

heightening speculation that they, or some part of the high-command, opposed Fujimori's decision to deactivate the SIN, and refused to allow Montesinos to be arrested. It was not until Sept. 20, that the Joint Chiefs of the Armed Forces issued a four-point statement, backing the President's Sept. 16 address, and announcing their "firm commitment to collaborate permanently with the government to achieve the objectives" laid out by the President.

All the speculation about Montesinos is irrelevant, however. What is important is that he, together with the the Armed Forces' leadership, are key components of the *nationalist coalition* led by President Fujimori, who were central to Peru's decisive victory over narco-terrorism, and which buttress Fujimori's current economic proposals that so disturb Wall Street. The campaign against Montesinos is actually an attempt to dismantle the nationalist coalition as a whole.

Under Fujimori, Peru has stood as a bulwark against the drug cartels and terrorists which threaten the whole region. His removal, and Peru's destabilization, have immediate, and dangerous implications for war-torn Colombia, the rest of the Andean region, and Brazil. According to the Sept. 20 issue of Brazil's *Estado de São Paulo*, Brazil's intelligence services are warning that an institutionally weakened Peru, combined with increased U.S. pressure on Colombia, would mean a return of the drug trade, and by implication narco-terrorism, to Peru.

Fujimori is not prepared to be written off so easily, however. After three days in seclusion, on Sept. 19 he made a surprise appearance atop the gate of the Presidential palace in Lima, and told a crowd of cheering supporters that the announcement of new elections "does not signify my immediate resignation"; and that "there is no power vacuum. We will keep working intensively until the last days." In a press conference following his appearance, Fujimori was emphatic that he would remain in power until July of 2001, although a specific date for elections has not yet been announced. Outside the palace, he had said he might "have a little surprise" for the country in 2006, the next date on which Presidential elections would be held following next year's extraordinary elections.

International pressure through the State Department and the OAS, as well as financial warfare (Moody's has downgraded Peru's government bonds), is therefore rapidly intensifying, with particular emphasis on getting Brazil to line up against Peru, which it has so far refused to do. Puppet Alejandro Toledo is on a high-profile offensive to rope Brazil into an alliance with Argentina and Mexico, against "the dictatorship." Demanding that elections be held in four months, he is also calling for an OAS Foreign Ministers meeting to be held, for the obvious aim of imposing sanctions on Peru. And, to drive a bigger wedge into the nationalist coalition, various State Department officials have indicated they intend to implicate Montesinos in arms trafficking to the narco-terrorist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

## Fujimori: 'I Shall Be as Always, Identified with the People'

*At 9:35 p.m. on Sept. 16, Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori gave a nationally televised address to the nation, in which he announced that he would not serve out the five-year term to which he had just been elected. The President's message followed the release on Sept. 14 of a video, showing intelligence adviser Vladimiro Montesinos bribing a congressman, which sparked calls for his firing and arrest. The text of President Fujimori's ten-minute address follows:*

Good evening,

During the past ten years, I have had to face, like any other government, political crises of various dimensions. Those reality checks have always required deep reflection and a careful analysis on my part. This explains my silence of the last few days regarding the latest political developments, but most importantly: We have dealt with every crisis—including this one—by assuming the supreme interests of Peru as our premise.

This week, through a video, a serious accusation has been made, in the face of which my clear and definitive position is none other than to support a strict investigation, to determine legal responsibilities. Nonetheless, I want to point out that this is, above all, a political development which has obviously had a major impact on the stability of my government and of the country.

My candidacy for President of the Republic had the legitimate purpose of offering an important sector of the citizenry the full right to agree with our government program, just as other Peruvians have the right to dissent from that.

The climate of tension was prolonged beyond the elections, including with acts of extreme violence which, however, did not succeed in preventing the inauguration of the new government on July 28.

I have acknowledged more than once that we are going through difficult times, including what is going on in other countries in the world. Therefore, as of that same July 28, we immediately put ourselves to work, to honor our commitment to the people. However, political forces and interests—which have been unwilling, and are not willing to wait for another five years—forces and interests which represent policies different from the government's, different from ours, seek a change in government as quickly as possible.

