

# EIR holds third Andean seminar, to stop creation of 'Coca Republic'

by Gretchen Small

Addressing an *EIR* seminar on "The Peace Process in Peru and Colombia," held in Bogotá, Colombia on July 23, one of Colombia's most distinguished retired officers, former Presidential candidate Gen. Harold Bedoya, declared that should it rally the will to do so, Colombia *could*, with international aid, defeat the drug trade and terrorism, even in as short a time as two years.

The Bogotá seminar was the third in a series organized by *EIR* in the Andean region, to lay out for national elites, the concepts required to win the war against narco-terrorism, in the context of today's world financial crisis. The first was held on May 28 in Caracas, Venezuela; the second on June 5, in Lima, Peru. Speaking along with Bedoya in Bogotá, were two well-known LaRouche spokesmen in the region: Luis Vásquez, *EIR*'s bureau chief in Peru, and Maximiliano Londoño, president of the Ibero-American Solidarity Movement (MSIA) in Colombia.

The timing of the seminar, and a packed schedule of meetings throughout that week for Peru's Vásquez, allowed *EIR* to intervene in the policy debate raging during the crucial transition period before Colombia's new President, Andrés Pastrana, takes office on Aug. 7. In presentations before numerous institutions in Bogotá, Vásquez outlined the case of Peru, as exemplary of how victory is possible, if the "risky" political decision is taken to defeat the drug cartels and their armed terrorist wings. As he reminded the Colombians, when the Fujimori government acted in 1992 against the Shining Path narco-terrorists, Peru was at the point of disintegration—much as Colombia is today. We publish excerpts from presentations at the seminar in the pages that follow.

## Shall the cartels get their own country?

Pastrana, unlike his predecessor Ernesto Samper, is not a narco. However, under strong international pressure, he has already begun to seek peace with the narco-terrorists, at any price. He has promised that, upon taking office, he will order the withdrawal of all military forces from an area in the heart of the cocaine- and heroin-trafficking region in Colombia, which is twice the size of El Salvador. Thus will the Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces (FARC), be given command of nearly 50,000 square kilometers of territory.

What is this, but the establishment of an independent "Coca Republic"? From this enormous, uncontested base of operations, where will the cartels strike next? Has no one

considered the security threat that such insanity represents for neighboring nations, such as Bolivia, Ecuador, Venezuela, Peru, and Brazil? Is it not assured that the impact will soon be felt on the streets of the United States, as the cartels pour in the drugs?

That prospect has woken up some people in the Colombian establishment. In a July 21 editorial, the daily *El Tiempo* warned that the decision to hand territory over to the FARC "could be the beginning of the irreparable division" of Colombia, and must be reconsidered.

Yet, almost no voices have been raised internationally against the creation of a "Coca Republic." Instead, Pastrana's peace plans have been repeatedly endorsed by the U.S. State Department. The German government, joined by prominent members in the hierarchy of the Catholic Church of Germany and Colombia, is even hosting negotiations.

Consider what is today endorsed as "peace" talks:

- On July 10, Pastrana, accompanied by only one aide, met with the head of the FARC and its top military commander. There, he promised to hand over the territory, a unilateral concession for which he received only promises of more talk. The man who made the talks possible, Alberto Levya, could not attend, as he had fled Colombia to avoid an arrest warrant on charges that he accepted money from the Cali Cartel.

- During July 12-15, in Mainz, Germany, the notorious Heideggerian Bishop Karl Lehmann, and government "spook" Werner Mauss, directed talks between the National Liberation Army (ELN) and leaders of Colombian "civil society." An accord was signed, in which the ELN, too, was promised territory. In return, the ELN promised to stop kidnapping children, people over 65, and pregnant women, and even specified that they might stop kidnapping for ransom altogether—if they were paid "sufficient resources" in return. German officials have suggested that they will seek European Union financing for the ELN. Multinationals operating in Colombia may also be asked to finance the ELN, with a figure of \$14 million being mooted as a goal.

- Recognizing a good thing, the paramilitary United Self-Defense Groups of Colombia (AUC) has held negotiations with "civil society" representatives in Colombia, in which they, too, demanded control over territory, and promised to stop kidnapping children. They, however, said nothing of elderly people, or pregnant women.

# The strategic plot to balkanize Colombia

Here are excerpts of a speech given on July 23 by Maximiliano Londoño, at a conference entitled "The Peace Process in Peru and Colombia," organized by EIR and the Ibero-American Solidarity Movement (MSIA). Londoño is the president of the MSIA in Colombia.



