

Peru's Elections: When Lambs Refuse To Go To Slaughter

by Gretchen Small and Sara Madueño

Despite being threatened with international embargos, "ruinous isolation," domestic chaos, and the resumption of international aid to those working to relaunch the narco-terrorist war inside Peru, President Alberto Fujimori demonstrated, once again, that he is prepared to rally the country, to defend Peru's existence as a sovereign nation.

On May 25, the Fujimori government announced that Peruvian laws and national interests take precedence over any alleged "international will," and therefore the final run-off of the Presidential elections would be held, as scheduled, on May 28, despite the refusal of Fujimori's contender, Alejandro Toledo, to participate on that date, or, for that matter, to agree on any date on which he would face the polls.

The Organization of American States (OAS) bureaucracy, which has fronted for the U.S. State Department in the Peru fight, the Carter Center, the National Democratic Institute (NDI), the European Union, the U.S. government-financed non-governmental organization (NGO) *Transparencia*, and a host of other "local" NGOs immediately declared that a May 28 election is unacceptable, and announced that they would not observe the elections, and therefore, those elections will be deemed illegitimate by "The International Community."

The stage is now set for Peru to be declared "undemocratic," and thus subject to sanctions. Steps toward activating the threatened warfare against the country are already being discussed at emergency meetings and consultations in Washington, D.C., and other capitals. Financial interests have already begun their assault, promising that "the markets" will "punish" Peru.

Whether Peru's Ibero-American neighbors join the warfare against that nation, remains to be fought out, but it is not a given.

Sign of Things To Come

The decision by the nationalists in Peru to proceed was not taken lightly. Few in Lima have any illusions that the United States and European nations will not carry through on their threats, and that at least some Ibero-American nations will join them. It has been widely reported that angry high-level government officials told OAS hacks to their face, in an exchange described as extremely acrimonious, that the government had sufficient foreign reserves to withstand an attack.

Over the past few weeks, a growing number of Peruvians had come to realize that the objective of the international forces running the Toledo operation, was not to get Toledo elected, but to use him to overthrow President Fujimori, because Fujimori and the hard-line anti-drug forces which support him constitute the only serious obstacle left to narco-terrorist hordes seizing control over the entire Andean region—the world's leading cocaine producing zone.

Thus, while to chose to fight implies dangerous risks, to not fight, meant that the destruction their nation was assured.

In the arrogance of globalization's rule, Wall Street and London financial oligarchy have become accustomed to nations walking meekly to their slaughter. So, OAS officials and foreign diplomats in Lima were reported universally to have been "shocked" by Peru's refusal to bow to their dictate.

New shocks are coming their way. Peru's decision to

take sovereign action, in itself, has set off a shockwave throughout the Americas, which will spread through the rest of the globe. President Fujimori already enjoyed the quiet respect of many countries for his government's defeat of narco-terrorism, despite the opposition of the world powers at the time, and Peru's latest fight will embolden others to defy globalization's rule, and consider putting together new strategic alliances, under which they can defend their sovereignty.

Using LaRouche To Hit the Enemy

With their backs up against the wall, Peru's nationalists threw back in the face of the enemy the most powerful instrument they found at hand: the "LaRouche card."

Beginning with national television Channel 4's interview with Dennis Small, Ibero-American editor of this magazine, on its well-watched "Democracia 2000" program, discussion of *EIR*'s charge that the "International Drug Trade wants to topple Fujimori" exploded across Peru.

Television Channel 10's "Mesa Política" nightly political analysis talk show interviewed Small on May 25, covering everything from how global speculator and drug legalization champion George Soros and the narco legalization lobby runs the Toledo campaign, to who is Lyndon LaRouche, the importance of his Presidential campaign, and why he is so feared by the Establishment that he had been jailed. The station has since continued to re-broadcast that interview, three times a day. At least one of those times, the show was re-run, interspersed with shots of the destruction wrecked by the narco-terrorist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) (pictures similar to scenes from Peru before President Fujimori defeated Peru's Shining Path), and of FARC *Comandante* "Mono Jojoy" calling for drug legalization.

