

## Andean Report by Mark Sonnenblick

### CIA and KGB agree on Peru 'drug war'

*Supposedly anti-drug policies are actually promoting dope, while destroying the sovereignty of nations.*

General Edgardo Mercado Jarrín (ret.), Peru's former foreign minister, asserted that Peru's Shining Path narco-terrorists have amassed a \$100 million war chest from drug-running activities, and are using it to buy sophisticated weaponry for a major offensive. Peru's leading geopolitician gave this report at a Nov. 6 conference in Lima. He reminded his audience that \$100 million is more than the Peruvian Army's entire weapons budget.

General Mercado Jarrín reiterated his view that the narco-terrorist menace could only be defeated through civic-military brigades, which would build the economic infrastructure of the rural areas where the guerrillas are winning ascendancy.

He caused jaws to drop by stating that Shining Path is being promoted by "foreign services." That contradicts the line of the U.S. State Department and the media that it is an "indigenous" movement of "Peruvian Indians." Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori asserted on Nov. 12 that "the terrorist movements do not come from abroad."

General Mercado Jarrín is on the right track in the war on drugs and terrorism, while the Bush administration is heading full steam in the opposite direction. Lyndon LaRouche has repeatedly warned Bush that his "narco-contra" policy of deploying U.S. Special Forces and CIA-backed mercenaries into the jungles of Ibero-America will only help promote the drug trade.

In an Aug. 23, 1989 statement, LaRouche pointed out that since 1985

he has stressed that "it is impossible to separate terrorism, in all its various forms, from the drug traffic. . . . It is counterproductive to put U.S. troops as combatants inside any nation of Central and South America for dealing with a problem such as this one.

"It is very important that the job against the drugs, particularly in combatant roles, be done by nationalists as a sovereign act of a sovereign nation. . . . What the United States must do, is provide logistical and technical support, including, if necessary, a special kind of weapons, that sort of thing, to assist these sovereign forces in doing their job."

But the State Department is plunging madly ahead, contrary to LaRouche's warnings. At the same conference where General Mercado Jarrín spoke, State Department Latin American specialist Luigi Einaudi demanded that Peru stop holding back on signing a \$36 million U.S. "military aid" package, which would place Peru's war on drugs under the command and control of U.S. Special Forces deployed into that country's jungle areas. Einaudi broadly hinted to his Peruvian hosts that Washington's policy had Moscow's approval, noting that the entire world must now adapt to the new U.S.-Soviet understandings. His pressure tactics in Lima have been seconded by Assistant Secretary of State Melvyn Levitsky.

The *Philadelphia Inquirer* on May 30 exposed the fact that there is a group of U.S. soldiers of fortune already operating under contract to the Drug Enforcement Administration in

the cocaine-filled Upper Huallaga Valley of Peru. The *Inquirer* reported that they were recruited by Richard J. Meadows, who also "directs security at a 19,000-acre palm oil plantation adjacent to the U.S.-Peruvian counter-narcotics base at Santa Lucia in the Upper Huallaga Valley. . . . A guard force of 150, most former Peruvian marines, is based at the plantation."

The plantation belongs to the Romero family, owners of the powerful Banco de Crédito, which shamelessly acts as a drug-money launderer. As far back as a decade ago, mafioso Arturo "Bufalo" Pacheco was caught running 500 kilograms of basic cocaine paste in cans marked "palm oil" from the same plantation. It is well known to Peruvian authorities that the Romero plantation's *unpoliced* modern private airport, which is quite near a *policed* public airport, is often used with impunity for cocaine transport.

Levitsky and Einaudi's strong-arm tactics, and their warning that the Soviets support this Bush policy, are credible. William Colby, Ray Cline, and other former CIA chiefs got together with their KGB counterparts at Luigi Einaudi's old haunts at the RAND Corp. on Sept. 25-30, 1989, to merge strategies on narco-terrorism, with special emphasis on the Andes region.

Levitsky has a particular background in this area of CIA-KGB coordination "against drugs." As ambassador to Bulgaria (1984-87), he covered up its communist government's key role in international drug trafficking and terrorism. And he was the midwife for the January 1989 groundbreaking accord on joint anti-narcotics operations signed by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze. That job won Levitsky a promotion to head the Bureau of Narcotics Matters in June 1989.