

Soviets target Chile next in Andean offensive

by Gretchen Small

The Chilean electorate voted on Oct. 5 to hold presidential elections in December 1989, the first since 1970. While Chile's government announced that it will respect the plebiscite's result, the U.S. State Department-funded opposition movement which challenged the government in the plebiscite, has called for those elections to be held as soon as possible. Chile's Communist Party has thrown its support behind the opposition's call for early elections, as the quickest route to the civil war which they seek as a step to seizing power.

Chile is now slated to become the latest battlefield in the Soviet Union's drive to bring narco-terrorist governments to power in South America's Andean nations within the next two to three years.

That is the bottom-line result of U.S. intervention in the national plebiscite. The U.S. media's insistence that the cause of democracy and economic justice has been advanced by these results, is hypocritical buncombe. The only cause advanced this month in Chile, is that of Moscow's plan for civil war and communist takeover.

Soviet-backed irregular armies are already contesting for power in Peru and Colombia, as *EIR* shows in accompanying articles in this section. Now Moscow demands that Chile's military be driven from power, its command structure arrested and placed on trial, and its ranks dismembered, as a condition for any regional accord with the United States for the Americas. Moscow wants Gen. Augusto Pinochet's head on a platter, to deliver a message to the rest of Ibero-America's militaries that they will meet the same fate, if they should dare to oppose Moscow's irregular forces.

Once again, Washington has demonstrated that the U.S. Establishment is willing to oblige Moscow. The U.S. "secret government" apparatus known as Project Democracy has

taken up the task of removing Chile's military from power. Under the direction of Assistant Secretary of State Elliott Abrams, the United States began applying diplomatic and economic pressure against Chile, demanding that Chile's military quit the government immediately, and moreover that it hand over power to a squabbling coalition of weak political parties.

The United States and allied European powers have already signaled their support for the opposition's rush. "Any refusal by the Chilean military to accept that the rules of the game have changed would be a recipe for instability," London's *Financial Times* threatened in an Oct. 10 editorial.

There is one "minor" problem in the scenario: Chile's Communist Party leaders have stated repeatedly that their strategy is to provoke civil war before those national elections can ever be held. The CP, most of whose leadership lived in Moscow during the past 15 years of military rule, is one of the largest communist parties in the Western world, with some 20,000 members, strong organizations built up amongst Chile's urban unemployed, and an armed wing called the Manuel Rodríguez Patriotic Front. It is also the *only* organized political party left in Chile today, deploying a larger mass organizing capability than all the parties making up the Christian Democratic-led opposition to Pinochet, the "Command for the No," put together.

Early elections will not provide a peaceful transition to democratic government, but an opening for the communists' violence and political chaos. An acute economic crisis in Chile was already expected for 1989, because of its unpayable foreign debt; the capital flight and economic disinvestment which follow political instability, now lock in an early blowout of the Chilean economy, and the spiral of crisis the communists seek.

Bankers call the shots

In the 1970s and early 1980s, international financiers held up the Pinochet government as the model of economist Milton Friedman's free-trade policies. By 1982-83, however, Friedman's speculative economic policies had driven Chile's economy into collapse. The financial bubble built upon Chile's banking system burst, at the same time that the first crisis in Chile's foreign debt erupted. The collapse in Chile's already weakened economy was followed by growing popular unrest.

By April 1984, several government officials responsible for the financial swindles were in jail, and a new economic team brought in. While U.S. media moaned that the best of Friedman's Chicago Boys had been cleaned out, Chile's new finance minister, Luis Escobar Cerda, announced that Chile would henceforth cooperate more closely with other Ibero-American nations on debt negotiations. Economics Minister Modesto Collados added that the new team's number-one priority was to cut unemployment from 30% to 4% within three years.

The *New York Times* captured the sudden worry which hit Wall Street, warning in an editorial that Chile, once considered the most faithful debtor in Latin America, just might turn around and head up a debtors' cartel.

