



Photo of PCP guerrillas taken at night, from *El Diario*.

Peru People's

In the last year, the revolutionary rural base areas in Peru have flourished in the valleys and plateaus of the Andes mountains and along the rivers descending to the jungle in the east and the Pacific Coast to the west.

The reactionary press describes a quarter to a third of the country as having slipped out of the hands of the Peruvian government — part or all of eight of the country's 24 departments. Reports indicate that the Armed Forces have withdrawn to their strongholds in some areas of the countryside and avoid active patrols. At present, 40% of the conscripts and 5% of the officers sent to the "emergency zones" under military rule are said to desert. Important roads linking the mountains with the coast have been cut. In the provincial capitals the revolution has flexed its organised strength through a series of armed general strikes, and, in Lima itself, the pace of political events has quickened with the blossoming of strikes and demonstrations supporting the people's war led by the Communist Party of Peru, a participating party of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement.

In the wake of the PCP's First Congress (see *AWTW* No. 11), PCP Chairman Comrade Gonzalo gave an interview to the progressive Lima newspaper *El Diario* in which he analysed the current situation faced by the revolution, as well as many other matters. "They thought they had us beaten in 1984", he said, referring to the "difficult moments" undergone by armed struggle two years after the Armed Forces were sent in to carry out a terrible campaign of massacres in the countryside of Ayacucho and neighbouring departments and tear up the sprouts of the first clandestine people's committees, the village organs of revolutionary political power.

Now, Comrade Gonzalo said,

War Prepares New Stage

“these people’s committees have multiplied by the hundreds, those in a particular area make up a base area and the whole of the base areas taken together make up the developing New Democratic People’s Republic”. These base areas, he emphasised, “are the essence of people’s war”, which is fought in the city as well as the countryside, with the countryside being principal. The new political power being built in the countryside under Party leadership now involves “thousands of people”, he said. Throughout the country overall, he added, “there has been a leap in our growth among the masses”.

In these base areas, Comrade Gonzalo explained, “we are establishing new relations of production, an outstanding example of which is the way we carry out our land policy, with collective work on the land, and the concrete reorganisation of social life, under a joint dictatorship, where for the first time the workers, peasants and progressive forces rule”.

“The development of the people’s war has brought about a turn and a change”, Comrade Gonzalo went on to say. “This situation obliges us to take up the question of how to prepare the city or cities to generalise it. This has to do with our mass work, but mass work in the context of and for the purpose of people’s war. We have been carrying out this work all along; now we are beginning to develop it further. We believe that our work in the cities is indispensable and must be stepped up more and more, because it is in the cities that the proletariat is concentrated and we cannot leave it in the hands of revisionism or opportunism.”

“Our line has been to take the working class districts and shantytowns as the base and the proletariat as the leading force”, he said, “and we are continuing to carry out this line under conditions of

increased people’s strength. Which masses should we go to? From what was just said, it follows that we should turn the immense working class districts and shantytowns” which surround Lima and other cities “into belts of iron to enclose and trap the reactionary forces”.

“Our work is still developing within the stage of the strategic defensive” of the revolutionary forces in relation to the enemy, he pointed out, “and guerrilla warfare is still the principal form of struggle. It has spread throughout the country, in the city as well as the countryside, and we are fighting in almost all parts of the country.” Within this, he said, mobile warfare, involving larger units, “is beginning to develop and will develop more”. The escalating clash of revolution and counter-revolution is “bringing the perspective of strategic equilibrium” into view, he said. “That is why we must take up the question of how to develop the war to take the cities and prepare the strategic offensive”.

These remarks provide the context for understanding recent events in Peru.

Four “paros armados regionales” — regional armed shutdowns — shook the south-central mountains of the departments of Ayacucho and neighbouring Huancavelica and Apurimac during the course of 1988. These actions involved a combination of workers’ strikes, the closing of small businesses, mass actions and guerrilla attacks. Such shutdowns have taken place in the city of Ayacucho, the department’s capital, since early in the people’s war which began in 1980, but 1988 saw a big step-up in their frequency, duration (two to three days) and radius throughout the region.

