

Wall Street Demands Prosecution of Military Who Saved Peru

by Cynthia R. Rush

For those trying to make sense out of the confusing recent developments in Peru, in which President Alberto Fujimori, the Peruvian military, and Fujimori's former intelligence adviser Vladimiro Montesinos have all been charged with plotting against "democracy," they should think back to April 1997, and what *EIR* said at the time.

Then, President Fujimori delivered a mortal blow to the narco-terrorists of the Túpac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA), who, since December 1996, had been holding 72 hostages at the official residence of the Japanese Ambassador in Lima. After several months of painstaking planning and secret excavation of tunnels underneath the residence, Fujimori launched "Operation Chavín de Huántar," a daring rescue operation in which 150 commandos entered the residence from the tunnels under it, rescuing all but one hostage alive, and killing all of the MRTA hostage-takers. Only two of the commandos, the two officers leading the operation, lost their lives.

Fujimori's decisive action put an end to almost five months of a hostage drama, international media coverage of which had focussed on the need to "negotiate" with the narco-terrorists, and to treat them nicely lest they harm the hostages. The London-directed mob of human rights non-governmental organizations (NGOs), as well as international media representatives and other mouthpieces for Fidel Castro's São Paulo Forum, camped out in front of the Japanese Ambassador's residence to keep up a daily drumbeat in favor of making a deal with the MRTA.

The boldness and success of Chavín de Huántar, infuriated the financial oligarchy in London and on Wall Street, whose drive to annihilate the sovereign nation-state required dismantling the institution of the Armed Forces. Fujimori had already defied them with a successful military offensive that defeated the Shining Path and MRTA narco-terrorists, and put their top leaders in prison. For this, he was labelled "authoritarian" by U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's terrorist-loving Project Democracy apparatus. Chavín de Huántar was Wall Street's worst nightmare. With it, Fujimori validated the need for a strong military institution throughout Ibero-America, and remoralized civilian and military patriots around the continent, in a display of nationalist pride not seen since the British monarchy's 1982 imperial attack against Argentina over the Malvinas Islands.

The key to understanding what is happening in Peru today, is found in the report from Fujimori's congressional ally, Martha Chávez, that a human rights NGO is planning to file suit at the Inter-American Human Rights Court in Costa Rica against the military heroes of Chavín de Huántar for "violating the human rights" of the MRTA terrorists who were killed in freeing the 72 hostages! Chávez's view is that "the nation is indebted to, and morally and politically obliged to back . . . those who saved us from terrorism."

A New Opium War

Chaos and political turmoil have characterized events of the past month in Peru. On Sept. 16, Fujimori announced that he would step down and call new elections, and his intelligence chief Montesinos, a central figure in the civic-military alliance that has governed Peru in the last decade, and one of the key architects of Fujimori's anti-terrorist campaign, left the country in late September to seek asylum in Panama, only to return on Oct. 23. The international media have filled their pages with rumors and speculation of military coup plotting and political intrigue, while the George Soros-financed political opposition has called for a "Yugoslavia" strategy of mass demonstrations, to oust the "dictator" Fujimori.

The reality of the situation is that the same international financial oligarchy which accused President Fujimori of committing "genocide" against the merely "misguided" MRTA narco-terrorists in April 1997, is now thrashing about, threatening all of Ibero-America with destruction, in a desperate bid to prop up its doomed financial empire by establishing "narco republics" in the region.

Lyndon LaRouche's co-thinker organization, the Ibero-American Solidarity Movement (MSIA), spelled this out in a statement released on Oct. 25, entitled "Wall Street Is Hell-Bent on Annihilating Peru . . . But Wall Street May Go Down First." A "new Opium War is being waged against Ibero-America, with special ferocity toward Peru," the MSIA statement reads. Facing the "inescapable disintegration of their international financial system, the vampires of Wall Street have unleashed a brutal assault designed to annihilate, as quickly as possible, the republican institutions of the region, beginning with the Armed Forces of each nation. They intend to hand power over to their narco-terrorist assassins, and to prop up their speculative bubble with legalized narco-

dollars.”

The MSIA warns that “enraged Wall Street financiers, their servants in Washington, and their pet bureaucrats at the Organization of American States [OAS],” intend to smash Peru with a “democratization” scenario, “whose actual objective is to throw Fujimori and Peru’s military leaders into the jail cells currently occupied by the leaders of the narco-terrorist Shining Path and MRTA gangs—while these criminals would be freed in order to rule Peru.”