Chile's military could no longer be trusted as a reliable instrument of international financial interests. The U.S. Establishment, evidently preferring to see Chile reduced to anarchy rather than risk the emergence of a nationalist military grouping that might shift the balance in the Americas against their usury and the Soviet advance, ordered Project Democracy's apparatus into action against Chile.

Insisting that formal elections were the sole issue at stake in Chile, the State Department began pressuring Chile to hold early elections. The U.S. State Department-funded National Endowment for Democracy (NED) helped put together an opposition umbrella group, placing 16 socialist and democratic political parties under the command of the Christian Democrats—the same party which handed Chile over to the Marxists in the early 1970s.

NED money was also channeled into the business community, to encourage business leaders to take an active role in the growing opposition movement, and into educational programs for opposition leaders to ensure the opposition espoused Friedman's "free market" economics.

By 1986, the crisis between Washington and Chile which had been building quietly, reached the explosive point. Elliott Abrams announced in July that the Reagan administration was considering voting to cut Chile off from all loans from multilateral financial institutions. In August, U.S. Southern Command Commander Gen. John Galvin flew to Chile to "get to know the Chilean soldier." Mexico's *Excelsior* reported that Galvin sought to establish new channels between Chile and the United States, because Pinochet no longer trusted the CIA.

On Sept. 8, terrorists attempted to assassinate the general. Pinochet's charge that the CIA had run the assassination attempt sent the cables burning between Washington and Santiago. Chile's government drily answered U.S. protests that the assassination must have been a Soviet KGB operation, by commenting that this was not the first time the CIA and KGB had worked together.

In an interview with the *New York Times* Sept. 13, General Pinochet denied that the United States was providing military aid for Chile. Why should Chile need this, when the United States has specialized in losing wars against communism since World War II? he asked.

By 1987, Project Democracy was tightly in control of the leadership of the opposition alliance. The NED-funded National Democratic Institute sent three leaders of the alliance to "observe" the May 1987 parliamentary elections in the Philippines, in order to study how to reproduce the State Department's Philippines program.

By the time the Oct. 5, 1988 plebiscite rolled around, \$1 million had been channeled to the opposition "Command for the No." These U.S.-taxpayer monies were used for such things as the financing of television advertisements featuring Jane Fonda and other Hollywood celebrities calling upon Chileans to vote "No" in the plebiscite, and to send some 300 foreign journalists and politicians to "observe" the election.

Strategy for power

Over the recent years, the monthly policy journal of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences' Latin American Institute, *América Latina*, has covered Chile more frequently than any other country in the region. In its September 1988 issue, *América Latina* carried an article by Chilean CP head Luis Corvalan, outlining the party's orientation toward the plebiscite. The directive issued by the CP's clandestine leadership in February 1988 was clear, Corvalan wrote, "to create conditions so that the plebiscite, whatever its result may be, can be the detonator of a popular uprising which leads to the overthrow of the tyranny. . . . At a given point, the popular masses will have to pass into a state of general insubordination, take control of the streets, and surround the large cities with their presence. . . . Only a multi-form struggle by the people . . . which arrives at and passes beyond the plebiscite can and should generate the rupture which is needed."

Immediately upon returning from Moscow to Chile on Sept. 22, Volodia Teitelbaum, a top CP ideologue, announced that if the opposition defeated Pinochet at the polls on Oct. 5, the CP would immediately organize for the installation of a provisional government, and the convoking of a national assembly empowered to change Chile's Constitution.

On Sept. 30, the Manuel Rodríguez Patriotic Front issued a statement proclaiming that while the CP had decided to participate in the plebiscite, afterward they "must make the

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The buildup for a 'Tet offensive'

In recent weeks, Moscow's irregular warfare troops in Colombia have demonstrated the capacity for highly mobile deployment, targeting sensitive border regions, hitting military command structures, foreign multinational personnel, and economic infrastructure, occupying entire cities and assaulting urban centers, leading mass peasant insurgencies, paralyzing political leaders with blackmail, and wielding the vast resources of the drug trade.