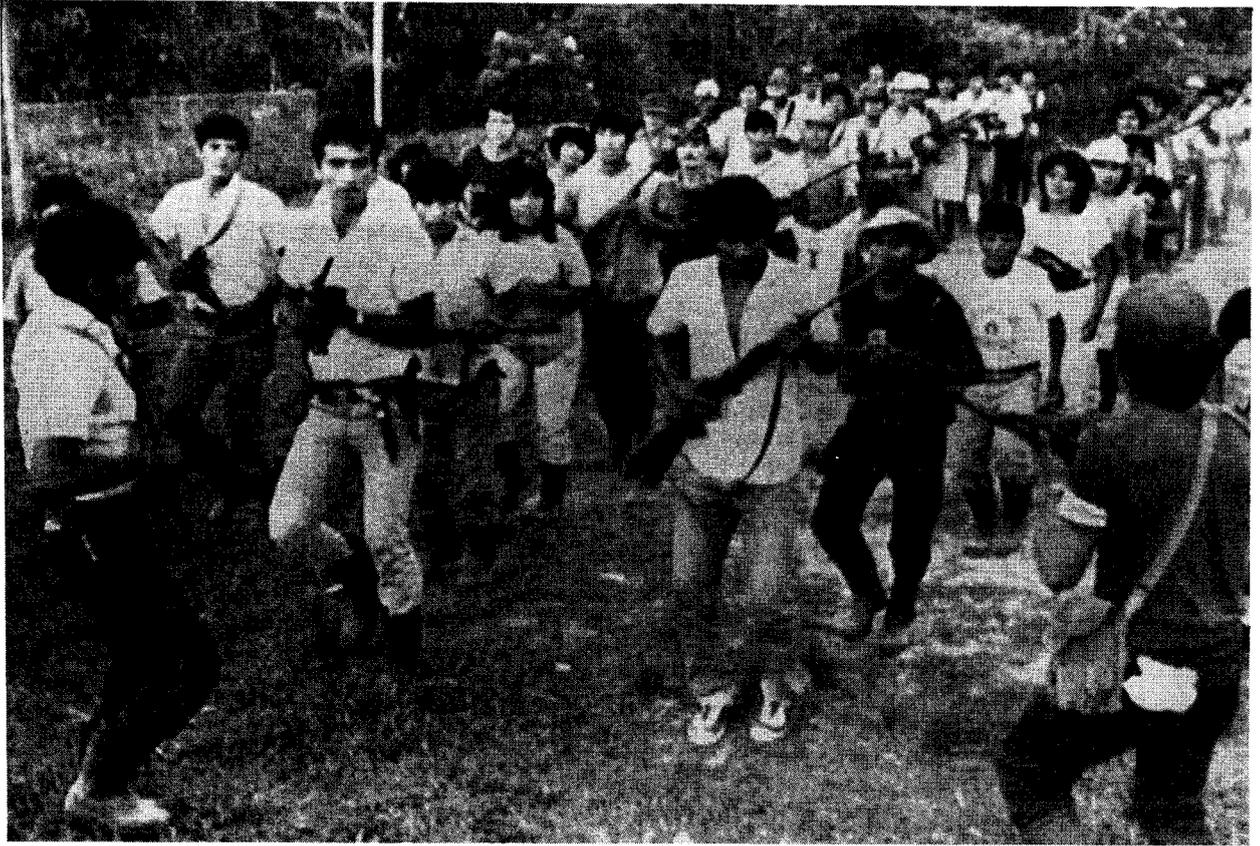
The first call for a seven-day shutdown issued by the PCP came in February 1989. It was an escalation and a serious challenge. In leaflets accompanied by a power

blackout, the Party called “on our people to take part, arms in hand, in a regional shutdown against the fascist, genocidal and starvation-mongering APRA government headed by the cynical Alan Garcia and his evil Armed Forces and police”. Success was complete. Army and police patrol vehicles roamed the deserted streets of the city of Ayacucho, their loudspeakers vainly calling on the population to end the action, while revolutionary and counter-revolutionary forces waged a war of graffiti on the city’s walls.

Other towns in the region were also almost totally closed down. Roads in the countryside were blocked; the few lorries that tried to get through were painted with revolutionary slogans or blown up. Guerrilla units hit Army and police positions and ambushed patrols and a military convoy, as they have been doing with increasing intensity and frequency in the region in the last few years. Attacks and a power blackout took place simultaneously in Lima.

