

On the other hand, do the American people really believe that Mr. Bush is after an alleged narco-trafficker as he is telling, or is he really after a man who refuses to be obedient to the American government? The American people know that the real drug peddlers, that the real drug handlers, the real drug criminals are in the States; why hasn't Mr. Bush thrown the Army at them? Ask Mr. Bush how many innocent civilian lives he is willing to sacrifice in the States in doing so—doing it right there, where it is so badly needed? Ask Mr. Bush.

Now they have to convince the world, by showing the world what allegedly has been “found” in General Noriega's office. Are the American people so naive as to fall for that? What is Mr. Bush trying to play? The coyote chasing the roadrunner? That is what we are wondering.

The American people should be aware that our real crime, the real crime of the government of Panama, is to assert, with dignity, our total independence and sovereignty. We are not enemies of the American people, but let it be known that we are determined to defend ourselves. How strange it is, when one thinks that the American people guard their sovereignty as something sacred, and they are willing to defend it with their lives; but they also so easily seem to forget, that there are other countries, even small countries, like ours, whose nations, against all odds, are also willing to do so. Mr. Bush has not been honest to the American people to date. The people should demand answers without the cosmetic of mellow, pseudo-patriotic words. He owes that respect to the American people.

Unfortunately it seems that the American people often are content with finding out the truth years after it should have been found out. Just in recent years, there are many of these cases. It took years before the American people seriously questioned the idyllic happenings in Vietnam and found out too late the atrocities being committed; too many lives had already been wasted. Mr. Nixon, Mr. Reagan, Mr. Poin-dexter, Mr. Etcetera—they are all protagonists, playing with the truth, and the American people find themselves asking questions today about them—perhaps too late. . . .

Ask Mr. Bush about it. And do not let him disarm you by some phrases on some made-up heroic actions. Ask Mr. Bush how many crimes have already been committed, in the name of his democracy, which includes a President sworn in by the American Army on an American base and recognized only by Mr. Bush's government. Ask Mr. Bush to defend Mr. Endara. He keeps on talking about Mr. Endara's victory. What victory, we ask ourselves. He talks about 3-to-1 results in favor of Mr. Endara, and we know that not even the most naive Panamanian could accept that. We know that such a result was impossible—not even manipulated. Panamanians are not that naive.

It is even less acceptable, when the Supreme Court of Justice nullified the elections, because the Electoral Court found it impossible to complete counting; and why? Ask Mr.

Bush. Mr. Bush might have forgotten to tell the people that Mr. Endara's followers, armed to the teeth by Mr. Bush's government during the elections, took by force most of the acts from the electoral posts, presumably to “protect them,” but they never surrendered them to the Electoral Court! Ask Mr. Bush why not.

I could stay here and pose thousands of questions that Mr. Bush should answer and which are basically the reasons why I and most Panamanians are willing to offer our lives in order not to let a foreign government impose on us its will. Americans would never let that happen in their country—why should we? Ask Mr. Bush.

And remember, we know we are against a monster. We are against a monstrosity, against disinformation; but no matter how choreographed the world might receive the news, we know that if we fall, it was worth it, because we were on the side of national dignity, for national sovereignty and self-respect. And that, no one can take away from us.

Yes, I feel sorrow and I am angry. But I should like to take the opportunity however; to wish Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you but also to the American people, because after all they are, as we are, the Panamanian people, the real victims of all the disinformation.

I am speaking as a citizen, as a decent citizen, who feels the anger that is normal when a foreign troop is attacking and destroying your country with no real reason whatsoever. . . .

‘Only U.S. bayonets are supporting Endara’

José Mariá Cabrera, the Panamanian ambassador to the Organization of American States, was interviewed on Dec. 26.

EIR: You do not recognize this creation of the United States government, “President” Endara?

Cabrera: This would be absolutely impossible, under any kind of administration that has been imposed and maintained in power by a foreign invading army. The administrative apparatus that Mr. Endara seeks to establish enjoys not the slightest popular support, not the slightest legitimacy. It is maintained in its position solely and exclusively through the force of U.S. bayonets and by the fact that entire sectors of the republic are occupied by a foreign army.

