

help of \$6 million from the drug cartels. The State Department, and the Defense Department under Secretary William Perry, have more broadly demanded that the military in Colombia—and across Ibero-America—be downsized and dismantled, reducing their participation in national political life to insignificance, all in the name of promoting “democracy.” The Defense Department’s September 1995 document, *United States Security Strategy for the Americas*, reflects this foolish policy outlook most systematically. It argues that the threat of terrorism in the Americas is receding, and that the United States’ central policy objective in Ibero-America is to get the military to line up behind the mantra of “democracy and free trade.”

The origins of this insane policy go back to the early 1980s, and what *EIR* has documented as the “Bush Manual,” or the plot to annihilate the Ibero-American military as part of the global British war against the nation-state. That policy is unfortunately alive and well in the Pentagon and the State Department today. And it now appears that, with their stupidity, elements within the U.S. government have helped a narco-government kill a patriot.

Book Reviews

Proof positive that the FARC Cartel exists

The FARC Cartel

by Maj. Luis Alberto Villamarín Pulido
Ediciones El Faraón, Bogotá, 1996
210 pages, paperbound

The FARC cocaine cartel “survived all the cartel wars: cartel vs. cartel, cartel vs. state, and cartel vs. the world; today they are the most powerful of all the cartels,” states Gen. Harold Bedoya Pizarro, commander-in-chief of the Colombian Army, in his prologue to the newly released book, *The FARC Cartel*.

For most Colombians, this book compiles facts which are already known, that the FARC finances itself by drug trafficking. The various testimonies and documents published in the book are known in Colombia in one form or another,

either through the mass media, or via anecdotal accounts by persons who have lived in or visited the “guerrilla” zones. That General Bedoya officially presented this book at a press conference, and put his signature to the prologue, represents an attempt to put the brakes on any attempt by the narco-government of President Ernesto Samper Pizano to conduct a dialogue or negotiate with the FARC.

Perhaps the most important thing about this book is that it was published in English, as well as Spanish, in order to be distributed around the world—and especially in Washington. Its release in English launches an international battle to end support for the FARC in various countries, in particular in the United States, where the Armed Forces of Colombia have for too long been presented as violators of human rights, and the FARC as supposedly heroic defenders of the Colombian peasantry.

Guerrillas, cocaine, and heroin

During the 1980s, the very terms “narco-guerrilla” and “narco-terrorism” were ruled out of the official lexicon, on orders from former vice-president and later President George Bush. Today, the U.S. State Department has been forced to acknowledge that the FARC is indeed involved in drug trafficking. It will be difficult now for Washington to apply its considerable pressure to force a “peace” agreement on Colombia, like the one imposed on El Salvador under the tutelage of the United Nations. It will be difficult for the United States to back a “peace pact” with the FARC Cartel.

This book presents hard documentation proving that the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) is a cocaine cartel, with coca plantations and laboratories not only in Colombia, but also in Peru and Brazil. The FARC started out cooperating with, and getting paid for services by, the Cali and Medellín cartels; it subsequently launched into its own production, and even trafficking, of coca, cocaine, opium poppy, and heroin. Of the 62 “fronts” which the FARC has around the country, 38 are dedicated to the production and traffic of cocaine and opiates.

Part of the documentation presented was captured from the FARC’s 14th and 15th fronts, in the vicinity of a village called Paujil, in the coca-producing zone of the Caquetá department, during a military operation conducted by the VII Army Brigade. One of the documents presents instructions to the FARC’s communications officers on how to contact the Cali Cartel by radio or by beeper.

The documents reveal, for example, that the 15th front controls 16 cocaine laboratories in the area, with a production volume of 640 kilos of cocaine monthly. If we multiply this sum by the 38 fronts dedicated to drug trafficking, cocaine production by the FARC alone is 24,320 kilos of cocaine per month. Assuming that the FARC sells the bulk of the processed drug to the other cartels (i.e., that they do not have their own distribution networks), the kilos of cocaine would

be sold for \$100 apiece. That means that the income would be \$24.3 million for an annual FARC total revenue of \$291 million, from drugs *alone!*

This reckoning is extremely conservative, especially if one considers that for 1996 the FARC planned internally on a \$500 million budget in order to finance their terrorist operations, and if one considers that some sources have made it known that the FARC and ELN (National Liberation Army) contribute \$3.5 billion to Cuba every year.