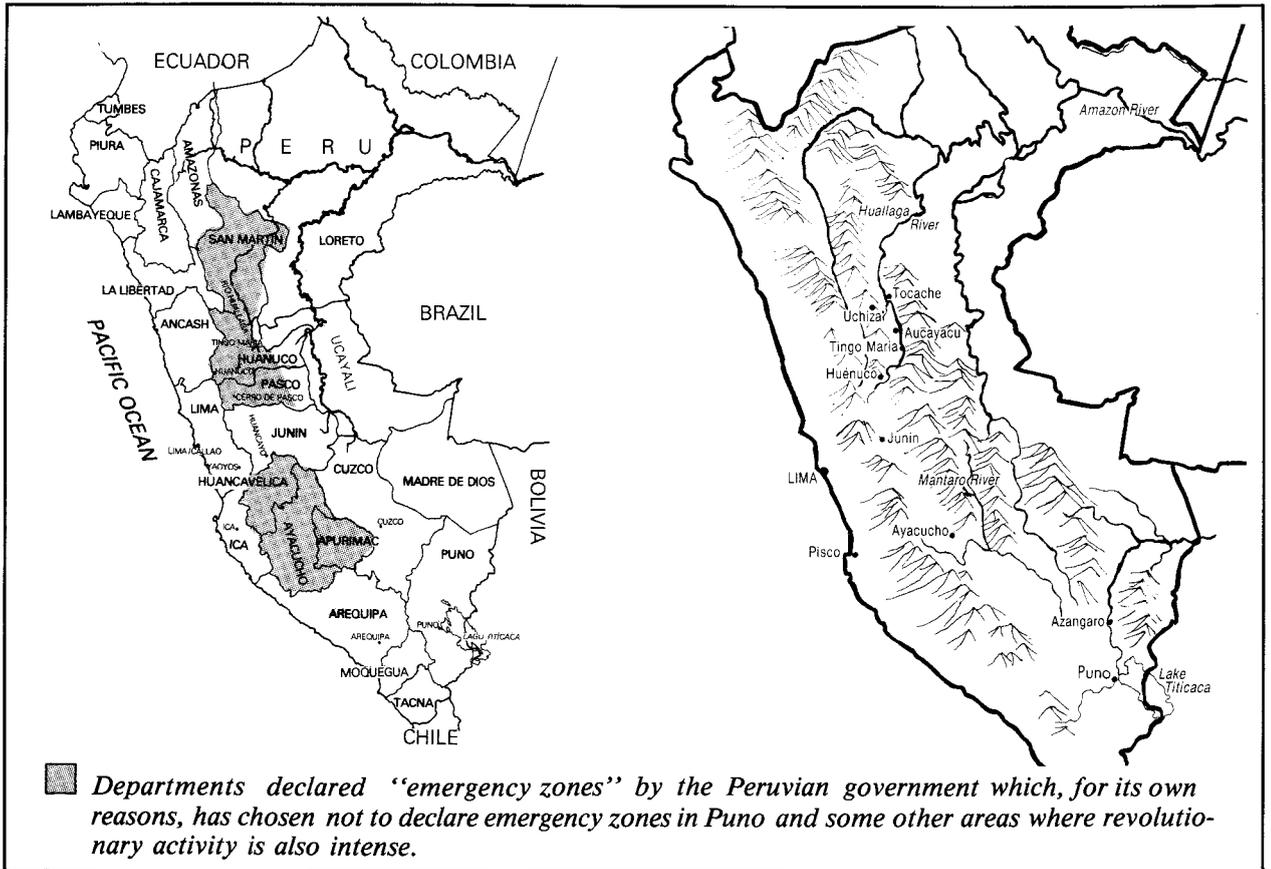
Southeast of Lima, in the altiplano (high plateau) department of Puno, bordering Bolivia, revolutionary forces held the city of Azangaro (population 45,000) and three neighbouring villages for three days in February. Land seizures by thousands of peasants in February and March continued to shake this department where the people’s war first spread in the mid-1980s. Peasants occupied land belonging to half a dozen SAIS, former feudal estates taken over and run by the government. At the same time, massive peasant strikes in Huancavelica and Apurimac and the jungle region around the city of Pucallpa demanded higher crop prices, better credits and debt relief, as various political forces strove to put themselves at the head of a countryside in ferment.

Recently the armed struggle led



Young guerrillas in training

A WORLD TO WIN 1989/13



by the PCP has become particularly sharp in the Mantaro River valley in the mountain department of Junin, to the east of Lima. This area came under military rule in October 1988. (Thirty-seven of the country's 170 provinces are currently run directly by the Armed Forces. President Garcia also granted the Armed Forces the authority to do what they want anywhere in the country in pursuit of their "antisubversive" war. In effect, about half the country's population is living under some sort of military control.) Powerlines and roads leading to the capital were cut that month, amid an armed regional shutdown, blacking out Lima and cutting it off from the mountains that feed it, provoking what Lima newspapers called a "siege mentality" — either sad or ebullient — among the different classes in the capital city.

