

## Shining Path International grows by leaps and bounds

by Andrea Olivieri

Startling new evidence has emerged regarding the international networks of the Shining Path narco-terrorist group which, in combination with its hordes inside Peru, is escalating its drive for a "final offensive" against that nation. In the face of a U.S. State Department-led campaign of political and financial strangulation in the name of defending democracy, the Fujimori government is attempting to wage war against this army of fanatical assassins while still playing by the rules of an international banking fraternity out to, as Citibank chairman John Reed said, "make Peru disappear."

According to the Aug. 16 edition of Lima's *La República*, Shining Path has been building an impressive support network throughout Europe and the Americas since 1982. Despite the Fujimori government's reticence to reveal the extent of Shining Path's activities abroad, *La República* learned that the terrorists operate in England, Paris, Germany, Sweden, Portugal, Spain, Denmark, Italy, Belgium, the United States, Mexico, and elsewhere in the Americas.

The center of Shining Path's European operations is in England, where their front group, the Internationalist Revolutionary Movement (MRI) is headquartered. From there, Peruvian "businessman" Adolfo Olaechea coordinates deployments, publications, fundraising and, no doubt, more clandestine operations. According to *La República*, Olaechea has cadre, based in the universities, in nearly every major British city. Despite Shining Path's monthly demonstrations of support for Peru's "people's war" and active propaganda activity as well as the growing incidence of Shining Path terrorism in England and across Europe, the British government refuses to touch Olaechea, claiming he is protected by the constitutionally guaranteed right of freedom of expression.

The British government allowed London's Channel 4 to prepare and broadcast a film on Shining Path on July 10

which gave credibility to the racist rantings against the "white elite" which Shining Path seeks to "drive from Peru." The film defended Shining Path from charges of collaboration with drug traffickers, and slandered the Peruvian Armed Forces as responsible for the majority of the 25,000 deaths since Shining Path launched its war.

Peruvians who watched the film report that scenes of burials of supposed victims of Armed Forces' "brutality" were actually scenes following a Shining Path massacre in the town of Andajes. The Fujimori government had reportedly requested that the film not be shown, to no avail.

"Freedom of expression" provides a cover for Shining Path in Belgium also, where Luis Arce Borja, the exiled director of Shining Path's newspaper *El Diario*, publishes numerous terrorist publications. Arce Borja is the maniac of the Pol Pot stamp, who has predicted 1 million deaths during Shining Path's drive for power. He told the German weekly *Der Spiegel* recently, "We know that many innocents are dying, but history is written in blood. If we worry about how many are dying, we will never take power."

Sweden has a bevy of Shining Path front groups, ranging from the Popular Peru Movement and Committee to Support the Peruvian Revolution to the Mariátegui and Ayacucho Literary Circles. It is in Sweden that Shining Path chieftain Abimael Guzmán's sister-in-law and her husband Javier Estuardo Esparza Márquez operate. According to *La República*, Esparza Márquez is Shining Path's most important figure in Europe. He is in charge of forging links with other terrorist groups on the continent, such as with the Basque terrorist ETA of Spain, and for deploying exiled Shining Path cadres.

### Expanding European terrorism

Shining Path has not only recruited in European universities, but also the many immigrant communities in countries

like Germany and France. For example, Shining Path has found an important collaborator in the Turkish Communist Party M-L (Marxist-Leninist), which has members among the vast numbers of Turkish immigrants in Germany. The German government is understandably worried, and has reportedly prepared a list of "undesirable" Peruvians who are to be kept out of the country. It has also begun to increase police surveillance in Frankfurt, Hamburg, and Berlin, the three cities where Shining Path organizers pulled off large support marches this year.

But Germany refuses to send the military assistance to Peru that would help defeat the Shining Path threat, arguing that the Fujimori government must first "return to democracy." A delegation of three German parliamentarians returned from a fact-finding mission to Peru, preparatory to holding hearings in Bonn designed to pressure President Alberto Fujimori into returning political power to the Shining Path protectors who dominated Congress before he shut it down. The parliamentarians all denounced Fujimori's anti-terrorist measures as "hardening the mechanisms of oppression." Echoing former Peruvian President Alan García, the Germans insisted that terrorism had to be fought "through dialogue, and not through the military." The delegates met with former Peruvian congressmen, but refused to meet with anyone from Fujimori's government.

