

The man behind the coup danger

military justice and repression and demand a return to constitutional guarantees.

In addition, U.S. and European organizations are being urged to send telegrams to the Colombian government via its embassy in Washington and abroad supporting the government's efforts to shut down the drug traffic and expressing concern that current right-wing brutality and repression against the population be halted. Several telegrams have already been sent, of which the following are representative.

To President Carter — White House

Copy to: Embassy of Colombia, Washington, D.C.
Ambassador Virgilio Barco

The democratically elected government of Colombian President Turbay Ayala is now facing the threat of a military coup. Since his election, President Turbay has made efforts to halt the flow of illegal drugs from Colombia and has repeatedly asked for U.S. technical and financial assistance in those efforts. In fact only last week, Turbay reiterated his commitment to stop the outflow of marijuana from that country. The same figures who are now posing a threat to democracy in Colombia are also those supporting the legalization of marijuana as an export crop. We, the undersigned, support President Turbay's efforts to control narcotics traffic and we condemn this threat to democracy and to the human rights of the Colombian population.

Rev. John B. Crowell, D.D.

President — New Jersey Christian Conference

Charles H. Ryan, member

New Jersey Academy of Family Physicians

Abdul Malik Ali — private citizen, Trenton

Organizations are for identification purposes only.

The man behind the current coup danger in Colombia, Alvaro Gomez Hurtado, is one of the oligarchist "black international's" leading members. Among his close associates and cothinkers internationally are Otto von Hapsburg, Franz Joseph Strauss of Germany, and Amintore Fanfani of Italy. His association with such European oligarchs dates back to 1952, the year in which he joined with them and others in founding the European Center for Documentation and Information. The latter organization has brought together in regular meetings some of the world's leading right-wing fascists to coordinate economic and political policy. It also reportedly coordinates terrorist deployments internationally. In the 1960s the Center merged with the Mont Pelerin Society, one of the leading promoters of the fascist "free enterprise" economic policies designed to supplant global industrial and advanced technological development with drug-based, feudal economics. Gomez's affiliated publication Sintesis Economica and his newspaper El Siglo frequently laud "free enterprise," and have published von Hapsburg's own output on the subject.

The Jesuit-trained Gomez makes no attempt to hide his views. In the months leading up to the meeting of Latin American bishops in Mexico, Gomez lamented editorially that a "humanist" faction of the Church had succeeded in imposing its world view of esteem for the creative powers of the human mind whose reflection in the world was seen in the advancement of science and technology. Coherent with this is El Siglo's frank and outspoken campaign to turn Colombia into a marijuana-based economy — to which end Gomez is now attempting to carry out a military coup in Colombia. Exemplary is his August 1977 column which argued that "Colombians must think very seriously about legalizing marijuana immediately First because it will yield us foreign exchange. And second, because we have proven that to prohibit it, to help a country that is not interested in its prohibition, is damaging to the morals of those charged with enforcing the law." In Gomez's view, the Turbay government's official position against marijuana legalization is a major obstacle to a "booming" Colombian economy based on a "bonanza" from "exports produced through operations difficult to register in their own name" — that is, marijuana production.

The precedent for the chaos which a military coup would provoke in Colombia and regionally is "La Violencia" — the ten-year civil war orchestrated by Alvaro's father, Laureano Gomez. A Falangist in his own right, Laureano waged what he termed "religious" warfare against the Liberal Party leaning population, with the aid of certain Jesuit orders and right-wing death squads which performed brutal tortures and atrocities against their victims. The Colombian population has not fully recuperated politically or psychologically from the horrors of that period — but Alvaro Gomez is committed to unleashing the same destruction on a regional scale to maintain and expand his drug-running franchise.