

São Paulo Forum terror commandos captured in Peru

by Gretchen Small

When Peru's anti-terror police, the Dincote, raided a "people's jail" of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) in Lima on Oct. 15, they uncovered far more than another horrible case of human rights violations committed by terrorists. The evidence gathered thus far from the raid confirms, in dramatic detail, that the so-called "democratic left" groups joined in the São Paulo Forum, a continental organization of political parties founded by the Cuban Communist Party in 1990, have not put down their arms as they so piously claim, but continue to deploy a centralized, *continent-wide* narco-terrorist apparatus as the military arm of their "electoral" offensive.

The uncovered terrorist operation threatens the national security of every nation in the Americas. Yet 12 days after the police raid, the international media continue to censor all news and investigations around it, in stark contrast to the unending coverage given to allegations that Peru's military and government are carrying out an "undemocratic" war against terrorism.

This discrepancy conforms with the policy of the influential bankers' lobby, the Inter-American Dialogue, to bring member parties of the São Paulo Forum network to power across Ibero-America as the new face of "democracy"—the Dialogue's new word for any rotten policy it decides to impose. Leading members of the São Paulo Forum include El Salvador's Farabundo Martí Liberation Front (FMLN), the Sandinista Liberation Front of Nicaragua (FSLN), and Colombia's M-19 movement—all implicated in the MRTA terrorist operation.

The support given the São Paulo Forum by Dialogue agents within the Clinton administration, especially in the U.S. State Department and the National Security Council (whose Latin America desk is headed by former Dialogue president Richard Feinberg) continues to constitute the single

greatest threat to security in the hemisphere.

Evidence in hand

In the raid and subsequent investigations, Peruvian security officials have so far found the following:

1) Peruvian-Japanese businessman Raul Hiraoka, held captive in shackles for four months in a suffocatingly tiny cell by the MRTA. Other "people's jails" where previous victims of the MRTA kidnapping-for-ransom industry had been held in subhuman conditions, were then found in subsequent raids in Lima. Hiraoka was found alive by the police; others were not so lucky.

2) The largest arsenal of weapons ever captured in the last 12 years of war in Peru. They found bazookas, grenades, FAL and AKM rifles, automatic pistols, 20,000 rounds of ammunition, and high-power Russian-made anti-tank rockets of the same type that the Sandinistas used to blow up Nicaraguan ex-President Anastasio Somoza and his car in Paraguay. The weapons had been patiently brought into Lima from the MRTA's main base of operations in the cocaine trade's center, the Upper Huallaga Valley. Also seized were sophisticated communications equipment, computers, the printing equipment for producing fraudulent identity papers for several nations, and false passports from Bolivia, Chile, Spain, and Uruguay.

3) Plans for a wave of assassinations and bombings to be carried out before the Oct. 31 national referendum on a new tough-on-terror Constitution. Propaganda calling for a "no" vote in the referendum was also found. Government officials now believe the planned MRTA terror wave was part of a bigger plot, coordinated with dissident military officers who intended to use the resulting chaos as an opportunity to overthrow the government, with the approval of the U.S. State Department. Included on the hit list were President Alberto

Fujimori and the commander of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces, Gen. Nicolas Hermoza Rios.

The plan was modeled on the Nov. 13, 1992 failed coup attempt led by Gen. Jaime Salinas Sedó, a Mason, attempted a few days before the elections for the Constituent Congress in which government candidates won a large majority. On the eve of the Oct. 31 referendum on the Constitution, the opposition to Fujimori was facing a similar electoral defeat: Despite the support thrown the "Coalition for a 'No'" by the Inter-American Dialogue, fanatically opposed to the Fujimori regime since it began its anti-terror war on April 5, 1992, the new Constitution appeared likely to be approved by a wide margin.

4) Incontestable proof that the dismantled MRTA commando unit earlier was part of the same continental terror and kidnap network, run by Cuba and Sandinista intelligence, which was exposed in the wake of the May 23, 1993 explosion of a weapons bunker in Managua, Nicaragua. (See "State Department back's Cuba's 'Terrorist International'" in *EIR*, Sept. 10, 1993.)

