

Carlos Andrés Pérez serves as Kissinger's Socialist Trojan horse

by Gretchen Small

Cuban dictator Fidel Castro may have been relegated to the doghouse of the emerging Anglo-Soviet condominium, but Moscow's armed bands of terrorists in the Western Hemisphere have a new protector: Carlos Andrés Pérez, the social democratic President of Venezuela. Providing able assistance to Pérez in this endeavor, with the usual lucrative remuneration for his efforts, is none other than Henry Kissinger.

At a point when communist tyrannies are suffering defeat around the world, Pérez and Kissinger have set out to force governments of Ibero-America to hand the communists more power than they could ever win on the battlefield, by establishing coalition governments with them.

Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Venezuela's neighbor, Colombia, have been targeted first in this plan.

Still the Sandinista's godfather

Nicaraguan voters delivered a sharp defeat at the polls last February to Moscow's allies in Nicaragua, the gnostic Sandinistas. But when President Violeta Chamorro took office in place of the Sandinistas in April, Pérez and Kissinger moved quickly to ensure she did not use her popular mandate to dismantle the Sandinistas' extensive military and political apparatus in the country.

Pérez accepts credit for convincing Chamorro to take her biggest step in maintaining the Sandinista power base, her surprising reappointment of Sandinista Gen. Humberto Ortega as commander of Nicaragua's Armed Forces.

Chamorro's "most important outside friend is President Carlos Andrés Pérez of Venezuela, whom she met when she and her husband were living in exile 30 years ago," the *New York Times* reported April 30. "Pérez's unusual influence with the new Nicaraguan leader has not been lost on the departing Sandinista President Daniel Ortega, and his brother, General Ortega. On the eve of Chamorro's inauguration, the brothers are believed to have approached Mr. Pérez directly for his support of Chamorro's decision to leave General Ortega in power—a move that was under heated attack," the paper noted.

Visiting Washington, D.C. shortly thereafter, Pérez defended the maintenance of Sandinista control over the Nicaraguan Army as what will "guarantee" peace in Nicaragua. "Only a very profound sectarianism could believe that the solution in Nicaragua would be a violent rupture between the group which won the elections and Sandinismo which lost

it. No. Nicaragua is following the good path of understanding," he told reporters April 27.

The Venezuelan daily *Ultimas Noticias* reported on May 3 that Pérez had consulted with Kissinger on his Nicaraguan efforts, and informed him that he considered the reappointment of General Ortega as positive and necessary. "It is known that Kissinger showed signs of agreement with these ideas of President Pérez, and he even pointed out that, according to his criteria, the President could be characterized as one of the architects of the process of development which has begun in Nicaragua," *Ultimas Noticias* reported.

Pérez helped facilitate the Sandinistas original seizure of power in 1979 with military, economic, and diplomatic support. Immediately upon his return from the United States this year, CAP (as Pérez is known at home) made clear that by his efforts to ensure that the Sandinista machine remains intact today, he intends to facilitate their return to power.

On May 6, CAP served as "godfather" at the Caracas baptism for a newly released book of poetry, customary for authors in Venezuela, complete with godfathers and champagne. CAP poured champagne over *The Awaited Ceremony*, written by the Sandinistas' former minister of the interior, Tomás Borge. Standing proudly next to Borge, who oversaw the details of the Sandinista dictatorship for 10 years, CAP announced that he had decided to attend in order to show his support for his friend of so many years.

Had Borge changed his goals? On the same day, the Venezuelan daily *El Nacional* published an interview with Borge in which he declared that the project for world socialism has not failed. Defending Soviet dictator Mikhail Gorbachov and "his friend" Fidel Castro, Borge promised that the Sandinistas plan to return to power in Nicaragua soon, by "putting a miniskirt on socialism," as the Russians had advised them to do many years ago.

Nicaragua's armed allies in Central America also received an unexpected boost from the Chamorro government. A happy spokesman for the Farabundo Marti Liberation Front (FMLN) of El Salvador, Salvador Samayoa, announced on May 1 that the FMLN had been given permission to keep open its Nicaraguan offices. Admitting freely that the FMLN had been arranging arms shipments through the Sandinista government, Samayoa cooed that now "our activity will be more discreet," promising with a straight face that now the terrorists would only do "political work."

CAP pokes nose into Colombia

Flushed with his success in preserving Sandinista control over the Armed Forces in Nicaragua, Pérez now appears to be turning his sights on Colombia. His efforts to destabilize Colombia will, of course, put that country's narco-terrorist forces into play on both sides of the Colombia-Venezuela border. It is no coincidence that CAP has supported gnostic terrorist forces inside Venezuela, associated with congressman Walter Márquez.

