

## Andean Report by Manuel Hidalgo

### Vargas Llosa wants to scrap army

*A scribbler for the "new world order" has relaunched an offensive against the Peruvian government and military.*

Just as Peru's President Alberto Fujimori and the Peruvian Armed Forces are achieving important new successes in their war against the terrorists of Shining Path, the one-worldist oligarchy has launched a new offensive to destabilize Peru's government and to dismantle its Armed Forces.

In statements to Spanish television which were re-broadcast in Lima on June 28, pornography writer and former presidential candidate Mario Vargas Llosa claimed that "the disappearance of [South America's] armed forces would not be a catastrophe for Latin America. The armies have been . . . a source of extravagant waste in military weapons, the source of innumerable military uprisings, civil wars, and international wars . . . throughout our history." He added that "in Latin America, military expenditures have been a terrible hemorrhage for national budgets, and one of the obstacles to development and modernization." He proposed that "in this new era of democratization, of the end of the Cold War, the entire world should move toward the reduction and gradual disappearance of armies."

Joining Vargas Llosa's anti-military campaign were several spokesmen of Peru's political parties, who publicly called on the "institutionalist" faction in the military to ignore orders from their commanders and to "reestablish democracy" in the country.

Gen. Nicolás Hermoza, general commander of the Army, was obliged to call a July 8 meeting of commanders from all the military regions of the country, to present an "act of unity and

institutional solidarity" as a means of responding to the anti-military machinations: "These attacks, which some have viewed as innocuous or as the result of political immaturity, hold another meaning for us. . . . This is a pre-meditated attack, forming part of a systematic plan to harm Peru." General Hermoza added that Vargas Llosa's Peruvian nationality was "a geographic accident."

President Fujimori himself told the same gathering of military commanders and officers that Vargas Llosa's statements "are part of clumsy and useless maneuvers to try to break the unity of the Armed Forces. . . . Imagine a fictional country, with all the ingredients of our situation and where an Armed Forces does not exist! Such a country wouldn't last a week."

The President insisted that "in a country like ours, weakened by the crisis in which we live, threatened by terrorism and by the drug trade, the Armed Forces are the first guardian of the nation." He also challenged the party-ocracy, which "has knocked at the doors of the cartels," demanding defense of their own privileges, and he warned the politicians that they were making a serious error, because there is "an indestructible and monolithic unity of the Armed Forces."

To judge by the fighting tone of such statements, both the government and the Armed Forces appear well aware that what is at stake is not merely the existence of the military institution, but that of the nation itself. Vargas Llosa is merely repeating what

former U.S. Defense Secretary Robert McNamara told a recent assembly of the World Bank: They should reduce the size and resources of the Armed Forces.

These same one worldist spokesmen are now proposing outright elimination of the Armed Forces, as a certain means of doing away with national sovereignty and assuring the triumph of narco-terrorism in countries like Peru.

Should this effort fail, there always remains to the one-worldists the option of using so-called "inter-American forces" to intervene against Peru, under the pretext of preventing narco-terrorism from spreading regionwide, as the local press has already begun to predict. It remains to be seen whether President Fujimori and the Peruvian military will be able to withstand the pressures of the one-worldist oligarchy, which has not forgiven them for having "kicked over the chessboard" on April 5 to halt Shining Path's advance.

The biggest question, however, is still whether President Fujimori will finally put aside his dangerous illusion that he can continue to wage successful war against narco-terrorism and for national sovereignty while continuing with the free trade economic policies imposed by that same financial oligarchy and defended by his economics minister, Carlos Boloña. Indeed, it is already evident that by putting a priority on the repayment of usurious foreign debt service, there are insufficient resources for the adequate equipping and training of Peru's Armed Forces. Asked about the pitifully low wages of Peru's military, Boloña responded July 12: "We're doing what we can. . . . I can't give more than what I have." And yet only a few days before, Boloña admitted that Peru was paying \$60 million every month in debt service.