

Spain's Fascists Host Venezuelan Extremist

by Gretchen Small and David Ramonet

Venezuelan extremist Alejandro Peña, head of the minuscule Fuerza Solidaria party, visited Spain on March 6 to pay personal homage to the fascist movement led by former Franco official Blas Piñar. Peña held a conference at the headquarters of Fuerza Nueva Editorial, the organization created by Blas Piñar 40 years ago, as “the” legitimate heir to the Spanish Falange version of fascism. Peña’s conference was titled “Toward an Hispanic-American National Force.” To get an idea of what kind of “cultural center” the Fuerza Nueva forum is, consider that another conference, held there March 15, was titled “From the Cristeros to Today: The Christian Struggle in Mexico,” sponsored by one Austreberto Martinez Villegas, who is listed as “delegate to the National Synarchist Union of Mexico.”

As far back as 2003, *EIR* exposed Peña’s role in the Fascist International that Blas Piñar was reconstructing. Piñar’s Fuerza Nueva, in alliance with the Spanish Falange (Falange Española), in November 2002, organized a meeting of co-thinkers from Europe and Ibero-America. Among the attendees were Italy’s Forza Nuova, France’s National Front (the party of notorious racist and xenophobe Jean-Marie Le Pen), Germany’s National Democratic Party (NPD), Portugal’s National Party, Britain’s Final Conflict-Third Position (followers of Romanian Nazi Corneliu Codreanu, founder of Iron Guard), and Argentina’s Popular Party for Reconstruction (PPR), among others. On that occasion, Peña sent a warm personal message as a “former Presidential candidate,” wishing them great success.

Since 1998, when Hugo Chávez won the Presidency of Venezuela, Peña has been a one-note band, insisting, at every opportunity, that only a civil war can save Venezuela from Chávez, and affirming that he was “inspired” by Franco’s coup against the Spanish Republic that launched the Spanish Civil War. So there is nothing surprising about his hobnobbing with Spain’s unrepentant fascists.

During the 1990s, Peña had been one of the principal agents for Fernando Quijano’s penetration operation inside the international organization associated with Lyndon LaRouche, both in Europe and Ibero-America.

On several occasions, Peña was deployed by Quijano

to Chile to develop contacts with Pinochet’s circles and former military officers, in an effort to organize a continental fascist movement based upon the example of Franco’s Civil War, which would promote military coups throughout the region.

But the Peña operation is not a thing of the past; it is active *today*, as his recent travels indicate. Clearly someone has thrown some money and publicity into building up this self-proclaimed leader of a party, which received only 0.04% of the vote, as some kind of international figure. Since January, Peña has travelled to El Salvador, the United States, Argentina, Italy, and Spain.

A Tool of the Committee on the Present Danger

Peña’s trip to Washington, D.C. in January 2007 reveals that it is the crowd around George Shultz and his World War III-promoting Committee on the Present Danger which is now using Peña. Peña was hosted in Washington by the CPD-allied Center for Security Policy, introduced there by the Menges Hemispheric Security Project, the CSP operation in Ibero-America. The project’s name comes from the late Constantine Menges, who ran CPD operations in Ibero-America, such as promoting the short-lived coup attempt against President Chávez in April 2002.

During Peña’s stay in Washington, he also held a meeting for Venezuelan students at American University, where he formed a “chapter” of his Fuerza Solidaria. But only the Moonie-run *Washington Times* paid attention to his visit.

The gambit to “mainstream” this two-bit Venezuelan fascist (who can’t manage to keep his arm down), into Italian politics, however, ran aground. Peña was received in Rome on March 8 by high-level Vatican officials; he had an official meeting with the secretary-general of the Christian Democratic Union, Lorenzo Cosa, with whom he issued a joint statement; and he was prominently interviewed by a popular national radio show, Radio Radicale, and the national newspaper *Il Tempo* as if he were the leader of the opposition to Chávez.

Peña was introduced in Italy by another Venezuelan opposition figure, former Venezuelan ambassador to Rome, Pedro Paúl Bello. Bello would not appear with Peña in Venezuela so conspicuously. But in Rome, Bello helped arrange Peña’s meetings.

However, when a young Italian professor, Gennaro Carotenuto, posted an exposé of how Peña was an avowed neo-fascist, sponsored by the Cheney crowd, the game fell apart. Christian Democratic Union leader Cosa, when informed by Carotenuto of the Venezuelan’s background, publicly distanced himself from Peña, stating: “I did not know that Peña was anti-Semitic and a *golpista* [coup-monger]. . . . We will not support a coup in Venezuela.”

By the time Peña arrived in Spain, Carotenuto’s article, translated into Spanish, was already circulating there.