

posed the establishment of a high-level working group of the Non-Aligned Movement to formulate a plan to restructure the United Nations, and to be entrusted with the continuous liaison and coordination with the U.N. secretary general. Suharto insisted that NAM "take a firm stand on the question of conditionalities," noting that in practice, "industrialized countries unilaterally set these conditionalities and often expand their scope to cover questions of democracy and human rights, applying only their own criteria which may not be appropriate. The same is true in the case of defense spending. On this form of unilateralism, I sincerely believe that the Non-Aligned Movement must take a firm stand." Suharto also called for the "liberating benefit of debt cancellation" for the least-developed countries of the movement, and a plan to deal with the crushing debt burden of the developing world as a whole. All three points were given prominence in the final, seven-page Non-Aligned Movement document.

Concerns about the 'new world order'

Mahathir elaborated his concerns about the Anglo-American new world order by noting that "recent history must surely convince us that a unipolar world is every bit as threatening as a bipolar world." He severely criticized western policy on the Balkans, saying that the western attitude toward "the daily killings of the Bosnians stands in stark contrast to the response to the alleged killings of the Kurds" by the government of Saddam Hussein in Iraq. "The ending of the Cold War and East-West confrontation raises the question as to whether neutrality has any relevance in world affairs. Where before we had the option to defect to the other side, now we have none. Our new option is to submit or resist. Both involve a loss of leverage, and weak nations with no leverage can only become weaker." Mahathir called on the Non-Aligned to "pool what little strength we have in order to avoid what amounts to a revival of the old western colonialism."

On the U.N., Mahathir called for restructuring the Security Council. "We do not need more permanent members with veto rights. We need fair representation, if not on a basis of population, at least on a basis of a combination of relevant factors." What to do with the United Nations was a major subject in Jakarta, and there was apparently agreement among Non-Aligned Movement members that the five permanent members of the Security Council must lose their veto power, and that council membership must be redefined. The permanent five—the U.S., Britain, France, China, and the Soviet Union—were the victorious powers in World War II.

That Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali was on hand in Jakarta was an extremely unusual occurrence in itself. Changing the course of the U.N., now strongly Anglo-American controlled, rather than being simply swallowed up by it, is a very large task that the 108 members of the NAM have outlined. A functioning Non-Aligned Movement might at some point conclude that it would make more sense to simply shut it down and start over again.

Colombia's Gaviria faces corruption probe

by Andrea Olivieri

Colombian President César Gaviria Trujillo is currently scheduled to be questioned by an investigating commission of the Colombian Senate in late September, regarding his responsibility for the July escape from prison of cocaine drug lord Pablo Escobar. The interrogation was scheduled after a bloc of opposition congressmen, backed by several legislators from Gaviria's own Liberal Party, demanded it.

The decision to question Gaviria, albeit at the presidential palace and behind closed doors, was forced by a growing insistence among certain political circles that the head of state be held accountable for his appeasement policy toward Escobar, which not only paved the way for the drug cartel's retrenchment and the drug lord's inevitable "escape," but more significantly, for the thorough infiltration and corruption of the institutions of government by Escobar's minions (see *EIR*, Sept. 11, p. 32).

The rising clamor for his political scalp forced President Gaviria to admit to "political responsibility" for the Escobar debacle during a nationally televised interview Sept. 1. And yet, just as in Brazil, where President Fernando Collor's ill-timed appeal for a patriotic show of support turned into a mass outpouring of demands for his impeachment, so too did the Colombian President's televised "confession" trigger a series of calls for a "political trial."

An embarrassed Gaviria was forced to make a series of emergency phone calls to the Colombian press the next day to "clarify" his statements. He was also obliged to send a letter to the Liberal Party directorate explaining that, "under Anglo-Saxon law," political responsibility falls under the rubric of "checks and balances" and must be distinguished from "impeachment." Clearly, the problems facing his Brazilian colleague are weighing heavily on Gaviria's mind these days.

A false peace

A particular irony of the current crisis facing Colombia is that while the U.S.-backed plea-bargain arrangement with Escobar was allegedly designed to bring peace to the country after nearly a decade of bloody narco-terrorism, Gaviria's "peace" offered nothing more than a temporary respite to Escobar's army of narco-assassins. As a recent, post-jail interview with the drug trafficker and mass murderer confirms, the narco-terror will resume the moment the government steps out of line.

The Sept. 9 issue of the Bogotá daily *El Nuevo Siglo* carried the text of Escobar's written answers to a recent questionnaire delivered to him in clandestinity. Asked if his escape points to the failure of Gaviria's plea-bargain policy, Escobar answers that Gaviria's policy "remains the alternative to avoiding war and violence." At the same time, when asked if he is prepared to negotiate another "surrender" to that policy, Escobar answers: "I think that the negotiations are not going to go anywhere because I will not yield an inch, and the government is too afraid of critics and opponents such as [former Justice Minister] Enrique Parejo."

