

National indignation erupts in Bolivia against new world order

by Silvia Palacios and Lorenzo Carrasco Bazúa

The inexplicable presence of a contingent of 120 U.S. soldiers from the 307th Engineer Battalion out of Fort Bragg, North Carolina in the Bolivian Amazon departments of Beni and Pando has triggered an outcry from Bolivian citizens against what they charge is a veiled invasion of their national territory.

Until now, the various and contradictory official explanations by Bolivia's social democratic government of President Jaime Paz Zamora did not go beyond vague attempts to justify the presence of a highly specialized military force in such "civic actions" as construction of a school and public latrines in the Beni town of Santa Ana de Yacuma, for which little more than a construction foreman and 15 bricklayers is generally required.

When questions first surfaced regarding the cargo of the gigantic Galaxy and Hercules aircraft that were making regular trips to the Amazon area where the troops had their barracks, Foreign Minister Ronald MacLean cynically commented that "one doesn't look a gift horse in the mouth," and that his ministry was "not the customs service." Not surprisingly, his comments caused the tense political climate in Bolivia to boil over.

Just days later, on July 21, acting Foreign Minister Manfredo Kempff appeared before the Bolivian Senate, which had been demanding an urgent explanation of the situation, and went so far as to claim that the U.S. troop presence obeyed the 1961 treaty within the framework "of the TIAR or Rio agreement signed in 1947." As any knowledgeable official must know, TIAR was virtually liquidated in 1982 resulting from U.S. conduct during the Malvinas War. It was definitively buried during the U.S. invasion of Panama in December 1989.

Following the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision legitimizing the kidnaping of foreign citizens from foreign lands, no one in his right mind can claim that any kind of hemispheric security pact involving the United States still functions.

Irregular warfare preparations

With more realism but no less servility to the United States, presidential chief of staff Gustavo Fernández claimed

that the "civic works" of the U.S. forces were part of anti-drug efforts agreed to at the continental summit meetings in Cartagena and San Antonio. He stressed that cooperation with the United States has been and will continue to be vital to the success of the market economy Bolivia's governments have attempted to implement since 1985. Interior Minister Carlos Saavedra added that the U.S. forces in Beni would be building an anti-drug base in Santa Ana de Yacuma, a report that was immediately denied by the U.S. embassy.

As the political attaché of the U.S. embassy in La Paz David Dlouhy acknowledged, what is going on in Beni and Pando is nothing less than military training maneuvers in irregular warfare in the Amazon. "This is training that our troops need," he said. "And if we can achieve two objectives in one blow—the training and the construction of a school—we will have done our job." At the same time, the military commander of the U.S. troops in Bolivia declared that "apart from the civic work, they seek to perfect their training. . . . We are in communication with the United States, with [the Southern Command in] Panama, and with La Paz and Santa Cruz, where there are troops backing this project."

A 'new order' beachhead

As an irony of history, the White House and the Pentagon have adopted the same strategy used by "Che Guevara," who during the 1960s attempted to establish a guerrilla "beachhead" in Bolivia, in the heart of South America, under the illusion that a continent-wide "revolutionary" movement would radiate from there. Today, President Bush's strategy is to establish a military enclave in that country, to be able to deploy troops—with the aid of the Southern Command based in Panama—to various countries under various pretexts, ranging from the war on drugs and terrorism to preserving the environment or defending corrupt democracies.

Like that of Che Guevara, the United States strategy has made the destruction of the continent's armed forces its principal target of operations. Perhaps it is this common goal which has facilitated President Paz Zamora's shameful collaborationism with the Anglo-Americans' colonial strategy. After all, Paz Zamora's party, the MIR, have always

been "Che" enthusiasts.

One Bolivian official satirically commented to these writers, in analyzing the absence of Carlos Andrés Pérez, César Gaviria, and Alberto Fujimori from the Ibero-American presidential summit in Madrid last month, that President Paz Zamora could calmly attend the Madrid summit "because U.S. troops were back in Bolivia defending his democratic regime."