On Oct. 27, the CUT (Unified Workers Confederation) will be conducting a nationwide strike under Communist Party domination, an action widely viewed as gauging the depth of subversive infiltration within the labor movement. The guerrillas have revealed plans to forge a joint military command within the next six months. *EIR* estimates that within 6-18 months, Moscow's capability for in-depth and simultaneous guerrilla deployment on all flanks will be in place, and a Colombian "Tet Offensive" could deliver the crucial Andean Spine of Ibero-America into Russian hands (see inset map).

1. Caquetá: On Sept. 25, 200 guerrillas of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) ambushed an army patrol in this southern jungle department, killing 15 and wounding another dozen. President Virgilio Barco publicly claimed that "military error" was responsible for the ambush.

2. Urabá: Civic strikes and a head-on confrontation between the military chief and the leftist banana workers unions have paralyzed this region in northern Antioquia department close to the border with Panama.

3. Tumaco and Pasto: These cities in the southern department of Nariño are under military occupation due to a spate of terrorist-led marches, rioting, strikes, and a separatist movement which is protesting the economic crisis and official neglect.

4. Magdalena Medio: Three cities in this north-central region were simultaneously assaulted on Oct. 5 by the combined forces of the FARC and the National Liberation Army (ELN). Police and military barracks, banks, and government offices were attacked by rockets and grenades, and there were both military and civilian casualties.

5. Riohacha: The capital of the La Guajira peninsula in northern Colombia has been hit by civic strikes and violence, in response to economic collapse. La Guajira not only

borders the Gulf of Maracaibo, whose oil-rich resources are the source of historic tensions between Venezuela and Colombia, but also contains El Cerrejón, Ibero-America's largest coal reserve, which is under joint exploitation by Exxon and the Colombian state.

6. San Andrés: The Colombian-owned island just opposite the Nicaraguan coast lost its source of electricity due to suspected arson against its sole energy complex. Resulting tensions on the island could rekindle Nicaragua's long-standing claim to the island.

7. Vichada: On Sept. 26, the Colombian army raided a vast cocaine complex in this department on the border with Venezuela. The complex was capable of refining more than three tons of pure cocaine a month. Evidence was uncovered indicating that the FARC guerrillas garnered a quarter of a million dollars *per month* for providing security.

8. Arauca: The ELN guerrillas have resumed the dynamiting of Colombia's major Caño Limón-Covenas oil pipeline in this department bordering Venezuela, after a brief hiatus during which they considered, and rejected, Barco's "peace initiative." The pipeline has been dynamited more than 50 times in 1988, causing extensive ecological damage and multimillion-dollar revenue losses.

9. La Uribe: This area between Tolima and Huila departments is the site of the "Casa Verde" (Green House), headquarters of the FARC command. The Green House has a direct telephone link-up to the presidential palace, and has been declared off-limits to the Armed Forces.

10. Medellín: Pablo Escobar, the head of the cocaine-trafficking Medellín Cartel, has publicly threatened the head of the highly-successful anti-drug IV Army Brigade, General Jaime Ruiz Barrera.

