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LEADERS OF INDIGENOUS GROUPS REPORTEDLY AMONG THE ARRESTED IN PERU

- Peruvian Security Forces Reportedly Raid Indian-Defense Offices and Arrest Leaders*
- Belaunde's Xenophobia: Foreigners Suspect*
- Peruvian Leaders Tie Maoist Terrorists to Cuba*
- Agence France Press Claims over 11,000 Arrested in Lima During 10 Days in June; Authorities Deny the Reports*

In his legitimate battle against a seemingly relentless terrorist threat, Peruvian President Fernando Belaunde Terry has overreacted, dealing a severe blow to constitutional rights in the country.

In their attempts to eradicate Maoist terrorists from Peru, special anti-subversive police forces have reportedly clamped down on Indian-defense groups in Lima, ransacking offices and arresting leaders. According to cables from Peru, seven organization leaders were arrested within the past week. At press time, the Peruvian desk at the State Department and the Peruvian Embassy had only the most rudimentary details of the case.

The seven organization leaders are: Salvador Palomino of CISA (El Consejo Indio de Suramerica--The Indian Council of South America); Reina Alfaro and Saturnino Castillo Peralta of Comuneros MITA, an Indian labor organization; and Elias Carreno, Juan de Dios Peralta and Dadea Tiste of Comuneros Antilla.

As the Maoist terrorists of Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) have moved their attacks to Lima--orchestrating in the last month bold attacks on financial and state centers--the Peruvian government of Belaunde has stiffened its war against terrorism. On May 30, following a dynamite attack on the important Bayer Chemical Co. in Lima, Belaunde declared a national state of emergency in Peru and suspended nearly all constitutional rights.

Since then, Peruvian anti-terrorist forces have upped that battle against Sendero, registering, according to Agence France Press, thousands of arrests in the month of June. Peru Embassy officials dispute AFP's figure of 11,000 arrests between June 15 and June 26, claiming that the news

organization mistook identity checks and interrogations for arrests.

According to the state of emergency, police can hold a citizen without charges for up to 10 days.

Police suspect Indian-defense organizations in Lima of collaborating with Sendero Luminoso because the organizations speak for the impoverished, Quechua-speaking Indians of the mountains around Ayacucho. Sendero claims to represent the same people, though it spreads its message with terror.

According to John Wiggins at the Indian Law Resource Center in Washington, the three Indian groups, CISA, MITA, and Comuneros Antilla, had all publicly decried the violent campaigns of Sendero and had urged Indians to seek peaceful resolutions to their problems.

--BELAUNDE'S XENOPHOBIA--

In recent weeks, the Peruvian government has attempted to link the terrorist activity to outside forces. Security forces arrested three Danes, Gregor Tuxen, his twin sister Vivian, and Lars Michael Peterson, on June 21 in the Department of Apurimac. Police reported that the Danes were carrying Sendero Luminoso material and that one of them had arrived recently from Cuba. According to Victor Gastelu, chief of the anti-subversive division of the Peruvian Special Police force, the three Danes, who are still in captivity, are members of the Tupac Amaru Indigenous Movement, an organization dedicated to the defense of peasants.

Three months ago, President Belaunde reprimanded "foreign religious elements" for working alongside the revolutionaries. Although he promised at the time to document his charge, the president subsequently dropped the matter. In early June, Belaunde declared to a Peruvian reporter that the ideology of the subversive extremists "is not of Peruvian origin."

Later in the month, Luis Percovich Roca, minister of the interior, denounced the existence of subversive infiltrators among teachers. Many teaching centers, he said, are "training grounds for sedition."

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