The military maneuvers in the Bolivian Amazon not accidentally coincide with the greatest offensive yet undertaken by the Peruvian narco-terrorists of Shining Path (Sendero Luminoso) and with the escape of Colombian drug trafficker Pablo Escobar Gaviria. In both cases, the threat of a U.S. military invasion is omnipresent. The Bolivian daily *La Razón* noted on July 19 that "the presence of U.S. soldiers in the Bolivian Amazon corresponds to the planned objective of the White House to launch an anti-drug offensive in early October."

The scandal about U.S. troops in Bolivia occurs simultaneously with the renegotiation of bilateral anti-drug agreements between Bolivia and the United States, stemming from a series of irregularities committed by Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agents who, acting under diplomatic immunity, were discovered assaulting Bolivian citizens. At the heart of the renegotiation is the possible participation of the Bolivian military in the war on drug trafficking, a role which has been rejected by the military leadership as not part of their defense mission.

The attitude of American diplomats has been one of arrogance, as they have tried to manipulate military financial aid so as to pit the different branches of the Armed Forces against each other, and all three against the National Police. As one high-level and informed Bolivian military man told us: "What the United States is doing is open blackmail." Because of this arrogance, the Bolivian Senate has called for suspending the diplomatic immunity of DEA agents.

EIR at the School of Higher Learning

The Anglo-American strategy of creating military enclaves for the purpose of controlling broad regions of the world that are rich in natural resources, as in the case of the immense Amazon region, was put in the Bolivian spotlight by these authors, during their presentation to the School of Higher Learning, which in Bolivia is known as the "ideas laboratory" for national strategic thinking. On July 17, the authors explained that apart from the details of the U.S. troop presence, "we can state that it is the policy of the Anglo-American establishment to create a system of limited sovereignties over broad regions of the planet, for the purpose of controlling the exploitation of natural resources. This policy especially holds for the Amazon region."

"This reality," stated *EIR* correspondent Lorenzo Carrasco, "is so obvious that the Brazilian Armed Forces have altered their national defense priorities to concentrate pre-

cisely on defense of the Amazon region, for which they have already begun to deploy important military units." In August 1991, Carrasco continued, "I testified before the Congressional Commission of Inquiry of the Brazilian National Congress on the dangers of internationalization of the Amazon, and warned the congressional members of that commission of the Anglo-American establishment's plans to push Holland into a military intervention against its old colony Surinam, under the pretext of DEA accusations against Colonel

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Bouterse, head of that small state, for having supposedly run drugs into Europe."

Low-intensity warfare in the Amazon

Clearly, the intense traffic of the Galaxy aircraft in Bolivia over a several-day period had the purpose of determining the efficiency of mass troop and equipment transport into the Amazon region, which, given the current degree of insanity of the Anglo-American establishment and of the Bush administration in particular, could in the future reach the magnitude of a deployment like that of "Desert Storm."

According to the esposés by Congressman Gregorio Lanza, published in *La Razón* on July 16 following an inspection of Santa Ana de Yacuma, "the same troops that are here are elite groups that have worked in Honduras, in the Panama invasion, and in the Gulf war." It was also revealed that Santa Ana de Yacuma has an airstrip which, since the arrival of the U.S. troops from Fort Bragg, has received nearly 100 tons of cargo brought by the Galaxy airplanes, and by C-141s. "The first day, 15 Hercules planes landed in Santa Ana de Yacuma. Later, there were daily arrivals of six of those airplanes filled with boxes. We were unable to observe what they contained. All unloading was done in closed hangars," reported Ernesto Moises, president of Santa Ana's Civic Committee.

What attracted the attention of the congressional committee was "sophisticated satellite communications equipment kept at this military base and tied in to operational centers in La Paz, Panama, and the United States."

According to Congressman Lanza, "the U.S. troops are carrying out rapid-landing exercises for any part of the Ama-

zon.” He also charged that “former U.S. Ambassador Robert Gelbard has presented President Jaime Paz Zamora with a written document urging the establishment of a military base in Bolivia.”