In fact, Carlos Andrés has used his ties with the narco-terrorist apparatus to meddle in Colombia's internal affairs for some time. In mid-April, he met with the directorate of the April 19 movement (M-19) for a series of strategy sessions in Caracas. CAP hailed the M-19 for declaring that it had abandoned terrorism in order to wage political warfare; but his allies made no pretense of having broken with the cocaine cartels who hired them in 1985 to assault Colombia's Justice Palace and murder Supreme Court judges. The centerpiece of their "political" campaign is drug legalization and demands that the government "negotiate" with the drug cartels.

Now it appears Pérez is being wooed by the oldest and most powerful of Colombia's narco-terrorist armies, the Communist Party's Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). In existence since the 1940s, the FARC enormously increased its capabilities in the last half of the 1980s by moving in on the drug trade. Last year, Colombia's military estimated that the FARC cocaine interests—dubbed the La Uribe Cartel after the town where the FARC has its headquarters—are equal or greater in scope to the economic power of the Cali Cartel.

Jacobo Arenas, the FARC's 64-year-old ideologue and long-standing military leader, announced in an April 28 interview with Colombia's Caracól radio chain, that the FARC has asked Pérez and his buddy, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, to intercede with the Colombian government on behalf of the Guerrilla Coordinating Group (CNG). Joining with the Moscow-allied FARC in the CNG are the Maoist People's Liberation Army (EPL) and the Castroite National Liberation Army (ELN), which divides its time between blowing up oil pipelines and kidnaping or murdering opponents.

Pérez "wants to make a great contribution to the peace process in Colombia, and he is talking to his many friends in the world so that they contribute to facing the problem of peace," Arenas said, adding that the CNG was asking unnamed European statesmen and "people of enormous weight in U.S. society to take an interest in our problems so we don't continue depending on advisers of the present government who don't know how to manage politics."

Pérez, interviewed from New York City on the proposal by Caracól, confirmed that he was already an advocate for the FARC-led coalition. "We are ready to do anything in our power to open a frank dialogue between the government and sectors in opposition and the guerrillas," he said. He added

that his friend Carter had also shown interest in taking part in "peace efforts" in Colombia.

Naturally, the narco-terrorist alliance had already announced the conditions which they expect their friends to demand from Colombia's government in return for their participating in talks. On April 27, the CNG demanded changes in Colombia's constitution, a ceasefire, and the presence of international "observers" to guarantee the government follows orders.

Pérez's "offer" was rejected sharply in Colombia. President Virgilio Barco responded that his nation did not need its neighbor meddling in internal matters. "We are dealing with our own problems. In no way do we need mediation. We Colombians can sort it out," Barco told reporters on May 2. The leading presidential candidate in Colombia's upcoming elections, Cesar Gaviria, also rejected the idea, stating that there is no need to "internationalize" Colombian affairs.

Just a matter of business?

From Moscow's standpoint, Pérez, with his friends of "enormous weight in U.S. society," can provide Ibero-America's narco-terrorists with better protection than Fidel Castro ever could. Indeed, CAP met with President Bush *after* securing General Ortega's post as army commander, and emerged from his meeting to report that he and Bush had discussed Central America's problems. "I am very pleased and satisfied to be able to say that President Bush and I fully agreed on these matters," he announced at an April 27 press conference.

Pérez was welcomed in the United States in late April as a model debtor who has placed his nation's resources up for sale at rock-bottom prices. He was accompanied at all times by Gustavo Cisneros, Rockefeller's favorite Venezuelan billionaire, who sits on the board of several U.S. corporations, including Chase Manhattan Bank, Beatrice Foods, and Pan American World Airways.

Pérez also verified his association with the FARC, before heading off to a breakfast at Kissinger's home. Among those joining the Venezuelans at Kissinger's was *Wall Street Journal* editor Robert Bartley, Kissinger Associates director Alan Batkin, American International Group chief Maurice Greenberg, and Chase Manhattan president Thomas Lebreque. The Bush administration was represented by Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher.

At the end of the meeting, Pérez announced that his government had hired Kissinger, along with "the presidents of other important businesses such as Toyota," to establish an Advisers' Council on Foreign Investment.

A pleased Kissinger said Pérez is "an old friend of mine, who has worked so much for Venezuela and for all the Americas. . . . Venezuela is a country which offers much hope for investment: The reforms which President Pérez and his government is executing are going to foster foreign investment in Venezuela," he promised.