

London's narco-terrorist international strikes in Peru

by Gretchen Small

London's narco-terrorist killing machine struck again in the days leading up to Christmas, this time in Lima, Peru. The *Wall Street Journal*, the *Times* of London, Cable News Network, et al., have since poured out unending propaganda about "gentlemen rebels" and a "thinking man's guerrilla group" seeking social objectives; but the terrorists who seized hundreds of people as hostages on Dec. 17 in Lima, are, in reality, part of a ruthless continental strike force; they are tied to the drug trade; and they are set on obliterating the sovereign nation-state—all on London's orders.

The commando unit of two dozen or so terrorists which seized the hostages, operating under the name of the largely defunct Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA), is reliably reported to include several Chileans, Colombians, and Central Americans, as well as a group of 15- to 20-year-old Peruvians. They seized the home of the Japanese ambassador when over 500 people were present for a diplomatic reception, including ambassadors from 18 nations, top Japanese businessmen, and dozens of high-level Peruvian officials, from cabinet ministers to military and anti-terror officers. They had hoped to capture President Alberto Fujimori, but his arrival at the reception had been unexpectedly delayed.

In exchange for releasing their remaining hostages alive, the terrorists are demanding that the Peruvian government release hundreds of imprisoned MRTA terrorists, including their top leadership; grant them safe-passage to the Peruvian jungle (previously the center of their drug-trafficking and terrorist operations); and negotiate the MRTA's establishment as a political party.

The media claim that the terrorists are demanding economic and social change, but that myth was buried when released hostage Manuel Romero Caro, director of Peru's *Gestión* daily, reported, from his long talks with the leader of the commandos, Néstor Cerpa Cartolini, that they do not oppose International Monetary Fund policies, such as privatization of state industries and usurious debt payments.

President Fujimori and his government have categorically rejected the terrorists' demands. "Fujimori has done exactly, at this point, the right thing," and has rightly received support for this from the Clinton administration, Lyndon LaRouche stated in a Dec. 24 radio interview with "EIR Talks."

LaRouche further warned that the international media campaign for the Peruvian government "to free 300, or more, of the worst killers in South America—the MRTA killers who are in prison, who are in there for killing, mass killing; it's like if somebody comes up to the President of the United States and says, 'Release all the people who are in jail, prison, for mass murder, turn them loose on the streets. Accept that. Set this thing up as a political party in Peru . . . a criminal organization.' What this means, in effect, is to punish the Army for what they did to the terrorists. . . . But this means that the sovereignty, the national sovereignty of Peru, is effectively dissolved," LaRouche explained.

The São Paulo Forum in action

The group which seized the hostages is the São Paulo Forum, the continental terrorist machine founded in 1990 by the Cuban Communist Party. *EIR* profiled the operations of the Forum, and its links to London, in a Nov. 15, 1995 feature.

Leaders of the Forum immediately endorsed the hostage taking as a "lesson to governments" across the region that terrorism cannot be defeated, and negotiations on power-sharing with the São Paulo Forum are required. The leader of Colombia's April 19 Movement (M-19), Antonio Navarro Wolf—one of many "former" terrorists whom the London-allied Inter-American Dialogue has paraded around Washington as the new leadership of "democracy" in Ibero-America today—emerged as the chief international spokesman for the terrorist action in Peru.

The MRTA siege "is a nearly identical repeat of what we did on Feb. 27, 1980, when we took the Dominican Republic Embassy in Bogotá," Colombia, the M-19 chieftain proudly

repeats. That 1980 operation secured fame, protection, and financing for the M-19, the which five years later seized Colombia's Justice Palace, and killed Supreme Court judges, on behalf of the drug cartels.

Navarro Wolf's fellow in the São Paulo Forum, Nicaragua's Daniel Ortega, crowed that the MRTA's action in Peru, and the guerrilla wars in Colombia and Mexico, prove that revolutionary insurgency in the Americas is not dead. "This situation should be a wake-up call to all of Latin America's governments and economic groups. . . . The MRTA's proposal . . . is indisputably a proposal that should be taken into account by President Fujimori."

