

# Narco Lobby Installed As Government of Peru

by Gretchen Small

Six months ago, *EIR* exposed a Peruvian named Diego García Sayán, one of the key operatives in the “Project Democracy” campaign to oust the anti-drug government of President Alberto Fujimori in Peru. The head of the Andean Commission of Jurists and controller of the Presidential campaign of Project Democracy’s defeated candidate, Alejandro Toledo, García Sayán, we told you, defends the terrorist-run coca producers of Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia, and works closely with George Soros’s global drug legalization project.<sup>1</sup>

Guess what? The State Department’s hand-picked new government in Peru just named Soros’s drug legalizer, García Sayán, as Justice Minister.

Exactly as Lyndon LaRouche warned, in his four dramatic interviews with Peru’s *Gente* magazine last May and June,<sup>2</sup> the State Department and Project Democracy’s drive to oust Fujimori, in the name of protecting “democracy,” has proven to be a most vicious fraud, a pretext to remove the leading government standing in the way of the financiers’ Opium War against the entirety of the Americas. Project Democracy replaced Fujimori with a government which is already moving to empty the jail cells of the narco-terrorist leaders, so as to fill them with the men and women, military and civilian, who led the Fujimori government’s successful ten-year war to crush the terrorists and the drug trade.

Within hours of assuming office on Nov. 25, the new government, headed by its Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, former United Nations Secretary General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, was already at work reviving the narco-terrorist apparatus which Peru had defeated, at such cost, under the leadership of President Fujimori. The new government ordered its first purge of Peru’s military; it announced that it will review, as a priority, the legality of the military trials which convicted terrorists; and it instructed that the plans to prosecute Fujimori and allies, on any charges possible, be escalated immediately.

Less than one week after assuming office, the Pérez de Cuéllar government opened negotiations with the crazed Shining Path terrorists, whose savagery destroyed civilized

life in Peru until they were militarily defeated in the early 1990s. On Nov. 28, some 1,000 Shining Path prisoners rioted at a high-security prison in Lima, demanding that the new government grant them a blanket amnesty and overturn the laws which make “aggravated terrorism” a crime, all in the name of aiding “national reconciliation.” Justice Minister García Sayán ordered the International Red Cross and the office of the Defender of the People to join prison authorities in negotiating with the terrorists, asking them to peaceably return to their jail cells, in exchange for promises that their “concerns” will be considered. The government will not act under blackmail, but the terrorist demands, “posed in another context, could very well be dealt with,” García Sayán announced that night to the Peruvian nation.

## A Continental Sweep

Simultaneous with the 180-degree policy turn imposed upon Peru, came the announcement by Mexican President-elect Vicente Fox, that he has appointed an outspoken advocate of drug legalization, Jorge Castañeda, to serve as his Secretary of Foreign Relations, when he assumes office on Dec. 1.

Castañeda runs in the same hemispheric networks as García Sayán. An academic, he argued in one of his books that terrorism plays a useful role, which he dubbed “the Shining Path syndrome”: Such groups are a useful instrument to terrify people into accepting structural reforms as a “lesser evil.” He also has made it clear in various interviews that he intends to make drug legalization a central campaign of the new Mexican government. In a chapter entitled “Notes on Foreign Policy for the Government of Vicente Fox, 2000-2006,” in a recently published book, *Chile-Mexico, Two Transitions Face to Face*, Castañeda identified six top priorities of the incoming Fox government, a leading one being to bring about “a new approach” toward drugs.

This “new approach” is lifted straight from Soros’s legalization manual: “Decriminalization over the long term of certain currently illegal substances . . . and the use of market mechanisms to reduce the harm stemming from the prohibited character of the drug trade.”

How right LaRouche was, when he warned, that the other nations of the Americas had to defend Peru’s right to defend its sovereignty against Project Democracy’s assault, as a matter of strategic importance to their own ability to survive as sovereign nations. With the dam broken in Peru, Wall Street and London’s Opium War is now set to sweep the continent, and soon the United States as well.

## Lessons of Peru

The rapidity of the turn of events in Peru is stunning. The Fujimori government, with all its problems (which are not the ones you hear about from the establishment media), was respected in the hemisphere, because it, unlike any of the

1. “Ten Uncomfortable Questions for Alejandro Toledo,” *EIR*, May 26, 2000; “Peru’s Diego García-Sayán: Drug Legalization and Limited Sovereignty,” *EIR*, June 30, 2000.

2. See *EIR*, June 9, 16, and 30, and July 7, 2000.

governments which had ruled Peru since 1975, had faced down international pressure, and mobilized national resources to defeat the narco-terrorists who had overwhelmed the country by 1992. They then defeated the terrorists' attempt to make a comeback, with the Túpac Amaru Revolutionary Movement's (MRTA) seizure of hundreds of hostages at the Japanese Ambassador's residence in December 1996. Fujimori's parallel success in the war on drugs is admitted even by his enemies.

