
Interview: Senator Jossell Muñoz Córdova



Peru's fight against the terrorists and the drug traffickers

Peruvian Senator Jossell Muñoz Córdova was interviewed by EIR during his visit to a Nov. 1-3 conference on St. Augustine, sponsored by the Schiller Institute, of which he is a member. He is a leader of Peru's ruling APRA party.

EIR: Senator Muñoz, you came to this international conference of the Schiller Institute in Rome to represent President Alan García, who has really taken the responsibility for fighting the International Monetary Fund and integrating Ibero-America. What can you tell us about this, and what support has your government received in the world, especially in Latin America?

Senator Muñoz: First, I wish to thank you for the opportunity I have to attend this conference of the Schiller Institute, as a senator of the Peruvian Republic. Apart from being an important experience, it has enabled me to meet, discuss, and strengthen the ties of friendship and politics, with representatives from many different countries, which all suffer the same ills, and I do believe that they wish to fight economic oppression and the state of affairs which has led to misery, unhappiness, and death for countless citizens. I salute the Schiller Institute and its organizers and bear greetings from the Peruvian government and from its people, whose leader is Alan García Pérez, President of Peru.

EIR: When Alan García became President, he immediately began to battle narcotics traffic. What aid, what response did he have from Ibero-America, the United States, and Europe?

Senator Muñoz: Indeed, one of the major worries of my government, before it took power, was fighting the narcotics traffic. This is a scourge of mankind, which is spreading day by day, destroying the home, murdering a great many souls, and infecting not only the youth, but even tiny children. We are quite aware that great coca fields were planted in Peru, and therefore, this anti-narcotics fight was placed once and for all into our government plan. I do think, that no government in the history of Peru—perhaps in the world—has done more than ours, led by Alan García Pérez. In a mere 28 days

of power, we destroyed three clandestine airports built in the jungle, carefully hidden but very well equipped, and a great many other landing strips and hundreds of secret laboratories. The Peruvian government is fighting, and is giving no respite to the traffickers, who have joined the terrorists of *Sendero Luminoso* (Shining Path), and have created many difficulties for my government and for my country.

What have we received from the American countries or from the world? Well, many greetings, many congratulations. That's fine, but the world must understand that, instead of investing money in campaigns against drug addiction, in hospitals, medicine, doctors, and so on to rehabilitate the addicts, it were better to invest to knock out the coca plantations, and to wipe them out forever, as we will do in Peru, so that the consequences of such plantations will not put the world to this great expense. We cannot condemn future generations to death, we cannot expose them to the ravages of narcotics. We must fight against narcotics today, we must fight against the traffickers today, because the future is being decided today.

EIR: Who is behind *Sendero Luminoso*, who controls it?

Senator Muñoz: This movement uses terror, uses weapons to terrorize children, old people, peasants, and defenseless citizens living in the Andes of Peru, in valleys where agriculture is only beginning, and where it is becoming costlier by the day, due to the high price of fertilizers, farm machinery, and so on. This sect has ensconced itself in that region, and attacks population centers, schools, colleges, hospitals, police stations, and is taking control of these areas, so that children are afraid to go to school, and the people have neither rights nor protection. They take over a village, impose the rule of savagery, pass death sentences on villagers, who are murdered in such numbers that there is barely room for the bodies. These outlaws are doing the work of the Devil. They are not struggling against those who provoked the misfortunes of Peru, like the officials of the previous regime who were fronting for the IMF.

If they were involved in such a struggle—though I could never justify murder—this might be explicable; but these peasants are not responsible for being born in the Andes, for being poor, for lacking all the essentials of life. And yet, they are murdered, drawn and quartered, their bodies thrown into the public squares, the children terrified. They are subjected to terrorism to such an extent, that children are forced to walk into police stations with bombs strapped to their bodies, so when the bomb goes off, the child and the police station are both blown to bits. It is impossible to say or explain how bad it is, what they are doing; and most disgusting of all, it is the anthropologists and sociologists of Paris who are creating this type of outrage. We would appreciate those miserable creatures from Paris going to the scene of their crimes, seeing how these men and women use tiny children to blow up and destroy bridges, roads. . . . To what purpose? Is this a death cult? Is it trafficking in flesh? Is this how they intend to create a nation, or any possibility for human life? We are opposed to all this. We are fighting the IMF, and we are showing this to the world. Our President Alan García not only speaks, but acts—and sometimes he acts and only then explains. We have lived through 160 years of injustice in this country, but we have done more in the past 90 days of our government, than in all those 160 years.