The MRTA action is "spectacular and well-planned," hailed a spokesman for Colombia's Armed Revolutionary Forces (FARC), otherwise known as Colombia's Third Cartel. A spokesman for Chile's terrorist Manuel Rodríguez Patriotic Front threatened, that should Peru's President Fujimori not buckle to their demands, other hits would be carried out against Peruvian, Japanese, and U.S. targets.

The MRTA, under which name the terrorists are operating, was itself founded by members of Peru's APRA party, and functioned from its beginning as an integral part of Cuba's terrorist network on the continent. In the 1980s, MRTA members fought in Colombia as members of the Americas Battalion, an international brigade led by the drug cartel's M-19. Cerpa Cartolini, the chief MRTA terrorist, is reported to have trained in Cuba and the formerly communist East bloc, and fought with the Sandinistas in Nicaragua in 1979-80.

The urban middle class-based MRTA never had much of a popular base in Peru, and had absolutely nothing to do with anything "indigenous," aside from its name. With some 400 leaders captured, tried, and sentenced to long jail terms since 1992, the MRTA, like its compatriots in the Shining Path, had been crushed as a force within Peru.

But twice in the last year, international terrorists were caught attempting to rebuild operations in Peru under the cover of the MRTA. On Nov. 30, 1996, Peruvian intelligence captured a group of terrorists who had been sent into Peru—including Chileans, a Panamanian, and the U.S. citizen Lori Berenson—with the assignment of carrying out a spectacular terrorist action: seizing hostages at the National Congress. Then, in May 1996, a leading Japanese Red Army terrorist was arrested in Peru, and a JRA support apparatus uncovered.

Why Peru?

The Fujimori government's successful crushing, over the course of 1992-94, of both the MRTA and the Pol Pot-modelled Shining Path, has proved a major obstacle to the ultimate goals of the São Paulo Forum, and their British masters, in the Americas. No country has come closer to disintegration under narco-terrorist assault, and, yet, Peruvian security forces succeeded in militarily crushing the terrorists, after President Fujimori made the decision to defy the "international community" on April 2, 1992, and put the country on a war footing to combat the combined Shining Path/MRTA assault. Because

Fujimori had suspended "democratic" functioning to win the war, Peru not only received no international help in this effort, but it came under strong pressure to stop the war.

The "Fujimori model" has been studied by other military and civilian forces in the region, as a case study in how terrorism can be defeated. In Colombia, particularly, many now argue that the Peru case proves that Colombia does not have to follow El Salvador, where a power-sharing deal with the Salvadoran wing of the São Paulo Forum, the FMLN, was rammed through by George Bush and the United Nations.

The MRTA action seeks to reverse that victory. As Navarro Wolf told Colombia's *La Prensa* on Dec. 19: "President Fujimori has always refused to negotiate, but . . . this operation of the MRTA is forcing him to accept . . . that the only way to put an end to war in Latin America today is by negotiating." He reiterated this message to the daily *El Tiempo* Dec. 20: "The continent applauded [Fujimori], and the result is that now, the guerrillas, who were believed defeated, have returned to force the arrogant and proud President to negotiate in the heart of Lima, with an action that affects his main ally, Japan. This is good, because it is a lesson for Fujimori."

So far, London has failed in that intent. While there was a public scuffle over how to respond to the terrorist demands, in the immediate aftermath of the hostage taking, with the Japanese government urging that some kind of deal be worked out, the Clinton administration backed up the Peruvian government in its hard-line stance. On the night of Dec. 21, Fujimori laid out his government's policy to the nation:

"As we all know, hundreds of Peruvian and foreign citizens find themselves held as hostages . . . in what constitutes a repugnant assault on the freedom, well-being, and lives of innocent people. As incredible as it may seem, with this act of terror and flagrant violation of human rights, the same MRTA which over the past decade has sown death and destruction in Peru . . . proposes to initiate a dialogue which would lead to a peace agreement. That is, they propose a dialogue while holding an AKM rifle to the hostages' heads.