Congressman André Soliz Rada, in statements to *La Razón* July 2, said that “before the disappearance of the Soviet Union, the United States was preparing for a war of domination against Latin America, which is why it has defined the Amazon region as one of the strategic points of penetration against our people.” According to Soliz Rada, “U.S. colonization and penetration is also expressed through the ecological debt, Latin American depopulation, defense of ethnic groups, fighting drugs, and soon a new concept of international crime for prosecuting those who

attack the democratic system.”

Soliz Rada explained, “In 1988, Bolivia signed an International Conservation Treaty, and the money to buy this debt was given by Citicorp bank. The bank’s president John Reed also negotiated with Brazil, and he told the Brazilian government to pay their foreign debts, because otherwise it would disappear as Bolivia and Peru are disappearing.”

Teddy Roosevelt, Bolivia’s historic enemy

In view of these charges, it is clear that the Anglo-American strategy is to establish a bridge between Panama and a military enclave in Bolivia, which is an underpopulated country with a zero population growth rate, the product of the last decade of malthusian policies run from the United

The Catholic Church in defense of sovereignty

Statement of the Permanent Council of the Bolivian Bishops Conference, the highest Church authority in Bolivia, in response to the interventionist attitude of U.S. Ambassador to Bolivia Charles Bowers.

“[We] regret that the diplomatic representative of the United States used offensive remarks in describing the accusations made by Msgr. Luis Casey as ‘false statements.’ . . .

“The apostolic nuncio and Msgr. Luis Casey, within the context of their pastoral mission, have with their critical positions demonstrated great sensitivity toward the Bolivian nation in concerning themselves with respect for its sovereignty.

“An authentic rapprochement between the Bolivian and U.S. people must be based, above all, on recognition of the sovereignty and dignity of each country and of their citizens.

“We openly express our full solidarity with Msgr. Giovanni Tonucci and with Msgr. Luis Casey, in defense of the sovereignty and respect for the self-determination of our people.”

Msgr. Luis Sainz, archbishop of La Paz

“The bilateral agreements between Bolivia and the United States do not mean from any standpoint the abandonment of essentially nationalist positions which are obligated to safeguard the Bolivian interest above all else. . . . The government is charged with protecting and demanding respect for national sovereignty above all, and

as a legacy for the new generations.”

Msgr. Luis Casey, bishop of Pando, July 19

“Ever since the invasion of Panama the United States has been preoccupied with finding another base in South America, and Bolivia as the heart of South America is a logical choice. To my view, it would be a disaster for Bolivia to allow a United States military base to be mounted on its territory.”

Msgr. Julio Terrazas, archbishop of Santa Cruz, in his July 20 homily

“There are people who manipulate the hospitality of the people. There are people who take advantage of the hospitality of the people. There are people who in their visit do not seek life, but death. . . . There are people who take advantage of good will, of a kind of memory lapse by simple people who are incapable of constantly remembering those who oppress them, those who have made them suffer, those who have enslaved them in chains, those who don’t let them speak, those who deprive them of every kind of benefit. . . . There are idols who pass themselves off as gods, and who are also going to visit us. There are false gods who go around pronouncing the word of our God, falsifying or dropping words at their whim. There are old and new idols who come to our homes and force us to be hospitable, and threaten us if we don’t receive them. . . . There are people who come, with false idols, to tell us that the God in whom we believe is not the true God, and they present us with a series of opportunistic deities, drawn from fairy tales which trick many of the gullible.”

Monsignor Terrazas then stated that his homily was directed at all those who abuse the hospitality of the people, including sects, politicians, false leaders, and primarily the presence of U.S. soldiers in the country.

States. This strategy is in fact an organic continuation of the policies of U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt at the turn of the century.

In 1902, Roosevelt had an active role in the organization of an international consortium called Bolivian Syndicated of New York, for the purpose of appropriating a large portion of the territory of Acre, at the time an object of contention between Brazil and Bolivia. Also on the board of the consortium was a Roosevelt nephew, along with representatives of the Baring and Rothschild banking houses, today leading sponsors of the ecologists' cause in the Amazon. Significantly, the area where U.S. troops are holding maneuvers in Pando and Beni border the Brazilian territory of Acre.