Maximiliano Londoño

Colombia is currently involved in negotiations in Mainz, Germany with all the narco-terrorist groups, in which everyone is being offered territory. It remains only for us, present here, to also demand our own municipalities, and stand in line to see what we get. But it's not true that this will bring us peace; what we'll get is national fragmentation. Nor is it true that this is a conflict internal to Colombia. It is part of the international strategic situation, as the issues of terrorism and narco-terrorism have always been. We Colombians are not genetically violent, nor are we genetically predisposed to cultivating drugs. Our situation today is the result of the wars launched against us by supranational oligarchical forces.

There are several myths which have been propagated and which need to be destroyed. The primary myth is the one that says we'll achieve peace by embracing Tirofijo ["Sureshot," Manuel Marulanda Vélez, head of the narco-terrorist Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces, or FARC], or Gabino [Nicolás Rodríguez Bautista, head of the National Liberation Army (ELN) since the death of "the priest" Manuel Pérez], or the heads of the drug cartels. Supposedly, by sticking together and holding hands, we'll all arrive at some understanding, because, as the myth goes, the guerrillas can't take power, and the military can't defeat them. But, this is not true.

The fact is, that we have never wanted to establish order and justice in Colombia. Here, everything is negotiated, even kidnappings. Until just a few weeks ago, kidnapping was a crime, at least formally. But, after the talks at Mainz, kidnapping is now regulated. One can kidnap anyone who is older than 16 and less than 65 years of age. This is complete absurdity.

We are going to prove that this crisis is not a domestic matter, but comes from abroad—which is not to say that there aren't people who are operating inside Colombia.

## Supranational plot

In 1995, *EIR* magazine published **Figure 1**, based on the proposed division of the Western Hemisphere into 31 "nations," as per maps prepared by Joel Garreau, the Royal Dutch Shell-funded author of *The Nine Nations of North America*, and Yale University's *Encyclopedia of World Cultures*. That same Royal Dutch Shell, the Anglo-Dutch oil company, showed up in Colombia a few days ago with an insert in the daily *El Tiempo*, under the title "Destiny Colombia." In the insert, they talked about 42 prominent men, including two retired officers of the Colombian Army, and a group of sociologists and "violentologists," headed by a Canadian named Kahane. This Kahane is from Shell; he has worked for Shell, penning "scenarios." That is his specialty. "Scenario" means a guide for what could be Colombia's future, for what could come to pass. Only later, surprisingly enough, these powerful gentlemen and their friends begin to put into place the very scenarios they have predicted. These scenarios are activated by a series of political, economic, and even military operatives, so that events develop just as they predicted they would.

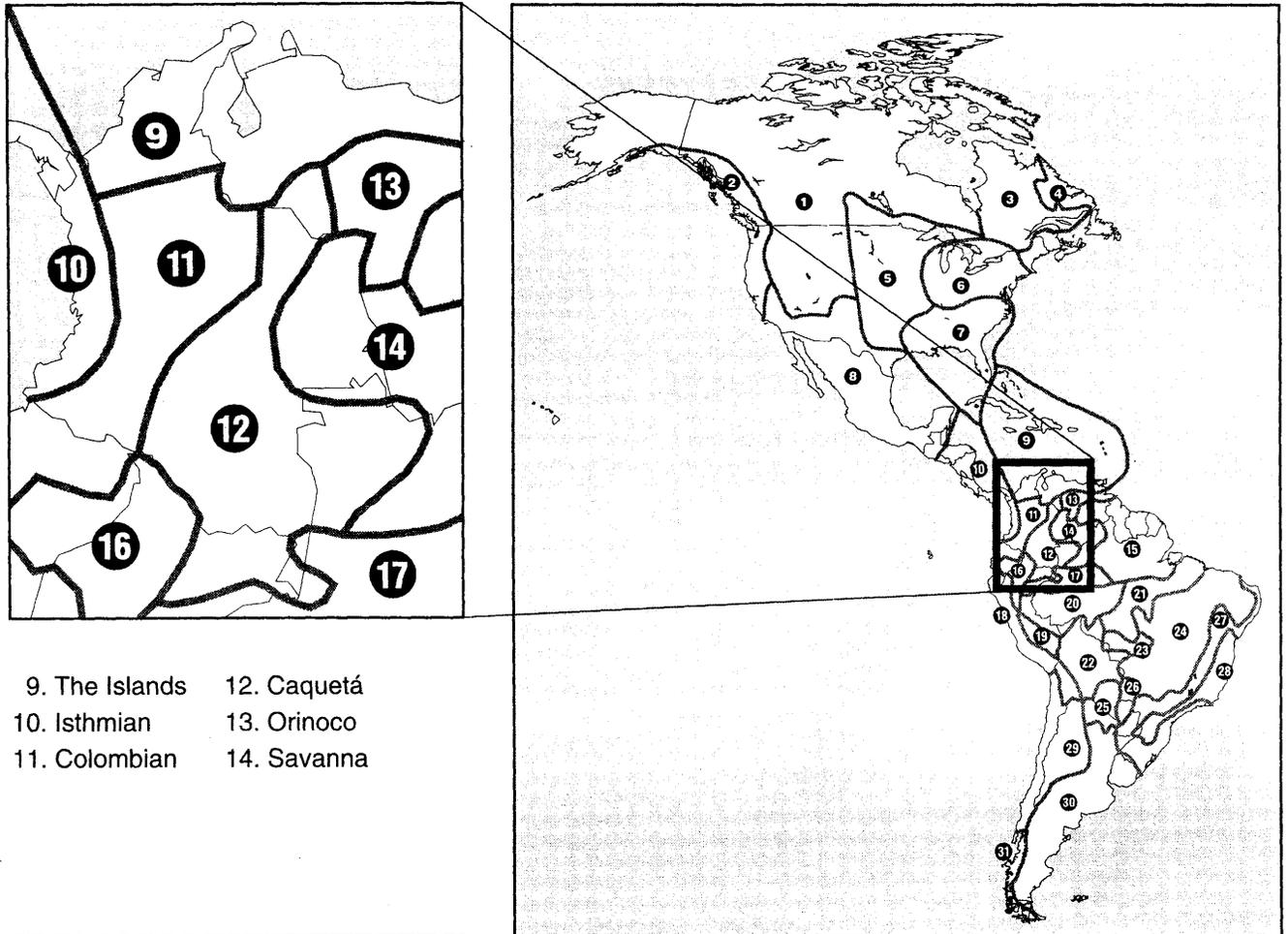
Therefore, this map is interesting, because it documents their "scenario" for the fragmentation of the entire Western Hemisphere. Some could argue that this is a conspiracy by the United States, but in this map the United States itself appears fragmented. The same with Brazil, as with all of our Ibero-American nations. And then, they make a very interesting new political configuration.

