

War criminal Guzmán on trial in Peru

by Andrea Olivieri

Shining Path leader Abimael Guzmán was brought before a secret military tribunal in Peru on Sept. 28, where he will face a 10-day trial on charges of treason against the state. It is expected that he will be sentenced to life imprisonment, which is the maximum sentence permitted under current Peruvian law, although, as the *Washington Post* recently pointed out, "some Peruvian legal experts have suggested sentencing Guzmán according to the precedent of the Nuremberg trials in Germany after World War II."

Under the Nuremberg precedent, Guzmán could be executed for war crimes. The death penalty option has been demanded by many Peruvians and is personally favored by President Alberto Fujimori.

U.S. presidential candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche re-

cently observed that the Peruvian government's options for dealing with Guzmán "were best situated under the heading of St. Augustine's work on the subject of justified warfare. The case of Guzmán lies within the area of warfare—irregular warfare is warfare, just as regular warfare is. Guzmán's crime under military justice is a war crime. He should be indicted as a war criminal."

'Red October' on the agenda?

Even as Guzmán is called to account for his crimes—which have claimed an estimated 26,000 lives and cost Peru some \$20 billion in losses over the past decade—his drug-financed organization has launched a new terrorist offensive in his name. Guzmán's so-called Fourth Plan began Oct. 1, the anniversary of Mao Zedong's rise to power in China 41 years ago, and will also reportedly target the Oct. 12 quincentenary of Christopher Columbus's discovery and the evangelization of the New World. It is expected to extend at least through the November elections for a Peruvian Constituent Assembly.

Leaflets have begun to circulate in Peru threatening "reactionary journalists," and the New York-based Spanish-language daily *El Diario-La Prensa* has already received a warning that its offices will be blown up unless four Peruvian

Billington prosecution shows dirty U.S. policy

The following are excerpts from a Sept. 25 conference with six Peruvian media, conducted by telephone from the United States by Michael Billington. On Sept. 28, Billington, an associate of Lyndon LaRouche, began serving a 77-year jail term in Virginia as a political prisoner in the United States.

Billington: It is appropriate to have the opportunity to speak to you in Peru at a time when my government has been spending a great deal of time and effort condemning your country for human rights violations, for having successfully moved to stop the terror and the drug forces of the hideous Shining Path. . . . Meanwhile, I here am one of the prime examples of the fact that my own government has been forced, in order to maintain its power over a collapsing economy, to resort to a hideous breach of human rights against myself, my political associates, and others in our nation. . . .

Radio Union I want to know if you think Shining Path can survive, especially in light of the fact that Mr. Guzmán . . . made a number of terrorist threats against the life of

the nation. . . .

Billington I think there is indeed a very great threat that Shining Path can survive. Because Shining Path . . . is a movement that only survives because of the backing, both overt and covert, by the international financial institutions which are profiting from the destruction of nations, the looting of nations through the drug process, and the destabilization of governments. And I am sure that Guzmán feels confident to make such threats because he knows that the U.S. government and other governments in Europe are openly protecting spokesmen and activists for their global terror, claiming concern for their human rights while they throw me in prison.

El Comercio You have charged that the U.S. government is supporting Shining Path. I would like you to tell me what you are basing this accusation on. . . .

Billington Were the U.S. government in fact committed to stopping the drug scourge, which it cries so much about, it would have mobilized . . . to support the effort that Mr. Fujimori launched. Instead, the U.S. State Department, U.S. embassies throughout Latin America, and virtually the entirety of the American press and the so-called human rights institutions have come out denouncing what Mr. Fujimori has done as a breach of human rights—as if the right to life and the right to live in freedom and in development is not a fundamental human right. . . .