

hold mass or worship in many places where a few Catholics remain. We seek the reinstatement of freedom of religion and freedom of movement for priests throughout the region.

3. I also requested that the police should return the trucks confiscated from us. We used them for delivering humanitarian aid, Caritas assistance, to our remaining parishioners. Throughout the entire war, no other supplies reached these people, except what came through the Church. These people have no work or any assistance, only Caritas. Caritas also provides for a large number of Muslim and Serbian refugees. Why do they still keep our trucks? The trucks were mobilized, but the war has stopped and they should be returned to us.

4. I also asked him when people will be able to begin returning to their ancestral homes. Our people steadfastly wanted to remain in their homes but a representative of the Srpska Republic signed a joint contract with the International Red Cross stating that all the Croats, i.e., Catholics, from the Banja Luka territory had to be expedited, i.e., removed from that region in the month of August 1995, during the last wave of "ethnic cleansing." I am very sorry to state that the international community participated in this crime, instead of defending us. Unfortunately, the International Red Cross acquiesced to the Serbs' use of force and lawlessness.

There are many who want to return, the largest number of whom were forcibly expelled. Many of our houses there are vacant because they were heavily damaged.

If "ethnic cleansing" is internationally sanctioned, it will be a catastrophe for me; not only for me, but, in my eyes, a catastrophe for European civilization at the end of the 20th century. Then you will quickly have new Bosnias in many other parts of Europe. Other egoists will begin very similar, if not the same, crimes directed against mankind and, I say, against individual ethnic or religious communities.

This profoundly inhumane activity is so bizarrely designated by the words "ethnic cleansing." Such a term is unacceptable. No "cleansing" is involved. However, it occurs with the participation of the so-called humane and civilized world. We cannot and will not be reconciled to this as a definitive solution.

The Dayton Treaty is a terrible defeat for us. The demonstrably peace-loving non-Serbian population has been expelled from its territory, which was then offered to Serbs migrating from other territories, and the Dayton Treaty has somehow sanctioned this. However, it also stipulates that all who want to return to their lands can do so.

And on this issue I have to say that in conversations with American representatives and President Clinton in Tuzla; and with Mr. Christopher, Mr. Holbrooke, and Mr. Gallucci in Sarajevo, I had the impression they are serious people who will carry out their plans. The American representatives told me, "Bishop Komarica, your conduct and your support of a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, multi-confessional Banja Luka territory has obligated us to defend you, to support you. This is the American goal and the commitment here."

Colombia

To fight drugs, beat narco-terrorism

by Valerie Rush

On March 20, the editorial of the Colombian Army newsletter *En Guardia*, written by Army Commander Gen. Harold Bedoya Pizarro, was dedicated to identifying the "sinister marriage" between guerrilla terrorists and drug traffickers as a serious national, and international, security threat. General Bedoya pointed to the hard evidence his forces have assembled on this *narco-terrorist* alliance, and appealed to both the relevant Colombian authorities, and to the international community, to defeat the scourge (see *Documentation*). He asserted that the mission of the Armed Forces of Colombia includes defeating the narco-terrorist enemy.

The Roman Catholic Church in Colombia presented a similar viewpoint in the lead editorial of its March 23 newspaper *El Catolicismo*, which described the narco-terrorists as "war criminals" who should be tried for crimes against humanity. The editorial protested the many obstacles that have been thrown in the way of "our worthy Armed Forces," in their battle against narco-terrorism, and asked whether Colombia, in its weakened state, can survive their onslaught.

The unholy alliance between guerrilla insurgents and the drug cartels, as identified by General Bedoya, may seem rather obvious to readers of *EIR*, which has been documenting the rise of narco-terrorism in Colombia for nearly two decades. And yet, the issue of whether or not to recognize that narco-terrorism even *exists*, lies at the center of a policy dispute both in Colombia and in Washington, which could well determine whether the war on drugs will be won or lost.

Leftover policy of the Bush administration

Exemplary of this problem is U.S. Ambassador to Colombia Myles Frechette, who addressed a seminar at Colombia's Superior War School in Bogotá in February. In response to a question on whether the United States was prepared to declare war against that country's narco-terrorists, as it has done against the drug cartels, Frechette reportedly answered that the United States "has no evidence that the guerrillas are making and exporting cocaine to the U.S."

