

it must accept the challenge and hit back. What that means for the police, which has so far abstained from using firearms against riotous mobs, was indicated by the German Minister of the Interior, Friedrich Zimmermann, who said in an interview with the conservative daily, *Die Welt*: "The police are armed with firearms, actually. We cannot and will not render our policemen defenseless to shots fired at them by criminals."

Since many of the networks professionally involved in violence and riots are known to the police, the opportunity of searching left-wing gathering-points, events, publication offices, and private flats in the light of expected armed insurrections must not be missed. The police, trained for a defensive posture for years and years, must regain the upper hand on the mob.

But most of all, the Green Party, the DKP and its various front-organizations, the cadre and coordinating committees inside the West German anti-military movement must be crushed and outlawed by a constitutional ban. This will ruin whatever "special operations" cards Moscow uses to play against West Germany's stability. The extremist killer must be jailed, or shot by police, before he or she has a chance to point a gun at the policeman's head. The one lesson to be learned from the Frankfurt runway ambush is this: It must never happen again!

## Moscow targets the in Ibero-America for

by Gretchen Small

Top on the agenda of Soviet discussions with the international delegations attending 70th Anniversary festivities in Moscow Nov. 2-7, were orders that developing-sector nations must be lined up behind the Soviet lie that the defense expenditures of Western industrialized nations are the primary cause of the global economic crisis. As these delegations return to their respective countries, the cry that Western industrialized nations must cut their defense budgets to pay off Third World debts, can be expected to rise "spontaneously" from all corners of the globe.

The Soviet campaign is a clever tactic, to the degree that governments of industrialized nations continue to insist that the developing sector submit itself to the genocidal policies imposed by the International Monetary Fund. Under these conditions, the leadership in the Kremlin estimates that bitter anger at IMF policies, can be channeled into an international movement against Western defense—despite the most glaring discrepancy between Soviet words and practice: Its own defense budget far exceeds that of any Western nation.

There are other "discrepancies" in Moscow's offensive. The Soviet campaign is not directed only against the industrialized nations of the West. Soviet-allied "progressive forces"—led in many cases by heavily-armed insurgents—have launched an all-out offensive against the military forces of the developing-sector nations as well. The military establishments of all but their client states, that is.

Soviet activity in Ibero-America on this issue is illustrative.

### The Castro proposal revived

Fidel Castro first put forward the basic outline of the current Soviet offensive back in February 1985. Castro then proposed that the industrialized governments should bail out their banks, from a fund financed by cutting their defense budgets, as a solution to the Third World debt crisis. At the

### In Defense Policy and as a Military Phenomenon

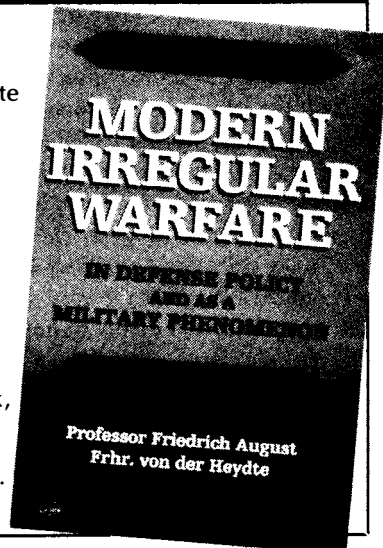
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# military sector destruction

time, despite an expensive Cuban organizing campaign, Castro's idea was basically ignored, viewed as a crude maneuver to turn the economic crisis into an East-West issue.

Two years of continued Western collapse later, the situation is shifting, however. Government leaders of Brazil, Peru, Mexico, and Argentina, for example, now echo the Soviet litany, that there exists some causal linkage between (Western) defense and the debt crisis.

Soviet officials have taken the lead on the issue from the Cubans. During his September-October 1987 tour of South America's Southern Cone, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze hammered away on that one theme: "We believe that there is a direct relationship between the problems of disarmament and development, between disarmament and a solution to the debt problem." Shevardnadze made the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative, of course, his primary target, claiming the U.S.'s SDI was the primary culprit in "taking away resources from development."

By the end of his trip, Shevardnadze's impression was that "all of South America supported Mr. Gorbachov's proposal to establish an economic development fund from savings made from nuclear disarmament," Reuters news service reported.

## Cut your defense, too

As the foreign minister traveled around Ibero-America proclaiming his nation the leading ally of those governments, Soviet publications were ordering the Communist movement and allies to make dismantling the region's military forces the number one issue on Ibero-America's political and economic agenda.

The September issue of *América Latina*, the monthly publication of the U.S.S.R.'s Latin America Institute at the Academy of Sciences, spelled out the marching orders. In an article entitled "The Dangerous Consequences of Milita-

rism," former Soviet United Nations diplomat May Volkov, now based at the Academy of Sciences, reminded Latin America's communists that they consider ending "militarization" in the region the "cardinal issue of our times."

Volkov used "militarization" to mean anything related to the military: expenditures on defense, military industries, military participation in government, or simply pride in having a strong military. He also made no pretense of presenting scientific argument.

