

Andean Report by Gretchen Small

Beneath Ulloa's masks

Every advocate of legalizing drug traffic is eventually caught with his hands "in the powder!"

To those hunting the "men above suspicion" protecting the drug trade in the Andean region, *EIR* recommends an intensive investigation into the friends of Mr. Manuel Ulloa, Peru's businessman *cum* politician, as a matter of urgency for the region.

If Peruvian weekly *Equis X* is right, more than Ulloa's well-known ties to the Rockefeller family's business interests would be unmasked by such an investigation.

In May, 1982, *Equis X*, charged that then-Prime Minister Ulloa maintained business and personal ties with the *Malpartida* family, a father-son team coordinating a *Lima-Caracas* drug-trafficking route. From Caracas, the route then splits to several other points: to California and then New Orleans or Hawaii, to Paris and then Miami, and to Bogota and then California.

Luis Malpartida, father, is "known widely" as an important business associate of Ulloa, *Equis X* claims, and Ulloa has, for years, been a friend of Malpartida son Oscar's wife, *Susy Dyson Gibson*.

Susy, in turn, is the niece of *Enrique Zileri*, director of one of the magazines in Ulloa's publishing empire, *Caretas*. Zileri, financially backed by father Luis, is also considered the "political uncle" of son Oscar, *Equis X* says.

The Malpartidas' have actually admitted their drug-running. In April 1974, Luis Malpartida was detained in the northern port of Pimental with 27 kilos of refined cocaine, on his way to his son waiting on a yacht offshore.

Luis added to police that he entered the drug business to "help" his son, already "involved in drug-traffic for some time." To lessen the risks for his son, Luis explained, "I, with my years and my experience, have taken control and command of the business."

Given light sentences, both father and son were free by the end of the year. In August 1977, both were arrested again for cocaine trafficking. Police records show, says *Equis X*, that, at the time, the Malpartidas were using as traffickers more than 20 young members of families from Lima's "high-society" with "very-well known oligarchic names," providing false passports through a document-falsifying ring in Peru and El Salvador.

Malpartidas' fortunes were placed in the *Suisse Banke* of Panama, as well as Paris, Madrid, and the United States, but their main center of operation was Caracas, says *Equis X*. There they stayed in the Hotel King, and used a shell-company, "Difusora Panamericana"—translated, Panamerican Distributor—for their operations!

Is all this true? *EIR* cannot vouch for *Equis X* information, nor its motivation for publishing it since there are those who say *Equis X's* interest in the matter stems from its own connections to the underground upon which the Malpartidas of the world feed—an "intermafia" fight.

But Ulloa, to *EIR's* knowledge, has never challenged *Equis X* accusations, and *Equis X* suggests it was Ulloa, who as prime minister, squelched an investigation by the attorney general into the Malpartidas.

In Nov., 1982, a new magazine appeared on Lima's stands *Acierto* which reported that Ulloa's fourth wife, a Spanish woman named Isabel Zorraquin, had been detained in the recent period by New York Customs—with 3 kilos of cocaine in her possession. The charges were buried, said *Acierto*, which itself disappeared quickly from the scene.

Equis X's leads are intriguing, but it was Ulloa's endorsement of arguments favoring the legalization of the drug traffic that provoked *EIR* to order an international investigation into Ulloa. Under present conditions in the Andean region, there are two kinds of people: those who have declared drug-trafficking a "crime against humanity," and those who suggest drug trafficking is "impossible to eradicate"—to justify enjoying the profits of death.

Ulloa, in an interview with *Debate 24* magazine earlier this year, argued for enjoying the profits. Coca plants "could perhaps come to have a similar importance to tea and coffee" for income, the former finance minister stated, and thus open "unsuspected horizons and allow for the channeling of the greater part of coca production to a legal market."

Ulloa has already made clear he has something to fear. As *EIR* reported last week, Ulloa's press empire has launched a slander campaign against this magazine and its collaborators in Peru. When the Andean Labor Party took to the streets of Lima to mobilize for a massive "war on drugs," the above-mentioned *Caretas* magazine, Channel 5 television, and Radio Programas de Peru—all owned by Ulloa—began screaming "fraud." Imagine, a political party taking up the cause of a war on drugs!

Caretas, in English, translates as "masks." Lima's citizens are now asking: What Lies Underneath the *caretas* of Ulloa?