11. Bogotá: ELN murder attempt against the president of Texas Petroleum Corp. in Colombia was a near-miss.

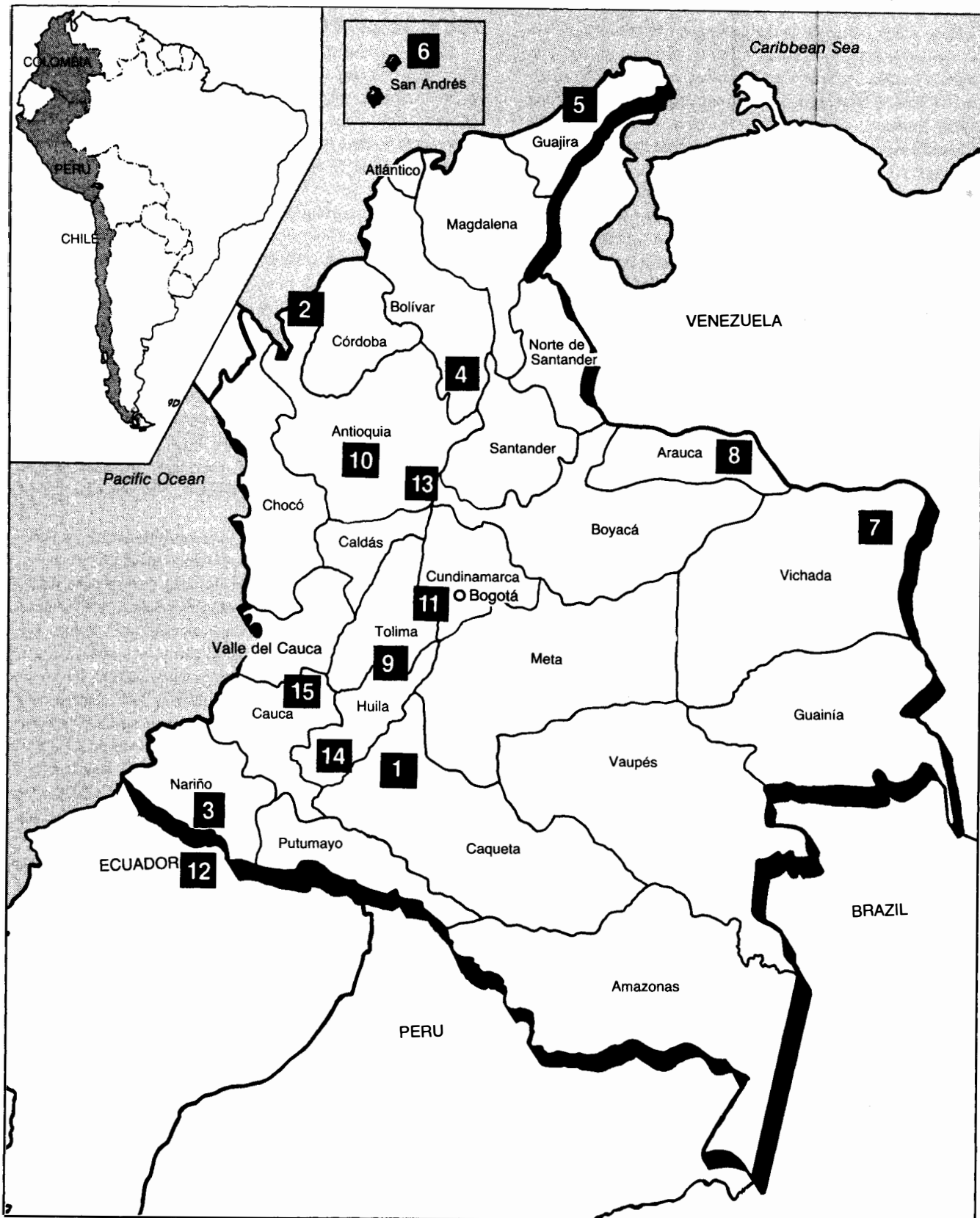
12. Ecuador: The arrest of an M-19 group inside Ecuadoran territory led to charges by that government of a Colombian invasion.

13. Antioquia: The headquarters in this department of the Second Army Division, headed by chief counter-insurgent Gen. Farouk Yanine Díaz, was car-bombed, destroying four square blocks.

14. Huila: On Oct. 10, guerrillas dynamited a bridge, hitting a civilian bus and reportedly killing women and children; identified as one of the first terrorist actions directed against a civilian target.

15. Cauca: Mass peasant marches, reportedly organized by the M-19 and Quintín Lamé guerrilla forces, were held Oct. 10 in this department to protest planned government use of glyphosate herbicide against cocaine crops; the government opted for manual eradication.

Colombia and the Andean spine



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country ungovernable, seizing factories, schools and slum districts . . . and paralyzing transport.”

How much Moscow is depending on Washington, was revealed in a July analysis of Chilean affairs published in *América Latina*. Author Yuri Koroliiov compared the situation in Chile to Nicaragua in the final stages of the rebellion against Somoza, and forecast “decisive events” after the plebiscite. He warned, however, that while the “revolutionary vanguard” in Chile is capable of overturning the “game of the bourgeois opposition,” and “taking power,” the major obstacle to this strategy is the possibility that a majority of Chileans might vote for Pinochet, out of fear of civil war.

