

Bush aids communism in Ibero-America

by Valerie Rush

Even as the Soviet empire crumbles, the “anti-communist” Bush administration is openly encouraging governments in Ibero-America to embrace subversive guerrilla movements which have been wreaking havoc for decades. The result, far from bringing peace, will be the institutionalization of terror.

Exemplary is the case of Colombia, where the César Gaviria government continues to hold “peace negotiations” with the Simón Bolívar National Guerrilla Coordinating Group (CNGSB), an umbrella group of narco-terrorist organizations. Those negotiations have been ongoing for several months *despite* the subversives’ deliberate escalation of terror directed primarily at the Colombian population and at the nation’s economic infrastructure.

Sanctioning ‘another Colombia’

The “peace talks” have centered around the rebel demand of “purging” the Colombian Armed Forces as an institution, and of giving over large chunks of national territory to CNGSB domination *free* of any military presence. The Gaviria government, desperate for a cease-fire with which to boost its image, has already met one key such demand by forcing the resignation of Gen. Oscar Botero Restrepo as defense minister, and imposing a civilian—a former presidential “peace adviser”—in his place.

At the same time, the government has offered to give the CNGSB 60 “demobilization” sites, mostly concentrated in the underpopulated *llanos*, or plains, east of Bogotá, which function as the country’s breadbasket. The CNGSB, with its 10-15,000 men under arms, has demanded 200 such sites. Whatever the outcome of that bit of haggling, the fact is that by demilitarizing a strategically key swath of the country and handing it over to a heavily armed, drug-trafficking irregular army, the Gaviria government will be splitting the nation in two while giving the CNGSB enormous blackmail power against the institutions of government.

The establishment of “another Colombia” is, in fact, the long-held dream of the Communist Party-linked Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces (FARC), whose forces make up the largest element of the CNGSB. In the 1960s, the FARC established what it called an “independent republic”

inside Colombian territory, from which it was, eventually, violently dislodged.

Lest anyone be naive enough to believe that the Gaviria government’s appeasement policies are an independent gesture, listen to U.S. Undersecretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Bernard Aronson, speaking last March on “U.S. Policy and Funding Priorities in Latin America and the Caribbean for FY 1992”: “We are also encouraged by recent successes in negotiating a peaceful end to Colombia’s guerrilla insurgencies. We support the initiative of President Gaviria to offer dialogue to the EPL and FARC guerrillas, and hope they respond affirmatively.”

El Salvador: targeting the Armed Forces

Precisely modeled on the Colombian experience is El Salvador, where the U.S.-backed Secretary General of the United Nations, Javier Pérez de Cuellar, has mediated an apparent “agreement” to end the war between the government of President Alfredo Cristiani and the guerrilla forces of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN). The agreement would permit the incorporation of thousands of armed subversives into a new civilian-controlled national police force, while establishing a government-rebel commission to oversee the “reform” of the Salvadoran Armed Forces—including a drastic reduction in its size and a purge of “unacceptable” elements.

The pending agreement is not substantially different from the FMLN’s original demand for assimilation of its army into the country’s military forces, which was characterized by U.N. mediator Alvaro de Soto as “tantamount to an armed peace. They [the FMLN] want to be able to carry out maneuvers and continue to recruit in a large swath of the country, so as to be ready for the possibility of having to return to fighting.”

Salvadoran President Cristiani, who only weeks earlier had characterized the FMLN’s demand as “a total impracticality,” and had insisted that his “main objective here is to create a *disarmed* political party out of the FMLN,” told the United Nations General Assembly Sept. 23 that now “the main roadblocks have been removed,” and that “total agreement” was close at hand. Perhaps it was the fact that U.S. Ambassador to El Salvador William Walker, along with U.S. embassy staff, had traveled into the heart of rebel territory in August to hold a symbolic drinking and photo session with 10 FMLN commanders, that prompted Cristiani’s sudden change of heart.

Should Presidents Gaviria and Cristiani want to see the concrete results of a “social pact” with terrorism, they need look no farther than Nicaragua, where President Violeta Chamorro’s made-in-the-U.S.A. “democracy” is fast devolving into a new civil war. In the absence of a serious economic and social program for rebuilding that nation, “demobilized” Contras and former Sandinista soldiers are re-arming in preparation for a new outbreak of war.