

International Intelligence

Fundamentalists seen as tool of U.S. policy

Ibero-American bishops are concerned about an "invasion" of Protestant fundamentalist sects, which they view as an instrument of U.S. policy against the Catholic Church.

Speaking at the end of November at a meeting of the conference of Latin American bishops (CELAM), Mexican professor Jesús Pavlo Terorio, communications assistant to CELAM, said that "this invasion of and intervention of fundamentalist sects is part of Washington's policy, which doesn't consider the Catholics as trustworthy allies."

He said that, in the last decade, over 40 million Catholics have converted to Protestantism in Ibero-America, as a result of negative proselytizing by U.S. sects "which fool the public with promises of better conditions of life, and slanders against the Catholic Church." He warned that "the invasion is serious" and that in coming years, more than 130,000 missionaries will be sent by U.S. sects.

Colombia's anti-terror 'victory' is premature

Colombian President César Gaviria Trujillo told the opening session of the newly elected Congress on Dec. 1 that the fight against narco-terrorism had been won. "The nightmare is behind us," he said. Gaviria's self-congratulations are more than a little premature, however. According to Defense Minister Rafael Pardo Rueda and Gaviria's own "peace adviser," Jesús Antonio Bejarano, the narco-guerrillas with whom the government has been holding unending negotiations in Venezuela are planning to use the next two months' recess in the talks to escalate their terrorism against the civilian population.

In fact, the terrorism has already begun. On Nov. 26, a joint commando of the two guerrilla groups involved in the Caracas talks, the FARC and the ELN, ambushed a

convoy of judicial investigators just south of the capital city of Santafe de Bogotá. A judge, a pathologist, five civilian justice officials, and a policeman were murdered. A sister of one of the officials later committed suicide when she learned of the massacre.

Despite noises about suspending the talks—planned to re-start next February—the government has taken no further action. Just days before the massacre, a guerrilla delegation had traveled to Cuba on special passports granted by Venezuelan President Carlos Andrés Pérez, to meet with Fidel Castro and report on the progress of their talks with Gaviria's government.

The narco-terrorists also visited Nicaragua and Costa Rica. According to Colombia's Maj. Gen. Edie Alberto Pallares Coto, commander of the 4th Army Division, the FARC—known inside Colombia as the "Third Cartel"—"is out of control and deeply divided, roaming the world in search of weapons merchants and narcotics traffickers."

According to Colombian national television, the Army has only recently discovered FARC guerrillas guarding cocaine laboratories and charging taxes to protect the poppy fields now spreading across the country. It is said that the cocaine cartel is now moving heavily into heroin.

Drug legalizers meet in Switzerland

The second annual international conference to promote drug legalization in Europe's major cities was held in Zurich, Switzerland on Nov. 21-22. Delegations attended from 28 cities in 10 countries, and discussed a resolution in favor of liberalized drug laws.

At last year's conference, the pro-dope resolution was endorsed by Frankfurt, Zurich, Amsterdam, and Hamburg. This year, the governments of four more cities signed on: Arnhem, Rotterdam, Kallithea (Greece), and Teramo (Italy).

Representatives from these eight cities will meet in Frankfurt in February 1992 in order to draw up concrete plans of action, including a strategy to lobby the European

Parliament and the United Nations.

The only representative to protest against the resolution was the delegate from Stockholm, who emphasized that narcotics will remain forbidden in Sweden, that the population is strongly against legalization, and that efforts to decrease drug use in Stockholm have been successful thanks to collaboration among police, social authorities, and therapeutic institutions.

Spy services warn of 'nuclear civil war'

The CIA and British intelligence services have just issued their "most pessimistic" studies ever concerning the former Soviet Union, predicting "nuclear civil warfare," according to reports on these studies published in the London *Sunday Times* on Nov. 24. According to the newspaper, briefings to this effect to President Bush and British Prime Minister John Major speak of the former Soviet Union becoming a "nuclear Yugoslavia," featuring inter-republic civil wars with tactical nuclear weapons, and painting an "unbelievably dire" picture.

The studies otherwise predict the "implosion" of the military industry sector, where hundreds of thousands will be laid off. This assessment was recently confirmed by deputy head of the Inter-Republic Economic Committee Arkady Volsky, in the Soviet Defense Ministry daily *Krasnaya Zvezda*. Volsky called this prospect "a national tragedy."

Finally, the CIA and British studies forecast a scenario of nuclear proliferation through "countries like Iran and Libya" recruiting Soviet nuclear scientists for their bomb programs.

While there is indeed a grave crisis in the republics, the purpose of such "studies" is to scare away any attempt to intervene through investment and economic development that could overcome the crisis, and, in exactly the same manner that the "nuclear proliferation" line is run against the developing sector, to use the scare to create a policy of technological apartheid against the newly independent republics.