If we expand the part that corresponds to Colombia, we see that the shoreline of Colombia's Atlantic coast would be joined with part of Venezuela, to form a region that they call "The Islands" (9). Surely, they refer to the British islands, since there are in the Caribbean several British islands. The Pacific coast region of Colombia would become part of something they call "Of the Isthmus" (10), which would include the area where an interoceanic canal is going to be built, whether it be the Atrato-Truandó or a second Panama Canal.

It is worth recalling Jeremy Bentham at this point, who in the past century, as director of Great Britain's foreign intelligence, encouraged the independence of our countries, not exactly out of British altruism, but because that was the way the British hoped to take away Spain's colonies. Bentham wrote whole constitutions, corresponded with all of our heroes, trying to influence them, as with Santander, who was a Benthamite. Bentham is the father of economic liberalism, as well as the father of pederasty. He wrote a little book, called *In Defence of Pederasty*, in which he defended sexual intercourse between children and adults. He also wrote another treatise, entitled *The Defence of Usury*.

MAP 1

London's proposed Balkanization of Colombia



There is, as you can see, some correlation between certain so-called personal aberrations, with a defense of free trade. But that is the subject of another presentation. What is relevant here, is that Bentham wrote a proposal for creating an Anglo-Saxon enclave which would extend from Mexico to Colombia (that is, precisely what this map identifies as number 10), in which an interoceanic canal would be built under British control.

Colombia's Andean region the Shell map generously dubs "Colombia" (11). It would be all that is left to us. The eastern flank of the Cordillera Oriental mountain range would be called "Del Caquetá" (12). How interesting that this is the region where a military evacuation is going to be ordered on behalf of the FARC, an evacuation which has already begun with Cartagena del Chairá and with the Caguán zone in Caquetá, and which will be completed with the townships of Meta!

Finally, we see a zone called "Sabana" (14), correspond-

ing to Colombia's Eastern Plains, and to the Western Plains of Venezuela.

But now, let us turn to **Figure 2**. The darkest gray area (a) is the region of Caguán, which was given to the FARC in 1997 as a pledge, so that the FARC would release 70 soldiers they had kidnapped. This, plus five more townships (b), is what President Samper wanted to hand over to the FARC, but the situation fell apart because Samper was very involved with the so-called "8,000 File," and the charges that his electoral campaign had received million-dollar contributions from the narcos. Besides, Gen. Harold Bedoya (who spoke here at this seminar just a few moments ago) denounced the efforts to hand over territory as an act of treason against the fatherland. The result was that the scenario had to be postponed.