Some of the largest-scale fighting has taken place in the upper valley of the Huallaga River which leads from the Andes into the jungle, passing through the tropical foothills where peasants cultivate a large part of the world's coca leaf. People in the Andes have chewed coca leaves for thousands of years, especially under the burden of oppression and hunger since the Spanish conquest. Today, these leaves are bought by drug dealers and shipped to Colombia to be processed into cocaine. The peasants of this region are victimised by landlords and police, who often work together. About 300,000 peasants are said to have come to depend on the income from this crop for their survival.

The Party's policy is to protect the peasants from having their land or crops stolen. Without state power, it is not possible for the revolution to simply eliminate coca cultivation overnight. Rather, the peasants are encouraged to plant part of their land to food crops.

Several years ago the U.S. sent in "advisors" to train and direct the Peruvian militarised police unit, the UMOPAR ("anti-drug" police). Their actual mission is to fight guerrillas, not drug dealers; since this programme began the amount of land planted to coca leaf in the region has grown almost four times

over. Funding to help the peasants shift to other crops is notable by its all but complete absence, which shows just how much drug eradication really interests the U.S. This drug trade which is so bound up with the oppression of the masses could not exist if it were not for the complicity of the Peruvian government, and even more of the U.S. government, since the U.S. market is its one and only reason for existence.

Actually, in Peru it is the government and ruling classes who are most dependent on coca production. The estimated \$1-3 billion a year in business provides an enormous portion of the U.S. dollars to which the increasingly import-dependent economy is addicted. Several government officials have been arrested in Europe for their role in million-dollar money-laundering operations, most recently in March 1989. Even more shamelessly, in July 1988 the Garcia government passed legislation to allow — indeed, to attract — the unimpeded, unquestioned and untaxed repatriation of dollars earned in coca sales abroad, in order to gain the foreign exchange necessary for its survival. This whole situation is an ugly example of how imperialist capital has subordinated and disfigured the Peruvian economy, "legal" and "illegal" sectors alike.

Some reactionary press accounts claim that the success of the guerrillas can be explained through the allegedly superior arms they can buy with fabulous sums of money from the drug trade. This is disproved, in fact if not in word, by reports from the same press which indicate that the greatest part of the guerrillas' weapons continue to be "delivered" by the police and Armed Forces, as Comrade Gonzalo put it in the interview, referring to the snatching of war supplies from the hands of the enemy. He added that along with these arms, homemade weapons (especially dynamite) also continue to play a basic role, as well as a relatively small number of purchased guns.

In the town of Uchiza, along a tributary of the Huallaga, a column of 300 guerrillas overwhelmed a 50-man elite police unit at the end

of March, according to a government communique. Guerrilla troops took over the whole town, including the airport. The police station surrendered after a six-hour battle in which a dozen troops were killed and a similar number wounded. The guerrilla fighters are said to have executed several officers and released the rest of the men.

Previously, in January, a police patrol of 30 men in three vehicles was ambushed in Tocache, along the Huallaga in San Martin, as they were heading for their barracks. They were pinned down by rebel gunfire for several hours; four were reported killed and five wounded. Also in January, in Padre Abad, in Huanuco, police said that a column of 200 guerrillas led by a woman ambushed a police patrol, killing seven. Before that, in November, a large motorised Army convoy was ambushed at Aucayacu, in the department of San Martin. The reinforcements sent to rescue the troops were also attacked. The Army reported losing 17 soldiers and killing 100 guerrillas. In a relatively large-scale battle near Tingo Maria in July 1988, 13 government forces were reported killed. One cannot expect the government to give true figures in these communique, but they probably give some idea of the scale of the fighting.

The city of Tingo Maria — public services, buses, businesses and everything else — was shut down for 72 hours in August 1988. Its streets were emptied and no-one entered or left the city except for military patrols. The scene in the countryside during this armed regional shutdown was described in detail by reporters from *El Diario*. They recounted how 5,000 peasants, organised and protected by several hundred guerrillas, assembled at rendezvous points at nightfall to tear up 300 kilometres of the roadway that runs along the edge of the jungle — the main road in the region — in order to cripple the mobility of the Armed Forces and thus improve conditions for the people's war and revolutionary political power in the region.

