

Peru's García accused of helping terrorists

by Luis Vásquez

President Alan García and his APRA party used their last weeks in office to set ticking several political "time bombs" which, if not deactivated, will blow up Peru early in the next government, which assumes office on July 28.

First came a spectacular prison "escape" by the narco-terrorist Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA). On July 10, forty-eight members of the MRTA escaped, without a shot fired, from Lima's maximum-security prison. They somehow had keys to all five doors between the cell of MRTA chief Victor Polay and the fourth-floor compound where 47 of his followers were being held. The terrorists left the prison at 5:00 a.m., without the guards reporting it until at least three hours later.

All the evidence suggests that the "escape" was arranged by President García himself and his fellow Lautaro Masonic lodge brothers in the social democratic APRA party. Not only have APRA leaders cheered the escape; it fits all too closely with the party's plan to institute a "dialogue" with the terrorists, on the model of Colombia's deal with the M-19.

After their escape, the MRTA provided TV Panamericana with films of the prisoners marching out through a 250-yard-long tunnel, complete with lighting and ventilation systems, professionally constructed underneath the jail's walls. Experts calculated that it would have required 400 dump trucks to carry away the dirt and rock excavated from the tunnel, and some two years to build.

During the week before the escape, the head of the prison system had held several hours of private conferences with Polay. He was accompanied some of the time by APRA Sen. Armando Villanueva, who had frequently made visits to his friend Polay's private cell-office to assure that he was being well cared for.

Some in Lima suggest the escape was arranged in exchange for the release of businessman Héctor Delgado Parker, who had been kidnaped by the MRTA five weeks earlier. Delgado Parker is owner of the Panamericana television chain, which broadcast scenes from the MRTA escape to the nation. Earlier this year he served as the personal envoy of García to the Colombian M-19 narco-terrorists.

Two days after the escape, the APRA youth movement

issued a statement hailing the fact that Polay had recovered his liberty. Student leaders bedecked two APRA-run universities with banners celebrating the escape, and called the jailbreak "a legitimate revolutionary defense."

APRA's ties with the MRTA were never any secret. Polay himself had been an APRA militant since his youth; his father was one of the founders of APRA. Polay was Alan García's roommate when they were bohemians studying sociology together at the Sorbonne in Paris.

Lima's *Oiga* magazine suggests that the connection between APRA and the MRTA is maintained through North Korea, as joint delegations of APRA and MRTA youth have been sent there for indoctrination by Kim Il-sung since 1987. APRA's own ideologues assert that there is an affinity between the doctrine of "historical space-time" of APRA founder Victor Raúl Haya de la Torre and the North Korean ayatollah's *zuche* concept. Both involve applying a bastardized Marxism to specific national situations.

The M-19 model

It is apparent that the escape was planned as the first step toward the legalization of the narco-terrorists, following the model of neighboring Colombia and Ecuador. On July 16, Senator Villanueva called for talks with the insurgents, insisting that "in a democracy, there is always dialogue." His call was reported the next day in the daily *La República*, which ran an editorial calling for MRTA to be legalized. "For the first time in many years, the MRTA has none of its members in jail," the paper wrote. "Coinciding with the change of government, this is the best possible opportunity for following the steps of its best friends internationally—the M-19 and the [Ecuadorian] Alfaro Vive, which have changed to political struggle, following agreements with the Colombian and Ecuadorian governments and handing in of weapons."

XX, the magazine of social democrat Ismael Frías, went further, and suggested that the national holiday on July 28—the day President-elect Alberto Fujimori assumes office—was the perfect day to declare an amnesty "for all the armed insurgents, without exception."

Fujimori has already declared that he is willing to consider backroom negotiations with the insurgent groups, and reported that he met with two terrorist leaders during his electoral campaign.

On July 12, just after the MRTA escape, Fujimori reaffirmed that he is willing to conduct a dialogue with terrorists, if they lay down their arms.

The MRTA escape wasn't García's only parting shot. He also called a special session of the APRA-dominated lame duck legislature to ram through a new penal code before leaving office. Mixed into the bill were three population control measures: legalization of euthanasia, approval for "sentimental abortion" for cases of rape (a measure its supporters say is tantamount to abortion on demand), and mid-term abortions for "deformed" babies.