

revenues from heroin were being invested into Iranian assets throughout the Mideast.

As for the future prospects for the war on narcoterrorism, the AFP/NARCOM and the Scout Ranger units are in need of sophisticated communication equipment for coordination of their operations. In some recent cases, AFP and NARCOM forces did not have advance reconnaissance and intelligence on the whereabouts of NPA terrorists, and by accident ran into rather large units. In one instance, a bloody battle ensued in which NPA forces suffered significant losses. Badly needed counterinsurgency equipment, including helicopters and specialized counterinsurgency aircraft like the T-28, could be easily integrated into the AFP's already existing capabilities. General Montaña also told *EIR* that at present there is no satellite intelligence cooperation between the Philippines and the United States, which would make it easier to target the growth areas of NPA drug-cultivation activity. Of course, some of the NPA's marijuana winds up at the U.S. bases, Clark Air Base and Subic Bay. In November and December, the AFP/NARCOM and the U.S. Naval Investigative Service ran a joint interdiction operation; but this was too limited in scope to really address the problem.

Two choices

To summarize what this war on narco-terrorism means, in the context of the upcoming election and the real choices facing the United States, let us quote from President Marcos on this issue and from one of the revolutionary priests who support the NPA.

President Marcos:

I, therefore, place myself and our government openly, unconditionally, and unreservedly on the side of all those who are fighting the proliferation of the illicit use of drugs, not only in the name of humanity, not only in the name of our God, not only in the name of our common purpose, but in the name of national objectives and our national ideals. Here in the Philippines, we will continue to fight the drug menace with all the weapons at our command as we are fighting all the enemies of our nation.

Father Gorospe, Society of Jesus, promoter of Liberation Theology and supporter of the NPA:

Like anything else, drugs are not evil in themselves, and they ought to be judged by their effects on the individual and society. Like coffee, alcohol, and tobacco, drugs may even be taken for pleasure and relaxation, if there is proportionate reason. We are obliged to take reasonable care of our health, not to expose our life to risk without a commensurate reason, and to avoid excess. What is excessive differs with different individuals and depends on so many variable factors. (In: *The Filipino Search for Meaning: Moral Philosophy in a Philippine Setting.*)

Asian tour links Pacific Rim nations

The Philippines is an Asian country—but it is also Roman Catholic and was once a Spanish colony; it is now heavily indebted and engaged in a bitter fight against the International Monetary Fund's effort to impose austerity conditionalities. It clearly has a great common interest with the countries of Ibero-America. Yet, it was not until November-December 1985, when the Schiller Institute sponsored the tour of an international delegation to the Philippines, that these links were forged.

Following a meeting on Nov. 29 with Peruvian Gen. (ret.) Edgardo Mercado Jarrín and representatives of the Schiller Institute and *EIR*, Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos for the first time publicly endorsed the "courageous" move of Peruvian President Alan García to limit debt payments to 10% of export earnings, and announced that he would send observers to the upcoming Ibero-American heads of state summit in Panama, called on García's initiative to plan a joint strategy on debt and economic integration.

General Mercado Jarrín, who heads the Institute of Geostategy and Political Studies in Lima, Peru, was accompanied by Dr. Uwe Henke v. Parpart, Paul Goldstein, and Carlos Wesley. His tour also took him to Thailand, India, and Japan.

In his meeting with President Marcos and Foreign Minister Pacífico Castro, and throughout his tour, Gen. Mercado Jarrín stressed the need to establish "horizontal" relations among countries of the Pacific Rim, without the mediation of the United States or any other former colonial power. The economies of Ibero-American Pacific countries and Asian ones are "complementary," he said, and Ibero-America in particular has much to learn from Southeast Asia, where growth rates of 10% or more had been sustained throughout the 1960s and 1970s, while Ibero-America, for all its foreign borrowing, had not gone much beyond 8-9% even in the "boom" years. This, he attributed in large measure to the influence of the Japanese, who had been willing to transfer some technology to their Asian trading partners, while the same had not occurred in the Western Hemisphere. In addition, Asian countries had stressed much more the importance of developing infrastructure and capital goods production—an essential prerequisite for industrial development.

In his discussions with policymakers throughout the region, the general often used an image from the Age of Explo-

ration, to underline the potential that exists now for such "horizontal" ties. Recounting his own journey from Lima to Asia, via Los Angeles, he said that this was the same route employed by the Spaniards four centuries ago, when the "Manila Gallion" took off on its yearly voyage from Acapulco to the Spanish colonies in Asia. This, he said, demonstrates the need for direct transit routes between Asia and Ibero-America, without having to go through the United States or other countries.

In Thailand, Gen. Mercado Jarrín pointed out that that nation's first encounters with Europe were with Spain and Portugal—and that the hot chili peppers which are the principal spice of the Thai cuisine, were introduced by the Spanish from their New World colonies!

Thailand, like Peru and the Philippines, faces the problem of IMF and World Bank attempts to impose conditionalities that can only undermine economic and social stability. Mercado Jarrín held private meetings with former Thai Deputy Premier Boonchu Rojanastien, who is a vigorous opponent of the IMF (see EIR, Dec. 13, 1985, "Thailand's prospects for rapid agro-industrial development"), current Deputy Prime Minister Adm. (ret.) Sonthi Boonyachai, among other political and economic leaders.

Common goal: industrialization

In India, Mercado Jarrín gave an interview to the *Hindustan Times*, in which he stressed the existing links between Peru and India that were set up by Indira Gandhi, who aided Peru in joining the Non-Aligned Movement. Since India has no significant debt problem, he found considerable reluctance on the part of Indian intellectuals to involve themselves in the plight of Ibero-America. To them, he stressed that the

debt fight was inseparable from the fight for a new world economic order, using the example of protectionist measures against textile exports, which affect both India and Peru equally. A similar case can be made for all raw materials exports—such as Peru's copper, which in the 1960s was worth \$1.50 a pound, and now is under \$.50 a pound—and the unfair competition Third World countries suffer, with their agricultural goods competing against subsidized European Community exports.

Mercado Jarrín met with Indian cabinet officials including Foreign Affairs Ministry Permanent Secretary Romesh Bhanbali, Minister of Finance V. P. Singh, and Minister of Foreign Policy Planning G. Parthasarthy, among other leaders. One outcome of these meetings was the promise that these advisers to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi would recommend that Gandhi include Peru on his next tour of Ibero-America, expected during 1986, while Gen. Mercado Jarrín would recommend that President García visit Egypt, Indonesia, India, and Yugoslavia—all founding members of the Non-Aligned Movement.

In Japan, Mercado Jarrín met with top officials of the Mitsubishi Research Institute, where he presented a proposal he had developed some time ago for a year-round highway from the east coast of Brazil, through the Amazon region, to Peru and the Pacific. Such a highway, Gen. Mercado Jarrín said, would greatly facilitate trade between Brazil and Japan, as it would alleviate bottlenecks at the Panama Canal, and would provide an alternative to the canal. Brazil currently sends Japan 9% of its export goods. Using maps and diagrams, Mercado Jarrín described the feasibility of the project, which could include tunneling through the Andes Mountains.



Philippines Government

President Marcos (right) meets Gen. Mercado Jarrín. With them are (left to right) Philippines Justice Minister Manuel Lazaro and Acting Foreign Minister Pacifico Castro.