

## Strategic Map

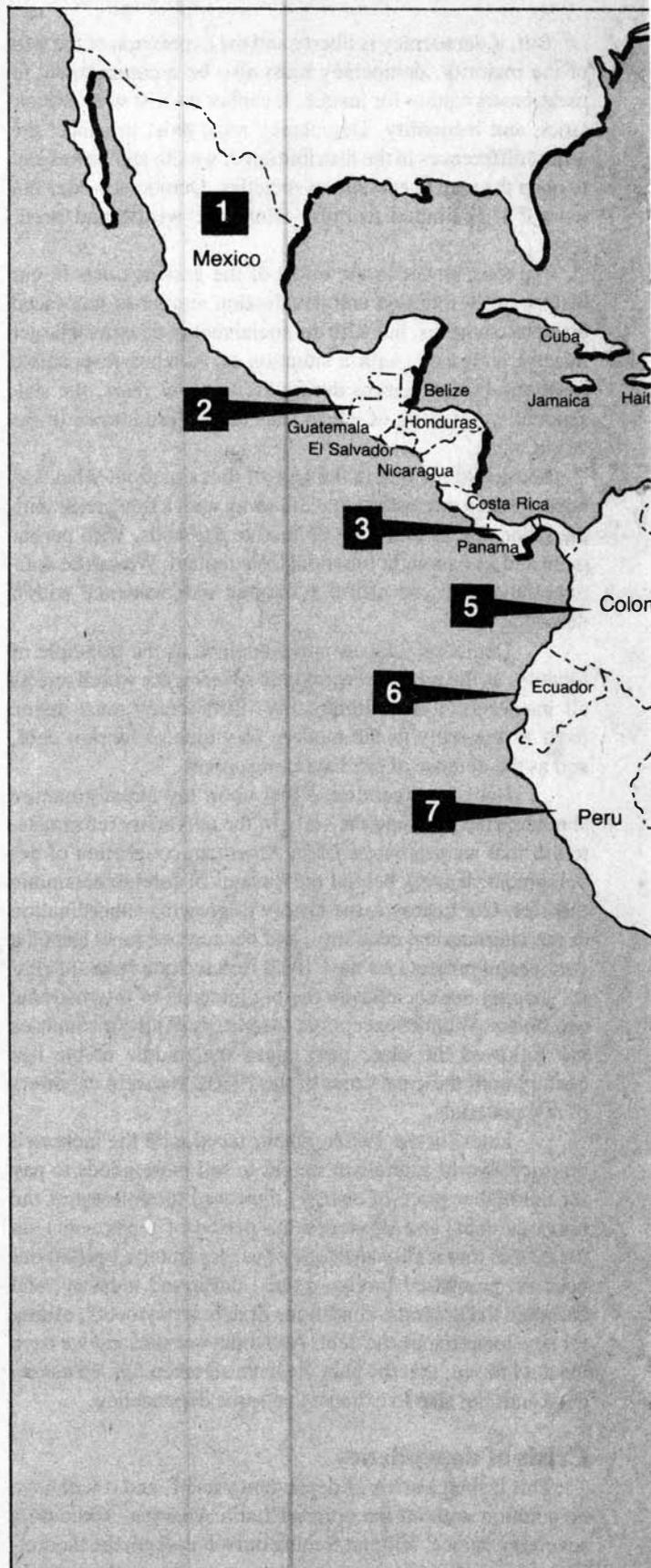
### Ibero-America: the fight for integration, against the IMF

March and April form a turning-point in Ibero-America's fight to resist the onslaught of the international banking fraternity against its sovereignty and its very physical survival. The key to winning this battle lies in American political leader Lyndon LaRouche's "Operation Juárez" proposal, for continental integration in a Common Market. The U.S. State Department and almost the whole of Congress are allied with the bankers to destroy our friends and allies in the hemisphere. Abetting this process is the Reagan administration's insane "contra" policy, of funding one band of drug-running terrorists in Nicaragua, against the others, the Sandinista government. The Contadora group of Mexico, Panama, Colombia, and Venezuela, adamantly opposed to funding the "contras," has scheduled its next meeting for April 5-6.

**1. Mexico:** Since Kissinger's visit in February, Mexico has been under heavy pressure to cede sovereignty over its oil reserves to pay debt. Mexico is the second government targeted, after Panama, to change its policy on Central America and back the "contras." The State Department is threatening to issue a "travel advisory" warning U.S. tourists against travel in Mexico.

**2. Guatemala:** On March 19-20, an *EIR* delegation of Webster Tarpley, Dennis Small, and Jeffrey Steinberg was extensively covered by the media following a series of meetings with military and civilian leaders of Guatemala. Tarpley, a long-time adviser of Lyndon LaRouche and now Democratic candidate for Senate from New York, drew wide coverage for his attacks on the Reagan administration's "contra" policy, and also the Illinois election victory of LaRouche-linked Democratic candidates (pages 46-47).

**3. Panama:** The State Department and Sen. Jesse Helms are working to overthrow the government. Labor and industry have united in strike actions to defend the nation against the government's imposition of austerity policies demanded by the International Monetary Fund and the World





Bank. Organizing will begin now for a 24-hour strike on April 30. Panama's military officials blame the economic crisis on the International Monetary Fund—the "giant loan shark," as a high-ranking Panamanian Defense Force official called it.

**4. Venezuela:** Venezuela has been a weak link in the debtors' front. Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo made a four-day visit to Caracas, in which he discussed Contadora with President Jaime Lusinchi. Wires reported on March 20: "Cerezo said he agreed with Peruvian President Alan García's proposal that the debt problem has a political connotation. . . . He stressed that on this problem a political position should be taken which would oblige Latin America to seek joint solutions, 'because, if not, we will not be able to deal with the global problem of being debtor peoples through the suffering of the majority of the inhabitants.'"

**5. Colombia:** The narcotraffickers' political machine is threatening to retake the country in May presidential elections.

counterattacked the World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank for their deadly "conditions" on loans. In Ottawa on March 21, Labor Minister Jorge Carrillo called on trade unionists and government officials at the 12th Conference of American States of the International Labor Organization to take up Cardinal Ratzinger's challenge to develop the "new economic ideas" needed to overcome an economic crisis which threatens to destroy humanity.

**6. Ecuador:** The only government on the continent which publicly backs aid to the "contras," is also the government most committed to the U.S. Treasury's "Baker Plan," designed to prevent formation of a debtors' cartel for a new, just world economic order. President Leon Febres Cordero has brought a colony of drug running Sikh terrorists (the killers of Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi) into the country and officially protects them.

**7. Peru:** Peru faces a "financial Malvinas," President Alan García warned during his recent trip to Argentina. The International Monetary Fund has given the country, which is leading the fight for continentwide integration, an April 14 deadline to pay interest due on the foreign debt—or face total credit cutoff.

**8. Brazil:** Brazil is a member of the Contadora support group, and one of the continent's largest debtors. President Reagan's March 16 address to sell the "contra" policy, showed Brazil painted red on a map, creating an international diplomatic incident.

**9. Argentina:** Peruvian President Alan García's March 14-16 visit was warmly received by Peronists and CGT labor federation. He won a commitment from usually pro-IMF President Raúl Alfonsín to back Peru if it comes to a showdown with creditors, and agreements for a continentwide summit of labor leaders (pages 32-39).