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## Documentation

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# 'Long, bloody war, another Vietnam'

*The following are excerpts from an "Interview on Sendero Luminoso," published in the Paris weekly El-Badil, in October 1984. The interview is with M.M. Herrera, described as a founding member of the Franco-Peruvian Intercultural Center. El-Badil is the magazine patronized and sponsored by former Algerian President Ahmed Ben Bella, whose connections to East bloc intelligence services and to old the Nazi intelligence services, have been frequently exposed by EIR.*

*Herrera is asked to give his views on the situation in Peru and in Latin America. He answers:*

**Herrera:** All the world knows that Latin America is plunged into the worst economic-social crisis in its history, and this is due to the voracity of transnational capital. . . .

**Q:** But currently, what is the situation in Peru?

**Herrera:** First, it is necessary to situate the problem historically. There have already been several historical projects in Peru. The most important was that of Tupac Amaru, who was a descendant of the Incas and who made a revolution in 1780. . . . Then, there appeared between 1920 and 1930, José Carlos Mariátegui, the Marxist prime minister of Latin America, who created the Communist Party of Peru. . . . It is crucial to underline the importance of J.C. Mariátegui, who is the first to present the theses of semi-feudalism and semi-colonialism; in 1925, while Mao presented them to the political bureau of the Chinese Communist Party in 1930. These theses put the accent on the peasantry, as a principal revolutionary force. The Sendero Luminoso takes the source of its inspiration in great part from the studies of J.C. Mariátegui.

. . . Since May 1984, this party [Communist Party of Peru, more known here as "Sendero Luminoso"] taken the armed struggle. . . .

. . . Sendero Luminoso is Marxist-Leninist-Maoist; it inspires itself from these three sources, but its application is very strongly Peruvian. . . . When J.C. Mariátegui died, very young, in 1930, he had given an extraordinary impulse to the diverse political movements in Peru. . . . Sendero

Luminoso has always worked in the sense of the initial party of J.C. Mariátegui, contrary to the other political groups, which have deviated from him. It is necessary, too, to specify that this is the only communist party that had been created in the heart of the Andes itself, while other parties of the left have been created in Lima or on the coast, that is to say, in an already Westernized milieu.

. . . Peru represents very great millenary cultures, some from 4-5,000 years ago. . . . It is necessary to take into account that, in Peru, the ancient Andean community has never disappeared and that it conserves all its structures. This is what makes the Western "me,"

be there linked intimately to the collective "me."

J.C. Mariátegui said that "the greatest revolutionary reserve in Latin America, is found in the Andes."

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*In Peru, we think that Sendero Luminoso will triumph, but this will be a long, bloody war, because we foresee the direct intervention of American imperialism. This will be another Vietnam, but much more serious, because the entire continent will be involved, in view of the explosive conditions of Latin America, and its economic situation, without resolution.*

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velopment, on the basis of ancient Andean cultures, would be one of the contributions of "S.L."

. . . It is said that "S.L."

other revolutionary parties of Latin America. But Peru is the only one of these countries with a party that is solidly structured, perfectly organized, and which directs an armed movement. . . .

**Q:** What is the future of the movement?

**A:** In Peru, we think that S.L. will triumph, but this will be a long, bloody war, because we foresee the direct intervention of American imperialism.

This will be another Vietnam, but much more serious, because the entire continent will be involved, in view of the explosive conditions of Latin America, and its economic situation, without resolution: \$350 billion of foreign debt. And this catastrophic situation concerns the West. We are going through a period of great convulsion, where Peru will have a great role to play.