At the "very portals of the capital", as the press described it, in

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February, at a small settlement just 15 kilometres outside Lima, hundreds of people raided the potato fields of a large landowner, amid cries of "The potatoes belong to the people, Long live the armed struggle, Long live Chairman Gonzalo!" Thirteen tons of potatoes were distributed to shantytown dwellers in the area, as the Party's flags were raised and leaflets given out. This action along the Carretera Central, the road linking Lima to the valley that supplies most of its foodstuffs and to the mountains beyond, caused grave concern to those who had not yet noticed that the revolution was already gathering strength in the capital itself.

That was dramatically borne out in actions on March 8th, International Women's Day, 1989, when to the great surprise of passers-by and police, thousands of men and women marched through the downtown streets of Lima in the early evening chanting, "For Women's Liberation, Develop People's War! Down with Bourgeois and Revisionist Feminism! March 8th, a Day to Fight! Long Live Chairman Gonzalo, Long Live the PCP, Long Live the People's War!" Police barracks near the route of march were dynamited as the quick-stepping demonstrators passed nearby. Rifle-toting police who cordoned off the area found that the marchers had suddenly disappeared.

This was the first public action called by the People's Revolutionary Defence Movement (PRDM), a mass organisation of the PCP meant to serve as the united front in the cities, in order to "bring together masses from among the workers, peasants, shantytowns and petite bourgeoisie, neutralising the middle bourgeoisie and supporting the democratic forces who favour the war", as the PCP's Congress documents released at the beginning of 1988 put it in a section dealing with the need for Party-generated mass organisations. Expounding the Party's mass line, the document called for "persistence in the only Marxist-Leninist tactic", which me-

ans, it said, to help the masses "get rid of the tremendous heap of rubbish that is revisionism and opportunism"; "to go down lower and deeper to the real masses"; to "educate the masses in people's war"; and to "wage a relentless struggle against revisionism and opportunism".

At the same time as the actions in the city's centre, red banners with the Party's hammer and sickle symbol appeared in several shantytowns and major industrial areas, and PRDM leaflets appeared. Earlier in the evening, before the PRDM action, hundreds of students, workers, shantytown organisation members and others had assembled at legal public meetings held at two university campuses. An account in *El Diario* contrasted these various events with the IWD meetings held by the revisionists and reformists of the so-called United Left that day, which attempted to address the question of women's liberation in isolation from or in opposition to the people's war to liberate the country.

July 1988 saw Peru's first national general strike in a dozen years. It was called by the country's dominant trade union confederation, the revisionist-controlled CGTP. The PCP called for a "fighting strike" in Lima; in Ayacucho, Huancavelica and Apurimac the PCP staged an armed shutdown involving attacks on Army and police units. A contingent of young workers, faces covered with handkerchiefs or scarves, chanting the PCP slogan "Fight and Resist", took part in the main street action in the capital, to the consternation of the GCTP leadership.

At the end of September, a three-day shutdown was called by the Carretera Central Class-Conscious Workers' Struggle Committee. This newly-emerging, legal organisation was formed by workers from factories and workshops along the industrial strip of this road. They organised strikes in textile, car parts, refrigerator and other plants, brick yards and so on, carried out mass mobilisations, put up flaming road blockades and fought with police. Organisations describing themselves as class-conscious from

the nearby shantytowns also belong to this Committee and played an important role, as did similar organisations of municipal workers, hotel workers, university workers, street vendors and others. The Class-Conscious Workers' Movement, a clandestine mass organisation of the PCP, supported the strikes. What *El Diario* called PCP armed militias took part in agitation and fighting.

A call for an armed shutdown in mid-January 1989 in the factory district along Argentina Avenue in Lima resulted in heavily-armed Marine units occupying the whole area, as well as strategic points around the city.

During February and March 1989, public employees repeatedly marched and clashed with police in Lima. Some forces among them came forward to support the PCP and the people's war it leads. From October through December of 1988, 70,000 miners from open-pit and underground installations in the mountains east of Lima were on strike for issues relating to wages and retirement. Thousands of miners and their families carried out a "march of sacrifice" of 300 kilometres to the capital. The PCP carried out armed actions in connection with this strike. Saul Cantoral, a United Left reformist who was the head of the mine workers union, refused, for his own reasons, to publicly condemn the PCP. In February 1989 he was murdered by a government death squad.