France's Le Pen renews attacks on immigrants

Publication by the National Front of a "White Book on Defense" was the occasion for its leader, Jean-Marie Le Pen, to renew his racist attacks against immigrants in France and against non-white peoples generally.

The "White Book" is an attempt to redefine what they consider the "threat" to the West, now that communism has collapsed. Le Pen sees the threat as "linked to the demographic explosion of the Third World countries." The difference between an enemy soldier and an immigrant, he writes, is that "the one comes without a weapon, while the other is armed." There is presently an "absence of conflict" between the French and the immigrant populations, he says, because the French "refuse to fight, they simply evacuate their apartments, their schools, their living quarters."

The "White Book" says that the "threat" comes from "all areas outside of Europe, in the Third World, particularly from the Islamic countries of the Maghreb and the East."

South Koreans fear U.S. may bomb the North

South Korean news commentators are apparently beginning to fear that the United States may turn North Korea into another Iraq. For example, the Nov. 23 issue of the daily *Hanguk Ilbo*, hit U.S. media distortion: "The way the U.S. press discusses the possibility of using military actions, including bombing North Korea's nuclear facilities, is really a high-handed way of reporting. . . ."

"For the U.S. press, the press of an ally, to debate on the use of military actions to eliminate a nuclear threat, which is, in a sense, still nonexistent and which runs the risk of endangering the Korean people, is not appropriate at all. No matter how eagerly the Korean society may be inclined to heed U.S. opinion, few Korean people will find

the possibility of bombing the North Korean nuclear facilities acceptable. . . . To the United States, the bombing of North Korea may mean the same as the bombing of Iraq, but to us, it is beyond any comparison."

The government newspaper, *The Korea Times*, on Nov. 24 reflected a comparable nervousness, in an article titled "Koreans Begin to Feel U.S. Presence Strongly." Reporting on the recent visits by Bush administration officials, it comments: "Thoughtout the meetings, the prevailing concern was North Korea's dreadful program of arming itself with nuclear weapons. . . . The hawkish position is being circulated in the U.S. Congress."

The article concludes that Bush's visit to Seoul in January will no doubt be the last chance for North Korea. "If Bush's diplomacy fails, it is scary to think what would come next. If the United States makes a decision, South Korea can in no way turn the decision around."

Catholics to rebuild Church in east Europe

Pope John Paul II opened a two-week synod of the Catholic Church in Rome on Nov. 28, with nearly 140 bishops from eastern and western Europe meeting to chart the course of the churches in eastern Europe after the fall of communism. The synod will discuss what the Vatican says is a need for "re-evangelization" of the entire continent.

The Pope and the bishops prayed that an undivided Europe would seek political and economic harmony. "For leaders of nations: in a Europe liberated from ideological oppression, may they make opportune political and economic interventions which favor unity and collaboration among persons and communities, among nations and peoples, with respect for their diversity," the prayer said.

Concerning the war in former Yugoslavia: "May the wounds of hatred be healed. May the refugees return to their homes and may all continue again on the path of peaceful coexistence in the spirit of the Gospel," the bishops prayed.

● **PERUVIAN** Supreme Court Justice Roger Salas Gamboa dismissed criminal charges against former President Alan García on Dec. 4. The judge found no support for claims that García had illegally spent state money on himself. The judge said that García's records were fully in order. The Fujimori government is appealing the decision.

● **SERBIA'S** "Black Hand" terrorists are planning the assassination of German, Austrian, and Vatican political figures, according to a leak from the Federal Anti-Crime Bureau of Germany (BKA), published in several German newspapers. Targets include Chancellor Kohl and Foreign Minister Genscher.

● **THE SOVIET KGB'S** new political intelligence chief, Yevgeny Primakov, left the United States on Nov. 23 after meetings with the CIA, National Security Council, and State Department.

● **KHMER ROUGE** leader Khieu Samphan was beaten by a mob in Phnom Penh and forced to flee to Thailand when he attempted to return to Cambodia at the end of November. He was the top aide to the murderous Pol Pot, and was returning for the first time since the Vietnamese drove the Khmer Rouge out in 1979.

● **GORBACHOV** told the Japanese news service Kyodo on Nov. 28 that "a Japan-Soviet peace treaty is the most important diplomatic issue for the Soviet Union."

● **BRAZIL'S** former President José Sarney said on Nov. 21 that the current government's alignment with Washington has "distanced itself from our traditional allies, the Latin American countries. We did not gain anything and we lost what we have achieved." He recalled the threat he once received from Henry Kissinger, that the U.S. would never tolerate "a new Japan in our backyard."