

Andean Report by Carlos Méndez

Peru faces new terror wave

The narco-terrorist "Tupac Amaru" copies the style of its M-19 partners in Colombia.

With the assault of the narco-terrorist Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement against the town of Juanjui and two other towns in the department of San Martín on Nov. 6, Soviet irregular war against Peru entered a new phase. For the first time, Tupac Amaru has acted jointly with the Colombian M-19, at the same time that the Communists, also for the first time, are trying to draw the government into a debate over whether or not to have a suicidal "dialogue" with the narco-terrorists—even while their rampages continue.

Tupac Amaru is part of the so-called Americas Battalion, to which the M-19, Quintín Lamé, and the Ecuadorian terrorist group "Alfaro Lives, Carajo," belong, among others. The Americas Battalion was created as a continental narco-terrorist army, along the lines of the recently born "Simón Bolívar Guerrilla Coordinating Group" in Colombia, to which the M-19 also belongs, along with the group "Quintín Lamé," founded by drug trafficker Carlos Lehder, who has proposed raising an army of 500,000 men "to liberate Latin America."

In an interview published Nov. 5 by the magazine *Caretas* in Lima, "Comandante Rolando," leader of the guerrilla assault on Juanjui, said, "Yes, we are similar to the Americas Battalion and to the M-19 of Colombia, because we are not fighting only for Peru, but for all of America."

On Nov. 10, the newspaper *Expreso* published declarations of Comandante Rolando boasting that, in 1985, Tupac Amaru sent three contingents of terrorists to support the M-19

after they had assaulted the Justice Palace in Bogota, Colombia, burning the files on drug traffickers, and assassinating a dozen Supreme Court justices.

It is no accident that the Tupac Amaru attackers similarly destroyed the legal archives in Juanjui, a provincial center which serves as the judicial clearing house for the region. Among those archives were many files on drug traffickers, including from Tocache, one of the principal centers in Peru for the production of cocaine and base paste, and also of trafficking and laundering of "cocadollars."

According to an interview published Nov. 12 by *Extra*, the evening edition of *Expreso*, Comandante Rolando said, "We know that united we work better, but the drug traffickers are not indispensable to us. We have Uzi submachine guns and Soviet grenades that are better than those the armed forces use against us."

Extra also quotes Comandante Rolando saying that many Peruvians have received "guerrilla instruction at the Lazaro Pena school of the Cuban Workers Central." Referring to aid received by Tupac Amaru from certain "revolutionary governments," he said, "I cannot deny the aid from Fidel"—Castro (who, it should be remembered, harbors Robert Vesco, Carlos Lehder's partner in the drug business, in a Havana safehouse).

The origin of the present support for Tupac Amaru by the Communists—and by some liberal "useful fools"—is the May 8 speech by Peruvian Communist Party General Secretary Jorge del Prado, in which he

declared that the Communists had initiated a "dialogue" with Tupac Amaru to coordinate "mass actions" for the "armed struggle."

At about the same time, Communist deputy Gustavo Espinoza said that his party "will not wait for the elections of 1990 to take power." Espinoza is one of a group of leftist congressmen who organized a visit to San Martín department immediately after Tupac Amaru's assault on Juanjui, to investigate charges of military repression, and to demand an end to the state of emergency the García government has imposed on the narco-terrorist-infested zone.

Now, the entire pro-Soviet left is calling for "dialogue" with the MRTA. Congressmen such as Javier Diez Canseco, of the communist front-group "United Left" (IU), and members of the United Mariateguista Party, joined the Communist Party's Espinoza on that trip to San Martín, "to make contact with the popular forces." Senators Enrique Bernales (IU) and Javier Valle Riestra, from the ruling APRA party, asked the government to hold a dialogue with Tupac Amaru as well.

According to the press of Nov. 16, Senator Bernales is insisting that "dialogue" be initiated, since, he said, in the proposals of Tupac Amaru, "I can scarcely find any difference between the proposals of the government itself, or those that our own congress is debating." Bernales insisted that Tupac Amaru proposals were based on "political rationality."

President Alan García, who is not buying this blackmail disguised as dialogue, declared that "just as in democracy, there cannot be severe economic inequalities, it is no less acceptable to acquiesce to blackmail and demands made by the brute force of arms."