It is my moral obligation, as President of the Republic,

to make a decision about this situation which, in addition to stalling the process of economic recovery, assaults the legitimate expectations of progress of Peruvians.

Although elected by a majority of our citizens, I do not wish to become a factor of disturbance, much less an obstacle to strengthening the democratic system. Therefore, after deep reflection and objective evaluation of the situation, I have made the decision: First, to deactivate the National Intelligence System; and, second, to call general elections for the earliest possible date, a measure I hope will be welcomed and understood in its real context by the relevant agencies.

Needless to say, in these general elections, I will not be participating, but rather, [leave it to] those who feel capable of serving as President or handling Congressional responsibilities.

I am certain that the people will know, with prudence, how to choose the [country's] best destiny.

I have governed in Peru for ten years. Not even my detractors can fail to acknowledge fundamental achievements, which I will not enumerate. You know them. These achievements give me great satisfaction, and are tangible proof of the dedication and affection I have invested in the job of governing, especially when it was for the benefit of the neediest of my compatriots. This, for me, is sufficient.

Few governments in the history of Peru have inherited disasters such as we have had to deal with, turning these and other historic obstacles into opportunities for national development and viability.

I hope that Peru, my country, to which I have given ten years of intensive effort, to achieve maximum efficiency in raising it up from the ashes, will not regress in terms of peace and development.

Were Peru to regress in that sense, what meaning would there be to the enormous sacrifice of civilians, police, soldiers, and authorities at every level, without whose selfless contributions there would be no peace today, either internal or external?

My two terms of government, I will admit, were not free of errors or omissions. These may have postponed attention to the legitimate interests of certain sectors of the citizenry, which I certainly regret.

To those who voted for our government program, with hope and enthusiasm, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. I ask for understanding. It is not a question of renouncing our ideals and principles, but of taking a realistic step, so that Peruvians can continue to build their future in democracy, understanding by democracy, what you understand and desire: real concrete opportunities for the least favored sectors of society.

I am confident that the people will know, with maturity, how to continue on the path of progress. I shall also be on that path, as always, identified with the people.

Thank you very much.

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## Interview: Sheila Sisulu

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# South Africa Strives To Eliminate Poverty

*In his speech to the Sept. 6-8 United Nations Millennium Summit, South African President Thabo Mbeki said that the leaders gathered there must know, that billions of people have great expectations from the UN. "It must be," he said, "that we will have to jostle with various pagan gods at whose feet we prostrate ourselves, over all of whom tower the gods of inertia, the market and globalization." He listed the atrocities of the last millennium, from slavery, to colonialism, world wars, and the Holocaust, followed by the Rwandan genocide. Though the dead may have been forgotten, he said, the living have not, and have given the mandate to political leaders. "The poor of the world stand at the gates of the comfortable mansions occupied by each and every king and queen, President, prime minister, and minister privileged to attend this unique meeting.*



*"The question these billions ask is—what are you doing . . . to end the deliberate and savage violence against us that, every day, sentences many of us to a degrading and unnecessary death!"*

*Mbeki said that the challenge facing the summit was to demonstrate "the will to end poverty and underdevelopment," and to show the will to succeed, as those who defeated Nazism did. He ended, "I, like the poor at our gates, ask the question—will we, at last respond to this appeal?"*

*"All of us, including the rich, will pay a terrible price if we do not, practically, answer—yes, we do!"*

*EIR asked President Mbeki, at a press conference, whether, given the dramatic situation he denounced, discussion had taken place on the sidelines of the summit, about the need to rethink the entire approach followed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and other institutions, over the last decades, whose policies have contributed to the destruction of Asia, Ibero-America, and Africa. Would it not be time to promote the opposite approach, to scrap the IMF, and issue long-term, low-interest loans for real infrastructure development?*

*President Mbeki answered, "We are working on an Africa*