The large-circulation national afternoon daily *Extra* ran a similar interview on May 26, and on May 29, and the second-largest circulation weekly in the country, *Gente*, hit the newsstands with an interview with Small as its cover-story (see *Documentation*). The *Gente* interview, in turn, became the subject of other articles published in regional and local newspapers.

The Peruvians then got really nasty, and asked about electoral freedoms inside the United States: What about the treatment of the LaRouche campaign? When "Mesa Política" again interviewed Small on the night of May 24, this time by phone from the United States, Peruvians nationwide were briefed that Lyndon LaRouche had received 22% — more than 53,000 votes — in the Arkansas Democratic Party primaries the day before, and that the Arkansas State Democratic Party and the national Democratic National Committee, instigated by Al Gore's Presidential campaign, had announced that they were throwing LaRouche's 53,000-plus votes into the garbage.

The "Mesa Política" team was stunned. Commentator

Efraín Trelles asked Small how it is possible that 53,000 votes could be thrown out. I know Arkansas, he said, I've been there. What's going on: Do they grow bananas there now? Small's invitation for Peruvians to come observe the U.S. elections was well-appreciated.

As the international observers marched out of Peru screeching "Fraud!," the next night, "Mesa Política" commentators Jorge Moreli and Efraín Trelles returned to the implications of the fraud being perpetrated in Arkansas. Moreli announced that the Carter Center and the NDI have decided to leave Peru and not participate as observers in the upcoming election.

Trelles replied: I suppose if these gentlemen are leaving Peru, they are going to Arkansas to find out what happened with the 53,000 votes cast for LaRouche.

Moreli: Yes, I'm sure they are going to take steps in the United States to see what happened with LaRouche's votes. In fact, we extend an invitation to them. We are going to invite them to look into the LaRouche case and tell us: What happened to those 53,000 votes?

'Carterista' democracy

Those unfamiliar with Spanish, should find it amusing to learn that a *carterista* is a pickpocket, a petty thief, when considering just what the OAS/State Department/Carter Center machine demanded the Peruvian government do, to keep their Toledo option alive.

After the April 9 first round of the election, in which he won just over 40% of the vote, Toledo left Peru to seek support from international financiers. He began losing support inside Peru and, heading for a big loss, on May 18 he charged that electoral fraud loomed, and announced that, unless the Fujimori government put off the run-off, indefinitely, he would not participate. He claimed that he had the backing of eight foreign countries — two of them Ibero-American — for this maneuver, and he expected them to impose sanctions on Peru, should the Fujimori government not yield.

With President Fujimori's second term ending on July 28, Toledo's stall strategy took shape as a strategy to create a vacuum of power, and a crisis possibly requiring military action.

The State Department, their OAS toadies, the Carter Center, et al., went into action. The OAS seized upon initial problems in the government's vote counting computer program for the second round, as its angle for pressure. The night of May 21, the OAS issued a communiqué, announcing that it was pulling its observers out of the election, unless the government put off the May 28 elections, since computer problems could not be solved in time.

But, on May 25, the ONPE (the Peruvian agency in charge of the mechanics of the election) disappointed that stratagem: They conducted a public, six-hour computer simulation of the election, and even broadcast it live on TV — it went off with-

out a hitch. The OAS issued a press release admitting that the computer test was flawless, *but*, they demanded that the government postpone the election for another ten days, regardless. When the Peruvian authorities refused to delay further, the OAS, the NDI, the Carter Center, and all the other “Carteristas” announced that they were picking up their marbles and going home.

