

the country's main consumer markets, is the key factor in economically developing the zone.

This, in turn, requires fundamental changes in the current neo-liberal economic policy, which gives priority to payment of the foreign debt and to austerity in public spending, above the social needs and the physical economy of the country. The drug trade will never be destroyed as long as the prescriptions of the International Monetary Fund are followed.

Samper hands FARC huge territory

The following is from an EIR Special Memorandum issued on June 16, 1997, which was circulated among relevant policy-making circles in Colombia and the United States.

Summary

With the pretext of securing the release of 72 Colombian soldiers who have been held captive by the narco-terrorist FARC (Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces) for 10 months, Colombian President Ernesto Samper Pizano issued a decree on May 20, 1997 ordering the total evacuation of all military and police personnel from a 13,000-square kilometer area in the southern province of Caquetá, near the Ecuadoran border. That evacuation, which has now been completed and verified, has permitted armed FARC forces to take possession of this territory. The Presidential decree, imposed in the face of strong military opposition, not only poses a serious national security threat to Colombia, but to every country in the region, including the United States. The threat is twofold:

1) A substantial portion of national territory has been handed over to an armed terrorist group which is heavily involved in every aspect of the drug trade, from cultivation of the raw material to its processing and trafficking. The result is to undermine the very concept of national sovereignty, and is rapidly creating a dual power situation.

2) The deal struck with the FARC narco-terrorists was shaped by agents of the United Nations and their non-governmental organizations (NGOs), as a prelude to holding "peace negotiations" with the FARC and other narco-subversive groups in the country. This scenario establishes a precedent for appeasement of narco-terrorism, and is an effort to establish a model contrary to Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori's recent firm rejection of terrorist blackmail, in the interest of preserving national sovereignty. . . .

The FARC and drugs: The 13,000 square kilometers which have been demilitarized under President Samper's directive, encompass the townships of Cartagena del Chairá and Remolinos del Caguán, where Army bases are located. The zone is heavily dedicated to the cultivation of coca, the

raw material for cocaine. . . .

All coca producers pay a "war tax" or levy to the FARC; if they refuse, they run the risk of being killed or expelled from the area. In fact, the coca-farmers are enslaved to the FARC, since they work for the FARC, and obey its mobilization orders on pain of death. The FARC's relationship to the drug trade, which now encompasses not only control of coca growing, but also processing laboratories and trafficking routes as well, has turned the FARC into Colombia's so-called "Third Cartel," after the Medellín and Cali Cartels. . . .

The FARC's current objective: The Third Cartel is not merely interested in garnering international attention. As the FARC stated last year, at the beginning of the hostage drama, the captive soldiers would be released only if there were a total evacuation of Cartagena del Chairá and Remolinos del Caguán. The FARC's objective is to seize total control of the region, and to use that control to win international recognition of the one-third of Colombian territory the FARC now claims to dominate. Such recognition would set a precedent for myriad separatist uprisings by "indigenist" and "environmentalist" terrorists everywhere.

The one-worldists behind the drive to turn the United Nations into the seat of a world empire . . . are fully prepared to grant the FARC's petition, and that of their ELN partners-in-crime, as part of a broader strategy to divide and destroy the Colombian nation-state.

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