Government-linked death squads first appeared in 1986, but it was not until 1988 that they began operating massively and openly. They named themselves the Comando Rodrigo Franco, after an APRA official said to have been executed by PCP guerrillas. Their first public communique announced the murder of Manuel Febres, a lawyer who had just won an acquittal in the "terrorism" trial of Osmon Morote, proclaimed by the police to be a top PCP leader. (Morote was kept in prison on other charges.)

The assassination took place in the morning of July 28th, Peru's national day. Within minutes the press received a communique from the Comando declaring that alleged

revolutionaries and suspected supporters were no longer going to be able to escape death by using the legal system. A few hours later, President Alan Garcia echoed this theme in his national day address: "We all know that terrorism uses our democracy, and we must not allow this to happen." Furthermore, he declared, "We all know that terrorism takes advantage of the freedom of press that exists in this country." This was specifically directed against *El Diario*, which had earned the government's wrath for printing the extensive interview with Comrade Gonzalo a week before. Febres was also this newspaper's legal counsellor.

Already, in October 1987, two APRA members were killed when the car bomb they were attempting to plant in front of the *El Diario* offices went off prematurely. There were other failed attempts on the lives of the newspaper's editors. Three weeks after Garcia's speech, a hundred-strong contingent of armed police raided the printshop which had just produced a third reprinting of 100,000 copies of the issue of the newspaper carrying the interview. The newspapers were seized, the plant destroyed and its owner carried off to prison, where he remains.

Soon afterwards *El Diario* editor and publisher Luis Arce was arrested and charged with links to the PCP. After 37 days in prison, charges against him were dropped for lack of evidence and he was released. The newspaper appeared in small weekly editions until early October, when the government finally succeeded in making sure that it could not be printed. Subsequently, its offices were bombed, as were the homes of staff. In December, Arce was again arrested for violating a new decree outlawing "apologists for terrorism", a law aimed at keeping *El Diario* closed down. Once again he was released. This time, he slipped out of the country and launched a tour of Europe to raise funds so that the newspaper could buy its own press, as well as to spread the truth about what is happening in Peru.

On March 8th, after five months of silence, *El Diario* appeared once

again, this time in a weekly edition, limited to about 50,000 copies because of the size of its press. (Its circulation is said to be about half in the capital and half in the provinces.) The first new issue carried an editorial about the solidarity campaign to raise money for the newspaper, reporting that the strongest support for the newspaper had come from the factories and surrounding quarters and shantytowns.

In Europe, Arce spoke of current events in Peru to *A World To Win*. Along with holding a series of public meetings, he had prepared a presentation for the UN's Human Rights Commission in Geneva, which refused to allow him to appear before it in person. Arce's document revealed the extensive links between the Comando Rodrigo Franco, Garcia's APRA party and the government in general. Arce was given some of this information by members of the police, when he was in prison, and later made investigations. The information confirms brief items in the *New York Times* and the European press naming Garcia's Presidential Minister Agustin Mantilla as head of a secret terrorist organisation operating through DIRCOTE (the Peruvian "anti-terrorist" police), utilising APRA members and police trained variously in the United States and North Korea, as well as arms provided by North Korea.

This death squad has assassinated about two dozen people so far. In addition to prominent people accused of favouring or defending the PCP or its members, others who have incurred the APRA party's anger have also become targets. The Comando murdered an Ayacucho reporter for a right-wing magazine in January 1989. They have also engaged in psychological warfare against the revolution, sending out armed units to paint counter-revolutionary graffiti and threats on the walls during shutdowns, bombing the tomb of PCP martyr Edith Lagos and carrying out acts of reactionary revenge and intimidation. Several of their victims are known to have been first arrested in a legal manner by DIRCOTE police shortly before being found shot dead on a beach. The media then received a

communique in the name of the Comando, and the police denied all knowledge.

Arce and recent issues of *El Diario* have also provided important information concerning the prisoners of war who survived the 1986 massacre and others more recently arrested. In June 1986, the Garcia government first provoked the prisoners' resistance, then sent in the Armed Forces to assault them and finally murder many of those who surrendered. In all, 250 revolutionary prisoners were shot, stabbed, tied up with explosive charges and blown up, or buried alive. During the course of these crimes and afterwards as well, to cover them up, the Armed Forces leveled the Fronton island dungeon and the prison at Lurigancho. Since then, all the political prisoners in Lima, including the 100 or so women previously held at El Callao, have been regrouped in the new Lima prison called Canto Grande. Others are being held at local jails throughout the country.

