

# Colombia ushers in a narco-dictatorship

**1991-92:** The U.S. President George Bush-sponsored César Gaviria government:

a) illegally rams through a new Constitution which legalizes possession of drugs and bans extradition as a state weapon against the drug cartels;

b) offers the drug cartels a pact to launder their ill-gotten fortunes through a plea-bargain agreement drafted by cartel lawyers; and

c) legalizes private foreign currency exchange, no questions asked, allowing billions of dollars of drug money to be laundered through Colombia's now deregulated banking system.

**August 1993:** President Gaviria holds closed-door talks with Cuban dictator Fidel Castro, head of the São Paulo Forum, a continental terrorist umbrella organization, as part of an appeasement strategy toward the country's rampaging narco-terrorists. At the same time, Gaviria implements a so-called "human rights" military reform, to straitjacket the Armed Forces.

**June 1994:** Dope, Inc.'s 18-year-long project to install cartel front-man Ernesto Samper Pizano into the Colombian Presidency, finally succeeds. Samper names a cabinet which includes Antonio Navarro Wolfe, chief of the amnestied M-19 narco-guerrillas, and Horacio Serpa Uribe, a longtime intimate of the ELN narco-terrorists. Serpa, as head of the Interior Ministry, runs a thug operation to terrorize and assassinate the regime's political opponents. Serpa is today Samper's intended successor to the Presidency.

**August 1994:** It is revealed that Samper has been holding secret talks with the FARC-ELN narco-terrorists since the beginning of the year, to fashion a "peace pact" with the narco-guerrillas on the El Salvador demilitarization model.

**November 1994:** Samper unveils plans to officially conduct peace talks with the narco-guerrillas. To pave the way for those talks, Samper goes to London, where he announces the opening of an Amnesty International office in Bogotá, and names several "former guerrillas" to key diplomatic posts abroad.

**December 1994:** A subcommittee of the Colombian Congress is forced to initiate an investigation of charges that Samper's election was secured by \$6 million in drug money. Despite evidence of the committee's corruption, the investigation is shelved for "lack of evidence." Six months later, Samper is fully absolved by Congress of charges of illicit

enrichment and fraud, despite overwhelming evidence against him and his campaign cohorts.

**June 1995:** Even while the FARC escalates its terrorist assaults across the country, Samper demilitarizes La Uribe, the former FARC headquarters which the Armed Forces had recently captured, and names it as a site for peace talks. Military morale plunges.

**November 1995:** Samper's leading political enemy in Colombia, Sen. Alvaro Gómez Hurtado, is assassinated.

**April 1996:** The British House of Lords moves to counter the Clinton administration's decision in March to deny the Samper regime "certification" as a collaborating partner in the war on drugs. It issues a strong defense of Samper as a leader "spectacularly successful against drug traffickers."

**July 1996:** Some 20,000 coca-"farmers," under the armed leadership of the FARC, surround the provincial capital of Florencia, in southwest Caquetá province, while thousands of others conduct terrorist assaults on surrounding towns, police and military posts, airports, and oil facilities. Samper's Interior Minister Serpa Uribe is accused by the opposition daily *El Nuevo Siglo*, of promoting the coca-insurgency.

It is later revealed that Serpa visited Germany during the same month, to meet with Werner Mauss, a shadowy figure with close ties to Colombia's terrorists, who was serving as a secret "bridge" between the Colombian and German governments in striking a deal with the terrorists.

**August 1996:** A heavily armed FARC unit seizes a military base in southwestern Putumayo province, killing 40 soldiers and taking another 60 hostage. The Samper government enters into negotiations with the terrorists, and forces the military to evacuate 5,000 square miles in the heart of this FARC-infested cocaine territory. The Armed Forces are humiliated, and not a single hostage is released.

**June 1997:** Nearly 10 months later, Samper orders another evacuation of the area, and the soldiers held hostage are released to delegates of the International Red Cross amid international publicity for the FARC. This permits the FARC to become the sole political and military authority in the region, dismantling the area's military base and imposing "war taxes" and curfews on the area's terrorized inhabitants.

**July 1997:** Armed Forces Commander Gen. Harold Bédoya is forced to resign from the military, after repeatedly crossing swords with Samper and Serpa over the regime's narco-appeasement policies.

**October 1997:** A nationwide deployment by the FARC-ELN to kidnap and/or assassinate candidates for gubernatorial, mayoral, and city council seats in nearly half of Colombia's 1,100 municipalities, successfully sabotages the midterm elections. About 1,500 candidates are forced to resign under threat of death, and 130 municipalities suspend the elections outright.