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NEWS BULLETIN #439

COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT CALLS FOR STATE OF SIEGE

NEW YORK, JUNE 5 (IPS) -- COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT ALFONSO LOPEZ MICHELSEN THIS MORNING CALLED ON THE COUNCIL OF STATE TO PUT THE COUNTRY UNDER A STATE OF SIEGE. THE STATE COUNCIL MEETS TODAY. THE LOPEZ MOVE, WHICH PLACES COLOMBIA ONE STEP AWAY FROM AN OUTRIGHT MILITARY COUP, IS ALLEGEDLY A RESPONSE TO THE POLITICAL UNREST WHICH RESULTED AFTER HE DISMISSED THE LEFTIST RECTOR OF THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY IN BOGOTA. IN FACT, THE SITUATION IS MERELY THE FINAL PHASE OF A MONTH-LONG PROCESS IN WHICH ROCKEFELLER-CONNECTED FORCES WITHIN COLOMBIA HAVE CULTIVATED AND SPREAD RUMORS OF A MILITARY COUP WHICH SUPPOSEDLY WAS TO HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT BY "PROGRESSIVE" OFFICERS. THE PROPAGATION OF SUCH RUMORS ALLOWED THE MILITARY TO SUCCESSFULLY PURGE KEY "PERUVIANIST" MILITARY LEADERS AND NOW INTENTIONALLY PROVOKE A CONFRONTATION AT THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY TO JUSTIFY A STATE OF SIEGE. THIS MOVE ALLOWS ROCKEFELLER TO BOTH DEAL WITH THE MILITARY CRISIS AND PREPARE COLOMBIA FOR THE MERCILESS TRIAGE AND GUTTING OF THE ECONOMY THAT THE ROCKEFELLER INTERESTS REQUIRE.

WHY A STATE OF SIEGE?

THE CURRENT DEPRESSION COLLAPSE, THE WORST IN THE 400-YEAR HISTORY OF CAPITALISM, HAS DRIVEN ROCKEFELLER TO PSYCHOTIC EXTREMES TO ASSURE ADEQUATE LOOTING FOR HIS FINANCIAL EMPIRE AND TO MAINTAIN THE NOW-WORTHLESS DOLLAR. TO KEEP THE WORKING CLASS IN LINE, ROCKEFELLER IS PREPARED TO BRING THE WORLD TO THERMONUCLEAR CONFRONTATION -- AS IS EXPLICIT IN THE SCHLESINGER DOCTRINE, AND THE ANTI-SOVIET HARMONGERING OF SCHLESINGER AND ROCKEFELLER YESTERDAY.

THE PARALLEL ROCKEFELLER POLICY IS TO INSTITUTE FASCIST AUSTERITY MEASURES IN THE U.S., EUROPE, AND THE THIRD WORLD, ENFORCED BY WHAT CIA AGENT WILLY BRANDT OF THE GERMAN SPD HAS CALLED "CRISIS MANAGEMENT" GOVERNMENTS.

THE LATEST MOVE TO INSTITUTE A "CRISIS MANAGEMENT" BONAPARTIST MILITARY RULE IN COLOMBIA IS DESIGNED PRECISELY TO IMPOSE SUCH BRAZILIAN LEVELS OF AUSTERITY THROUGHOUT THAT COUNTRY IN THE SHORTEST TIME POSSIBLE. LOPEZ' OUSTER OF GENERALS PUYANA AND VAL-ENCIA TOVAR ON MAY 27TH WAS A DESPERATE BUT CLUMSY MOVE TO ELIMINATE THE POSSIBILITY OF ANOTHER PORTUGAL, WHERE THE COMMUNIST PARTY HAS EFFECTIVELY ORGANIZED THE LOWER RANKS AND OFFICERS AROUND A PRO-WORKING CLASS PROGRAM. IN COLOMBIA AS WELL, THE COMMUNIST PARTY IS WELL-LOCATED TO PRESSURE THE "LEFTIST" MILITARY THROUGH MASS ORGANIZING.

— ~~THUS, ROCKY DECIDED THAT IT WAS TIME TO AXE ANY "NATIONALIST"~~
MILITARY LEADER WHO MIGHT BOLT FROM HIS CAMP UNDER THE PRESSURE OF
HAVING TO IMPOSE AUSCHNITZ LEVELS OF AUSTERITY AND REGIMENTATION
ON THE COLOMBIAN WORKING CLASS AND PEASANTRY.

THE "COUP" SET-UP

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LOPEZ' REMOVAL OF GENERAL GABRIEL PUYANA GARCIA, HEAD OF THE
POWERFUL BRIGADA DE INSTITUTOS MILITARES (BIM), AND GENERAL
ALVARO VALENCIA TOVAR, WAS THE DIRECT RESULT OF THE RUMORS WHICH
NAMED BOTH MEN AS PLOTTERS IN A COUP AGAINST PRESIDENT LOPEZ.
BOTH ARE HIGHLY-TRAINED CIA COUNTERINSURGENTS, KNOWN AS "PRO-
GRESSIVE INTELLECTUALS," AND HAVE AN EXTENSIVE FOLLOWING AMONG
LOWER RANKING OFFICERS.

INITIALLY, GENERAL PUYANA'S NAME WAS LINKED TO THAT OF COL.
VALENTIN JIMENEZ, HEAD OF THE INFANTRY SCHOOL, WHO WAS REMOVED
FROM HIS POST ON MAY 1ST. WHEN PUYANA MET WITH JIMENEZ TO DISCUSS
THE SITUATION AROUND HIS REMOVAL, THE MEETINGS WERE CONSTRUED BY
THE PRESS -- THE RIGHT WING, CONSERVATIVE PRESS -- AS MEETINGS
TO PLAN A COUP.

BECAUSE OF HIS CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH PUYANA AND MUTUAL
EXPERIENCE IN THE KOREAN WAR, VALENCIA TOVAR'S NAME WAS IMMEDIATELY
LINKED TO THE SUPPOSED COUP PLOTTING. RABID RIGHT-WING PRESS LIKE
EL OCCIDENTE AND EL SIGLO CONSISTENTLY FED SUCH RUMORS, SPECULAT-
ING ON ALLEGED "PLANNING" THAT WENT ON IN MEETINGS BETWEEN PUYANA AND
TOVAR. THE "LEFTIST" ALTERNATIVA DEL PUEBLO ACTUALLY PUBLISHED
A DETAILED "COUP PLAN" ON MAY 26 WHICH PUYANA AND VALENTIN
JIMENEZ WERE SUPPOSEDLY TO HAVE CARRIED OUT ON MAY 1ST.

THE SITUATION AROUND THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY WAS DRUMMED UP
SPECIFICALLY TO CREATE A "CRISIS" IN WHICH THE MILITARY COULD INTER-
VENE AND PROVOKE THE KIND OF STUDENT REACTION WHICH WOULD THEN
REQUIRE AN "EMERGENCY" DECLARATION OF A STATE OF SIEGE. FOR
DAYS, A DISPUTE HAS BEEN GOING ON OVER WHETHER THE NATIONAL UNIVER-
SITY OR THE STATE WOULD CONTROL THE UNIVERSITY MEDICAL HOSPITAL.
BUT WHEN MILITARY TROOPS INVADDED THE HOSPITAL THREE DAYS AGO TO
REMOVE STRIKING STUDENTS, A F T E R, AN AGREEMENT HAD BEEN MADE
WITH THEM, THE SITUATION ERUPTED INTO COMPLETE CHAOS. THE LEFTIST
RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY RESIGNED AND STUDENTS TOOK TO THE
STREETS IN MASS PROTEST DEMONSTRATIONS IN MEDELLIN AND BOGOTA.
IT WAS AT THIS POINT, TODAY, THAT LOPEZ CALLED FOR A STATE OF
SIEGE.