The prisoners at Canto Grande were reportedly preparing to hold an International Women's Day celebration March 8th. There is every indication that they have continued to carry out their highly self-disciplined regime of training, study and revolutionary handicrafts work as part of carrying out the PCP's line of turning the prisons into a "shining trench of combat". Still, they are subject to constant harassment, violence and attempts to break them politically and physically. The modern installation has been without electricity in the prisoners' quarters since earlier this year. Among other things, this means they cannot cook, although most of what they depend on for nourishment cannot be eaten raw. Their families are prohibited from bringing them fresh fruits and vegetables, prepared and packaged foods. The prisoners have responded by having family visitors bring them firewood, but these visits, too, are often blocked.

All reports now coming out of Peru indicate a rising and rather widespread sense of disgust with the regime, even among better-off sec-

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tions of the people. An important factor in creating this mood was the June 1986 prison massacre. Despite Garcia's efforts to throw the blame on the murdered prisoners themselves, a long echo of details leaking out revealed the cold-blooded premeditation and horrifying savagery with which this slaughter was planned and carried out. His unlimited hypocrisy in attempting to cover up what had happened has helped reveal his own blood-stained role as the author of this crime.

This has been followed by recent revelations concerning the continuing Armed Forces massacres of whole villages in the "emergency zones". For months, an investigating commission headed by an APRA Senator laboured to discredit rumours that in May 1988 the Armed Forces had wiped out the village of Cayara, in Ayacucho. The unexpected discovery of a mass grave and some 30 bodies put an ignominious end to their efforts. It turned out that the peasants had been rounded up and killed in retribution for an ambush on an Army unit the day before. (The People's Guerrilla Army had annihilated a patrol of 25 soldiers, Comrade Gonzalo explained in the interview.) The regime had gone to great lengths to portray such massacres as a thing of the past in order to avoid the discredit that had been heaped on the previous government. Nevertheless, even after the bodies were uncovered, Garcia issued a statement backing the Armed Forces in this matter, saying that "they are expected to produce results". The event has had continuing repercussions.

Perhaps one sign of just how desperate the Garcia government has become was the roundup of a number of musicians, actors, poets and painters in the first part of 1989.

For several months now, it has been a commonplace saying, high and low in Peruvian society, that the government is losing the war. The optimistic image that Garcia was able to project during the first

period after his 1985 election has been replaced by public manifestations of depression and despair. A popular joke has it that the only reason the Armed Forces have not yet staged a coup is because no one wants to preside over the untenable situation in which the country's ruling classes find themselves.

Upon taking office, Garcia adopted an economic policy meant to stabilise the political situation for the government. Government measures did stimulate what was then an almost stagnant economy, but their effect was perverse, since the most profitable areas of the economy are those linked to imperialist capital, and inputs required imports which had to be paid for in dollars. Thus the economic growth itself played a major part in bringing about economic crises.

In an attempt to present himself as the champion of the nation against imperialist capital, Garcia announced that the country's debt payments would be limited to 10% of its exports. In spite of this promise, which would have meant little even if he had kept it, debt payments amounted to about 20% of export income, and the country was caught between dwindling export earnings and increasing dependency on imports. At first Garcia demagogically broke relations with the IMF, saying he would not accept the austerity measures that have brought riots in country after country where they were applied; then he implemented such measures "independently". Finally, his recent attempts to crawl back to the IMF have failed because the country is unable to make any debt payments at all.

Inflation hit 2000% in 1988 and was climbing vertiginously during the first part of 1989. Alongside power blackouts, the government's virtual bankruptcy has also led to water shortages in the capital and to the sewer system backing up in the public water supply, with horrible results for the city's masses. Food shortages have become chronic, caused by a combination of the severing of roads to the countryside, import restrictions and overall economic chaos. Bubonic plague is reported to be breaking out in some

rural "emergency zones".

This situation of extremely sharp political infighting among the ruling classes, against a background of acute economic crisis and a deteriorating military situation for the government, cannot last long in its present form. This is something on which informed observers of even the most opposing class viewpoints agree.

The PCP Congress documents enumerated "the concrete situations and possibilities we face" and that the Party must take into account in developing its work in the present situation:

1) The appearance of "armed groups like the MRTA...in the service of imperialism and social-imperialism".

