. When his request for a visa to visit the United States was denied in April, Chávez announced that he will travel to London to garner international support—fulfilling his long-sought wish. In 1995, Chávez complained that he had been invited by Britain's Ambassador to Venezuela to visit London, but that Venezuelan President Rafael Caldera had intervened, to cancel his trip.

Bolivian authorities offered to deport Calarcá back to Colombia, where he faces sedition charges, but the Samper government refused to even *request* his extradition, on the grounds that he was wanted only for "political crimes." So, the FARC's Commander was shipped back to Mexico, to continue the war.