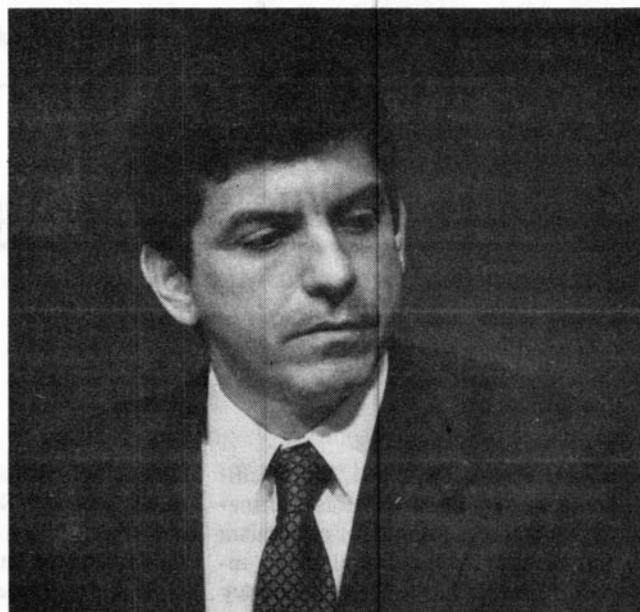
Escobar's death threat against the courageous Enrique Parejo González, who survived a 1987 mafia assassination attempt to become today the rallying point and mouthpiece for Colombia's moral forces, could not be more explicit. It remains to be seen whether President Gaviria will heed Escobar's message, and set Parejo up for assassination the same way he did Enrique Low Murtra in 1991, when the anti-drug former justice minister was stripped of government protection upon his return from a refuge abroad. The unguarded Low Murtra was murdered by mafia assassins on April 30, 1991, the seventh anniversary of the mafia killing of Justice Minister Rodrigo Lara Bonilla.

Escobar's demands for new government concessions as the condition for a renewed "surrender" pact could well go beyond the murder of Parejo. In his *El Nuevo Siglo* interview, Escobar notes that, the last time around, "I was the product of a peace which didn't cost the government very much because I wasn't given ministries, nor congressional seats, nor armored cars with official bodyguards, nor an amnesty." Things could be different this time, is his less-than-subtle hint.

New tales of corruption

Ongoing congressional hearings into the performance of government officials—from prison guards to former and current ministers of state—are daily revealing stories of high-level corruption which promise to make President Gaviria's situation very hot by late September. Whether the Colombian Congress chooses to use the evidence it is gathering to purge the government of that corruption, or buries it along with Escobar's myriad victims, could prove the test of fire for that institution.

Fernando Carrillo, the Gaviria government's former justice minister who helped oversee the plea-bargain arrangement with Escobar and who brought numerous Escobar agents into his ministry and prison security system, was accused repeatedly of lying to the Senate commission. On one such occasion, he attempted to protect the Israeli mercenary Eytan Koren, whom Carrillo had hired to install security at Escobar's prison, despite having come under investigation earlier for having brought another Israeli mercenary, retired Col. Yair Klein, into Colombia in 1986 to train Escobar's assassins. It was Klein who provided the weapons to Escobar



Colombian President César Gaviria faces questions on the escape of drug lord Pablo Escobar.

that were used in the 1989 slaying of presidential candidate Luis Carlos Galán.

Carrillo was also called a liar when he admitted that a former national director of prisons, Manuel Humberto Cáceres, was fired in early 1992 for permitting "irregularities" at the Envigado jail, but failed to mention that the same Cáceres was then hired by Carrillo as an adviser to the Justice Ministry on prison matters!

Homero de Jesús Rodríguez, the retired Army colonel who was hired by Carrillo as Escobar's last prison warden, told the Senate investigating commission that all of the luxuries at Escobar's Envigado prison had been financed by Escobar but *fully authorized* by the Gaviria government, up to the presidential level. He confirmed that the switch that controlled the electrified fence surrounding Escobar's prison-refuge was *in Escobar's own quarters!* He also revealed that when the Israeli Eytan Koren was given a \$4 million contract by Carrillo's ministry to install security devices, such as hidden cameras and microphones, at the Itague prison which housed Escobar's allies, the so-called "Ochoa clan," Koren afterwards offered the Ochoas the opportunity to purchase equipment which would counteract the security devices he had just installed!

Asked why he permitted Escobar to turn his jail into "a drug-trafficking center of operations," Rodríguez insisted that his official responsibility at the Envigado prison was solely to guard the lives of Escobar and his henchmen. A furious Sen. Fernando Botero charged Rodríguez with being "either an agent of Escobar's, or a Judas," to which Rodríguez responded, "If I had allowed anything to happen to Escobar, I would be charged with his murder today."