As Bishop of Pando Msgr. Luis Casey noted, "ever since the [1977] treaty with Panama, the United States has been preoccupied with finding another base in South America, and Bolivia as the heart of South America is a logical choice. To my view, it would be a disaster for Bolivia to allow a United States military base to be mounted on its territory."

'We have lost our dignity'

It has fallen to the Catholic Church to head up the wave of vehement protests against the United States' interventionist policies (see box). For example, the Permanent Council of the Bolivian Bishops Conference issued a July 14 communiqué demanding "respect for the sovereignty and self-determination of the Bolivian nation."

The reactions of indignation come from the whole range of the Bolivian political spectrum, from the leftist parties all the way to the most conservative, such as the majority Revolutionary Nationalist Movement (MRN), whose head Gonzalo Sánchez Lozada felt obliged to declare that "there is a popular perception that we have lost our dignity and that we are being treated any which way; I believe that it is time for the government to clarify the situation of the presence of U.S. military troops."

Congressman Alfonso Alem Rojo of the Free Bolivia Movement called for the expulsion of the U.S. troops, accusing them of being part of "low-intensity" programs which the United States has been imposing little by little on the Ibero-American continent. Even the leader of the ruling bloc in the Bolivian Congress, Hugo Carvajal of the MIR, said, "We will not allow any foreign military base to be installed in the country." He also accused technicians of the United States with carrying out land studies in Peru and Ecuador, nations which like Bolivia have a high degree of drug-trafficking activity.

But the spirit of the protests was summarized in a July 19 lead editorial of the daily *Hoy*, which said: "When the United States was a colony, or *England's backyard*, it did not have international or interregional relations—until the American Revolution, which played a proactive and liberating role, when it stopped being a 'backyard' and became what it is now, 'many people in a single nation.' A great stride and an

U.S., others aiding Peruvian terrorists

by Carlos Wesley

Shining Path's war of extermination against Peru is being aided and abetted by major countries in the Western Hemisphere and Europe. New information has come to light implicating the United States, Mexico, Spain, France, and England as among the nations providing at least de facto support to the narco-terrorists.

Modeled on Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge which wiped out up to one-half of Cambodia's population in the 1970s, Shining Path is the most brutal terrorist grouping in the Western Hemisphere. It is committed to eradicating western civilization and to carrying out a holocaust. Shining Path's leaders say they are ready to kill 1 million people in Peru alone in order to impose their Maoist "new order."

On July 27, television Channel 4 in Lima showed Shining Path openly organizing in Spain as the Summer Olympics were taking place. A Shining Path squad set up shop in a Madrid plaza under the slogan: "Against 500 Years of Murder, Long Live the People's War!" One million Peruvians will have to die to "irrigate" this people's war, a terrorist told the reporter.

Adolfo Olaechea, leader of Shining Path's European support arm, uses a note from Buckingham Palace as a letter of introduction, reported *Oiga* magazine on July 27. The royal note, dated July 25, reads: "The private secretary is commanded by Her Majesty the Queen to acknowledge the receipt of the letter from Mr. A. Olaechea and to say that it has been passed on to the Home Office."

This tolerant behavior can backfire. Security sources believe that a businessman who recently disappeared in Mexico was kidnaped for ransom and taken to Peru by Shining Path. In July, Portuguese authorities caught four suspected Shining Path terrorists posing as tourists and sent them back, via London, to whence they came—Sweden! Portuguese immigration authorities said they ex-

admirable accomplishment. We Latin Americans are now called upon to play that same role toward the United States, which looks, feels, thinks, and acts toward us as if we were its 'backyard.' "

The lack of convincing explanations regarding the deployment of U.S. troops in the Bolivian Amazon, and the Paz government's apparent complicity with U.S. plans to

pelled the Peruvians, who were on Interpol's watch list, because they feared they would attempt to cross the border to attack the leaders at the Ibero-American summit in Spain.

