

Andean Report by Andrea Olivieri

Peru under 'democratic' assault

The Project Democracy crowd is complaining about President Fujimori's refusal to share power with narco-terrorists.

The orders have come down from the Project Democracy super-government in Washington to "clean up the Peru problem" now, before Bill Clinton takes office in January. A specific target of this newest offensive to install "democracy" in Peru, is that country's Constituent Assembly elections on Nov. 22. Immediately after those elections, Project Democracy will be holding a conference in Lima, where its ultimatum will be spelled out.

Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori's insistence on militarily defending his ravaged nation from the Shining Path and MRTA narco-terrorists, thereby placing the sovereign interests of Peru above the so-called "collective rights" of the new world order, has punched a gaping hole in their efforts to secure the continent for another decade of free market looting, drug trafficking, and depopulation. If Fujimori's popularity remains intact through the Constituent Assembly elections, his war-winning approach will be strengthened—possibly inspiring others to follow suit.

The strict military trial and conviction for treason of Shining Path chieftain and war criminal Abimael Guzmán—applauded across Peru as the first sign of real justice in Peru in years—has been fashioned into the latest *cause célèbre* of the international human rights lobby, upon which Project Democracy's campaign rests. Amnesty International and Americas Watch, two pro-terrorist mouthpieces masquerading as human rights advocates, sent a letter to President Fujimori describing Guzmán as a "politi-

cal prisoner" and demanding that he receive a "just trial."

At the same time, other human rights forces have openly painted the Guzmán trial as "illegitimate," paving the way, according to at least one scenario presented by Peru's media, for having the Shining Path chieftain's life sentence dismissed by an international tribunal.

On Oct. 27, the *Christian Science Monitor* lent its pages to U.S. "human rights" professor Douglass W. Cassel, Jr., who charged Fujimori with violating the Inter-American Human Rights Accord (known as the San José Pact), by subjecting war criminal Guzmán to the indignities of a military trial. Cassel conveniently forgot to mention that Peru is in a state of war.

Inside Peru, Fujimori has been denounced by the likes of journalist Luis Pasará, a "former" communist who wrote in *Caretas* magazine on Oct. 29 that the Peruvian government's "barbaric" treatment of Guzmán—showing him to the public in prison clothes and trying him by anonymous military judges in the absence of the press—has destroyed Fujimori's credibility, and that perhaps "an international court [should] accept jurisdiction" over the case and "revise the sentences."

One week earlier, Pasará wrote that the Peruvian state required a "total restructuring" by foreign forces, along the lines of the El Salvador model. If foreign advice is acceptable in financial matters, he argued, why not get U.N. forces to restructure our judiciary, our police, and our armed forc-

es, too? Pasará was especially furious that Fujimori is considering Peru's withdrawal from the San José Pact, and dubbed any such move "indefensible, despite popular support" for the measure.

Similarly oblivious to the fact that a President is elected by his people and not by multilateral institutions, the Inter-American Human Rights Commission of the Organization of American States (OAS) warned Fujimori that withdrawal from the pact would go "against the current of consolidating democratic regimes based on civil and political rights." One much-touted example of such a "democratic regime" is corruption-riddled Venezuela, whose head of state Carlos Andrés Pérez threatened in an Oct. 27 interview that Fujimori's government would end "dramatically badly."

Pérez is a sponsor of an extraordinary session of the OAS, to be held in Buenos Aires in late November, which will consider multinational sanctions against "undemocratic" Peru, ranging from an economic blockade to outright expulsion from the OAS.

But before that session takes place, Project Democracy is planning an intervention into Peru Nov. 9-10, with a seminar sponsored by the Peruvian Center for International Studies. Addressing it will be "Mr. Project Democracy" himself, head of the U.S. National Endowment for Democracy Carl Gershman.

Also addressing the forum will be Peter Hakim of a pro-drug legalization bankers' organization, the Inter-American Dialogue. Hakim co-authored a Nov. 2 newspaper column demanding that the next U.S. administration bolster the capacity of the OAS "to prod" countries into negotiated settlements with narco-terrorists and to "help increase civilian control of military forces in Latin America."