
The Pinochet Case

British Lords launch assault on nation-state

by Cynthia R. Rush

In mid-April, Britain's Scotland Yard rearrested Chilean Gen. Augusto Pinochet, on a new warrant reflecting the Blair government's decision to let stand the request by Spanish magistrate Baltasar Garzón that the former dictator be extradited to Madrid and prosecuted on charges of torture and murder. Pinochet was first arrested last October on the basis of Garzón's original warrant, and he has been held under house arrest in London since then.

On March 24, Britain's Law Lords trampled the principle of sovereign immunity, ruling that Pinochet could be held responsible for human rights crimes committed while head of state, and tried in a foreign court. They only stipulated that the time frame be limited to crimes committed after 1988. This left intact only two or three charges against the Chilean, leading to speculation that Home Secretary Jack Straw might reject Garzón's original request and let Pinochet return to Chile. Instead, on April 14, Straw reaffirmed it.

Pinochet's supporters were dumbfounded that Britain, which the 82-year-old general had so loyally served, would take such action. They wouldn't have been surprised, had they grasped that the Pinochet case is a critical element in the global assault on sovereign nation-states, directed by the British-American-Commonwealth (BAC) apparatus behind NATO's bombing of Yugoslavia. As the world financial system crumbles, the BAC is using the "humanitarian" and "human rights" crises it helped create, to wage war against nations. Ibero-America's armed forces are one of its many targets.

That the Pinochet case is part of the BAC's larger strategy has been manically proclaimed by globalists of various stripes. One is Reed Brody of Human Rights Watch, the George Soros-financed non-governmental organization which is a longtime fixture in the BAC's stable of nation-wrecking organizations. In an interview with Argentina's *Clarín* on April 16, Brody hailed Straw's decision as a "definitive victory," and pontificated that "it would have been very contradictory if, at the same time that Blair was directing the world's attention to stopping the crimes of *lèse humanité* in Kosovo, Pinochet had been allowed to go free."

Jimmy Carter's National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski was even more explicit, on public television's Charlie Rose talk show on March 25. Brzezinski emphasized

that *together*, NATO's bombing of Yugoslavia and the Law Lords ruling on Pinochet "signal something very important, namely, the emergence of what might be called 'a global code of conduct,' a global sense of responsibility, a global awareness of what is tolerable and what is not."

A 'global jail'?

Since the Law Lords' ruling, globalization advocates have gone into a full attack on Ibero-America's armed forces. Paraguayan lawyer Martín Almada, one of Garzón's witnesses against Pinochet, demanded in late March that former Paraguayan dictator Gen. Alfredo Stroessner, resident in Brazil since his 1993 overthrow, be extradited to Madrid for prosecution along with Pinochet. Another Garzón collaborator in Madrid, Argentine human rights lawyer Carlos Slepoy, told *Clarín* that there is evidence to prove "not only the responsibility of Pinochet and Stroessner, but also of those who ran the Southern Cone dictatorships, such as [Argentine] Jorge Videla, subsequent members of Argentina's military juntas, and [former Bolivian junta leader] Hugo Bánzer." Jack Straw's decision "lays down the principle of universal jurisdiction in the prosecution of human rights crimes."

American historian Joseph Tulchin, an anti-military activist linked to the BAC's Inter-American Dialogue (IAD), elaborated on this point in an article titled "A Global Jail," in *Clarín* on April 4. The cases against Pinochet and Paraguay's anti-globalist Gen. Lino Oviedo are important steps toward a new "international regime," he said, in which nations will submit to international treaties defining "specific codes of conduct."

How is this to be enforced? Tulchin cites the case of Paraguay, where BAC allies recently acted in the name of "democracy" to oust democratically elected President Raúl Cubas because of his ties to Oviedo and the nationalist military. He hints that "if evidence surfaces" of Oviedo's alleged involvement in the March 23 assassination of Vice President Luis María Argaña, "supranational mechanisms could be fabricated to deal with such an attack on the rule of law." Oviedo fled Paraguay and has been granted asylum in Argentina.

As NATO's bombing campaign against Yugoslavia continues, Ibero-Americans are increasingly realizing that their nations are vulnerable to the same BAC treatment meted out to the Balkans. One reflection of this was the April 29 statement by Peru's Foreign Ministry, calling for a halt to NATO's bombing campaign and involvement of the UN Security Council to bring about a diplomatic solution. Less diplomatic were the remarks of well-known Peruvian journalist Patricio Ricketts, at a roundtable discussion at the Russian-Peruvian Friendship Society on April 23. Ricketts warned that for Ibero-America, the "new NATO" would be what the IAD calls "the new OAS" (Organization of American States), that is, an instrument for supranational intervention into any country which defies London's "democratic stability," and the genocidal neo-liberal economic dictates which go with it.