

## Andean Report by Valerie Rush

### Irregular warfare in Venezuela

*Fomenting tensions between Venezuela and Colombia is but one piece of the Soviet/Project Democracy scenario.*

The June 12 murders of one army officer and eight Venezuelan soldiers, who were in the process of dismantling a cocaine refining laboratory and eradicating coca and marijuana crops in Sierra de Perijá, on the border with Colombia, marks a new phase in the irregular warfare that the Soviets and their murderous counterparts in the West have unleashed against the nation-states of the region.

A commando force of an estimated 100 well-armed Colombian narco-terrorists swept down on the unsuspecting Venezuelan troops—most of them asleep—and took their bloody toll.

The narco-terrorists reportedly claimed to be members of the Cuban-trained National Liberation Army (ELN), which has been financed by Occidental Petroleum in Colombia, so-called “protection money” for their exploration operations. Occidental, of course, is the property of Moscow agent Armand Hammer.

It is not entirely surprising to learn that Henry Kissinger’s Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), produced a scenario for the U.S. army several years back, in which Venezuela asks for U.S. troops following a cross-border attack by Colombian guerrillas on Venezuelan oil fields.

The scenario appeared in a CSIS study entitled, “Strategic Requirements for the Year 2000,” which offers a long list of military conflicts that could break out in Ibero-America, to justify withdrawal of U.S. troops from

Western Europe.

The gameplan is that of Moscow and its “New Yalta” accomplices in the West. The aim is to drag the United States into a new and more horrible “Vietnam,” this time in Central and South America.

The fomenting of war between Colombia and Venezuela would be but one piece of the scenario, in which right-wing coups could create the climate for communist-inspired revolutions.

Former Venezuelan presidential candidate of the left José Vicente Rangel, an old defender of Soviet terrorism, moved quickly to blame the Colombian government and armed forces for permitting the assaults against Venezuela:

“There is nothing strange in the fact that the Colombian military approves the setting up of the guerrillas on our border, to create problems for us and serve as an element of pressure in seeking an arrangement of the so-called ‘diferendo’ (border dispute). . . . There appears to be a tacit agreement between the Colombian armed forces and the guerrillas of that country,” declared Rangel, provoking an angry response from the Colombian ambassador in Caracas, who described Rangel’s comments as “irresponsible.”

Just one week earlier, Rangel had visited Cuba, and was received by high-level government authorities. The May issue of the Soviet publication *América Latina* carried a lengthy interview on “Venezuelan perspectives”

with Rangel, stemming from his visit to the U.S.S.R. the previous year.

Joining Rangel’s accusations against Colombia was the Venezuelan congressman and Gnostic bishop Walter Márquez, who claimed that Colombian troops have already violated Venezuelan sovereignty, crossing the border on numerous occasions to assassinate peasants and commit other atrocities. Márquez announced that he was calling on “the high military command and the defense minister to explain to the Congress what the situation in the country is. . . .”

One is obliged to question why it is that neither Rangel nor Márquez make any mention of the narco-terrorist ambush of a Colombian army patrol in Caquetá province, the same week as the Venezuelan incident, in which not 9 but 32 soldiers lost their lives. One must also ask why it is that neither Rangel nor Márquez identify the real forces in Colombia who are allied with the drug mafia, such as pro-drug legalization senator Samper Pizano or his anti-extradition colleague Santofimio Botero?

The situation could become much worse in the coming weeks, given the apparent determination of the Venezuelan armed forces—enraged by the June 12 ambush, which is considered the bloodiest foreign assault on Venezuelan troops since the wars of independence—to violently respond to any new border incidents.

According to local sources, the narco-terrorist army operating along the border has, with help from Cuba and Nicaragua, acquired sophisticated weaponry (including land-to-air missiles), to the tune of \$350 million. Without a Colombia-Venezuela pact to jointly combat the narco-terrorists in a wide swathe of territory on both sides of the border, the situation could become highly volatile.