According to President Fujimori, the links between the MRTA and other terrorists in the region were both military and financial. Their operations also extended beyond Peru: According to Dincote sources cited by Peru's *El Comercio* Oct. 25, MRTA members participated in a bank heist carried out by the terrorist Lautaro group in Santiago, Chile on Oct. 21. According to these sources, the MRTA trained their Chilean associates in bank robbery, kidnapping, and extortion techniques; several of the terrorists arrested in Peru traveled "constantly" to Argentina, and the top commando arrested had planned to leave for Bolivia shortly.

Fujimori warned: this unit was "truly a serious security threat not only to Peru and Chile, but to all Latin America. . . . Terrorist groups generally coordinate internationally. They aid each other. From this stems the danger which they represent in each of our countries."

From Paris cafés to Peru's jungles

Of the 13 terrorists arrested at the first MRTA safehouse, four of them were Chilean nationals. The Chilean connection leads directly to the Cuban terrorist network so beloved of the Inter-American Dialogue. Consider the case of Jaime Castillo Petruzzi, the arrested Chilean who headed this MRTA kidnap and terror unit:

A member of a dissident faction of the Chilean MIR group, Castillo was captured in Chile in October 1981 after a battle with the Army in which seven terrorists died. He escaped from prison weeks later, took asylum in the French embassy in Santiago, and soon set up shop in Paris, where he became friends with a buddy of former Peruvian President Alan García, the founder of the MRTA, Victor Polay Campos. (Many believe the MRTA to be the armed wing of García's APRA party.) Both believed in "the application of 'revolutionary violence' by a 'front of the masses' and had

close links with the Nicaraguan FSLN," according to the Peruvian daily *Expreso*.

Castillo Petruzzi went to Nicaragua to serve as 'international political-military observer' of the Sandinista Defense Committees. From Nicaragua, he went to El Salvador, where he fought alongside the FMLN, finally arriving at the MRTA battlefield in Peru in 1990.

Castillo's aliases ("Alfredo" or "Sergio") have been known since November 1992, when the military took the MRTA's principal base in the Amazon region in a battle where 35 terrorists were killed. The military there learned of a "a contingent of foreign instructors (Nicaraguans, Salvadorans, Colombians, and also Chileans)" which were training the MRTA, *Expreso* reported Oct. 21. According to *La República* of Oct. 16, there are now 43 Colombians and Ecuadorans jailed in Peru on terrorist charges.

The MRTA has long played a leading role in the continental terrorist network. MRTA leader, former captain Villacrez, and another sympathizer, José Fernández Salvatecci, fought in Nicaragua during the Sandinista revolution, both reaching the rank of commanders in the Sandinista Army. Villacrez is still in hiding today, training terrorists, according to Peruvian sources.

The M-19 has sought to create a "Bolivarian army," M-19 spokesman Antonio Navarro Wolf told Mexican magazine *Cuadernos Políticos* in December 1985.

'Dialogue' as means of war

Today, Navarro Wolf is a leading member of the São Paulo Forum, and the M-19's candidate for President of Colombia. This past April, the Inter-American Dialogue brought Navarro Wolf and two other Forum candidates to Washington to meet with top Clinton administration officials. Dialogue spokesmen argue that the "ex"-terrorists in the Forum have changed strategy and are now committed democrats.

But even back in 1985, Navarro Wolf had a unified strategy for continental warfare and the manipulation of "democracy." In that same interview, Navarro stated emphatically that "we also believe that democracy, and the struggle for democracy, is revolutionary in Latin America." He claimed that the government and the oligarchy had "made necessary a civil war to obtain . . . the democratic opening," insisting that "the revolutionary process is the process of broadening democracy. We give ourselves democratic objectives, so that democracy by its own dynamic produces a transformation of society."

That strategy of war to force governments to accept "democratic" dialogue has not changed today. In early 1992, the MRTA and the São Paulo Forum were preparing to force Peru's government to undertake negotiations with the MRTA along the lines of those which the United Nations hoisted on El Salvador and which so benefitted the FMLN. During a São Paulo Forum meeting in Lima in February 1992, MRTA leader Yehude Simons, now jailed for terrorism, proposed

“peace negotiations” be held between the MRTA and the government, à la El Salvador. The next day, former Sandinista President Daniel Ortega, in Lima to attend the Forum confab, offered that he personally serve as the “mediator” in these negotiations!

