

U.S. State Dept. Overthrows Peru's Anti-Drug Government

by Gretchen Small and Luis Vásquez Medina

On Nov. 20, President Alberto Fujimori submitted his resignation to Peru's Congress, effective immediately. With this, the U.S. State Department and associated Project Democracy circles internationally have finally succeeded in their year-long campaign to overthrow the leading anti-drug government in the Americas.

The immediate next step was to bring into power, a prominent international controller of the project to revive Shining Path in Peru. On Nov. 22, Peru's Congress elected opposition politician Valentín Paniagua as President of Peru — and Paniagua, as his first act of government, named former United Nations Secretary General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar as his Prime Minister. Given that Paniagua is a mediocre local politician, it is Pérez de Cuéllar, a hard-core British swine wholly owned by the Anglo-American powers, who will be running the country.

Pérez de Cuéllar, a personal friend of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and former President George Bush, was the UN Secretary General who raised no objection to Bush's invasion of Panama, and then oversaw the "Operation Desert Storm" genocide against Iraq. He is a member of the International Board of Prince Philip's World Wide Fund for Nature, and president emeritus of the Inter-American Dialogue. Pérez de Cuéllar is hated within Peru, as was demonstrated in the 1995 Presidential election, when he ran against Fujimori, and was trounced in the first round of the elections by an unprecedented margin: Fujimori received 63.7%, to Pérez de Cuéllar's 22.4%.

Chaos, not stability, is likely to ensue over the coming months. New Presidential and Congressional elections were

scheduled for April 8, with the inauguration of the new President expected on July 28, 2001. The ouster of Fujimori throws all such plans into doubt, however. Emboldened by their foreign backing, the squabbling opposition forces, now handed power in Peru, are driven by the mind-set that "anything goes" in their grab for power. Just one detonator—a protester's death, perhaps—and Peru could explode like a tinderbox, and perhaps find itself without any government at all.

In a statement issued on Nov. 21, even before Pérez de Cuéllar's nomination was known, Lyndon LaRouche's co-thinkers in the Ibero-American Solidarity Movement in Peru warned: "There now seems to be nothing standing in the way of Peru being handed over fully to the narco-terrorists, as is occurring in neighboring Colombia, just as has been demanded all along by the financial elites of Wall Street and the City of London. These oligarchs hope to secure for their global empire a few more hours of survival, through the destruction of sovereign nation-states and the legalization of drugs. . . . What will follow in short order is the imposition of a new government favorable to 'dialogue' with terrorism, and permissive toward drug trafficking."

The speed with which the dope cartels and their narco-terrorist armies shall now sweep over the entirety of South America, is beyond the imagination of most people in government today. Already, Project Democracy's spokesmen are cackling that, with Fujimori out, the one remaining resolutely anti-drug government in South America, that of Gen. Hugo Bánzer in Bolivia, can be toppled rapidly, as well. In its "news" coverage of Fujimori's fall on Nov. 20, the *Washington Post* called Peru "a test case for the establishment of stable



Peru's President Fujimori, who wiped out terrorism in Peru, and stunned the world with the rescue of the hostages held by terrorists at the Japanese Embassy in Lima in 1996, has been forced out of office by international pressure, disregarding the electoral voice of Peru's population.

democracies in South America”—presumably governments with all the stability of Project Democracy’s favorite “democracy,” the disintegrating Colombia.

The *Washington Post* called Fujimori “the foremost example of a new breed of democratically elected yet authoritarian leaders,” and named Bolivia as another country where such a “new breed” President must be removed from power. Bolivia is already becoming a new “Colombia,” Bolivian government and military officials warned recently, as the Bánzer government, lacking economic assistance, has been unable to suppress a two-month-old uprising by Bolivia’s coca producers. The coca producers are being advised in their uprising directly by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), which group President Bill Clinton’s top anti-drug official, Gen. Barry McCaffrey (ret.), accurately identified during a Nov. 19-20 visit to Colombia as “the main cocaine-producing organization in the world.”

Not Democracy, But Imperial Power

Although Fujimori’s resignation was expected, the unusual form in which it was delivered—sent from Tokyo, Japan, where Fujimori now intends to stay for the indefinite future—reveals the extent of the pressures and threats which, in the end, removed him from government.

The former President hinted at the economic warfare run against the country as a factor in his resignation, telling Agence France Presse on Nov. 20 that he was leaving office “to keep our economy . . . from being injured, threatened by a climate of uncertainty and political instability.” In his letter

of resignation, he stated that he resigned at this point to keep Peru from “committing suicide” before the April elections.

Fujimori told reporters in Japan on Nov. 21 that he will stay in Japan, where his parents were born, for “a long time. . . . I want to go back [to Peru] some day, but I don’t know when.” He added, “I feel sorry because of the confusion, uncertainty, and even indignation caused to the Peruvian population, and mainly to my followers. But I have some reasons that I cannot explain right now. . . . They are reasons that may be difficult for the public to understand.”

“I say to these eternal critics and detractors: Do not claim victory yet,” he told the Spanish news agency EFE, in an interview on Nov. 20. “I belong to the people of Peru, and at the appropriate time they shall know the details of my decision, and the behind-the-scenes struggles and strange pressures upon the heads of some persons who today clamor for courage.”

Whatever reasons he may eventually give for his resignation, responsibility for Fujimori’s ouster lies at the doorstep of the U.S. government and the international Project Democracy apparatus, without whose backing Dope, Inc. could not have overthrown his government. Fujimori’s final removal was so entirely orchestrated from abroad, that two State Department Assistant Secretaries (Peter Romero and Anthony Wayne) and the U.S. National Security Council adviser on Latin America (Arturo Valenzuela) arrived in Lima, Peru’s capital, on Nov. 20, to personally set up the next phase of the destruction of Peru.

State Department public assurances that the presence of

such a high-level team in Lima at just the right time was “a coincidence,” are laughable. The U.S. Embassy in Lima announced that the team would be descending upon Lima, on Nov. 17, one day after the opposition gained control of the Congress through the ouster of outspoken Fujimori supporter Martha Hildebrandt as President of the Congress. With the election of the opposition’s Paniagua as Hildebrandt’s replacement, the opposition was positioned to throw Fujimori out of office, and everyone knew this was the next step planned. By Fujimori’s own account, the opposition’s takeover of the Congress was a decisive factor in his decision to resign, because under those conditions, any attempt to try to continue to govern Peru would be futile.

Under Peru’s Constitution, should the Presidency be vacated, the two Vice Presidents are next in line for succession, followed by the President of the Congress. Given that the first Vice President, Francisco Tudela, had resigned his post a month before, the mantle fell upon the Second Vice President, Ricardo Márquez, who assumed the post of Acting President on Nov. 19, after Fujimori first informed the government he would be resigning. Márquez did not last long. The visiting State Department team told Márquez to resign, an Administration official (requesting anonymity) told the *New York Times*’s Lima correspondent Clifford Krauss. Márquez was told that he “does not have U.S. support,” the official said. The same official told the *Times*: “We think Paniagua should be the guy.”

And so, Márquez resigned on the night of Nov. 20. Before resigning, however, Márquez signed a decree retiring the entire military top command—a decree, according to the opposition press, which the Romero-Valenzuela duo demanded Márquez put through before resigning.

Márquez’s resignation cleared the way for the next in line: The State Department’s “guy,” Valentín Paniagua, is now President of Peru. And what an act of democracy that is! Paniagua is a politician from former President Fernando Belaunde’s Popular Action party, which got all of 1% of the vote in last April’s Presidential election. After Belaunde’s 1980-85 regime left Peru overrun by the Shining Path, and economically destroyed, all that’s left of the party is an empty shell.

Re-Installing the Narco Machine

With the Fujimori government gone, it is Peru’s Armed Forces which now face the full force of assault by the imperial “democracy” forces, as the remaining national institution which must be destroyed for Peru to be made safe for the drug trade and its armies. As Organization of American States (OAS) Secretary General César Gaviria so bluntly asserted upon his return from Lima at the end of October, “The main problem is not Fujimori and [former National Intelligence Service chief Vladimiro] Montesinos, but how to deal with the military.” Thus, immediately on the agenda are plans to jail the military leaders who led the fight against narco-terrorism in the 1990s, to free terrorist leaders from their jail cells,

and to legalize the production and export of coca from Peru.

Since it was installed in August, the “restructuring” of Peru’s institutions, including the Armed Forces and intelligence services, has been run by the opposition-dominated “Dialogue Committee,” set up by the OAS under the U.S. State Department’s direction. The direction in which this is heading, can be seen in who is running this show. The subcommittee charged with restructuring the Armed Forces and intelligence services, for example, has among its members none other than José Luis Risco, the leader of the Communist Party-run trade union federation, the CGTP, which has long aligned itself with the narco-terrorists. Not that Risco enjoys a popular mandate: He received less than 3,000 votes in the last elections.

Already, prominent “personalities,” such as Father Hubert Lansier, are calling for the release of MRTA leader Yehude Simons, convicted and jailed on charges of terrorism and drug trafficking. Similarly, a writ of *habeas corpus* has already been presented on behalf of jailed Shining Path chief Abimael Guzmán, to protect his “health” and “life,” and it was accepted by the new and “autonomous” judiciary imposed by the OAS’s Dialogue Committee. Another chieftain of Shining Path, Osmán Morote, was taken from his jail cell, and allowed to address 100 Shining Path prisoners at another prison, supposedly to quell their rebellion there.

Nor is drug legalization far off. As even such staunchly anti-drug U.S. officials as Gen. McCaffrey praise the fall of the Fujimori government as a step toward “democracy,” the OAS Dialogue Committee has already ordered that all eradication of coca plants in Peru be halted, and no one has said much of anything about it.

At the beginning of November, under assault by the opposition and the OAS, the Peruvian government yielded to demands by coca producers in the Huallaga River Valley, and halted all eradication programs. Ninety percent of the coca grown in this area is used for cocaine production. In late October, the coca producers in the region, joined by agitators from the Unified Mariateguista Party (PUM) of former Congressman Javier Diez Canseco, and backed by the National Human Rights Coordinator, which exercises a prominent role in the OAS Dialogue Committee, went on strike, demanding—as do their counterparts in Bolivia and Colombia—an end to all government eradication efforts.

On Nov. 9, Gómer Meza, the leader of the Huallaga Valley coca producers, their adviser, Ricardo Soberón, a member of the George Soros-linked Andean Commission of Jurists whose head runs opposition Presidential hopeful Alejandro Toledo, and representatives of the Fujimori government, signed an agreement ending all eradication efforts, until “the Dialogue Committee determines what positive measures are to be taken in this situation.” It does not take much insight to predict that all the efforts which led to the dramatic reduction of coca cultivation in Peru by two-thirds during the Fujimori years, are about to disappear, and soon Peru will once again become the world’s leading coca producer.