This is not simply the personal viewpoint of one individual, but represents a strategic approach left over from the Bush era, and which is still ingrained within various departments in Washington, including State and Defense. For example, in a

September 1995 report issued by the U.S. Defense Department's Office of International Security Affairs, entitled "United States Security Strategy for the Americas," the same disastrous blindness is reflected. Not only are drug trafficking and terrorism addressed as entirely separate phenomena, but terrorism is described as a "diminishing" problem, with "national reconciliation" the recommended response to remaining "rebel" pockets. Indeed, says the report, "Where civilian-led peace negotiations [with guerrillas] are under way, the United States should encourage all sides to the conflict to respect the process, including interim accords and cease-fires."

In the early 1980s, Lyndon LaRouche first coined the term *narco-terrorism*, to refer to the political and financial interdependence between London- and Moscow-sponsored subversion, and the drug trade. In 1983, then-U.S. Ambassador to Colombia Lewis Tambs made waves in Colombia and Washington alike, with his use of the term *narco-guerrilla*. In 1984, military raids on cocaine-processing centers in Colombia's southwest revealed that guerrilla forces from the Communist FARC were standing guard at those sites. In November 1985, the socialist M-19 guerrilla movement assaulted the Colombian Justice Palace, murdering half the Supreme Court magistrates and burning archives full of extradition petitions and legal dossiers on drug traffickers. Months later, evidence came to light that the M-19 had been paid millions by the drug cartels to carry out the attack.

And yet in February 1986, Bush's FBI director—and later CIA director—William Webster told the media: "Words like narco-terrorism tend to exacerbate the realities as we know them. I also do not believe that the hard evidence links the two."

It is precisely this approach of viewing drugs and terrorism as two unrelated phenomena, that has been used as "justification" for working with the one, presumably to defeat the other. This was emphatically the case during the Bush administration, which forged a criminal alliance with the region's drug-trafficking cartels, supposedly to defeat the "communist terrorists." Thus, the infamous Contra operations of Lt. Col. Oliver North, through which the Bush government effectively sanctioned the smuggling of multi-ton shipments of narcotics into the United States, in exchange for cartel services in funding and arming the Nicaraguan "Contras" against the Sandinista government.

As LaRouche declared in an October 1995 campaign document entitled "The Blunder in U.S. National Security Policy," which was written in response to the September 1995 Pentagon report: "With its right hand, the U.S. government creates operations and assigns agents to combat drug-trafficking and terrorism, and, at the same time, with its left hand, cohabits with drug-traffickers, and fosters the breeding of new generations of mujahideen and other narco-terrorists. . . . That kind of official bureaucratic hypocrisy is a big part of the cause for the hemispheric—and global—insecurity confronting the

U.S. government today."

That is what is at issue in General Bedoya's sharp drawing of lines, on the one hand, and Ambassador Frechette's denial of reality, on the other. In fact, one pro-terrorist columnist in Colombia hailed Ambassador Frechette's public denial of a narco-terrorist link as burying the "Tambs doctrine." By rejecting the "Satanization" of Colombia's guerrilla movements, wrote Alfredo Molano Bravo in a March 17 column in the daily *El Espectador*, the United States is offering itself as a possible "mediator" for government negotiations with the country's terrorist armies.

The U.S. State Department offers a painful example of precisely the kind of "official hypocrisy" which LaRouche identifies. The State Department's own annual narcotics strategy report readily acknowledges the existence of narco-terrorism in Colombia, and yet the State Department's human rights office fully endorses a "negotiated" approach to dealing with those same narco-terrorists, while embracing the propaganda of such pro-terrorist "human rights" outfits as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, which claim that it is Colombia's police and Armed Forces, and not the narco-terrorists, that are committing genocide against the Colombian people.

Clinton's newly appointed "drug czar," retired general Barry McCaffrey, on the other hand, declared in his first press conference: "They are in a war in Colombia against international drug criminals. There are 10,000 narco-guerrilla units, with machine-guns, mortars, land mines, etc., who are attacking the institutions of democracy in Colombia."

General Bedoya's editorial on narco-terrorism was clearly intended to draw the line for those, both in Colombia and in the United States, who claim to be committed to a war on drugs. Already, Colombian Prosecutor General Alfonso Valdivieso—the man responsible for the investigation of President Ernesto Samper Pizano's government for narco-corruption—has issued arrest warrants for the entire leadership of the FARC narco-guerrillas. The FARC which has been dubbed the "number one drug cartel in the country" by General Bedoya.

Documentation

The following are excerpts from the March 20, 1996 editorial of the Colombian Army's weekly magazine En Guardia (On Guard), written by Army commander Gen. Harold Bedoya Pizarro.