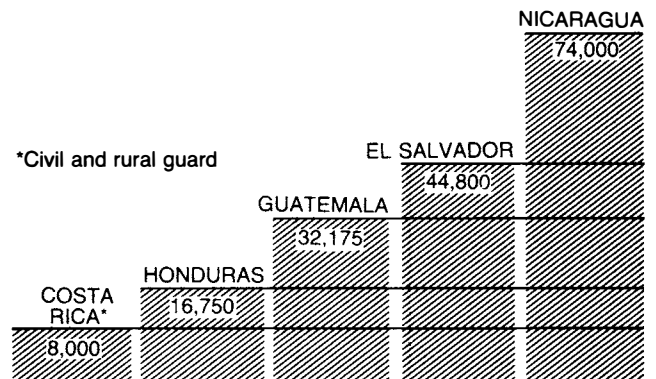
"Militarization" played a "preponderant role" in creating the economic crisis in the 1980s in Latin America's seven biggest countries—Argentina, Brazil, Venezuela, Colombia, Mexico, Peru and Chile, he asserts, claiming that military expenditures in these countries "are the principal cause of the growth of their deficits," responsible for the high rates of inflation which these countries suffered from 1973 to 1984.

The establishment of domestic arms industries in the Third World must also be stopped, he insists, because such industries introduce a factor of "imbalance" in world development. Here, Brazil is singled out as a leading example of the "militarization of the economy" which results when a Third World nation sets out to build up an independent military industrial capability.

Why must the development of strong national militaries in the developing nations be stopped? Because Karl Marx said that all military expenditures "are as if a nation throws part of its capital into the ocean," Volkov answered.

His second answer reveals the imperial policy motivating the Soviets' "anti-militarization" crusade: A strong defense strengthens nationalism. "Neither should the ideological aspect of militarization be forgotten, for which nationalism is a fertile breeding ground," Volkov warns. "Nationalist sentiments, instigated by bourgeois propaganda, receive at the same time material impetus in the form of modern combat equipment with flashy names in the vernacular language, and national brand names."

## Active duty armed forces 1987



Source: U.S. Department of Defense and Department of State.

## The Nicaraguan 'exception'

Volkov allows that there is an exception to the Soviet demand for an end to "militarization" in Ibero-America: Nicaragua. Sandinista Nicaragua is a country "which struggles for peace and supports calls to put an end to the arms race," but "objective circumstances" force it to sink 40% of its budget into defense, Volkov writes.

The exception is a big one, one rapidly nearing the per capita levels of "militarization" enjoyed by the Soviets' other client state in the area, Cuba. "Haven't we already said countless times that we defend our right to arm ourselves to the teeth to defend against a U.S. aggression? Haven't we said we want to arm hundreds of thousands . . . up to 600,000 Nicaraguans if we can?" Nicaragua's Defense Minister Gen. Humberto Ortega proclaimed on Nov. 4.

And armed to the teeth they have been, by the "anti-militarist" Soviets. The Sandinista regime fields a total military force of 120,000 men, between its 34,000-man regular army, reserve forces, militias, and special security forces. With a third of the reserves on active duty at any one time, Nicaraguan forces total an estimated 74,000 on active duty.

The Sandinista Popular Army now fields 10 regular infantry battalions, an airborne battalion, two mechanized infantry battalions, 14 counterinsurgency battalions (called BLIs: "Irregular Fighting Battalions"), and is equipped with 110 Soviet-made T-55 tanks, enough for five armored battal-

ions, according to the report on the Sandinista military buildup issued by the Pentagon in October (see graph, p. 47).

Since 1981, Cuba, Algeria, Bulgaria, and the Soviet Union have shipped in Soviet state-of-the-art radar facilities, tanks, and attack helicopters (including the Mi-24 HIND-D helicopters used by the Soviets in their war against Afghanistan), as well as large quantities of artillery and heavy transport equipment.

Nicaragua is also seeking advanced MiG fighter jets from the Soviet Union, General Ortega admitted on Nov. 4.

The degree of "militarization" of Nicaragua is indeed unprecedented in Central America, and might, it would seem, constitute in fact an "objective circumstance" justifying increasing the military strength of Nicaragua's neighbors.

## Colombia feels the offensive

How *América Latina's* orders are being translated in practice, is best seen in Colombia. There, the Communist Party's electoral front, the Patriotic Union (UP), has called for all "progressives" and "democrats" in the country to form a National Salvation Front against the "militarists" and "fascist minorities." Charging that the military is running a "dirty war" in the country, UP leaders are demanding that a civilian be named to the post of Defense Minister, in order to rein in "military fascists," whom they call the number one problem in the country.


"We are going to mobilize people. . . . We think this is the moment for days of organized protest. That means strikes and demonstrations, [because] there is no democracy in the country," UP head Bernardo Jaramillo Ossa declared on Oct. 18.

No babes in the woods, the CP/UP leaders have presented their campaign as an issue of "democratization," and reestablishing the power of civilian forces over the military. Since the "Project Democracy" crowd in the United States government—including most prominently the State Department's Assistant Secretary for Inter-American Affairs, Elliott Abrams—has also made "democratization" its number one issue for the Western Hemisphere, the CP/UP campaign to label the military the central cause of Colombia's problems, is now espoused by political layers far outside the CP itself.

Indeed, "mass mobilizations against militarization" have begun—led by the CP's guerrilla force, the Armed Revolutionary Forces of Colombia (FARC). Peasant marches have blocked highways and taken over central plazas, in the departments of Cauca, Bolivar, and Meta (all centers of FARC terrorism), demanding that the military withdraw from their regions. In an Oct. 30 press conference held in San Cristobal, Venezuela, UP leader Miguel Angel Rueda explained that Colombia must accept the UP's demand for an end to "militarism," because "experience shows that the Colombian armed movement has become invincible. That is reality," he said.

The "anti-militarization" campaign boils down to a tactical initiative by the Soviet-allied communist irregular forces in Colombia, to break the back of the military—politically.

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