

Bolivia Goes Nuclear— Toward the Future

by Cynthia R. Rush

Dec. 6—In his Oct. 29 keynote speech at the opening session of the Hydrocarbon Sovereignty Conference Toward 2025, held in the city of Tarija, and then in a speech the following day inaugurating a scholarship program for study in France, Bolivian President Evo Morales boldly announced that he intends to develop a nuclear energy program for peaceful purposes, as a crucial component of his plan to industrialize his very poor, landlocked nation.

“We possess all the conditions” to move forward in this area, he told his audience. “Studies have been done, and I want you to know that, together with our brother Vice President [Alvaro García Linera], we have dreamed of having nuclear energy, and it isn’t far off.” Bolivia’s “great desire is to have many men and women with great scientific knowledge,” Morales told students gathered on Oct. 30 at the French scholarship ceremony.

Last March, Vice President García Linera announced plans to train a “scientific elite” dedicated to research in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, especially for medical purposes. To this end, Morales is already ramping up plans to educate the scientific and engineering personnel, including in the Armed Forces, who will be needed to work in these programs. Some Bolivians are already studying at Argentina’s Balseiro Institute, the premier educational facility in Ibero-America for training nuclear engineers and physicists.

On Nov. 14, Morales held a first meeting with the nation’s scientists and nuclear experts to discuss setting up an atomic energy commission, acquiring a research reactor, and specifying other steps to be taken immediately. A second meeting is scheduled for Dec. 15. Meetings with experts from Argentina and France have already taken place, and more are scheduled. Russia has indicated its readiness to assist Bolivia in launching its nuclear program.

The issue is purely a political one, Morales said.

Some countries have developed nuclear energy, “but they don’t let others do this. Why shouldn’t we develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes?” As an optimistic editorial in the semiofficial *Hidrocarburos Bolivia.com* put it on Nov. 17, “with its potential, Bolivia can easily become one of the major generators of nuclear energy on the continent.” The development of this capability “will benefit the country and humanity.”

This strongly pro-nuclear stance of the Morales government is all the more striking, because it stands in such stark contrast to his own government’s heavy promotion over recent years of indigenist, environmentalist, and pro-drug legalization causes so dear to the British monarchy’s heart. But Morales is now not only firmly pro-nuclear; he has also launched a devastating broadside against the British-run environmentalist movement—he calls them “fundamentalist ecologists”—for trying to destroy his country’s prospects of actual development.

A New Paradigm

Creating a Bolivian nuclear energy industry isn’t a new idea. In the mid-1960s, under the presidency of Victor Paz Estenssoro, the government founded the Bolivian Nuclear Energy Commission (Coboen), and made significant advances in the fields of nuclear medicine, as well as in exploring and evaluating the country’s uranium and thorium reserves, among other things. The program was shelved, however, when subsequent governments made development of the country’s oil and mineral wealth a greater priority.

But Morales’s current pro-nuclear thrust, combined with an ambitious program to develop the nation’s petrochemical industry as the cornerstone of national industrialization, is entirely new, reflecting the global paradigm shift which is now accelerating in dramatic fashion with the last two weeks’ events in Ukraine and Eastern Europe. Turning their backs on the Anglo-Dutch oligarchy’s murderous austerity and anti-nation-state policies that have already crushed Europe and are on their way to obliterating the United States, nations are embracing an alternative, *optimistic conception of the future* based on the use of the most advanced technologies and scientific principles.

In line with the Asia-Pacific development perspective elaborated by statesman Lyndon LaRouche, pre-



UN Photo/Devra Berkowitz

Bolivian President Evo Morales Ayma, shown here at the United Nations in September, has renounced the Empire's Green policies, and is leading his country's efforts to industrialize and develop nuclear power.

mised on adoption of a global Glass-Steagall standard and creation of a new credit system, these governments are looking to Russia, China, India, South Korea, and others not wedded to London and Wall Street-dictated genocide policies, for cooperative ventures and development programs to uplift, *not kill* their populations. Hence Bolivia's expanding cooperation with China to develop its satellite technology, among other things.

Greens Are 'Instruments of Empire'

President Morales is coupling his drive for nuclear energy with an equally bold attack on the fascist environmentalist movement run directly by the Queen of England and her consort Prince Philip, who for decades have brainwashed developing-sector leaders into believing that backwardness was their nations' "natural" state, and that they should aspire to nothing more.

In an Oct. 3 press conference in Cochabamba with Ecuadorean President Rafael Correa, Morales slammed "fundamentalist environmentalists" as "instruments of the empire." Natural resources must be exploited by the

State for the good of the country, he said, warning "We should not be instruments of the empire, let alone the oligarchies.... If the State doesn't make use of its natural resources, where would we be?"

Correa added, "Now everyone is an environmentalist to try to harm progressive governments: I'm also an environmentalist, but I understand perfectly that human beings are the most important part of nature, and the moral imperative of our nations is to overcome poverty."

