

Andean Report by Carlos Méndez

Peru's terrorists invade Mexico

Shining Path, proclaiming itself "spearhead of the international revolution," sets up shop in Mexico City.

How extensive is the network of the Shining Path terrorists inside Mexico? Who are their accomplices, allies, and followers there? And why does the Mexican government of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari tolerate their presence?

These questions appeared in a letter to the editor published in the March 5 issue of the Mexican daily *El Nacional*, denouncing the presence of Shining Path at the International Book Fair, which is organized every year in Mexico City by the Autonomous National University of Mexico (UNAM) and the engineering faculty of that university.

In his letter, Hugo Garavito Amezaga notes that the Shining Path book *La Guerra Popular en el Perú. El Pensamiento Gonzalo (People's War in Peru. Gonzalo's Thought*, second edition, Mexico City, 1991), "together with abundant literature promoting death and genocide in Peru, can be acquired at the K-15 stand that the International Book Fair has provided the Shining Path committee operating in Mexico. Its exact name is Support Committee for People's War in Peru, and it is presided over by one Gabriela Salas. . . . Further, the fair announced a Shining Path propaganda event for March 8. . . . [on the pretext] of presenting a pamphlet called 'Our Red Flag Waves in Peru.' The pamphlet is an apology for 'selective annihilation.' "

Garavito writes that worst of all is the fact that the ravings of Shining Path are not limited to Peru but, as Gabriela Salas says in the pamphlet,

"represent the spearhead of the international revolution."

That is, writes Garavito, "for the Shining Path, Peru is but 'a base for the world revolution.' . . . Therefore, the Mexican-based Support Committee for People's War in Peru is a beachhead inside the country for a ferocious project that seeks to incinerate Latin America, and the world."

On March 6, *El Nacional* published a reply from Efraín Badillo Jasso, coordinator of the International Book Fair, who maintains that "there was no bookstand of the Shining Path represented" at the fair. The same newspaper published the reply of Frank Witman, the representative at the fair of Liberation Distribution, who denied that the fair ever gave space to Shining Path, saying it was rather given to his distributing company, which "sells the materials of the Communist Party of Peru (Shining Path)."

According to Witman, his company sells "progressive, radical and, especially, revolutionary books. . . . The nucleus of our activities is the distribution of works of the Maoist international tendency." Regarding the Shining Path propaganda event, Witman claimed that it was merely to present the magazine *Un Mundo que Ganar (A World to Win)*, which is the organ of the Shining Path international movement.

On March 7, *El Nacional* published a second letter by Garavito Amezaga, entitled "Shining Path in Mexico: If It Walks Like a Duck and Has the Tail of a Duck, It's a Duck."

The letter insists that the bookstand at issue was selling every sort of Shining Path publication and videotape, such that "if it wasn't Shining Path at the fair, it was a twin brother."

Garavito Amezaga also pointed out that, in his reply, Witman never mentioned "the links between his distribution network and the (Maoist) Revolutionary Communist Party of the United States, which is part of the so-called Internationalist Revolutionary Movement (MRI) created at the second conference of the (Maoist) Communist International Movement in Paris in 1983. The mouthpiece of this terrorist international is, in fact, the publication *A World to Win*."

Garavito Amezaga warned that from the standpoint of Shining Path, "Mexico has a key role to play, along with other Shining Path international centers—France, Belgium, and Sweden—because of its influence in Latin America and as a route to the United States." He concluded that the book fair was but a glimpse of Shining Path's operations in Mexico, and that those operations are not a question of freedom of expression, but of national security.

In February, at the philosophy department of the UNAM, a poster appeared bearing the headline "The People's War Gets Ready to Take Power," and announcing a Shining Path forum to be held in the auditorium of Section 9 of the National Union of Education Workers, captured by leftists of the National Coordinator of Education Workers.

If one considers that Mexico has just agreed to be the site for revived "peace talks" between the government of Colombia and the FARC/ELN narco-terrorists in that country, one must conclude that Shining Path's presence in Mexico is indeed a beachhead, and a threat to security everywhere.