

# Gorby wants a 'peace' of the Americas

by Mark Sonnenblick

Did Fidel Castro and Mikhail Gorbachov exchange bear hugs, or merely embraces, at the airport when the latter departed following his four-day visit to Cuba April 5? This was the sort of question that busied the State Department and much of the Western press, which focused readers and viewers on such trivial "signals" of the health of the "marriage" between the Soviet Union and Cuba. The reality is that Soviet-sponsored narco-terrorist insurgency is alive and well in Ibero-America, despite whatever differences may exist between Cuba and the Soviet Union.

On the eve of the visit, President Bush sent an open letter to General Secretary Gorbachov asking him to pressure Cuba to shut off irregular warfare in Central America. Press commentaries spun scenarios about how, to compensate for Bush's willingness to redivide the world into Soviet and American imperial spheres, the Soviets would cooperate with U.S. efforts to police the Western Hemisphere. It would all fit in nicely with Henry Kissinger's "New Yalta" scheme.

Elliott Abrams, who, as Reagan's Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, finished off any remaining pro-Americanism in the region, projected on March 31: "I suspect Central America will prove to be an item of contention between the Soviets and the Cubans. A U.S.-Soviet agreement on Nicaragua could be very troublesome for Castro, because, what is left for his international role?"

Gorbachov complied with the Bush scenario by pronouncing, in his main speech in Havana April 4, "We are categorically opposed to any doctrines that justify the export of revolution or counter-revolution." He went even further, proposing "zones of peace" in the Americas and an "international conference," including the Soviets, to resolve the Central American imbroglio.

## Disarming Ibero-American military

Two years ago, State Department socialist Elliott Abrams met with his Soviet counterpart in London. It was a giant step toward today's superpower condominium on regional matters. They agreed to do everything in their power to disband the region's military institutions, which, they agreed, were "a threat to democratic rule."

In Havana, Gorbachov presented himself as the apostle of peace. "At the present time there is a real possibility to ensure peace and security in the region," he said. "A major condition for this would be a halt to military supplies from

wherever they come." Such a formula would disarm the soldiers of Colombia who are resisting, with outmoded weapons, the M-19 narco-terrorists, who trade their cocaine for the most sophisticated weaponry on the international market.

However, before Gorbachov could answer a journalist's question about Bush's appeal to him to put a clamp on Cuban aid to revolutionary movements, Castro angrily broke in: "You start from the point of view that this is a colony. I feel that this is not an appropriate question."

Castro came off looking like a rebellious Latin nationalist, whose overt support for narco-terrorist movements would not embarrass Gorbachov or Washington's apologists for Gorbachov's *glasnost* and *perestroika*. Thus the "peace-loving Soviet peoples" will be able to keep the Salvadoran FMNL and Peruvian Shining Path going without disturbing the New Yalta condominium arrangements in Europe, the Mideast, and Africa.

On April 5, White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater confirmed that Communist atrocities in the Americas would not interrupt the administration's mad rush to make disarmament agreements with the Soviets. There would be no "linkage" between Central America and other East-West issues. He said the administration was "disappointed" that Gorbachov didn't announce a cutoff of Soviet military aid to Nicaragua. But, he stressed, "this is a perfect kind of issue when we would want a summit and want a chance to sit down with the Soviets and say, 'Hey look; here's our position and what can we do about this.'"

The *New York Times* editorialized the next day, "Mr. Gorbachov could well be inviting conversations with Washington about superpower conduct in regional conflicts. Equipped with a lot of questions, the Bush administration could creatively test his intentions."

By having polite back-room consultations with the Soviets about what goes on inside the Americas, the Bush administration is granting the Soviet Union more influence and authority in the region than ever before. Gone are the days when the United States regarded its Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking neighbors as the ones to be involved, if not always properly consulted, in blocking Soviet strategic inroads into the continent. The U.S. appeasement of Gorbachov confirms suspicions south of the border that the "Western Hemispheric alliance" is dead and that Washington is in fact encouraging them to cut their own deals with the Soviets.

From its own angle, the *Washington Post* concludes, "Whereas Cuba was once Moscow's privileged ally in Latin America, Gorbachov treated it this time partly as a stepping stone toward new relations with what he called the democratic 'giants of the future' on the continent, such as Brazil and Argentina, where trade prospects lie."

Gorbachov's call for a 100-year moratorium on debts owed by the Third World to *Western* banks (while not giving any relief to Cuba on its debts to the Soviets) leads to the same conclusion.