Following through on that moral imperative, the Morales government is now going after the very top echelon of the British monarchy's environmental apparatus, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which today sits atop an empire of green Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) which operate worldwide, with plentiful financial resources, on behalf of the Queen's genocidal depopulation policy.

'Protection' Is Murder

In its 1994 special report, "The Coming Fall of the House of Windsor," *Executive Intelligence Review* documented the IUCN's genocidal pedigree, and the role that it and affiliated organizations played in setting up "protected areas" around the globe, particularly in developing nations, to prevent economic and infrastructural development. *EIR*'s report also detailed the role of the Anglo-Dutch financial oligarchy, and the banking institutions it controls, in financing these green operations.

Over the years, environmentalists have succeeded in establishing multiple protected areas in Bolivia which have locked up significant mineral and other natural resources. The Morales government is now reevaluating all these areas, with an eye toward opening them up as part of a national industrial and petrochemical development plan.

This has enraged the green imperialists—the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Greenpeace, and the Nature Conservancy, among others—which, under the IUCN's leadership are targetting the Bolivian government's plan to build a 300-km highway between Villa Tunari in Cochabamba, in central Bolivia,

and San Ignacio de Moxos in the northern province of Beni. They argue that because the highway would run through the Isiboro Sécure Indigenous Territory and National Park (TIPNIS), a 2.9 million-acre region created in 1965 and “protected under the IUCN,” it shouldn’t be built. The region’s ecosystems and indigenous communities will be destroyed, and “international environmental law” violated, the Green shock troops howl.

For the IUCN, defending “international environmental law” means killing Bolivians. The highway would bring much-needed economic and social benefits to the region, allowing the State to increase its presence in an area that has historically been very isolated and impoverished. By connecting the Amazonian region of Beni to western Bolivia, through Cochabamba, the highway will provide more efficient and cheaper transportation of food and other goods into and out of the region, in addition to creating jobs and increasing the local population’s access to health and educational services. A majority of Indian communities living in the region support the project.

With good reason, in his Oct. 29 speech Morales attacked the foreign NGOs “who say we shouldn’t build roads or hydroelectric plants ... they *oppose everything*; they don’t let us work or exploit [oil]; they don’t let us industrialize.” He angrily attacked the fat-cat, generously financed NGO leaders who live comfortably in the cities, but “don’t know what it’s like for the peasants to live without electricity.”

A Regionwide Shift

The technological optimism that Bolivia is expressing is also evident elsewhere in the Andean region. On Nov. 29, the Peruvian Congress joined with the Energy and Development Research Institute (IEDES) to sponsor a seminar on “The Advance of Nuclear Energy Projects in South America.” Scientists and nuclear experts from Peru, Argentina, and Brazil addressed a wide variety of topics in which nuclear technology is currently being applied, but on a limited basis. Panelists discussed the potential for greatly expanded use of nuclear technology applied to regional defense and economic integration, food and energy security, and medicine and health, among others.

The same day, Peru’s official government daily, *El Peruano* published an article by IEDES president, nuclear physicist Roland Paucar Jáuregui, who argued

that Peru must move aggressively to expand its nuclear industry, and then pointed to the yet more audacious goal of developing fusion power.

Fusion’s “great objective,” Paucar explained, “is to release usable energy, and although scientists believe the possibility of building a commercial reactor which fulfills this function is not viable at this time, the focus of the project is a promising step in the keen desire to put scientific progress at the service of humanity.”

In this new global geometry, questions are also being raised within the region about Barack Obama’s Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), the insane free-trade scheme.

Chilean trade and economics experts advising presidential candidate Michelle Bachelet, who is likely to win the Dec. 15 runoff election against right-wing opponent Evelyn Matthei, have warned that Chile should be very wary of the TPP because of its “hostility toward China,” one of Chile’s most important trading partners, with whom it already has a long-standing free-trade agreement.

The foreign policy section of Bachelet’s 2014-18 government program revealingly states, “The axis of international policy in the 21st Century is in the Pacific.” However, it adds, “We are concerned about the urgency of negotiating the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). To protect Chile’s interests, [it is necessary] to exhaustively review its scope and implications. For our country, the priority is to *avoid questionable aspects* that might arise from this agreement....”

Bachelet’s program also takes aim at the Pacific Alliance, the Wall Street and London-backed free-trade grouping of Chile, Colombia, Peru, and Mexico, created explicitly as a counter to the Common Market of the South (Mercosur) customs union, in which Argentina—a major target of the City of London—has been a key opponent of schemes to re-orient Mercosur toward free trade. “While we value the Pacific Alliance’s efforts,” Bachelet’s program states, “we will orient our participation in this initiative within a perspective which *does not exclude, and is not antagonistic toward* other integration projects in the region....”

A top priority for the new Chilean government, Bachelet’s program states, will be regional integration, particularly emphasizing Chile’s role as a “bridge country” between the Ibero-American nations of the South Atlantic and the Asia-Pacific.