EIR: What do you think of the support Panama has received thus far from Ibero-American countries?

Cabrera: I believe, first of all, that the Panamanian cause

cannot fail to win the support of civilized peoples, not only of Latin America, but throughout the world. The savage aggression to which the Panamanian people have been subjected by the United States Armed Forces has no comparison with regard to the savagery of the aggression, the indiscriminate massacre of civilians, whose fatalities are in the thousands, and that the invading troops have buried the bodies in common graves, mass burials, to try to hide their genocidal crime, to prevent international public opinion, the international community of nations, from ever knowing for certain the number of victims its savage military intervention in Panama has caused.

EIR: You speak of thousands. Do you have any estimates of how many thousands of Panamanian civilians have died?

Cabrera: We have figures ranging from 4,000 to 6,000 victims. I don't believe we will ever know exactly how many victims resulted from the United States' armed attack against Panama, which is a peaceful and defenseless country.

EIR: Can you tell us how these people were killed, what the North Americans did exactly, how they eradicated civilians. Were they part of the resistance?

Cabrera: Basically, they were residents in the areas surrounding military objectives that had been designated at the beginning of their operation, their invasion of Panama. A large number of people from the populated sectors in the neighborhood of Chorrillo, surrounding the general command headquarters of the Panamanian Defense Forces; the same with the sector of San Miguelito, also populated by a large number of poor and humble Panamanians who were massacred, who were assassinated mercilessly by the troops of the invading army. . . .

EIR: Mr. Ambassador, what is the plan, the perspective, from this day onward?

Cabrera: Look, the situation is that of an occupation of our country, of our Fatherland, by troops of a foreign invading army.

EIR: So the resistance will continue?

Cabrera: We must fight and work for the great objectives of the Panamanian people, which have always been the total liberation of our Fatherland, the recovery of the Panama Canal, and the disappearance of foreign bases on national soil. It is the fight begun by Gen. Omar Torrijos Herrera, which he left to the present generations to complete.

EIR: Do concrete plans exist as to what form the resistance will now take?

Cabrera: Well, I think the best favor we could do for our enemies would be to announce our plans to them. The resistance is on the march, and growing daily.

1982, the Malvinas; today, Panama

Argentina's Col. Mohamed Ali Seineldin issued a statement on Dec. 20 after the United States invaded Panama. Even though Colonel Seineldin was forced into retirement by President Carlos Menem, he has been placed under 20 days' house arrest for violating military discipline under which he must obtain permission before making political statements.

With the deepest spiritual grief, I share the just indignation and the suffering of the Defense Forces and the people of our sister republic of Panama, martyred by aggression against the principle of national sovereignty, which provided the foundation for all American states, including that of the aggressor power.

As an Argentine officer, I have served on a long-term professional mission in Panama, contributing to the consolidation of its Armed Forces in compliance with the highest goals of Argentine foreign policy.

Just as in 1982, the Republic of Panama was in solidarity with the cause of the Malvinas, today, our chivalry obliges us to declare publicly:

1) The principle of Self-Determination of Peoples has been broken.

2) Proper solidarity between two American states has been broken through direct intervention in the internal affairs of a nation, in violation of international and American law.

3) A dangerous precedent has been created which affects hemispheric security.

4) Serious doubts have been engendered as to whether [the United States] sincerely intends to comply with the Torrijos-Carter Treaty which provides for the return of full sovereignty over the canal to Panama.

5) Actions like these hamper the peace efforts in Central America.

6) Violations of this kind also rekindle the kind of dialectical contradictions which Marxism thrives on, and reintroduce them to countries such as ours, which seek to overcome them by asserting the principle of the supremacy of the nation. . . .

Panama's Cause is the Malvinas' Cause. Yesterday, it was Hungary and Suez. In 1982, Afghanistan and Malvinas. Today, it is Romania and Panama. . . .