

LATIN AMERICA

RIGHT-WING LEADER HINTS AT MILITARY COUP IN VENEZUELA

CARACAS, April 28 (IPS) -- In a speech on national television yesterday, top leader of the right-wing Christian Democratic Party, Lariva Aroujo, said that if the Venezuelan government did not "sensibly" manage the "delicate" matter of oil nationalization, then "We will be on the edge of a coup d'etat."

SHUT OFF WATER FOR MEXICO CITY WORKERS

April 28 (IPS) -- The Mexico City Department of Water Supply has targeted half a million Mexicans in Mexico City for outright triage operations. Department officials, enumerating measures taken to counter effects of the particularly severe drought which has left several cities in Mexico without water for as much as two weeks, announced that they will "selectively" shut off water pipelines to the overwhelmingly working-class zones of the northern Mexico City and Texcoco in the east with a combined population of over 500,000.

MEXICO PRESS STEPS UP ANTI-LALC SLANDER CAMPAIGN

April 29 (IPS) -- The Mexican press escalated its slander campaign against the Latin American Labor Committees (LALC) in articles yesterday in Mexican dailies, El Universal and Ultimas Noticias.

In an editorial in El Universal, Blanco Moheno compares the LALC to the CIA 23rd of September League who murdered 12 people in a terrorist attack in Mexico City April 24. Labeling the LALC attacks on Mexican President Luis Echeverria as "crazy and insane," Mohena calls upon Echeverria to put a stop to these "crazies and assassins."

LAWYERS ANNOUNCE INVESTIGATIVE TRIP TO MEXICO

May 1 (IPS) -- Attorney Jay C. Carlisle II announced today that former Congressman Charles Porter, well-known for his services in Chile on behalf of Amnesty International, will lead a May 5 fact-finding mission to Mexico City to investigate the possible involvement of the U.S. Government agencies in the recent kidnappings and torture of Latin American Labor Committee leaders, Carlos de Hoyos and Carlos Mendez Trujillo.

According to Mr. Carlisle, Mr. Porter's trip is sponsored by an ad hoc committee of lawyers headed by himself and Mr. Max Dean of Flint, Michigan. Additionally, the Committee includes Attornies Charles Geary of San Francisco, former Black Panther defense counsel; Jeremiah Gutman of New York. Mr. Porter will be accompanied

by Washington, D.C. attorney, Ira Lowe, and Ricky Bennett Hannifin, Latin American specialist, formerly of the Library of Congress.

NACHT UND NEBEL IN COLOMBIA

May 2 (IPS) -- The CIA-trained Colombian Army has unleashed a vast "Nacht und Nebel" terror operation in key areas against peasant families close to the Colombian Communist Party (PCC), according to the Voz Proleteria, the PCC's newspaper. The operations, carried out by special army counterinsurgency forces, the BIM, are nominally seeking information on the whereabouts of members of the FARC, the Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces, a group linked to the PCC.

BRAZILIAN PRESS PLAYS UP ARGENTINE ATOMIC BOMB THREAT

May 3 (IPS) -- The most recent issue of the Brazilian photo-weekly, Manchete, carries a four-page banner headlined spread titled "The Argentine Atomic Bomb." The article charges that near Buenos Aires "a group of scientists works to produce the first nuclear arms of Latin America."