Definitely, the year 1996 begins, as far as our force is concerned, with renewed spirits, the best indication of that being the successful operation that was carried out in Payil (Caquetá), where soldiers of the Twelfth Brigade, belonging to

the Fourth Army Division, managed to deal one of the hardest and most definitive blows to narco-subversion in recent times.

With this operation, the dismantling of an entire squadron of the poorly named FARC [Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces] was achieved; as was clearly proven in the aftermath of the battle, its initials could just as easily be changed to stand for “Forces at the Service of the Production and Trafficking of Narcotics.”

We say this because evidence of the subversives’ dedication to the sowing, production, and distribution of the lethal drug, is more than widely known; it is *proven*. How this nefarious business is exercised by all fronts of the FARC bandits can be clearly appreciated through simple observation, without need of painstaking analysis.

What really stands out in the relevant seized documents—which are now already circulating around the world—are the links which, by radio and cellular telephone, permit indispensable communication between the bandit chieftains and representatives of the various cartels at their respective levels.

All of this is minutely registered in these documents: the kind of drug and weight; care of crops; use of airstrips; processing and distribution, not only at the national level, but to strategic sites in distant Peru, where the subversives have their respective foreign agents on commission; and the profits, the fabulous profits.

Also showing up within that criminal structure are the connections involving civilian and political authorities, requiring the most rigorous and necessary investigation, which we have logically already requested from the Prosecutor General’s office.

Described in those documents as well, are the results of self-criticisms and war councils which the leaders of these armed criminals carry out against their own members, applying executions for the slightest faults and, above all, for the slightest suspicions. How many of the so-called “disappeared” fall in that category? . . . The most pathetic and horrifying cases, however, involve the trafficking in children, adolescents in the flower of their lives, who are seized and gradually channeled into a life of crime, turning them, over time, into dangerous assassins of the worst kind. . . .

This most perfect alliance between drugs and crime, as illustrated in these documents, cries out for this command to denounce it before the entire national and international community. This is the same alliance which has existed for so many years, and with the most monstrous dividends, between the ill-named guerrillas—read, rather, the blood-thirsty—with the cocaine traffickers, executioners of this country’s, and the world’s, youth. In order to put a definitive end to this sinister marriage, the mission of the national Army must be seen, both by ourselves and by society in general, as having an unquestionable legitimacy and scope; a legitimacy which stems not only from the national Constitution and the law, but also from the necessary instinct for social preservation in the face of such a dark and damnable objective. . . .

‘Peace talks’ are a tactic in the guerrillas’ war

The following are excerpts from the principal editorial of the Colombian Catholic Church weekly El Catolicismo, of March 24.

Once again—and by now we have lost count of how many times the same thing has occurred—the foreign and Colombian criminals who hide behind the name of guerrilla, are using the tactic of proposing peace talks, while they multiply and intensify their armed actions. . . . A massacre such as that in Chalán, in which they used terrorist means, such as dynamite, and executed policemen who had surrendered, is a demonstration of the depths of cruelty and brutality to which these bands of villains, who sustain and enrich themselves through drug-trafficking, kidnapping, and extortion, have sunk. But even this pales in comparison to the recent statements by boys and girls who have been kidnapped, to be trained in crime, which suffice to declare the members of these organizations to be war criminals and guilty of crimes against humanity.

[Between] the commission of a crime and its punishment, there are so many steps that the law ends up getting lost in all the “ins and outs,” and can end up on the side of the guilty: finding, pursuing, combatting, subduing, capturing, trying, and sentencing them. In any of these stages, our worthy Armed Forces experience many obstacles and failures; in others, the administration of justice raises many questions. Add to this the mounting evidence that towns besieged by terrorists had warning of what was going to happen, and were silenced either by fear or because the authorities didn’t believe them. Entire towns are becoming accomplices through fear and intimidation. . . .

It is inevitable that the vacuum left by legitimate authority will tend to be filled in other ways, above all when the primary right to life must be defended, as the self-defense groups argue. But this has resulted in vast areas of the country being turned into war zones, which permits the subversives—when threatened or attacked on their own terms—to present new and treacherous dialogue proposals, as part of their known strategy to stall and deceive. Circumstances such as these which afflict Colombia today demand a firm, unquestioned government, which has the full backing of the nation, so that acts such as those of Chalán [massacre site—ed.] are never repeated. Where the guerrillas go, they leave total desolation in their wake, because the fruit of hatred is death; all they left behind there were graves strewn everywhere. As a reporter who visited the place noted, “Here dogs do not bark, and roosters do not crow.” Will this be Colombia’s future?