

'New order' to leave Argentina defenseless

by Cynthia R. Rush

As *EIR* goes to press, the three-month trial of 15 Argentine Army officers is coming to a close in Buenos Aires. On trial in federal court for their participation in the Dec. 3, 1990 uprising against the Army high command, the nationalist officers are charged with "mutiny and rebellion with shedding of blood." Their attempt to remove the Army high command and change government military policy, was falsely portrayed in the Argentine and international press as an attempted coup against President Carlos Menem. Press accounts played off the liberal media's years-long characterization of Argentina's Armed Forces as coup-mongers and fascists.

The nationalist officers are known by the term *carapintadas* (painted faces), a reference to the camouflage paint they use in combat. Although they were sentenced to harsh jail terms by the military court which tried them immediately following the December events, federal prosecutor Luis Moreno Ocampo is seeking even tougher sentences now. He has singled out for attack Col. Mohamed Alí Seineldín, the hero of the 1982 Malvinas War whose commitment to the defense of national sovereignty and the institution of the Armed Forces has made him a major obstacle to the Anglo-American establishment's objectives. Jailed at the time in southern Argentina, Seineldín took full responsibility for Dec. 3, and early this year, a military court sentenced him to a minimum jail term of 20 years.

On Aug. 8, Colonel Seineldín and several of his co-defendants gave dramatic testimony to demonstrate that rather than a coup attempt, the events of Dec. 3 were the lawful outcome of the provocative policy toward the Armed Forces implemented by Carlos Menem and his predecessor, Raúl Alfonsín. *EIR* correspondents on the scene reported that the officers' emotionally powerful statements emphasized that their actions were a response to Anglo-American attempts to dismantle the nation's institutions, including the Armed Forces. As a result of this policy, Seineldín warned, "We're entering [Bush's] new world order defenseless, with our hands behind our necks, crawling on our knees, poor and destroyed."

A deliberate policy

Since taking office in July 1989, Menem had repeatedly promised to address nationalist grievances and try to resolve the Army's internal problems. Seineldín documented that

he personally had met with Menem and with several of his emissaries, to seek solutions to the military crisis. Instead, together with the Army's high command, Menem not only ignored those grievances; he took steps which threatened the institution as a whole.

The high command persecuted nationalists who demanded that the dignity of the military institution be respected. But as Army engineer Maj. Rubén Fernández documented in his testimony, that's not all they did. The generals, he charged, were "accomplices" in permitting the looting and theft of military companies such as Fabricaciones Militares, and the handing over of natural resources to foreign, particularly British, interests. The loss of the Air Force's Condor II missile, and the bankruptcy of the giant steel complex Somisa, are the result of their corruption, Fernández said.

Major Fernández was eloquent in discussing the nationalist military tendency of promoting infrastructural and technological development. Referencing Col. Romero Mondani, a nationalist officer who died during the uprising, he asked, "What choice did he have? He was a scientist and an engineer. He was watching 50 years of work going down the drain."

Especially in Argentina, where a strong nationalist tradition has existed historically, the Anglo-Americans fear that Seineldín will be the rallying point for a morally inspired political resistance to their policies. Thus, in his final summation, prosecutor Moreno Ocampo attempted to ridicule the profoundly Catholic principles which guide the *carapintada* movement, comparing it, and Seineldín in particular, to Adolf Hitler and the Nazis.

In one and a half hours of forceful testimony, the colonel ripped the prosecutor's arguments to shreds. Particularly since 1976, he said, Argentina has been under assault by "international financial centers" whose leaders were determined to "integrate the Republic of Argentina into the new international order . . . definitively replacing the traditional Argentine state." To achieve that aim, he explained, these financiers had to dismember the Armed Forces and define its mission as "regional and international" rather than as defender "of the nation's highest interests." The current government has agreed to inserting Argentina into this "New Order," the colonel continued. That, he added, is the only way to understand Menem's demand on Dec. 3, that Seineldín and other officers be summarily executed, and the lying propaganda about the *carapintadas* plans. No resistance to these Anglo-American plans can be tolerated.

Nonetheless, he stated, the act of taking full responsibility for the events of Dec. 3, 1990 is a "sacred privilege." His subordinates, he said, "put to one side their personal interests and acted to "rescue their institutions. . . . Had I not taken that responsibility . . . I would have been considered a traitor to the Fatherland and undoubtedly, upon my death, condemned before God's Tribunal, the only court which, aside from feeling respect, I fear."

