



U.S. Promotion of Militarization in the Andean Region Continues Unheeded

(Peru & Bolivia) The United States Government offered the Peruvian Government a military aid packet of \$36 million, earmarked for updating the equipment of six special infantry battalions to be employed in the high Huallaga area in the "fight against narcotrafficking and subversion." The military aid was rejected by the Fujimori government which refuses to order the Peruvian military to fight in the "war on drugs," citing more pressing issues. Nevertheless, Fujimori has extended the emergencyzone to other provinces. Because of this, the Bush administration is threatening to cut \$63 million in scheduled economic aid for 1991.

Following the same political plan, the "war on drugs" has brought ever-increasing U.S intervention in Bolivia, and has made militarization the precondition to any sort of financial aid. In 1989, the Bolivian government had to agree to the eradication of 5,000 hectares of coca groves, either with the collaboration of peasants or against their will, to obtain future loans. By the end of 1990, according to the Bennet Plan for Drug Control, the Bolivian military, police, judicial and intelligence forces will receive \$67 million. Another \$30 million will go to "approved" alternative development projects.

In both Bolivia and Peru, the military and police are a continual menace to democracy and human rights. Peru in particular, has been targeted

by Amnesty International as one of the worst countries in respect to human rights records. In 1989, approximately 500 people "disappeared" and hundreds more were victims of extrajudicial executions. Peru's armed forces have military and political control of 67 of Peru's provinces, all of which have been declared "emergency zones," which allows the military to severely restrict civil rights in those regions. Thus the U.S Government declaration that financial aid will be given only to those countries with a clean record on the subject of human rights is pure rhetoric. As Diego Garcia Sayan, executive director of the Andean Commission of Jurists, expressed in an interview with Caretas (May 14, 1990) "There is great danger in a war that does not clearly distinguish its target, blurring drug dealers, coca growers, insurgency forces and political activists into one and the same enemy."