"The government is unwilling to allow the force and violence of a terrorist commando to be imposed on 23 million people who reject these methods, which are neither civilized nor political. Nor . . . to allow the famous 'people's jails,' the memory of which is so painful to us, to be reproduced on a grander scale. It is furthermore totally clear that the release of the perpetrators of murders and terrorist assaults is unacceptable in the framework of existing Peruvian law, and from the standpoint of national security."

Fujimori laid out his government's offer: "The captors must hand in their weapons to a committee of guarantors, and facilitate the evacuation of all the hostages, without exception. In this way, we rule out the use of force by the Peruvian state, and then, with full guarantees, we can study a way out."

The next day, Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto told his nation that his government supported the policy outlined by Fujimori. "It is the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement's turn to respond," he said.

Statement by the MSIA

The Ibero-American Solidarity Movement (MSIA) in Peru issued the following statement on Dec. 23, 1996, titled "London Runs Narco-Terrorist Assault in Lima." The MSIA is a continent-wide association that supports the program of Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

With the seizure of the residence of the Japanese ambassador in Lima, carried out by London's international narco-terrorist apparatus, the British oligarchy has escalated its onslaught against the sovereign nation-state, to impose a Malthusian and usurious world dictatorship. The so-called Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) forms part of London's narco-terrorist apparatus, along with its sister organization the Shining Path, and with the entire São Paulo Forum. This continent-wide narco-terrorist coalition, created in 1990 and coordinated from Cuba by Fidel Castro, includes narco-terrorist organizations from Canada to Chile, with important international connections such as the Japanese Red Army and Spain's ETA.

Peru is the target of this attack because the Alberto Fujimori government, with the backing of the Peruvian Armed Forces and with the support of the entire Peruvian population, has resisted persistent pressures to negotiate with international narco-terrorism and to yield to their demands. Despite certain errors in evaluation, and especially their premature triumphalism, President Fujimori and the Peruvian Armed Forces have vigorously battled terrorism and have refused to surrender. That is why the usurious oligarchy wants to give Peruvians a brutal lesson, and use us as a bloody example to tell the whole world that fighting against terrorism is useless, that this war is a war that cannot be won. The butcher Abimael Guzmán must be psychotically grinning in his prison cell, to see what his bosses have orchestrated: they want the Peruvian people to give up their seven years of struggle against narco-terrorism, so that the lives of 25,000 Peruvians were cut short in vain, and for the entire international community to get on its knees to narco-terrorism.

Back Fujimori against London's agents

This cannot be allowed. The battle against narco-terrorism can and must be won. The whole world, every single nation, must back Peru and its government in the fight against international narco-terrorism. If they do not, if they allow the São Paulo Forum and its bosses in London to have their way, no nation anywhere will be safe from narco-terrorism.

The entire terrorist operation stinks of London:

- Great Britain is the center of international terrorism, as has been charged in recent years by countries such as Germany, Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Pakistan, Turkey, and even France. And we cannot forget that Shining Path has its international center in London, where its "ambassador" Adolfo Olaechea enjoys the official protection of Her Majesty's government.

- It is London and her financiers—such as international-speculator and drug-legalization promoter George Soros—who have financed the non-governmental organizations (NGOs), which have served as political fronts, propaganda machines, and as a supplies network for the terrorists. We have, for example, Human Rights Watch, a beneficiary of George Soros's generosity. Human Rights Watch is one of the main protectors and propagandists for international terrorism, and has repeatedly slandered Peru and its Armed Forces. There are indications that it was by means of an NGO that the terrorists rented a house just behind the Japanese ambassador's residence in Lima, to use as part of the siege operation. For urgent reasons of national security, every country should immediately launch investigations into the non-governmental organizations that operate in their respective territories, since it is obvious that the United Nations, under whose guarantees they operate, cannot or will not do it.