Seineldín's testimony: the mission of the Army

The following are excerpts from testimony given in Buenos Aires federal court by Col. Mohamed Ali Seineldín on Aug. 8.

Military laws and regulations clearly establish that the Army is the military arm of the Fatherland and one of the nation's fundamental institutions. Its mission is to safeguard the Fatherland's highest interests. It must therefore always be prepared to defend its honor, the integrity of its territory, and the nation's Constitution and its laws. . . .

From the numerous documents and testimony presented at this trial, we can show that, today, the Armed Forces are *not* the military arm of the Fatherland; are *not* one of the nation's fundamental institutions; and are in no condition to safeguard the Fatherland's highest interests. . . .

Beginning in 1976, there was a substantial change in the traditional political schema, according to the future division of the world, later called the "New Yalta." The economic system of development and production was to be replaced with a financial system of speculation, which would accentuate dependency. Political decisions would be subordinate to economic ones. To achieve this, it was necessary to weaken the five natural pillars of the Argentine state: the Church (as a spiritual force); political leadership; . . . the Armed Forces (as a force for defense and development); small- and medium-sized industry (as an economic force); the trade unions (as a social force). . . .

The plan to weaken the national defense forces is as follows:

Regarding the national strategic and military level . . . all areas will be privatized and, undoubtedly, some will be bought up by potential enemies. . . .

Regarding operational strategy, priority will be given to the Argentine Navy over the other two branches. . . . The Army and the Air Force will be reduced to a tactical level . . . using them in the war against drug trafficking and terrorism, in coordination with foreign forces, to be deployed to Argentine territory. . . .

The constitutional mission will be replaced by a "regional and international" one, which has nothing to do with the Argentine Nation. . . .

Today we are in a state of grave defenselessness, which prevents fulfillment of the national defense mission . . . [which is] protection of cultural and spiritual values, protection of national territory, protection of energy and food reserves and areas of geopolitical interest, protection of our

inhabitants. . . .

[Our enemies use] this well-known state of weakness and defenselessness, to change our religious and cultural values; fragment and cut off part of our national territory; . . . expropriate our energy and food wealth, and areas of geopolitical interest; make Argentine citizens feel defenseless, thus imposing first psychological and then physical domination. . . . Finally, [they seek] to integrate the Republic of Argentina into the new world order to be established in the 21st century, definitively replacing the traditional Argentine state. We will be poor and dependent. . . .

To achieve their objectives, methods of modern war—psycho-political war—will be applied, which will invade all areas of the national state, with far more lethal weapons than those in the military arsenals: drugs, as an important chemical weapon; sterilization, abortion, malnourishment, hunger, unemployment, and prostitution, as powerful biological weapons to destroy life; . . . anti-drug "agreements" and privatization for ecological aims, which will facilitate the installation of foreign forces, peacefully invading our Nation. . . .

Knowing the problems and feelings of the Army, I can guarantee that, if the real causes [of this crisis] are not resolved, the effects will increase in seriousness. . . .

'A sacred privilege'

The dismembering and weakening of the Armed Forces, and the security, police, and corrections forces, will continue, as this is part of an international plan agreed on by the current government and for the purpose of inserting Argentina into the [state] of dependency known as the "New Order." One could never understand otherwise [President Carlos Menem's] order [that nationalists be] summarily executed without a fair trial for the events of Dec. 3, or the huge lie that we were going to assassinate Dr. Menem, and a whole series of actions taken to prove to public opinion that we were irrational rebels. . . .

I am the only one responsible for Dec. 3, 1990, and I share that sacred privilege with no subordinate. . . .

The national Constitution states in its preamble, "to provide for the common defense," an ideal which always motivated my actions. . . . In response to two years of effort . . . to resolve the [military] problem, I received indifference, arbitrariness, ridicule, and imprisonment. Under these circumstances, I had no other option but that adopted on Dec. 3, 1990, because its causes were legitimate and synthesize the feeling of the nationalist defense forces. . . .

Backed by our just banners, established in the national Constitution and in military rules and laws, and remembering my dead, maimed, wounded, and exiled comrades, I express my will, aided by that well-known saying of [the Liberator] General San Martín, "When the Fatherland is in danger, all is allowed, except letting it perish." This is our commitment. God and Fatherland, or Death.