

among perfectly sovereign nation-states is the framework in which mutually beneficial economic development tasks are jointly undertaken.

The Chávez Dossier

The essential evidence of Hugo Chávez's insanity is to be found in what masquerades as his "religious" or "theological" views. Typical were his heady remarks after his forces won 120 out of 130 seats for the Constituent Assembly in July 1999 elections:

"The victory of the patriots has been pulverizing! . . . You are either with God or the devil, and we're with God because the voice of the People is the voice of God. . . . Now Chávez is not Chávez; Chávez is the People, and the People cannot be stopped! We'll win with God's favor and the People."

Before Chávez ever ran for President of Venezuela, LaRouche identified the two years from 1992 to 1994—in which Chávez was jailed under horrendous conditions—as a critical period in turning Chávez from an ordinary fool, into a mental case, producing a "miraculous metamorphosis" in his world-view. The specific form of his insanity became the

textbook Romantic fascist dictum of *Vox Populi, Vox Dei*: "The Voice of the People is the Voice of God." The controlling sense of personal identity of victims of this outlook—such as Napoleon Bonaparte, or Adolf Hitler—is that of ethereal unity with "the People," and thus with "God." The victim thereby feels entitled to act like a Roman Caesar, displaying impunity and disdain towards other mere mortals.

Since assuming the Presidency in February 1999, at any point at which he has been challenged, Chávez has asserted that dictum, with increasing fervor, as justification for his decisions. When the courts overruled him, he asserted that he is bound by no law or institution, because he represents the People, and thus, by derivation, his is the Voice of God.

As the crisis has grown, Chávez's assertion of "Vox Populi" has taken on increasingly "religious" tones, as the Venezuelan population, too, has become increasingly overtaken by charismatic religious movements of various denominations. Each of these reports hearing divine "voices" telling them what they must do—and each coheres, to an uncanny degree, with the role which the international oligarchical elites would have them play within those elites' overall game-plan for Venezuela.

In April-May 2000, Chávez attempted to force the Catho-

Venezuela Facing Civil War

As the New Year opened, the existential crisis of Venezuela had reached a dramatic stage, and continued to escalate. The nation remained paralyzed by a general civic strike that began exactly one month earlier, on Dec. 2, as marches of hundreds of thousands were held in the capital, Caracas, two and three times a week right through Christmas and New Year's. Over the course of the strike, which has shut down the dominant oil industry, the opposition's demands have hardened, as they insist the strike will not end until the lunatic, terrorist-linked Jacobin President, Hugo Chávez, leaves office, and new elections are held.

The opposition, however, has offered no positive plan of government, and no vision for the future upon which to win over the primarily poor people who support Chávez out of anger and desperation. Rather, they have adopted an approach that would strengthen the terrorist element which has surrounded President Chávez. Worse, international forces associated with the war-mongering "Chicken-hawk" neo-conservative faction in the U.S. government, are heavily deployed with elements of the anti-

Chávez opposition in Venezuela to use that country's crisis to launch "anti-terrorist" supranational military action in Venezuela and elsewhere in Ibero-America. Such an approach would only succeed in igniting general right-vs.-left warfare across the continent.

Chávez, for his part, reiterated on Dec. 29, during his regular Sunday multi-hour television spectacular "Hello, President!" that "I'm never going to leave," because he's so "happy, very happy," in office. He then used his Jan. 1 message to the nation to rally the hard-core Jacobin apparatus which surrounds him, to prepare for battle in 2003, to defend their "revolution."

One of Chávez's closest military allies, Gen. Raúl Baduel, commander of the Army's 4th Armored Division and its special forces brigade, chose to give an interview on Dec. 29, defending the Chávez project, to one of the top people active in the terrorist support apparatus in the Americas, Heinz Dietrich Steffan. Baduel's interview was published by *Rebelión*, an Internet website which serves as a clearinghouse for the propaganda of every terrorist group in the Western Hemisphere. Next to the interview with Baduel, for example, *Rebelión* posted a communiqué from the Central Command of the Colombian-based FARC narco-terrorists.

The Baduel interview served to highlight the strategic alliance that Chávez has maintained with the FARC in recent years.