Wall Street and the U.S. State Department determined to finally oust the Fujimori government in 2000, using the April Presidential elections as their lever. Most Peruvians, however, did not agree, and Project Democracy's candidate, Alejandro Toledo, did not receive the majority of the vote. The civilian-military coalition which formed the backbone of the Fujimori government, did not bow to the pressure to scuttle the election results, and they refused to either name Toledo the winner, or call new elections, as Project Democracy demanded. Fujimori began his third Presidential term on July 28.

On Sept. 1, Fujimori launched the most audacious initiative of his entire Presidency: He went before his fellow Presidents of South America, at a summit meeting in Brasilia, Brazil, and proposed that they envision a different future for their nations; that they unify their forces, and "creatively" come up with a strategy to develop the enormous natural and mental resources now lying wasted in the continent. What Fujimori laid out for South America, was similar in its intent, to that strategy of infrastructure-centered regional development adopted by Asia's "ASEAN-Plus-3" countries, at their just concluded summit (see *Economics*). Perhaps, Fujimori suggested, the Presidents should dare to dream of becoming "the United States of South America."

"We are 450 million South Americans, but 200 million of our people live in poverty, in precarious living conditions, reminiscent of centuries past. . . . Something has gone wrong; we are not on the right path, and perhaps it is necessary to rectify this," he told them. "We South Americans are no less capable than other peoples of the world, who are achieving progress. Therefore, our goals must be audacious and our actions sufficiently efficient to turn our dreams into reality."<sup>3</sup>

Wall Street and the State Department went berserk at such a proposal, and decided that Fujimori had to go—*now*. Not receiving the backing from its neighbors (particularly Brazil) that Peru required to withstand such an assault, Fujimori also fell into a corruption scandal trap laid by Peru's foreign enemies. He announced on Sept. 16 that he was sacking his top national security adviser, Vladimiro Montesinos, and that he would not serve out his third term in office, but would call new elections, and hand over power to whoever was elected on July 28, 2001.

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3. "Fujimori: 'Let Us Build the United States of South America,'" *EIR*, Sept. 15, 2000.

Instead of mobilizing his fellow citizens against the true authors of the phony corruption scandal, those who were waging an Opium War against the country, Fujimori took the bait. Rather than naming Soros, Project Democracy, and the U.S. State Department, Fujimori identified Montesinos as the guilty party—the same Montesinos who had played a key role, along with the military, in defeating terrorism during the 1990s.

Pressured and very possibly blackmailed by Wall Street threats, Fujimori resigned—still holding onto the illusion that the enemies of Peru would permit him to lead an orderly retreat of his forces, which could then regroup, to return at a later time. Fujimori's miscalculation, shared by nearly all world leaders today, stemmed fundamentally from a failure to understand the full implications of the onrushing global financial and political collapse, which is driving the economic, political, and military crises crashing down upon every country in the world.

Politics—like the universe and the human mind—being non-linear, less than three months after the high-water mark of the Fujimori government at the Brasilia summit, the narco lobby is now installed as the government of Peru. Fujimori is out of office, living in de facto exile in Japan; and his allies in Peru are either already on the run, or tightening their security, while preparing to defend themselves from the plans to send them to jail on hoked-up "corruption" and "human rights" charges.

### **The Shining Path of Pérez de Cuéllar**

Formally, President Valentín Paniagua is head of state in the new government, but power resides, in this case, with the internationally hard-wired Prime Minister, Javier Pérez de Cuéllar. The first thing out of Pérez de Cuéllar's mouth after being sworn in, was that Fujimori should be brought to "justice." He did acknowledge, however, that there was only one problem: There is no case open against him—yet.

He also announced that one of the top priorities of his government, is for Peru to return to the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Human Rights Court (IAHRC), "within the shortest time." Fujimori pulled Peru out of the IAHRC in 1999, after the court ruled that Peru had violated the human rights of four Chilean leaders of the MRTA, by trying them in military courts. Peruvian authorities, rightly, viewed the IAHRC ruling as an attempt to set a precedent under which *all* the military trials of the terrorists could be declared violations of human rights, opening the door to overturning the convictions and sentences of all the terrorist leaders. As a member of the IAHRC system, Peru would be required to accept the court's decisions; that is, it would have to overturn the convictions of the four Chileans.

The team Pérez de Cuéllar assembled as his cabinet included another advocate of drug legalization: Economics Minister Javier Silva Ruete. Silva Ruete first served as Eco-

nomics Minister (1978-80) under Gen. Francisco Morales Bermúdez's regime; he subsequently served as Peru's representative to the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the Inter-American Development Bank. He has also been a long-standing member of the Inter-American Dialogue, and he signed its infamous 1986 report calling for drug legalization, without objection. Legalization is strictly a matter of "economics," that report argued; the drug trade can help pay mounting foreign debts; and besides, waging war costs money.