As Comrade Gonzalo pointed out, the MRTA (Movimiento Revolucionario Tupac Amaru) held out the hope that the newly-elected APRA government would not "attack the people" and offered it an indefinite truce, even while Garcia was directing the slaughter of imprisoned revolutionaries and other atrocities. The ambiguous relations between the MRTA and the government were demonstrated after the recent capture of the head of the armed organisation, when the head of the APRA party paid a prison visit to his life-long friend.

2) The "unfolding fascism and corporatism" of the ruling APRA party.

3) The possibility of "urban explosions" which "social-imperialism and reaction in general could use their representatives to take advantage of".

4) "A coup d'etat could take place, and furthermore, Garcia himself could arrange his exit through a phoney coup, to save himself for the future." Garcia cannot legally succeed himself as president; further, at the moment his political disgrace is so complete that he is the butt of popular suicide jokes.

5) "An Allende-type government", referring to the reformist Chilean government headed by Salvador Allende, overthrown by General Pinochet in 1973. "The sinister role of the United Left should be considered with this pos-

sibility in mind." General elections are to take place in Peru in 1990 and the former Lima mayor, United Left leader Alfonso Barrantes, is said by the reactionary press to be a frontrunner at this point. In regard to these elections, Comrade Gonzalo said in the interview, "the main thing is to boycott them and if possible prevent them from happening."

6) The "problems at the country's borders which could become very acute at any moment". Brazil temporarily took over Bolivia at the U.S.'s behest in the early 1970s; politically and economically Brazil itself has a great deal at stake in Peru. Chile and Ecuador both have had important border conflicts with Peru.

7) "The sending of Yankee troops has already occurred, and is no longer just a possibility." The U.S. admits having 20 military men (under the authority of the well-named U.S. "Drug Enforcement Administration") in the upper Huallaga Valley. In the last few months the U.S. sent in four more helicopters to the area, bringing the total to nine. Foreign reporters speak of higher numbers of U.S. personnel, mention the presence of other U.S. aircraft with American crews, and add that the U.S. is also building itself an airstrip near Uchiza. According to editor Arce, in reality the U.S. presently has about 200 military personnel and advisors in Peru.

It should be pointed out that the U.S. troops invaded southern Bolivia in 1986 with the pretext of controlling the coca crop and 300 U.S. troops have been stationed there since. What seems to be an orchestrated campaign of news reports abroad about the inability of the Garcia government to control the situation reflects an aspect of truth, but it could also very well be part of preparing foreign public opinion for escalating intervention.

While the U.S. and the USSR and their respective imperialist blocs pursue opposing interests in Peru, they have in common implacable hatred of the revolution. The USSR, Peru's main supplier of heavy arms since the self-styled "revolutionary" military government of the previous decade, was

said by Arce to have about 400 advisors in the country, including 60 military personnel. North Korea's role in the government death squads can be assumed to be tied to Soviet social-imperialism's efforts. It is noteworthy that the U.S. is not making a fuss about the Soviet military involvement in Peru, as it is with Cuba and Nicaragua, the only other recipients of significant amounts of Soviet weapons in what the U.S. considers its "back yard". Still, the U.S. has been said to have protested to the USSR about its relations with the MRTA.

8) "Imperialist wars and aggression continue to multiply; a world war for hegemony between the USA and the USSR is still being prepared through their contention and collusion on a world scale, and therefore people's war is an urgent necessity, and people's world war the inevitable perspective for the future.

"All these possibilities must be taken seriously into account in order to conduct the people's war with politics in command, especially with the perspective of the seizure of countrywide political power that could present itself and has to be taken up. Therefore we must be firmly prepared, ideologically, politically and organisationally."

This Congress, Comrade Gonzalo explained in the interview, "summed up the long road we have traveled. It established the three elements of the Party's basis of unity: its ideology, that is, Marxism-Leninism - Maoism, Gonzalo Thought; its programme; and its general political line. Further, it established a solid basis to march towards the future seizure of state power." "Our revolution", Comrade Gonzalo also said, "is firmly linked to the world revolution; world communism is our final and definitive goal."

"The prospects for full-fledged political power are coming into view", the Congress concluded. "This gives encouragement to the world's revolutionaries, especially to the international proletariat."

The events of the last year in Peru show that this assessment is no idle boast; rather it is a description of the work the Party has been carrying out with giant strides. □