Region (b) is the zone which is expected to be handed over to the FARC now. President Andrés Pastrana was sounded out on this, in this pre-inauguration period, and he has already agreed. We are talking about 50,000 square kilometers, not

### Colombia: the FARC's 'Coca Republic'



some little piece of dirt. The surrounding zone, marked with lighter lines, is the zone of expansion of FARC-ELN influence, the zone which is potentially under their control.

In just the five townships they are going to militarily evacuate for the FARC (1), some 120,000 people live. It has low population density, but there are already people there who are fleeing to other regions, because they don't want to live under a FARC dictatorship. Put another way, the zone is being depopulated, because it is going to be given to the FARC. Until 1988, the FARC maintained a certain political control in that region, but they lost mayoralties during the elections of the 1990s. Now, however, with the evacuation, they are clearly going to become the government. The reality is that they are not simply handing over five townships, but all of Meta, all of Caquetá, Guainía, Vaupés, and Putumayo—more or less half of the national territory. And for what? To preserve the production of coca. Because that is the "strategic element," stated outright, that is exported from that region.

The striped area to the north of the country (2), along the border with Venezuela, is part of what the ELN is now demanding, preliminarily, because they still haven't finalized their demands. They also want to include other areas in the south, along the coast, on their list. But for now, they are asking for the Santander provinces, Arauca, and so on. The third zone (3) is what the private justice, or so-called "paramilitary" groups, are demanding from the nation. In other words, everyone is demanding their piece of the nation.

### **Parks and Indian reserves**

Things don't stop there. The British also propose to take from us those areas which correspond to nature parks, which also happen to be areas where there is no state presence, because they are supposedly ecological preserves which no one is allowed to touch. They are sanctuaries, such as the Sierra Nevada of Santa Marta, where drug production and terrorism thrive. The British used this same scheme in Africa. Further, they have created small nature parks which straddle borders, half in one nation and half in another. For example, they have a project for a nature park which is situated along the border between Ecuador and Peru, which no one knows who will administer: the UN, or perhaps some private licensee. The full sovereignty of the state cannot be exercised in these zones.

The same thing is happening with Indian reserves. According to the 1991 Colombian Constitution, we supposedly have various nationalities, or peoples, in Colombia. The fact is, in Colombia we are all Indians, because we all have some Indian, some African, some white in us. We are a mix. However, the sociologists, the violentologists, the anthropologists, all these new "ologists" which have been created, have tried to "revive" the Indian "nations," and it is said that they are going to have sovereignty over these territories. And so they say that the Araucos, or the Paeces, or the Uwas, are owners of their territories and of their resources, and should negotiate

directly with the multinationals. There are already cases of this happening. And then, the subsoil would no longer belong to the state, but to the "Indians."

If we superimpose all these maps of ceded territory, we see what is left to us Colombians—that is, without the nature parks, without the Indian reserves, without the areas they are going to cede in negotiations to the FARC and to the ELN, and without that which they are giving to the paramilitaries—and you can believe that many groups are going to surface, because once there is no state, then anyone is going to feel justified in taking up arms and becoming an avenger, and the chaos in which we live will increase. If we take all this into account, we are going to see how little remains of national territory.

Now, let us take another look at the map the British and Shell made. Here we see that their Caquetá, which appears as a distinct nation, corresponds to that which they are going to cede to the FARC. What farsightedness the British reveal in imagining that such things would come to pass! They are absolute prophets!

What we have here is not a national problem. It is a strategic plan of the supranational powers, which seek to fragment nations. Here we are explaining only the case of Colombia, but the case of other nations of the Americas could be documented in much the same way. And what is it they want to preserve? The production of narcotics, which includes the fact that in Colombia we are now starting with poppy and heroin. They are building a "Coca Republic."

This was already done before by the British, with the Opium Wars in the mid-19th century, when Great Britain produced opium in India, which at that time was a British colony, and sold it in China. When the Chinese did not like this arrangement and fought back, the British sent in their Navy. As a result of these confrontations, Hong Kong was seized by the British as war booty.

The main problem we face in continuing to be victimized by these schemes is chauvinism, is failing to understand the international strategic situation, because we are localists and think this is just a particular situation. We must understand the strategic situation, see what is going on and come up with a strategic plan: What do we want of Colombia? For it to be a drug-trafficking colony, or a place for producing assassins, a no-man's-land? Or, do we want it to be a decent nation, which has machine tools, technology, that has relations with other nations?

It's our job to work on this, and this is the call we issue. We stand here as we did in the days of independence. At that time, we achieved only political independence, without economic independence. But now, we are on the verge of losing what we had as territory. So, now it's our job to organize house meetings, gatherings, as was done during Independence, when people met, talked, planned things, and then acted. We are called upon to act, because a group of rogues, on foreign orders, are putting an end to our nation.