

## EIR Feature

# The international supporters of Colombia's M-19

by an EIR Investigative Team

On Wednesday, Nov. 6, nearly 40 heavily armed commandos of the M-19 guerrilla movement in Colombia invaded Bogota's Judicial Palace, seized hundreds of hostages including supreme court judges, and demanded that President Belisario Betancur come to the palace and subject himself to a "people's tribunal." The President refused all negotiations, declaring the guerrilla raid a challenge to the very existence of the Colombian state and nation. In the ensuing 28-hour gun battle, close to 100 people died, including 12 of the Supreme Court judges; 80% of the Palace of Justice was destroyed by fire. Vital court records were destroyed.

Immediately, throughout the world, from the *New York Times* to Paris's *Le Monde* to German national television, the news media began to portray the Colombian development as a major incident in a "liberation struggle," portraying the M-19 guerrillas as "freedom fighters" against an oppressive government, and President Betancur as little more than a butcher.

What had happened in fact? In fact, the M-19 atrocity was ordered by drug traffickers, financed by drug traffickers, and was a major incident in the desperate struggle of the Colombian government against narcotics traffickers whose wealth and power is coming to exceed that of any government in the region. Six weeks prior to the atrocity, narcotics traffickers had threatened to assassinate the very Supreme Court judges subsequently murdered by M-19, unless they reversed their earlier decisions under a U.S.-Colombian treaty which has led to the extradition of drug-runners to the United States. At the moment of the raid, the judges had just begun hearing arguments on drug-runners' extradition. And, what the guerrillas destroyed first were the archives and all records of drug-traffickers' extradition suits.

It has subsequently emerged that, before the Justice Palace seizure, there was a meeting between the mafia and the M-19 terrorists in Colon, Panama to work out the details: the takeover of the palace and the burning of the archives, in exchange for weapons for the terrorists. One official document cited was a report from the head of Colombia's joint chiefs of staff, Gen. Manuel Jaime Guerrero Paz, to various security agencies alerting them that four airplanes had disappeared,



NSIPS/Javier Almarino

*The Colombian Army on parade in July 1985, in front of the Palace of Justice. Four months later, the M-19 terrorists launched their assault against the state, while the international news media and terrorist-support networks cheered.*

which he believed were being adapted with offensive weaponry by the M-19. One of the documents reports that the M-19 terrorists had a contact in the Justice Palace who led them to the archives on extradition to be burned. Also, the building's kitchen had 1,500 chickens, indicating someone on the inside had anticipated and prepared for a lengthy siege.

What had happened, in short, was that the so-called "M-19 freedom fighters" had displayed to the world their actual character as nothing but the armed extension of narcotics criminals internationally.

The lying treatment afforded the unprecedented events in the news media is properly considered an integral part of the events themselves. The "narco-terrorist" mafia, with high-level international support capable of guaranteeing a favorable press, effectively announced by the Bogota atrocity that it would now act to destabilize and overthrow any Ibero-American government trying to resist them, to establish a string of governments in Ibero-America that de facto, or de jure, would legalize the drug trade.

In the following pages, we document some of the high-level international support for the combined dope-terror international that, today, threatens the very survival of the nations of the South, but tomorrow, those of the North as well. The key to the international support network is the International Monetary Fund, the Trilateral Commission, the Socialist International, various Communist Parties—and wherever else one may expect to find a significant concentration of agents of Soviet influence. Those involved are in some cases inside governments.

In March 1985, *EIR* founder LaRouche released a state-

ment, "A Proposed Strategic Operation against the Western Hemisphere's Drug Traffic," at a conference in Mexico City. He recommended that a war on drugs must be *declared*, and fought with all the weapons of war.

"The international drug traffic," he reported, "has become an evil and powerful government in its own right. It represents today a financial, political, and military power greater than that of entire nations within the Americas. It is a government which is making war against civilized nations, a government upon which we must wage war, a war which we must fight with the weapons of war, and a war which we must win in the same spirit the United States fought for the unconditional defeat of Nazism between 1941 and 1945. Law enforcement methods, by themselves, will fail; even joint law-enforcement efforts by the nations bordering the Caribbean would fail. The nations of Central and South America will each and all either fall under bloody, Nazi-like dictatorships, or will be destroyed through more or less perpetual civil war, unless the international drug-traffic's invasion of this Hemisphere is crushed by the methods and weapons of war."

That war must also be directed against the "citizens above suspicion" who direct and finance the trade from behind the scenes, and those who, as documented in the following pages, extend succor and support to the narco-terrorist apparatus.

The events in Colombia, and so, the drug mafiosi themselves, have now clearly defined the circumstances faced by the world's nations. These are circumstances of war. Those involved in the international narco-terrorist support apparatus, therefore, are not merely criminal in their actions, but guilty of a very specific crime, treason to their nations.