

Colombia terror traced to Moscow

by Valerie Rush

The offices of the Colombian Defense Ministry in Bogota were ripped by a powerful bomb Oct. 19, in what has been described as the most serious direct assault on the Colombian Armed Forces by Moscow's irregular warfare troops. President Virgilio Barco described the terrorist action as "a clear demonstration of the systematic attempt to destabilize Colombian democracy."

Although the bombing, which injured 10, destroyed more than a score of cars, and did considerable damage to the facade of the building, was claimed by an obscure group calling itself "Insurgencia Comunera," it is widely believed to have been the work of the newly formed Simón Bolívar Guerrilla Coordinating Group, linked to the mass-based Colombian Communist Party. The Communists, their electoral front, the Patriotic Union (UP), and the Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces (FARC), the leading guerrilla force in the new terrorist umbrella group, have all publicly identified Defense Minister Rafael Samudio Molina as their number-one enemy inside the Barco government.

Dialogue . . . or war?

Repeated demands for dialogue with the government from all three Moscow-directed forces were addressed by President Barco during the week of Oct. 13, when he invited the new leadership of the UP to talk with him at the national palace. The UP leaders promptly refused, releasing instead a public letter to Barco which demanded the "civilianization" of the nation's intelligence service, police force, and defense ministry, and an end to state-of-siege restrictions. New UP president Bernardo Osa Jaramillo also demanded unconditional dialogue with the Simón Bolívar guerrilla army, insisting that government refusal would mean civil war.

President Barco responded to the ultimatum with a nationwide television and radio message Oct. 18, saying "The government will preserve its policy of dialogue, which has as its goal the reincorporation of the guerrilla into civilian life," but insisted that subversives "on the left and right must first be reduced to impotence."

All of its calls for dialogue and reform notwithstanding, the true nature of the Communists' campaign is best gauged by an Oct. 18 interview with UP head Osa Jaramillo appear-

ing in the Medellín daily *El Mundo*: "We are going to mobilize the people. . . . We believe that this is the moment for organized protests. This is going to translate into strikes, demonstrations. Liberals and Conservatives, trade unionists and peasants must also mobilize." In fact, in the past two weeks, a half-dozen peasant marches under UP direction were organized in different parts of the country, ranging from Cauca in the southwest to Bolívar in the north central zone, to the coca-growing department of Meta in the southeast. In each case, the mobilized peasants demanded withdrawal of the military from their largely guerrilla-infested regions.

Labor is also intended to play a major role in the Communists' scheme. Colombian Communist Party head Gilberto Vieira said on Oct. 12 that the two most important developments in the country were the creation of the Simón Bolívar guerrilla umbrella group, and the creation of the Unified Workers Confederation (CUT). The CUT, originally created as a counter to both the mafia-infested "democratic" trade unions and the Communist-dominated ones, is under attack from within as the Communists attempt to use it in their war against the government.

An important effort to reorient the CUT along its original anti-drug, anti-International Monetary Fund principles was made by its founder and president, former Labor Minister Jorge Carrillo, champion of the democratic sector within the confederation. On Oct. 15, a lengthy ad was taken out by the CUT in the daily *El Espectador*, which declared Oct. 15 "a continental day of fight against payment of the foreign debt," and which pledged the participation of the nationalist trade union forces of the Americas "against the economic policies imposed by the usurious international banks and their representatives, such as the International Monetary Fund." The Communists were thus out-manuevered by Carrillo.

The Communist and UP "mobilizations of the masses" are, in the short-term, directed at capturing as many municipalities as possible when the first-ever mayoral elections in Colombia are held in March 1988. But in the longer term, the drive is to create precisely the kind of "independent republics" established by the Communist FARC during the 1960s, war zones such as Marquetalia and Cimitarra, where neither government nor military dared tread. In the 1960s, it took a U.S.-assisted war effort against the insurgency to recapture sovereign Colombian territory. Today, the terrorists—in alliance with the well-financed and heavily armed drug traffickers—pose a clear threat of civil war on the El Salvador model.

This problem was identified in a special seminar sponsored by *EIR* in Bogota, where the new Spanish-language version of the book *Modern Irregular Warfare*, by West German Brig. Gen. Friedrich August von der Heydte (ret.), was released. Von der Heydte emphasizes that "irregular warfare" (terrorism, guerrilla actions, kidnappings, etc.) are only a phase of regular declared warfare and, as such, cannot be fought with peacetime juridical instruments.