

Andean Report by Valerie Rush

Drug legalization advances

The legalization lobby is proceeding hand-in-hand with narco-terrorists to impose a drug empire.

In the two Andean countries of Peru and Colombia, the drug lobby is moving to ram through drug legalization. Their narco-terrorist allies are laying the groundwork for that drive to succeed.

In late October, Peruvian President Alan García—a fierce opponent of the drug mob—was the victim of at least three assassination attempts. In Arequipa, while touring a stadium, two bullfight bulls inexplicably broke loose towards him and would have gored him had he not jumped into the stands. In nearby Puno, police deactivated a car-bomb in the central plaza shortly before the President's arrival there.

The magazine *Equis X* was simultaneously informing the President that, unless he dropped his war on drugs, his days were numbered. The magazine, reportedly owned by jailed drug czar Carlos Langberg, is also a regular outlet for propaganda in Peru of the savage terror band, Shining Path. Its editorial, entitled "García's Life," was an ultimatum:

"García is the favorite target of terrorists. . . . [Neither] having a good security guard, nor jailing real or presumed Senderistas, nor deactivating bombs left in the street" will stop them. Unless García "gives amnesty to the prisoners," threatens the magazine, "it will be impossible to have peace."

EIR in Peru reports that the national press is filled with warnings against presidential travel abroad, where Shining Path terrorists operate with

impunity—and in the case of the United States and France, openly.

During October, at least three different Peruvian publications gave favorable play to drug legalization arguments. The legalization campaign took off immediately following the release from jail of narco-boss Langberg, by a corrupt judge. (President García has since ordered Langberg returned to prison, and the judge indicted.)

The weekly rag *Kausachum* has published a series of articles arguing—in full-color front-page headlines—that the legalization of cocaine would "save Peru."

The Peruvian daily *La República* editorialized Oct. 20 that since "the worst thing about drugs is the drug trade," legalizing drugs would solve the problem. The article gives top billing to Italy's Radical Party homosexual-leftist congressman Marco Pannella, who argues that the big profits of the drug trade stem from its illegality. Legalize the trade and control the profits, claims Pannella, and you eliminate the lure of drugs.

Not to be outdone, *Equis X* devoted six pages to an interview with "psychiatrist" Baldomero Caceres, who demands drug legalization and urges youth to "not feel guilty" for using drugs.

The narco-terror campaign in Peru is finding a parallel in next-door Colombia. The attempted assassination Oct. 22 of the president of the first

commission of Colombia's Chamber of Deputies, Alberto Villamizar Cárdenas, has been universally viewed there as a threat to the entire Congress that the mafia expects a free rein.

Villamizar, a member of the anti-mafia New Liberalism faction of the ruling Liberal Party and a strong supporter of Colombia's newly strengthened anti-drug penal code, will be presiding over a debate on the fate of Colombia's extradition treaty with the United States, expected to come before his commission. The mafia, which sees the treaty as a major obstacle to its comeback, hoped that in eliminating Villamizar it could eliminate that obstacle.

While narco-terrorism continues its rampage in Colombia, elements in and around the government are going for drug legalization. While the magazine *Kausachum* is still arguing the economic benefits of drug legalization in Peru, the Barco administration in Colombia has formalized that argument with a "tax amnesty" proposal which would give drug-traffickers with fortunes stashed abroad the opportunity to "repatriate" their narco-dollars tax free. Finance Minister César Gaviria Trujillo has acknowledged to the press that the amnesty would benefit drug traffickers, but argued—in classic free-market style—that when the ultimate beneficiary is the economy, no questions will be asked.

In the recent period, the majority of drug legalization advocates in Colombia have either been journalists using Adam Smith-style arguments, or leftists pushing legalization in the name of the environment or of Colombia's indigenous population. The campaign took a new turn in early October when former Interior Minister Rodrigo Escobar Navia urged the legalization of drugs as an "audacious formula" for solving the trafficking problem.