EIR: Could you say something about García's economic policy and living standards in Peru?

Senator Muñoz: We found the country in ruins, in every way, morally as well. We found that the previous regime's functionaries had gotten rich at the expense of the people, and that the previous regime had made the richer richer and the poor poorer. There was not even the most elementary respect for the wealth of the state. Everyone stole everyone else blind. The country had been "dollarized." Peasants sold their goods in Peruvian soles, and had to buy in dollars if they wanted to buy anything. Rent, lodging were paid in dollars, the country was dollarized, and every day, from hour to hour, the price of the dollar was rising. And nonetheless, the worker was being paid in soles, and every day, his anxiety grew because he could buy less and less.

With the economic measures we took, we were able to restore some of the sole's buying power. We have frozen the dollar price, and we have more dignity now, and more sovereignty. We are restoring the people's faith in democracy, restoring credibility. There were entire villages which had lost their belief that life would continue; their misfortune was such, that they no longer distinguished between life and death.

Now we are explaining with examples, with a way of living, through the behavior of the president himself, who has lowered his own salary to what he needs to live, who uses only the indispensable, and walks through the streets himself to look at hospitals, ministries, and check the prices of goods in the market. Food prices have been lowered, as have those

for medicine, household goods, and industrial fuel, and meat prices have been lowered for the first time in Peru's history. We are taking care of the health of our people; every day, we are fighting to create more jobs, so that less people have to get involved in crime or the narcotics traffic in order to live. The population was sinking into prostitution in every sense of the word; but we want a dignified country, a sovereign country, with free citizens. We love liberty, we practice and respect it.

EIR: We are here at the conference on St. Augustine. Could you tell us about the relation between the Church and the government of Peru? Does the Pope back García's policies?

Senator Muñoz: I take this occasion to greet the Pope. He encouraged us greatly during his visit to Peru. He went to places where the people are suffering and live in misery. He is an exceptional witness, and sent out a message to the world: fewer speeches, more positive help, fewer greetings, and more immediate aid—this is what the Pope said. He saw how children perish, how mothers have no milk for their children and cannot care for them for lack of money, and for lack of medical care.

Our President Alan García is deeply religious. He is a Catholic, and is a member of the Brotherhood of the Lord of Miracles, and every year in October he bears the images of its Catholic Procession, which draws pilgrims from all over the world. He leads a moral life, and because of this, we have much hope in God—the hope of men of good will like Augustine, who has brought us here to Rome. Augustine came to Rome after having been in Carthage, where he had no chance of being heard, tired of haranguing and praying in the desert. We want to be heard, and have the Pope hear us once again, so that we not only think but know that we are not alone in the fight against the IMF and the continuing fight against *Sendero Luminoso*, which is allied to the narcotics traffickers to crush democracy and men of good will.

EIR: The APRA party to which President García belongs, is part of the Social Democracy. What is his message to European Social Democratic leaders and citizens?

Senator Muñoz: When Víctor Raúl Haya de la Torre, our great leader and guide for this integrationist movement, founded this party, he advocated continental integration against imperialism. We are opposed to all forms of imperialism. We were very close to the Social Democracy, and we maintain close relations with mutual respect. Víctor Raúl participated in its conferences and congresses, and there is no doubt, that they must now be more unified in their ideals, and their possibilities, in this great historic effort undertaken by an Aprista government. We hope this interview will be a greeting to the Social Democracy, for this great movement which I respect and salute, in the hope for its support in this dangerous moment through which Peru is now living.