"I would like to say that Europe is now becoming conscious of the damage these people are causing," said Peru's ambassador to Portugal Harry Belevan in an interview with Lima's *El Comercio*. But there are still governments that shelter the terrorists "for misnamed humanitarian reasons," he said. "I am upset also when Europeans refer to the separatist movements in this continent, such as the IRA or ETA, as terrorists, murderers, and delinquents, but they don't do the same when they talk about Sendero Luminoso or the MRTA."

On July 24, U.S. presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche said it was time to "put aside all double-talk" and to publicly state that "this Maoist operation, is being employed by persons in the so-called western industrialized powers for the twofold purpose of genocide against the peoples of the Andean Spine, and for the destruction of the military and other sovereign institutions of those countries."

Second-hand weapons from Nicaragua

In an article in the July 28 *Expreso*, columnist Alejandro Deustua charged that Shining Path's barbarism is augmented by "the tolerant hypocrisy of those who shelter Sendero's hordes abroad while at the same time blockading us." The Bush administration has organized an international credit embargo and cut Peru off from the military and other resources it needs to fight the terrorists, claiming that President Alberto Fujimori violated "democracy" when he dissolved Congress and the pro-narco-terrorist judiciary on April 5, with the support of Peru's Armed Forces.

"As if that were not enough, friendly academics from reputable American universities, preach about the merely insurgent nature of a 'movement that only rarely—and with prior warning—resorts to terrorism,' " added Deustua. He blasted Americas Watch, purportedly a human rights organization, for claiming that "police stations can be considered 'legitimate targets under rules of war.' "

Unfortunately, President Fujimori has temporized

with Peru's enemies, and followed the advice of Economics Minister Carlos Boloña, to "reinsert" Peru into the brutal austerity policies demanded by the International Monetary Fund. The country's economy—and its military budget—have been bled dry through foreign debt payments.

Peru's annual military budget is only \$430 million while it is estimated that Shining Path's income from drug trafficking and other criminal activities is at least twice as much. The daily *Gestión* reported on July 30 that years before the war reached its current intensity, the defense budget was 4.5% of the Gross National Product. "Now, with a much more difficult situation, it is only 1.5% of the GNP." A source told *Gestión*: "We are dealing with a significant reduction of the Armed Forces budget. Today we only receive one-third of what we were getting a few years ago, which is made worse by the fact that the GNP today is lower in real terms than in those days."

Until recently, Peru had only three flight-worthy helicopters to deploy against these murderous terrorists, who, Peruvian experts estimate, now control about 60% of Peru's territory. While the government commands the major coastal cities, it finds itself, at best, in a dual power situation in many highland population centers. Cut off from the arms market, Peru has been forced to turn to Nicaragua to buy a dozen second-hand Russian-made MI-17 helicopters and spare parts.

As Peru is emasculated by Washington and its allies, calls for some sort of foreign intervention are coming from the *New York Times* and others. One such is Jeremy Stone, president of the Federation of American Scientists, who called for a Cambodia-style U.N. intervention in Peru, in a July 28 *Washington Post* article. A foreign intervention is considered a "highly desirable" scenario by Shining Path founder Abimael Guzmán, reported an article in the July 30 *Caretas*. According to the magazine, it is no longer far-fetched to conceive of a splintered and occupied Peru, with "Brazil extending to the Pacific Ocean, Ecuador to the oil pipeline [in northern Peru], Chile to Arequipa, Colombia to Iquitos, and Bolivia to the most convenient opening to the sea, [while] U.S. aircraft carriers in the northern sea launch their planes towards Huallaga."

establish military enclaves on Bolivian territory, has unleashed an indignant response from all layers of Bolivian society which, despite its economic poverty and relative military weakness, shows signs of moral and civic greatness in openly confronting the imperial pretensions of the so-called new world order.

What is seen today in Bolivia is a microcosm of what

could be occurring across Ibero-America, in response to the destruction of hemispheric order and the Anglo-American establishment's insistence on violating every principle of international law, as demonstrated by the U.S. Supreme Court's recent decision to rubber-stamp the Thornburgh Doctrine, bloodily inaugurated with the invasion of Panama and illegal capture of Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega.