

# International Intelligence

## *Violence in Venezuela Follows Gaviria's Soirée*

César Gaviria, the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), declared a victory for "pluralism," at a May 29 signing ceremony between the Hugo Chávez government in Venezuela, and that country's "Democratic Coordinator" (CD) opposition. The accord purported to resolve the nation's crisis and commit both sides to peaceful dialogue and a referendum on President Chávez's government. A smug Gaviria declared that he had "successfully concluded the task entrusted to us," which was to ensure that "every action, every attitude, and every utterance must reflect tolerance, pluralism, and respect for opponents."

The deal didn't last a week.

On June 6, the Chavista majority in Venezuela's National Assembly attempted, but failed, to ram amendments down the opposition's throats, which would have given the Chavistas a lock on the legislature. In a rage, the Chavistas staged a walkout and held a rump session in the street. The opposition's refusal to cooperate prompted Chávez to denounce them for attempting a "parliamentary coup," and the stage was set for another showdown.

Then, on June 13, the opposition's rather provocative attempt to hold a demonstration in a Chavista-controlled neighborhood in Caracas was met by the usual thuggery of Chávez's supporters. The Metropolitan Police stepped in to control the violence, and came under attack from the Chavistas, including gunfire. When the smoke and teargas had cleared, 17 people—some police, others Chavistas—had been injured, including by bullets, and President Chávez was screaming about having to intervene against the Metropolitan Police for acting like a "paramilitary force" against "the people." The Metropolitan Police just happens to be under the control of Caracas Mayor Alfredo Pena, an outspoken Chávez opponent.

Chávez is now talking about outlawing street demonstrations again.

## *Hans Blix Denounces Slanders by 'Bastards'*

Former chief UN weapons inspector Hans Blix, in an interview to the London *Guardian* on June 11, blasted those who tried to undermine his role as the pre-war inspector of Iraq's weapons. "I have my detractors in Washington," he said. "There are bastards who spread things around, of course, who planted nasty things in the media. Not that I cared very much. It was like a mosquito bite in the evening that is there in the morning, an irritant."

Blix accused the Bush Administration of leaning on the inspectors to produce more damning language in their reports. He accused "some elements" of the Pentagon of being behind a smear campaign against him; and said some in Washington regard the UN as an "alien power" which they hoped would sink into the East River.

Even before he returned to Iraq after four years, Blix said, senior U.S. Defense Department officials were criticizing his appointment. That was just the beginning. By Autumn, the father of two was being branded in Baghdad as a "homosexual who went to Washington every two weeks to pick up instructions."

A lot of the sniping "surely came" from the Pentagon, said Blix. "By and large my relations with the US were good," he said, "but towards the end the [Bush] administration leaned on us."

He found U.S. unilateralism especially worrying, given President Bush's doctrine of pre-emptive strikes. "It would be more desirable and more reasonable to ask for Security Council authority, especially at a time when communism no longer exists and you don't have automatic vetoes from Russia and China," he said.

Similarly, it would be much more "credible" if a team of international inspectors were sent into Iraq now, instead of the 1,300-strong U.S.-appointed group now conducting the search for weapons of mass destruction, he said.

## *Russia's Glazyev Takes Initiative on Resources*

At a June 10 press conference, Member of the Russian State Duma Sergei Glazyev announced that he has agreed to head the new Committee for the Defense of Russian Citizens' Rights to National Natural Resources. Other members of the committee are Academicians Dmitri Lvov and Zhores Alfyorov, the Nobel laureate in physics and himself a member of the Communist Party group in the Duma.

Glazyev's leadership of an effective opposition movement in this year's Russian parliamentary elections, and even his possible Presidential candidacy next year, are the subject of current coverage in major English- and Russian-language media in Russia. Glazyev, an economist, is a longtime friend and collaborator of Lyndon LaRouche.

At his press conference, Glazyev said that by Sept. 1, the committee will prepare legislative initiatives "on the expropriation and redistribution of super-profits from the exploitation of Russia's natural resources." This "natural rent," he said, could be allocated either through special public funds, or through the Federal budget, "for the good of the country's development and of each individual citizen."

The matter of national ownership of natural resources was the subject of an exchange between Academician Lvov and Lyndon LaRouche, at the hearings Glazyev convened on June 29, 2001, on how to defend national economies under conditions of global economic collapse. (See *EIR*, July 20, 2001, and LaRouche's follow-up article "On the Subject of Primitive Accumulation," in the Aug. 17, 2001 issue.)

At the same press conference, Glazyev said that studies at the Russian Academy of Sciences show the possibility of achieving 20-30% annual growth in areas of advanced technology, in order to "create real, powerful engines of economic growth." This will require a development budget, and development banks, he said.