

# Venezuela Facing Civil War

As the New Year opened, the existential crisis of Venezuela had reached a dramatic stage, and continued to escalate. The nation remained paralyzed by a general civic strike that began exactly one month earlier, on Dec. 2, as marches of hundreds of thousands were held in the capital, Caracas, two and three times a week right through Christmas and New Year's. Over the course of the strike, which has shut down the dominant oil industry, the opposition's demands have hardened, as they insist the strike will not end until the lunatic, terrorist-linked Jacobin President, Hugo Chávez, leaves office, and new elections are held.

The opposition, however, has offered no positive plan of government, and no vision for the future upon which to win over the primarily poor people who support Chávez out of anger and desperation. Rather, they have adopted an approach that would strengthen the terrorist element which has surrounded President Chávez. Worse, international forces associated with the war-mongering "Chicken-hawk" neo-conservative faction in the U.S. government, are heavily deployed with elements of the anti-

Chávez opposition in Venezuela to use that country's crisis to launch "anti-terrorist" supranational military action in Venezuela and elsewhere in Ibero-America. Such an approach would only succeed in igniting general right-vs.-left warfare across the continent.

Chávez, for his part, reiterated on Dec. 29, during his regular Sunday multi-hour television spectacular "Hello, President!" that "I'm never going to leave," because he's so "happy, very happy," in office. He then used his Jan. 1 message to the nation to rally the hard-core Jacobin apparatus which surrounds him, to prepare for battle in 2003, to defend their "revolution."

One of Chávez's closest military allies, Gen. Raúl Baduel, commander of the Army's 4th Armored Division and its special forces brigade, chose to give an interview on Dec. 29, defending the Chávez project, to one of the top people active in the terrorist support apparatus in the Americas, Heinz Dietrich Steffan. Baduel's interview was published by *Rebelión*, an Internet website which serves as a clearinghouse for the propaganda of every terrorist group in the Western Hemisphere. Next to the interview with Baduel, for example, *Rebelión* posted a communiqué from the Central Command of the Colombian-based FARC narco-terrorists.

The Baduel interview served to highlight the strategic alliance that Chávez has maintained with the FARC in recent years.