- London has recently formed a strategic alliance with Cuba, coordinating center for the São Paulo Forum, to such an extent that today one could speak of an Anglo-Cuban alliance against the United States, especially in matters of drug trafficking, terrorism, etc.

- London has given its fullest support to the Colombian narco-government of President Ernesto Samper Pizano, which was openly defended by the British House of Lords against the measures taken against it by the Clinton government in the United States. The British oligarchs want to do to Peru precisely what they have done to Colombia, ever since the narco-terrorist M-19 seized the Bogotá embassy of the Dominican Republic in 1980; that is, to force the Peruvian government to amnesty the MRTA prisoners, legalize the narco-terrorist group, and share political power with it and with its drug cartel partners. That is why Antonio Navarro Wolf, "former" M-19 chieftain who became a vice-president of Colombia's 1990-91 Constituent Assembly, and is currently mayor of the Colombian city of Pasto, is now offering his professional advice to the MRTA on how to proceed in negotiations with the Peruvian government. We Peruvians are well aware that the "peace" that was negotiated in Colombia has cost that sister nation 30,000 lives a year, to terrorism and violence of all kinds.

- It is London's policy that is being carried out here. The media mouthpieces of the British financial oligarchy, in particular the London *Times* and the *Financial Times*, never tire of expressing their support for the narco-terrorists, at the



Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori (shown here, during a visit to Washington in 1991): "The release of the perpetrators of murders and terrorist assaults is unacceptable in the framework of existing Peruvian law, and from the standpoint of national security."

same time that they blame the current crisis on President Fujimori and attack him for not giving in to the terrorists' demands. And let us not forget the intermediary role for the kidnapers being played by that son of the British aristocracy, the British-born Canadian ambassador to Peru, Anthony Vincent.

- London's ideological agents are directly coordinating the internal propaganda offensive in favor of the terrorists. There is, for example, Francisco Sagasti, the former director of strategic planning at the World Bank, and agent of London's Tavistock Institute, the British empire's center of psychological warfare. Coordinated through this operation are such Peruvian sell-outs as Hernando de Soto, the favorite economist of former narco-President George Bush; the treasonous General Rodolfo Robles; the butcher of Baghdad Javier Pérez de Cuellar; and Anglo-American agent Gustavo Gorriti. All the "Shining Path experts," such as Carlos Tapia, have also revealed themselves, and are now shamelessly wearing the face masks of the MRTA. Deserving of special mention is Javier Diez Canseco, brazen accomplice and mouthpiece for the kidnapers' blackmail. One cannot be surprised at such a role, since Diez Canseco is a member of the advisory board of *America Libre*, the official magazine of the São Paulo Forum.

We of the Ibero-American Solidarity Movement have for years exposed how London's narco-terrorist apparatus operates. We have denounced its objectives. We have posed the

urgency of waging a fight to the finish against this apparatus, and winning it on all fronts. The validity of our charges of the existence in Peru of an international apparatus of the São Paulo Forum, was fully confirmed with the arrest, one year ago, of U.S. citizen Lori Berenson, who admits to being an MRTA member.

We have also said—and we repeat it here—that the triumphalism and the support of the Fujimori government for the economic measures demanded by the International Monetary Fund are a disastrous program. This has to be corrected, and the government must seriously combat the "indigenist" ideology, which is promoted by the agents of the oligarchy to create an appropriate cultural environment for carrying out their operations.

There is no doubt that the errors thus far committed have also had to do with the absurd line coming from the Pentagon, that terrorism is no longer a major problem for Ibero-America, and that what must be concentrated on now, is promoting "free trade" and "democracy"—as has been repeatedly stressed in the continental meetings of defense ministers, from Williamsburg to Bariloche. Many months ago, U.S. statesman Lyndon LaRouche ridiculed that stupidity, in his paper *The Blunder in U.S. National Security Policy*.

The battle against the narco-terrorist offensive must be won. What is at stake is not just the future of Peru, but of civilization, and this cannot be negotiated.