Emboldened by the impunity with which it has operated in Europe for the past decade, and by the "pro-democracy" sanctions against Peru which have hamstrung Fujimori's war on subversion, Shining Path has begun to wage terrorist warfare abroad as well as at home. *La República* reveals that in recent weeks, the Peruvian embassy in Sweden was first painted over with blood-red slogans, and then bullet-riddled. An assassination attempt against Amb. Gustavo Adolfo Silva Aranda failed, but left an indelible message.

In early August, the same pattern began with the Peruvian embassy in London: painted slogans, bullets, and death threats against embassy personnel. Embassies in Spain, Belgium, Italy, Germany, Sweden, France, and Denmark, "already accustomed to receiving periodic threats from the pro-Shining Path 'Committee to Support the Peruvian Revolution' (CARP)," are now being splashed by red-painted slogans as well, as is the embassy in Mexico.

While the European governments, after 10 years of silence, have begun to share counterterror intelligence, draw up exclusion lists, and even expel a handful of Shining Path members, it is too little and too late. The resource-strapped Peruvian government has reportedly decided to send special envoys abroad to counter Shining Path's organizing in Europe.

According to Lima's *Sí* magazine, Shining Path plans bombing and kidnap assaults against embassies in Lima. Numerous countries are reportedly bringing in security personnel from home and preparing evacuation plans for embassy staff. *Sí* magazine suggests that "missions to rescue foreign citizens" might even be attempted in the event of a

Shining Path siege of Lima.

The growing hints of some kind of foreign intervention dovetail with the U.S. State Department's two-pronged policy toward the region: bury Ibero-America's Armed Forces under a mudslide of human rights accusations and financial cutbacks, and then send in the Marines to handle the problem—drugs, terrorism, or "an assault on democracy." Such "big stick" advocates as Rep. Robert Torricelli (D-N.J.) have been calling for such Vietnam-style invasions into Ibero-America ever since Panama.

Shining Path spokesmen are already anticipating a U.S. military intervention. In an interview with the Mexican daily *El Financiero*, Eugenio Tapia of the Mexican Committee to Support the People's War in Peru says that the conditions for a "massive U.S. intervention in Peru" already exist, and that such a possibility "is a very serious danger, nearly inevitable; therefore, we must denounce the maneuvers of U.S. imperialism against the courageous people of Peru."

### Recipe for defeat

In view of this new buildup toward a possible "final" Shining Path offensive, the Fujimori government's failure to break with the austerity dictates of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and to put the economy on a war footing, is a recipe for defeat. Finance Minister Carlos Boloña returned empty-handed from a fundraising trip to Washington in early August. But the chance then to launch a war-winning strategy, including suspending debt payments and boosting defense allocations—including weapons, equipment, and military wage hikes—was missed.

Instead, Boloña announced that the IMF had agreed to permit a more "flexible" application of austerity in the second half of 1992, and that a \$300 million surplus squeezed out of Peru's moribund economy would be spent on a "reactivation plan." The plan comes down to bailing out selected bankrupt firms and banks, a minimal wage hike for public employees, and softening some taxes and interest rates. Boloña's promise to spend more on "internal defense" (but not on military wages) will buy a little time to keep military tempers under control.

Not even the business sector, for which the "reactivation plan" was designed, is happy with Boloña's bag of tricks. Export association president Eduardo McBride said, "We must continue to try to convince Boloña to revise his stabilization program." Juan Antonio Aguirre Roca, president of the Peruvian businessman's federation Confiep, dubbed the latest measures "inadequate," adding, "We are facing the most serious economic crisis in the history of the republic. . . . The government has taken very hard measures in the area of stabilization. What it is now proposing is an adjustment of the over-adjustment." The Confiep leader insisted that the Armed Forces and police receive wage increases, and protested that Boloña's new plan failed to address such key issues as exchange rates, interest rates, credit availability, and contraband.