

uals or groups. There are more than fifty well-financed and armed international terrorist groups, five of them in Latin America. Thus, the rise of international terrorism accompanied by the proliferation of fissionable materials further increases the risks of criminal misuse of nuclear technology.

"The theft of fissionable material is by no means a remote possibility. In Argentina, there has been at least one case of reported loss of fissionable materials, and an armed terrorist group attacked and briefly held part of the Atucha nuclear power plant in March 1973."

'The Quest For Order'

The Critical Choices report represents as Latin America's "Quest for Order and Progress" a scenario of unmitigated disorder and chaos — terrorism, civil wars, and continued violation of "human rights" — which, in the same breath, it claims will accompany the return to more "democratic" governments in the coming decade. Presented in the context of economic depression — populations making excessive demands on "scarce resources" and abandoning rural areas for overcrowded cities — the chapter outlines how social chaos will be provoked and manipulated. This is the basis for Brazil to ultimately march on the continent as the "major partner" of the U.S.

The chapter predicts that the process of "social modernization" will be responsible for such problems as the increasing rate of urbanization and urban demographic growth. Governments will be increasingly unable to meet growing popular demands which could result in the "social unrest predicted for the 60s." This "demand overload" will result in endemic violence, which, however, will not cause a major revolution or overturn the old order. No group, it says, can organize the broad support required for such a venture or politicize either urban or rural working-class layers. It warns however, "the inability to bring off a revolution, however, will not lessen the turmoil."

"Radical groups, furthermore, have not been able to exploit the misery that does exist. *Those who are genuinely frustrated are far more likely to resort to apathy, alcohol, or religion than to political action.* Such political activity as exists is extremely sporadic and tends to support conservative-authoritarian politicians (and ex-dictators) like Rojas Pinilla of Colombia, Juan Perón of Argentina, and Pérez Jiménez of Venezuela. Short of extreme economic reversal, the trend of passive support for the system among Latin America's urban poor will probably continue through the next decade.

"Violence should then be endemic in the coming decade in those societies that are the most fragmented socially, the most economically stagnant and ruled by corrupt and repressive political leaders. Since instigators of violence (ranging from urban guerrilla assassins to shopkeepers

who go on one-day strikes) usually come from the middle class and are from relatively advanced economies, countries such as Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Colombia and Peru, may be the most turbulent in the coming decade.

"On the other hand, the turmoil, while destructive, will not be great enough or sufficiently focused to push any society out of the seemingly endless round of strikes, coups, and acts of terrorism that will plague Spanish America in the coming decades. Radical change resulting from sweeping social revolution is unlikely anywhere in Spanish America but economic and demographic growth will inexorably lead to fundamental socio-economic structural change in the long run.

"It is against this background that the human rights question must be considered. Abuses of human rights by Latin American and other governments (in the sense of physical abuses of prisoners or detainees) are nothing new and have a long history. As long as Latin American governments face violent attacks on their authority, grave violations of human rights will occur as official efforts are made to destroy insurgent groups and reestablish domestic peace. In general, human rights flourish only when the basic political order is accepted by nearly all; for without that consensus, non-violent political competition is extraordinarily difficult to maintain.

"The culprits will not simply be the right-wing military dictators, however. Human rights have already been violated by left-wing, essentially civilian, regimes (Perón's Argentina, Allende's Chile, and Castro's Cuba) as well as by the highly personalistic regimes of Rafael Trujillo in the Dominican republic and Francois Duvalier in Haiti. *There is no reason to expect that future regimes, of whatever political make-up will be any great respecters of human rights, particularly when any of them are under violent attack.* Therefore, there is no end in sight for human rights abuses, even though Latin governments are becoming more aware of the domestic and international political reactions created by gross violations of human rights."