As for the plan to prosecute the veterans of the Chavín de Huántar operation, the MSIA demands to know what President Clinton has to say about this. “Does he condone the terrorist takeover of the Japanese Ambassador’s residence, and the seizure of the hostages? Does he condone the U.S. government expressing sympathy for the narco-terrorists by endorsing such a perverse trial against the military? Why is Madeleine Albright’s State Department demanding Peru’s surrender to the drug trade, as it is doing in Colombia?”

Amnesty Is the Issue

Working through the U.S. State Department and the OAS, Wall Street and London have succeeded in significantly weakening Peru’s ruling civic-military coalition, as seen in Fujimori’s agreement to step down and hold new elections. Moreover, on Oct. 17, the Army acquiesced to a key Project Democracy demand, and announced that on Jan. 1, 2001, thirteen generals, including current Armed Forces commander Gen. José Villanueva Ruesta, will be retired.

But on Oct. 22, the government and the military appeared to draw the line, when Justice Minister Alberto Bustamante presented to the OAS-run “Dialogue Committee,” which includes government and opposition representatives, a “National Reconciliation” proposal. This would prohibit prosecution against those involved in the anti-terror and anti-drug war of the 1990s, and validate the decisions and actions taken under the aegis of the April 5, 1992 special legislation, which allowed Peru to save itself from narco-terrorism. The government demanded insertion of the amnesty law into the Constitution, and indicated that setting a date for elections would be contingent on acceptance of this proposal.

The opposition went berzerk. Its representatives walked out of the OAS talks and the Congress, screaming that there can be no “impunity” for the military. Calls for Fujimori’s immediate resignation by leading opposition figures, intensified after Montesinos suddenly returned to Lima from Panama on Oct. 23, reporting that threats on his life, and failure to obtain asylum from the Moscoso government, had forced him to return. Shrieking that Fujimori “let Montesinos return,” defeated Presidential candidate Alejandro Toledo demanded Fujimori’s immediate resignation and the formation of an interim government.

From Washington, OAS Secretary General César Gaviria, the man who as President of Colombia abetted that country’s takeover by the drug cartels, issued a statement just prior to

flying into Lima on Oct. 24, warning, “Mr. Montesinos needs to answer to the Peruvian justice system.” On the issue of the proposed amnesty, Gaviria stated, “We think the opposition cannot be put up against the wall, and told that there won’t be elections unless it accepts some norms presented by the Executive.” Terrorist advocate Jorge Santistevan, the misnamed “Peoples’ Defender,” screamed that there could not be any “indiscriminate amnesty” granted to the military, and that the work of the all-important, OAS-run “Dialogue Committee” could not be interrupted by a debate on the amnesty issue, or the proposal that it be included in the Constitution.

Several confusing events occurred over the next 24 hours, including a high-profile tour by President Fujimori and top-ranking military officers to several military bases around the country, in search of Montesinos, and open fracturing of the governing Peru 2000 coalition. Fujimori stated that he wanted to locate Montesinos to offer him protection, not arrest him as had been reported, but vowed to search “night and day” until he found his former adviser.

In the midst of this, under intensifying international pressure and threats of financial boycott, Fujimori succumbed to the opposition, and agreed to drop the “national reconciliation” proposal put before the “Dialogue Committee.” Gaviria officially announced this in a press conference late on Oct. 25, reporting that a date of April 8, 2001 had been set for elections. The amnesty matter would reportedly be among the top agenda items for debate when the Dialogue Committee resumed its operations, he said. Santistevan’s promise that no “witch-hunt” would be launched against the Armed Forces, was belied by the mobilization of the Soros-run human rights lobby, which is already preparing legal cases against Montesinos for murder, torture, and kidnapping. And even if an amnesty clause were inserted in the Constitution, Amnesty International’s representative in Peru said, it won’t matter. “Judicial globalization will prevent any intended impunity from prospering,” she predicted.

President Fujimori has explained his actions of recent days as an attempt to stabilize Peru, and, in some way, to preserve the achievements of the last ten years. But Wall Street and London are in a race for time on the Peru case. As the MSIA warns, the region’s patriotic forces must rally, not only to the defense of Peru’s sovereignty, but also to the call to “put the current international financial and monetary system through bankruptcy reorganization, and replace it with a New Bretton Woods system, as U.S. economist LaRouche has proposed.” The question is, “not who held power yesterday, nor who holds it today,” but “who will hold power tomorrow, in the face of total world financial disintegration.” As LaRouche has warned, the MSIA concludes, “today’s powers-that-be would do well to remember the fate of Erich Honnecker,” the East German dictator who, weeks before the fall of the Berlin Wall, predicted his “Socialist Reich” would last for a thousand years. He was soon living out his days in exile in Chile, Peru’s neighbor.