Instead of capitulating to the terrorists’ strategy of “war for talks,” Peru’s government opted to defeat the terrorists once and for all. It was the decision to put the country on a war footing on April 5, 1992 which the Inter-American Dialogue—two of whose members are also leaders of the São Paulo Forum—would not tolerate.

What about Yeltsin?

The fact that, under conditions of spreading terrorist warfare, the U.S. State Department continues to decry as “undemocratic” any Ibero-American government or military which even simply warns publicly of the existence of the São Paulo Forum’s Narco-Terrorist International, has already created unprecedented hostility to the United States’ “democracy” policy among the officer corps, in particular, of every country in the hemisphere. But the U.S. government’s slavish support for Boris Yeltsin’s bloody assault upon the Russian Parliament Oct. 3 and 4 may soon prove to have been the event which finally buried, whatever credibility still clung to the U.S. administration’s obsessive litany about a new global “democratic” order.

From Guatemala, to Venezuela, to Peru, U.S. support for Yeltsin’s dictatorship has called into question the entirety of U.S. policy towards the region. The comparison between the handling of Peru and Russia has stunned many.

The Peruvian government continues to be treated as a pariah state—with the U.S. State Department now caught twice in fomenting military uprising against it—because President Fujimori shut down a corrupt Congress and judiciary on April 5, 1992 because those institutions had repeatedly refused to allow a war against the terrorism ravaging the nation. But the Russian government was *hailed* for defending “democracy,” after Boris Yeltsin ordered a *military* assault on the Russian Parliament—because the Parliament had repeatedly put up obstacles to the economic austerity program demanded by the International Monetary Fund.

“Boris Yeltsin is praised, and I am called a dictator, when he caused thousands of deaths,” Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori angrily told the Argentine paper *Ambito Financiero*. “I was careful that there was no bloodshed when I dissolved Congress,” he said. “Why has he been accepted as he has, and I have not been pardoned for anything? The judgment made on me is unjust and inexact. Here there is total freedom, much more than in Russia. . . . Here, as you can see, I have the total support of the people.” As an editorial in Venezuela’s *Diario de Caracas* asked bluntly on Oct. 26: “How does one support the U.S. in Haiti and condemn Fujimori, while the U.S.A. unconditionally supports Yeltsin’s actions?”

U.S. Haiti policy at an impasse, but genocide continues

by Cynthia Rush

The same chaos which now characterizes U.S. policy toward Somalia has extended to Haiti, as the Clinton administration and its foreign policy advisers have for the moment backed off from using military force against Haiti’s Armed Forces and have also rejected imposing a complete commercial blockade of the country. This decision has in no way halted the murder of poor Haitians, however, who are dying as a result of the continuing embargo imposed by the United Nations and Organization of American States (OAS).

Despite their poverty and lack of resources, Haiti’s Armed Forces have put the U.S. and the U.N “globaloney” apparatus up against the wall, causing many administration officials to pause over what it would mean for the United States to intervene militarily in that country. As Haitian police officer Pierre Louis told Argentina’s daily *Clarín* in an interview published Oct. 28, “We will do what we will do.” If the U.S. decides to take military action against Haiti, “this won’t be one Somalia, it will be two Somalias . . . because we will throw all the Americans into the sea. We don’t want them. They should get out of here.” Deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide he said, “is a terrorist. He has an entire army. He is a criminal and murderer.” As for U.N. envoy Dante Caputo, Louis asked, “where is he? Why isn’t he here? He’s a *maricón*—a queer, a queer.”

U.S. officials say they will now focus on diplomatic efforts to try to bring about a government of “national reconciliation” while they urge Aristide to broaden his cabinet to include opposition political forces. The State Department and the White House have abandoned the Oct. 30 deadline for Aristide’s scheduled return to Haiti, with Secretary of State Warren Christopher’s explanation that “it’s more important to achieve the result of democracy than to fix a particular date.”

Several factors have contributed to the policy morass, not the least of which is the image of a powerful United States taking measures which will ensure death by starvation and disease of 7 million impoverished Haitians. While some members of the administration have said publicly they think a total blockade “would be a good thing,” the existence of a