

Fujimori prescribes witchcraft for cholera

by Ana María Mendoza-Phau

The Peruvian government, led by President Alberto Fujimori, is promoting “solutions” straight out of the Dark Ages for the cholera epidemic now affecting over 170,000 Peruvians, and which has spread to seven Ibero-American countries. Rejecting any scientific solutions to fight the epidemic, including the necessary suspension of debt service payments in order to finance the minimal provision of clean water for the population, Fujimori has taken instead to promoting a Brazilian witch doctor who claims to be the reincarnation, among others, of St. Ignatius of Loyola, and to have supernatural powers to heal the sick.

On May 4, the Peruvian correspondent for Mexico’s daily *La Jornada* described the situation in Peru in particularly graphic terms. “Crippled, maimed, paralyzed, blind, deaf, dumb, autistic, old and oppressed by the years, cancerous, and carriers of all kinds of illnesses, many of them written off by medicine, have taken to the streets, and turned Lima into a ‘Court of Miracles,’ ” he wrote. *EIR*’s Lima bureau confirms this picture, adding that tens and perhaps hundred of thousands of desperate Peruvians are taking to the streets of Lima looking for witch doctors, faith healers, and “miracle workers” to deal with cholera and other diseases now ravaging the population. This is exactly what happened in 14th-century Europe, when governing authorities also were helpless to stop the bubonic plague which eventually killed one-third the population of Europe in a three-year period.

During the first week of May, Peruvian businessman Jonel Heredia, famous for organizing “night life spectacles,” brought a Brazilian witch doctor, João Texeira, to Lima and rented a huge sports arena in which the so-called doctor could “work miracles” before millions, including television viewers. Texeira’s visit was accompanied by a high-profile publicity campaign in the Peruvian media, led by Peru’s Channel 5, owned by Wall Street’s favorite Peruvian banker, Manuel Ulloa.

Although the Peruvian attorney general in charge of criminal investigations prohibited Texeira from performing surgery in the sports stadium before tens of thousands, something he purportedly does habitually in Brazil, sickening videotapes of his “miracles” were shown repeatedly on Peruvian television. In the videos, Texeira apparently uses a handy knife or other utensil to perform open-air surgery and remove tumors and so on. No anesthesia, no sterile surround-

ings, just Texeira and his coterie of “mediums” in various trances, convulsions, and so on, presumably communicating with the “other world.”

Lima’s Archbishop and head of the Peruvian Catholic Church, Msgr. Augusto Vargas Alzamora, expressed the Church’s displeasure at this spectacle, albeit mildly. But not so Alberto Fujimori. On April 5, he invited Texeira to “cure him,” and reported afterward that Texeira had induced him to “move the finger” which he had hurt on his recent trip to Japan. “I was afraid to move it.” Fujimori then went on radio on May 7 to explain that “from the psychological standpoint this fellow [Texeira] can heal certain sicknesses. . . . I am personally going to invite him [to visit Peru]. . . . We have agreed on the possibility of his coming back to Peru in three months, for which visit I will extend an official invitation.”

This is not the first time President Fujimori has promoted insanity in the face of the health holocaust striking his country. A month after the cholera outbreak, he went on national television and consumed *ceviche*, the national dish consisting of raw fish marinated in lime juice—all health authorities have determined that the fish are contaminated with the cholera bacillus—in order to try to convince his fellow Peruvians that *ceviche* is safe. Many in Peru blame Fujimori personally for doubling the number of cholera cases in Peru during that period.

Psychological warfare?

Contributing to the growing environment of mass psychosis in ravaged Peru, is the report that two small statues of the Virgin, one of the Virgin of Fatima and one of the Virgin of Chapi, are miraculously shedding real tears. Thousands of desperate Peruvians searching for solutions to their situation have rushed to the port city of Callao, where one of the statues is located in a private residence, lining up for hours in order to see it.

Again the Catholic Church has timidly attempted to criticize such manipulation of the population, and decided to name a team of religious and scientific experts to investigate the matter. Curiously, the team was refused entry to the house where the “weeping Virgin” is located, by the owner who turns out to be the wife of the official photographer of President Fujimori!

Some in Lima are wondering out loud if the government is involved in a psychological warfare operation to control the Peruvian population in a time of great crisis. For example, the magazine *Sí* reported in its latest issue on the existence of a secret document written by the government’s intelligence services, on the subject of how to manipulate religious beliefs and use the media in order to induce certain beliefs in the population.

Briefed on these developments, an official of the Pan-American Health Organization in Washington, D.C. noted wryly: “Well, since cholera is a disease of the Dark Ages, it seems they are trying to cure it with Dark Age solutions.”