Yet, the book is not based on projections nor on general calculations, but on captured documents, at the confiscated coca-producing plantations belonging to the FARC.

The book's conclusion is obvious: Negotiations with the FARC are impossible, unless it be for their surrender. The only choice facing the Colombian nation today is to defeat the FARC Cartel—politically, juridically, economically, and militarily—by attacking its finances, its international support networks, and its terrorist fronts, with the full weight of the state.

A young boy's life of horror in the FARC

En El Infierno, Una Guerrilla que Se Devora a Si Misma: Testimonio de un Ex-Integrante de las FARC

by Jhony

Ediciones de Hugo Mantilla, Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia, 1995

195 pages, paperbound

In reading this book (*In Hell, A Guerrilla Devours Himself: Testimony of a Former FARC Member*), one could conclude that more “guerrillas” died at the hands of their superiors in the narco-terrorist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), than in armed confrontations with the Colombian Army and National Police. The regime of terror inside the FARC is horrifying, a true inferno. One could also conclude that the majority of the assassinations of members of the Patriotic Union (political front created by the FARC and the Colombian Communist Party, or PCC) were in fact committed by FARC assassins, as a means of purging certain political factions considered undesirable by PCC and FARC commanders.

This story by a FARC ex-“guerrilla,” who identifies himself by the *nom de guerre* Jhony, is written, as he puts it, “to explain to Colombian youth what life as a guerrilla is really

like, and to invite them not to be fooled by illusions, and thus to avoid falling into the trap of entering the murky world of subversion.” Jhony says he also wants to expose the violations of human rights committed by the FARC, and to make it clear who the government is really dealing with, when it enters into “peace” negotiations with these narco-terrorists.

The story begins when the author is barely 12 years old, at the end of 1981. Out of a child's desire to avenge the death of his father, who died during the period of Liberal-Conservative warfare known as *La Violencia*, Jhony joins the FARC. He is disenchanted from the very first day, when the rules are explained to him and he is warned, as are all those who enter Dante's *Inferno*, that those who enter should entertain no hope of leaving. “One doesn't join for a specific period of time; this is for life—until they kill you or the socialist revolution triumphs,” Jhony is told in his first indoctrination session.

From the very beginning, he is forced to witness and participate in the murders of several FARC members. The first five are children like himself, who tried to flee after becoming disillusioned with their recruitment—through force or trickery—into the FARC. Prior to the murders, the commander of the FARC front to which Jhony had been recruited held a “war council,” a parody of a summary trial that lasted several hours. A vote was held to give the appearance of democracy, but voting against the commander's recommendation was equivalent to sentencing oneself to death.

Others were killed for “cowardice,” for refusing to participate in the killing of others, for being a spy or informant, for stealing a tin of sardines or loaf of bread from the guerrilla camp supplies, and so forth. Girls of 13-14 years of age were assassinated for refusing to have sexual relations with the commanders. Before their execution, the victims would be forced to remove their clothes, so as to avoid ruining uniforms that would be allotted to others.

In sum, the guerrilla “combatant” is considered disposable, and executed at the first hint of a fault, whether real or the product of someone's paranoid fantasy. Most of the executions are carried out by strangulation or stabbing, rather than by shooting, to avoid alerting military patrols or spies as to their whereabouts.

School for assassins

After one of these executions, the new recruits were ordered by the camp commander to “drink the blood [of the victims,] to show that we were learning to lose the fear of killing,” writes Jhony. “I think I felt that I had committed an act of witchcraft or black magic that I couldn't understand.” After having killed numerous peasants as “informers,” having participated in hundreds of “war councils” and scores of indoctrination sessions into the mysteries of Marxism-Leninism, having participated in many kidnappings, and getting to meet the top chieftains of the FARC—Jacobó Arenas, Manuel Marulanda Vélez (alias “Tirofijo,” the Sharpshooter), and Al-