Washington, too, was preparing to position itself to stop “an eventual nationalist turn by the dictator” if Pinochet won the vote, Koroliiov noted. That is why the U.S. Senate voted to provide \$1 million to build up the opposition forces, “which can become a counterweight in the case of an eventual nationalist turn.”

Washington’s intervention has swung the election and its aftermath in Moscow’s favor. As the *New York Times* gloated in its editorial on Oct. 7, “Mr. Abrams has been properly blamed for policy failures in Central America. He is entitled to a full measure of credit in Chile.”

The communist battle plan for Colombia

by Valerie Rush

According to spokesmen of the Unified Workers Confederation (CUT) of Colombia, that labor federation will hold a general strike on Oct. 27. Nominally, the strike is to protest the Barco government’s refusal to consider its petitions, submitted in May of this year, for everything from a general wage increase and food price freeze, to a lifting of the state of siege and moratorium on the foreign debt. In the beginning, the petitions of the CUT were intended to improve the increasingly precarious living standards of the Colombian population. In fact, many of the so-called “democratic sector” of the CUT believe that their strike is to pressure the government into such concessions. The reality is otherwise, however.

The increasingly dominant communist forces within the CUT intend the national strike, under current conditions of destabilization within the country, to “deepen the mass struggle.” It is no secret that much of the CUT leadership is linked to the Colombian Communist Party, A Luchar, Frente Popular, and their various guerrilla armed wings—the FARC, M-19, ELN, EPL, etc. Their concern is not to improve living

standards, but to “aggravate” conditions of instability in the country, the better to facilitate the seizure of power.

The moment of insurrection

The Moscow-directed Colombian Communist Party (PCC) has repeated, publicly, a thousand and one times that its fundamental objective is the seizure of power. Its chief, Gilberto Vieira, has emphasized that the most important developments leading to the “insurrectional moment” have been the creation of the CUT in November 1986, and the formation of the umbrella Simón Bolívar Guerrilla Coordinating Council this year. According to the PCC’s “political thesis,” approved at its 15th Congress held last December, this “unifying process” has been indispensable to reach the current stage of “accumulation of forces,” characterized by “a greater sharpening of the battle in Colombia, with a greater protagonism of armed or intermediate forms.” The penultimate phase is “co-government,” leading to the final insurrection.

The communists say in their “Thesis”: “We could speak of a stage in which the level of conscience, of unity, and of use of various forms, has increased. What characterizes this increase is the emergence of a new kind of popular movement . . . in which different kinds of projects come together, worker and democratic unity is strengthened, and the practice of revolutionary sectors overlap.”

And what are these new forms of struggle which, according to the communists, must be combined to achieve strategic objectives? “It is not a matter of limiting ourselves to legalized mass actions whose potential grows daily more limited. And much less limiting ourselves to institutional action. We must also act within what we could call informality. . . . In this period, new manifestations of popular action have appeared, such as occupations of public offices, seizure of establishments, churches, or institutions; long-term peasant marches . . . ; blockades of highways, agrarian strikes, and other previously unknown expressions of the people’s will.”

The PCC and its FARC want a national strike because it dramatically augments their irregular warfare arsenal. One need hardly imagine the implications of simultaneous regional strikes, peasant occupations, terrorist assaults on defenseless populations, ambushes, kidnappings, bombings, and assassinations, joined to a nationwide paralysis of production and transportation—and all under the centralized command of the communists.

The communists’ global plan for irregular warfare includes culture, politics, economics, religion, and military strategy. They know what they want, and have a strict timetable for achieving it. The “democratic” forces within the CUT, under instruction from the American Institute for Free Labor Development (AIFLD) and the Inter-American Regional Organization (ORIT), have squandered their influence and their efforts in forging “lesser-evil” alliances with the “moderate” communists, who are now engaged in placing the substantial human resources of the CUT at the disposal of Moscow’s narco-terrorist armies.