

EIR Feature

Venezuela's fight to survive against Rockefeller coup

by Valerie Rush

The April 18 indictment of Venezuelan Labor Party (PLV) leader Alejandro Peña Esclusa on trumped-up charges of “incitement to crime” and “fomenting hatred” stunned many Venezuelans who had hoped that last May’s impeachment of President Carlos Andrés Pérez (known as CAP) called a halt to the political terror and corruption that was a hallmark of that regime. A flood of protests, both domestic and international, has challenged the continued influence over Venezuela’s courts of powerful criminal elements linked to CAP and his international mentors—David Rockefeller and his British banking friends—and are demanding that the persecution of Peña be ended, and his right to freedom of expression respected.

The judicial frameup of Peña, a longtime friend and associate of U.S. statesman Lyndon LaRouche and an outspoken critic of CAP and his coterie of embezzlers and thugs, is, however, part of a broader destabilization by the Rockefeller crowd of the Rafael Caldera government itself. Rocked by a devastating financial crisis inherited from Pérez’s administration (1989-93), Venezuela is today faced with a critical choice: It can surrender what remains of its sovereignty to the banking elites who have always viewed “little Venice” as their personal playground, or it can heed the voices of LaRouche and Peña, and implement the kind of nationalist, or Hamiltonian, economic program that can free it from CAP’s legacy, and from the banks’ stranglehold.

As the PLV noted in an April 27 statement, the purpose of the frameup is “to keep Peña out of politics and to discredit the PLV so that the government won’t even have access to the PLV’s proposals” to deal with the economic crisis.

Why is the Caldera government being targeted? Rafael Caldera is an “old-style” President, who still believes that it is the President—not the banks—who is elected to govern the country. He was elected to office as an independent, having broken with his own corrupted Copei party, and yet he brings with him the experience of his earlier presidency (1969-74). His denunciations of the CAP regime and its subservience to the banking elites won him the presidency, and put him on the black list of CAP’s



U.S. President George Bush and his Venezuelan counterpart Carlos Andrés Pérez, in 1990. Although Bush was voted out in 1992 and Pérez ousted for corruption in 1993, the remnants of their mafias are running the destabilization of Venezuela.

international banking protectors.

Indeed, it is precisely out of fear of President Caldera's increasing signs of independence—his refusal to sign with the International Monetary Fund, his refusal to back a United Nations-style "blue helmet" force for Ibero-America, his opposition to U.N. malthusian dictates being proposed for the upcoming Cairo depopulation conference, and, most recently, his ousting of Venezuela's "autonomous" central bank head—that the Rockefeller crowd is now conducting financial warfare against Venezuela at the same time that its minions inside the country are trying to make Peña a bloody example.

In the following pages, you will read how, in the words of one Venezuelan newspaper publisher, the case was "fabricated" against Peña by the multibillionaire financial and media empire of the Cisneros family—which flourished in the shadow of CAP's power—using the spurious testimony of "former" political police agents now on the Cisneros payroll. You will read the nearly illiterate "findings" of Judge Guillermo Heredia Rodríguez, who was temporarily appointed to Criminal Court 42 in Caracas just long enough to issue the indictment and arrest warrant against Peña.

The indictment against Peña claims that acts of violence against Cisneros properties were instigated by Peña's Feb. 16 nationally televised appeal to the Caldera government to investigate the Cisneros group's responsibility for the failure of Banco Latino, which stripped more than a million families of their life savings. And yet, the judge's findings offer nothing but the spectral evidence of "psychological anguish" on

the part of Cisneros employees, in order to hold Peña responsible for acts of arson and looting and for the bloodshed of the February 1989 "Caracazo" street riots triggered by CAP's austerity dictates which left thousands dead!

Lyndon LaRouche issued a statement on the Peña case on April 23, emphasizing that developments in Venezuela, "specifically what that overblown pipsqueak Cisneros is doing through the judiciary," are directly related to the accelerating crisis of the global monetary system.

"It is obvious to me, from knowing the characteristics of the operation [against Peña], that it originates with the same people who are orchestrating the Whitewater scandal against President Clinton, that is, that section of British intelligence; and that it is being run in coordination with a section of the U.S. intelligence community which was led by George Bush when he was Vice President and President, and which is still attached, at least nominally, to George Bush today.

"It is obvious that this is part of a strategic move. It has nothing to do with any action by Alejandro Peña, or anybody in the country. The purpose of the action is to destabilize the Caldera government, and the reason that Peña has been attacked, is because George Bush personally hates me—and so does Gustavo Cisneros.

"The important thing to note, is that if other countries do not rally to assist Venezuela in defending its sovereignty against this kind of disgusting, corrupt intervention by a person linked to the interests of the international drug traffickers, then no country in Central or South America is safe."