Silva Ruete has not yet repeated that argument at his new post, but his first announcement was, that he would oversee a policy of "very severe austerity," because Peru does not have the \$2.1 billion needed to meet foreign debt obligations coming due in 2001.

As for military policy, with Gen. Walter Ledesma Rebaza (ret.) named Defense Minister, and Gen. Carlos Tafur as Army Commander, the policy grouping which *EIR* made notorious in its book, *The Plot to Annihilate the Armed Forces and the Nations of Ibero-America*, as "the Bush Manual" team of de-militarizers, has seized control of the Army.

General Ledesma is a star of the Latin American Institute of Civil-Military Studies (ILACIM), which is featured in the exposé published in last week's *EIR* on the project to build up a Shining Path force within the Peruvian Army. The ILACIM was set up by Gen. Jaime Salinas Sedó (ret.) (a supporter of Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez, who attempted to oust President Fujimori at the height of the anti-terror battle), together with the American University team of "Bush Manual" fame (Louis Goodman, Johanna Mendelson, et al.). Also serving on the ILACIM board are President Paniagua and Justice Minister García Sayán.

Ledesma restored to active duty Gen. Carlos Tafur, who had been retired a few months ago by the nationalists within the Army, and named him Army Commander. Tafur, who touts himself as the man to "professionalize" the institution, has been vociferously supported by Gen. Rodolfo Robles, who tried to overthrow Fujimori at the height of the anti-terror battles. Tafur promised to rationalize Army expenditures, and reorganize its units, and then ordered the entire 1966 Army promotion—at least 15 generals accused of being linked to former intelligence chief Montesinos—into retirement, while decreeing that officers who had been forced into retirement by the Fujimori government, will have their cases reviewed, to see who will be reincorporated into the Army.

## You Call This Democracy?

When Pérez de Cuéllar ran against Fujimori in the 1995 Presidential campaign, he campaigned on the basis of the program which today his government is implementing: "a project for negotiations, with an amnesty," with Shining Path; "reviewing" the convictions of the terrorists by the military courts, as violations of their "human rights"; naming the mili-

tary as the real threat to "democracy"; and, of course, implementation of IMF austerity policies. He also promoted the break-up of Peru along ethnic lines (he claims that Peru contains at least three nations: the Aymara, the Quechua, and the *Mestizo*).

Running on Pérez de Cuéllar's congressional slate in that election, were people today joining him in the cabinet: García Sayán and General Ledesma. Included also were some of Peru's leading "Senderologists," such as Carlos Tapia, and such lawyers as Carlos Chipoco, who distinguished himself as the lawyer for the Shining Path (Sendero Luminoso) terrorists in a 1986 suit against the government for suppressing a Shining Path jail uprising.

The 1995 Pérez de Cuéllar campaign received the full backing of Project Democracy's National Endowment for Democracy, but Peruvians would have none of it. Pérez de Cuéllar was defeated by Fujimori (64% to 22%) in the first round of the elections.

Peruvians rejected the self-proclaimed "democracy" crowd's agenda for ten years, voting against them at every opportunity. Today, they are in the government, only because of the sheer force of foreign power applied against the country. After months of economic, diplomatic, and intelligence warfare, when Fujimori announced his resignation, the U.S. State Department had a team of two Assistant Secretaries of State and a National Security Council adviser down in Lima on Nov. 20 to ensure that the incoming interim government would be to their liking. In a Nov. 27 background briefing by State Department officials on the Nov. 20 trip of Assistant Secretaries of State Peter Romero and Anthony Wayne, the State Department officials bragged that "we played a pretty strong role" in the outcome of the Peru crisis—and they intend to continue to play such a role.

Perhaps most telling, was a senior State Department official's admission of the economic blackmail they used to drive the remnants of the Fujimori forces out of government. "As we went down and talked to people in Peru, we wanted to make the point that an orderly process of democratic transition should give confidence to international investors and financial institutions," he stated.

How stable can a government be, which could not get elected, but was imposed by foreign power? What happens to that government, when its foreign backing disintegrates, as the almighty dollar collapses, and the would-be New Roman Empire of the Anglo-American financiers comes crashing down?

Peru is a proud nation, with a long history of fighting for its sovereignty. A most telling indication of the potential reserves Peru may find within itself to defend itself, is the fact that the largest radio station in Peru, Radio Programas del Perú, no friends of LaRouche in the past, chose, in the wake of the appointment of the new government, to conduct a prime-time interview with LaRouche. The text of that discussion follows.