

Andean Report by Cynthia Rush

OAS embraces Peruvian terrorists

Shining Path vows to "take power before the decade is out," as the nation's military capability is dismantled.

During its recent trip to Peru, the Organization of American States' Inter-American Commission for Human Rights didn't limit its criminal behavior to meeting with imprisoned drug kingpins or the terrorist assassins of Shining Path and the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA), to solicit their complaints of "human rights violations" against the armed forces. In one meeting with MRTA representative Alberto Galvez Olaechea, the commission's discussion actually revolved around recognition of the MRTA as a group which is "respectful of the Geneva Convention"—an extraordinary claim, given MRTA's history of murder, kidnappings, and bombings.

This is the same OAS commission which refused to consider the case of human rights violations against U.S. political prisoner Lyndon LaRouche in August 1991.

Yet, according to the Nov. 4 issue of *Oiga* magazine, the commission planned to grant "belligerent" status to the Peruvian narco-terrorists; that is, to consider them an *equal party*, with legitimate concerns, in a war against the state. The commission "will equate terrorist acts . . . to overcome poverty and build a new state . . . with the defense of democracy," *Oiga* reported, as a means of forcing the government to conduct a dialogue with the narco-terrorists.

In its conclusions, presented Oct. 31, the OAS commission reportedly called on the government and the terrorists to "humanize" their conflict—as if Shining Path were capable of anything approximating human behavior.

The OAS commission's bald embrace of these assassins reflects Anglo-American policy, which is not just to destroy Peru as a sovereign nation, but to wipe it off the face of the map. On the one hand there is the Pol Pot-like Shining Path, which is on a rampage throughout the country—determined to eliminate all traces of Western Christian civilization and any agency or individual, including the Catholic Church, which attempts to strengthen that tradition. The other side of the strategy is the Alberto Fujimori government's fanatic adherence to International Monetary Fund's (IMF) austerity, which has contributed to the deaths of tens of thousands from disease and poverty.

The Peruvian nation hangs by a thread. Yet President Fujimori has just committed himself to imposing even harsher IMF austerity, and has reshuffled his cabinet to enhance the country's image in the international banking community. Worse, because of the U.S.-backed "human rights" campaign, the armed forces are being dismantled, vilified, and deprived of money and weapons needed to combat the terrorists. Foreign assistance is conditioned on their "proving" that they respect human rights.

The OAS commission's presence in Peru fueled the international campaign against the armed forces. During the commission's stay, local press reported that two cases of human rights violations by military personnel would be brought before the OAS Inter-American Court of Justice in Costa Rica. After an unidentified armed group massacred 16 people in Lima

on Nov. 3, one day after the OAS delegation departed, local media, as well as leftists, human rights lobbyists, and social democrats in the Congress, claimed that the murders had been carried out by a "paramilitary" group, possibly involving the police or the army.

Despite contradictory evidence, international wire services immediately joined in to bolster the charge that the military had been involved. Reuters warned on Nov. 10 that if a paramilitary squad were involved, this "could frustrate Peru's efforts to show it has cleaned up rights abuses by security forces fighting leftist guerrillas." Playing on the image of the armed forces which the international press has presented, a spokesman for Peru's National Human Rights Commission hysterically warned that "human rights workers, journalists, academics, and others" in Lima could now all be "at risk."

Military leaders are responding defensively. Newly appointed Defense Minister Gen. Victor Malca announced on Nov. 9 that any officer or non-com who violates human rights, will be tried by civilian rather than military justice.

There are no obstacles placed in Shining Path's way, however. According to a report in the Nov. 2 *La República*, the group's representative in Brussels, Luis Arce Borja, propagandizes from a comfortable office equipped with fax machine, phones, offset printers, translators, and an international distribution service. In an interview published in the Nov. 11 daily *Expreso*, Arce Borja boasted that "hunger and misery have grown, the universities are militarized, there is much agitation in the slums; so . . . the party is preparing for insurrection in all of Peru's cities, including Lima." Shining Path will be in power, he added, "before the decade is out."