Documentation

Peruvian Media Feature LaRouche

The May 24 issue of the mass circulation Peruvian magazine Gente devoted seven pages to an interview with EIR’s Dennis Small. It is featured as the magazine’s cover story, with the headline: “The International Drug Trade Wants To Topple Fujimori.” A brief excerpt follows:

Dennis Small is an experienced international political journalist, economist, and member of the Executive Committee of the dissident faction of the U.S. Democratic Party led by Lyndon LaRouche. Small was in Peru on assignment covering the Presidential elections. . . . In his view, the tentacles of the organized international drug trade seek to impose a government subservient to their own interests, and to that end, they have created an international pressure campaign “to overthrow Fujimori, since they have never forgiven him for having defeated narco-terrorism.” . . .

Gente: What is the role of the international [election] observers?

Small: In the case of the OAS [Organization of American States], the presence of Eduardo Stein in Peru is very worrisome, above all because he passes himself off as a very objective diplomat. I would first mention two things in regard to the OAS. Within the United States, there are violations of electoral laws. I speak specifically of the case of Democratic Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche, who is the second candidate within the Democratic Party. What has happened to LaRouche is that, within the Democratic Party, they have stolen his votes. They have removed him from the electoral ballot, when by law his name is supposed to appear there. They have denied him access to the media entirely, because he is not liked by the Wall Street boys and other interests. In other words, the famous seven conditions that the State Department has imposed on Peru are not fulfilled by the U.S. government itself. . . .

Gente: So what is this whole situation due to?

Small: We are looking at the profound penetration of dirty drug money in the international financial system, which is in a deadly crisis which is going to unleash the disintegration of the speculative bubble, such as has not been seen since the Great Depression of the 1930s. The Wall Street stock exchange is going to suddenly plunge by 70 or 80%. And so, the desperation of these gentlemen is great indeed. . . . Take the truly unprecedented case of the visit by the president of the New York Stock Exchange, Richard Grasso—who’s not just any old banker—to Colombia, to the demilitarized zone of San Vicente del Caguán. He there met with the head of finances of the FARC, the drug cartel. . . . What the devil was the head of Wall Street doing meeting with the principal drug cartel of Colombia? . . .

Gente: What can be done to stop this international offensive?

Small: You have to go to the source of the problem, its cause, and that cause is the international financial crisis. . . . Look at the example of Malaysia. . . . Malaysia imposed exchange controls, limited speculation, and protected its national market. . . . That kind of defense of national sovereignty is what Peru is now going to have to do.

Parallel Electoral Processes

On May 24, Channel 10 TV hosts Jorge Moreli and Efraín Trelles interviewed Dennis Small by telephone. In the far-ranging 25-minute interview, Small and Moreli had the following exchange:

Moreli: What is the worst-case scenario if, on May 28, we proceed with the election—which Fujimori is going to win? What do you think the reaction will be, considering the game the Clinton Administration has been playing?

Small: What is happening is that a new element was introduced into the situation today, and it has to do with the electoral situation inside the United States: Democratic Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche won 22% of the vote in the Democratic primary in the state of Arkansas, which is a very important state, because it is Bill Clinton’s home state. Gore got 78%. With the 22% that LaRouche won, he won the right to delegates at the Democratic National Convention. However, the news of the day here is that Democratic Party officials, all of them obviously close to Mr. Gore, have announced that they are not going to recognize LaRouche’s vote, and they are not going to recognize the delegates that he should have at the National Convention. Concretely, LaRouche obtained more than 53,000 votes in the state of Arkansas, and the Democratic Party in the United States has just announced that those votes will be thrown into the garbage can: They will not be counted.

Why do I say that this is an important factor for Peru? A brief has been filed with the OAS regarding the violation of U.S. electoral laws in the case of Lyndon LaRouche. The OAS thus has a file on the LaRouche case, and has just sent

us a letter, today, in which they say they are going to investigate the LaRouche case. If the OAS does not investigate the violations of electoral rights occurring in the United States right now, it will have little credibility in its efforts to interfere in Peruvian affairs at this time.

So, at this moment, we have two parallel processes going on: that of LaRouche in the United States, and the electoral situation in Peru, and I believe that that element limits the offensive that the international financial sectors can throw against Peru in the coming weeks.

