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28 March, 1993
Notes on the 4th Delegation

Dear Friends:

As of tonight, we have a delegation of at least four definite delegates with tickets, and over 6 more good-to-very-good possibilities. Also, we plan to send a Spanish/English translator with the delegation.

This is a particularly auspicious moment for our mission. The Fujimori regime has really been put on the defensive concerning their vicious human rights record. Emergency Bulletin 26 outlines some of the latest developments-- including the outlandish invitation by Fujimori to government representatives to come visit "human-rights-abuses-free Peru."* Also, the Red Cross has been able to resume visits to the prisons, which is potentially an important victory if this situation can hold. It also creates an opening like never before for our delegation to gain access to the political prisoners, and possibly even Dr Guzman. There are a lot of eyes on Peru right now, and Fujimori has been forced to back off a bit in an effort to clean up his human rights image. Nothing substantive has changed in terms of the conditions of people, but the public claims of Fujimori may make it harder for him to openly harass the delegation, especially one of this stature.

The principal purpose of the delegation is to investigate, expose and challenge the situation imposed on Dr Guzman, with the aim of defending his life. The most important practical task of the delegation is to make the demand to Fujimori that the delegation be allowed to visit Dr Guzman, to see that he is alive. This will also probably be the most difficult task to undertake because the government definitely does not want such a visit to happen, and we frankly don't think it is likely that they will agree to this visit, though there is a better chance now than before. If such a visit is not permitted, this should be exposed in Peru by the delegation. In addition, his situation of incarceration-- solitary confinement, no access to his lawyer, no visitors of any sort since October 11, no proper medical care for his illness, serious weight loss, no reading material-- these conditions amount to torture by all recognized international standards. This should be exposed and the international human rights organizations who up to now have not protested this situation should be challenged as to why they have not.

The U.S. and Peruvian authorities are trying to set a very serious precedent with their persecution of Dr Guzman. He was the first civilian to be brought before a military tribunal and sentenced to life for treason. Since then, over 100 political prisoners have been tried and sentenced to life for

* A 2 March news service report from AP and EFE that human rights groups like the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights, (and maybe Amnesty and Americas Watch) are arriving in Peru on April 1 --supposedly in response to Fujimori's invitation to assess the human rights situation. The presence of this other delegation may well create better conditions for our delegation as it would be quite embarrassing for the government to expel us at the same time as they welcome others. (These international human rights groups generally equate the PCP actions to the government/army attacks on the people, and Amnesty has recently made the ludicrous statement that PCP kills more people than the government!-- a claim which the government's own figures refute.) We think it would be good for the delegation to attempt to meet with this group, if possible, and ask them what they are doing concerning Dr Guzman, the political prisoners and the harassment, arrests and assaults on lawyers.)

either treason or "apology for terrorism." On this most important point, we attach to this letter an excerpt from the keynote speech given at the IEC Founding Conference on 27 February.

How the world responds to the treatment of Dr Guzman will have an important impact on how he and the political prisoners throughout Peru and the rest of the world are treated in this age of the ugly U.S.-imposed New World Order.

THE PLAN FOR THE DELEGATION:

The plan is for the delegation to go to Peru, investigate the conditions of Dr Guzman, including attempting to visit him. They should also try to visit the other political prisoners, meet with government officials, meet with the Red Cross and the Colegio des Abogados. Finally, the delegation should hold a press conference in Peru at the end of the visit. Holding this press conference in Peru is extremely important, because with it the news of this delegation is certain to reach the peasants high in the Andes and all the shantytowns of Lima. And we know that many people in Peru took great encouragement from the 3 earlier delegations-- the very fact that delegates from many countries have come to Peru to protest of the terrible things going on there, including the persecution of Dr Guzman, has meant alot. The first delegation was visited by a journalist from Ayacucho who travelled a great distance to tell them that the work of this delegation was greatly appreciated. He said he spoke for many many people who could not visit the delegation.

One of the delegates will be going 1 day earlier than the others to make arrangements to meet the people we want to speak to (some of whom are keeping a low profile). We have several avenues for contacting the democratic lawyers and families of political prisoners including those of the incarcerated lawyers, and this will occupy the first 2-3 days (including the weekend). The rest of the delegates arrive on 2 April, and they can meet at the hotel and get to know one another. The next 2 days, through the weekend, will be the first phase of the delegation-- the quiet work. During this period, the delegation can meet with the democratic lawyers and the families of the political prisoners. They could also do some investigation the general situation for the masses in Peru, perhaps trying to visit a shantytown if possible.