Handing Over Peru

The Lima daily Extra published the following interview with Dennis Small, in its May 19 edition, under the title: "Those Have Handed Colombia Over on a Silver Platter, Want To Hand Over Peru":

Q: Is there an export model of Toledo, with international contacts that we know little about?

A: The most important thing to know is that Toledo's main connections are with people who want to legalize the drug trade. I will give you two examples. Toledo's main adviser, Diego García Sayán, has signed open letters to the UN Secretary General, urging an end to the war on drug trafficking. Those letters claimed that the current war on drugs is causing more abuse than drug consumption.

Q: But what does Alejandro Toledo have to do with all this?

A: When Toledo went to the U.S. to meet with the top Wall Street financiers, he brought García Sayán as his right-hand man. There, he met with Soros and other Wall Street elements who tend to favor the drug trade. One of the best examples of this tendency is the famous meeting of New York Stock Exchange President Richard Grasso, with FARC leader Raúl Reyes in Colombia. This meeting has been documented in the famous photo known as the "Grasso Abrazo." In that meeting, both spoke about investments in Colombia. And there have been meetings since.

Q: In your opinion, has Toledo come to be another piece in this scam?

A: Everything indicates that that is so, for several reasons. The clear intention of this international financial sector is to legalize the drug trade, to use its blood-drenched money to support the greatest speculative bubble which humanity has ever seen.

Q: How much money are we talking about?

A: These interests today add up to \$300 billion. That is ten times what the world economy produces. That fabulous sum is behind the campaign to legalize the drug trade, and to impose submissive governments. What obliges the financial sector to have a weakness to the drug trade, is the international crisis, their need for this money.

Q: And how does Peru figure in this scenario?

A: The same gentlemen who have handed Colombia over

on a silver platter, want to hand over Peru, and that necessarily means getting Fujimori out of the way, and that means ignoring the efforts of the Peruvian Armed Forces, which have proven to the world that it is possible to defeat the drug trade.

It is clear to anyone that there is an international campaign to overthrow Fujimori, come what may. Toledo is a disposable tool, a card to be played in this dangerous game.

Q: What would happen should Alberto Fujimori win?

A: The desperation of those sectors allied to the drug trade and to the financial world, is great. Because of their own crisis of insolvency, they have not hesitated in sinking the euro [European single currency], to suck up European liquidity and inject it into Wall Street. They are prepared for anything.

Q: But if political manipulation is so important to them, why don't they start at home?

A: In the United States, there has been a complete censorship and black-out of the candidacy of Democratic Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche, Al Gore's only opponent in the Democratic Party. Very grave violations of election law have been carried out in the United States. So much so, that one asks why the State Department does not pay attention to that, before directing its artillery against Peru. Candidate LaRouche has been eliminated entirely from the ballot in various states. The Democratic Party has refused to count votes for LaRouche; he has been denied any access to the media. There is a great hypocrisy occurring here, and a desperation to ensure that no viable alternative to the speculation arises.

Q: What do you think of the observers who have come to Peru?

A: In Peru, there may be useful fools, but I think that the people who are protesting so-called violations (Carter Center, National Democratic Institute, Transparencia), are not interested in democracy and in human rights in the slightest. Rather, they are using these elements as a club against any government that is not convenient to their intentions.

Q: What is your perspective of Peru's political future in the medium term?

A: I don't believe the attacks against Peru and against the Fujimori government will cease, not even with a big Fujimori victory, because what they are attacking are two vital fronts for them. First, the successful fight against the drug trade, and second, national sovereignty. These forces are playing with the idea of globalization; they do not want to have sovereign nation-states, even less so if these states carry out successful policies to defeat terrorism and the drug trade.

Q: What sin is the Peruvian government paying for?

A: I would like to say that the example you have set the world is very important, and very dangerous for the international drug trade and its political allies. You have put an end to these evils, have set an example that they can be fought, that one does not have to make concessions to the genocide of narco-terrorism, that it is possible to defeat them.