On the Monday (5 April), the second and most important phase of the delegation's mission will begin-- the public phase. At this time, the delegation should make an appeal to Fujimori, the Prime Minister Oscar de la Puente, and the Minister of Justice for a meeting. With this appeal they should make a request to see Dr Guzman (as well as the other political prisoners). This effort to visit Dr Guzman is at the centre of the delegation's mission. We think it should definitely be attempted, even though it is likely to be complex and perhaps difficult to contact the right person in the government, etc. It also involves some risk, as the government will not be happy about the delegation's demands, and will likely put the delegation under the immediate surveillance and possible harassment by DINCOTE. The press will also go into action at this point, we predict. This will be very helpful for our cause as it spreads the news of the delegation to the people of Peru. Some of the press are not friendly, however, as you can imagine.

It is our suggestion that, if possible, during this second phase the delegation should also try to meet with the local office of the Red Cross and with the Colegio des Abogados (This is the Lima Bar Association; although its head is reactionary, we think it would be worthwhile to make an appeal to them

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on behalf of the imprisoned lawyers, specifically Dr Crespo and Dr Cartegena, who were members of the Colegio. The Colegio is supposedly obliged to look after their members.)

At the end of the mission, before the delegates leave, the delegation should call a press conference in Peru and announce their findings. We think it is important that in whatever meetings the delegation has with lawyers and others in Peru, they tell them of the growing vitality and breadth of the worldwide campaign. This should also be a key point in the press conference, as this broad support has been systematically omitted from any news accounts in Peru, and internationally (the list of signatories, for example).

We want to emphasize: this "schedule" is inevitably subject to change! We cannot predict exactly how things will go once the delegation reaches Peru, and our intention is not to insist that the delegation follow this plan down to the last detail of timing. However, we feel it is important that the primary goal of the delegation be kept constantly in mind: making the demand to the government to visit Dr Guzman, attempting to do so, and making a public press conference in Peru to report on the results of the delegation's visit.

THE CONDITIONS:

Regarding the situation in Peru: The delegation should expect that they will be attacked by the press and the government, although we think if they do quiet investigation at first, they can avoid immediate arrest and expulsion. The "security" for the delegation rests with the fact that it is supported by millions of people in Peru and around the world, we do not think the government will want to physically harm a delegation of this stature, especially given their contradictions at this time. Also, with the risks the delegation takes, come great opportunities: we can expect that news of this delegation will reach the peasants even in the highest reaches of the Andean mountains. Even if the delegation is reviled in the press, their presence will be very heartening to the people of Peru suffering under the Fujimori dictatorship. It will also have impact internationally, especially as the delegates return.

This delegation's experience will be in some ways different from previous ones, because the situation on the ground has changed, especially with regard to the Association of Democratic Lawyers (ADL). The ADL met with all of our previous delegations, and Dr Crespo himself was a big help and source of information. But the ADL are officially banned now, and cannot practice law, and we all know Dr Crespo's and Dr Cartegena's situation (we have heard they have been transferred from Canto Grande Prison to Puno Prison which is far to the south of Peru, with many of the other political prisoners). We don't know how free the other ADL lawyers are to move around, but we know there will be lawyers and family members who will come forward to meet with the delegation, despite the risks, once they know the delegation is in Peru. We have certain phone numbers for the delegation to make contact, and we are making other arrangements as well.

The costs inside Peru will be approximately £50/day, including accommodations (2 per room) at the Sheraton. We have found that the extra expense for such a hotel is worth it, because it gives the added security of a hotel which is subject to international pressure (this has been important with past delegations). Also, there are telephones in the rooms- another security consideration.

Delegates will need to bring money in dollars as no other exchange is available in Peru. Also it is important to bring sufficient money, or credit cards, as it is very difficult to wire money quickly to Peru.

Delegates should be prepared to have their luggage searched going into Peru, so telephone numbers should be dealt with carefully. (We don't think a search upon entry is likely to happen, as the delegates will be arriving without fanfare, but it's possible.) It is very likely however that upon departure from Peru the delegates' baggage will be searched and any political material and notes will be confiscated. This has happened with some members of earlier delegations. It is therefore quite important that delegates post material from Peru to a good address in their home country so that 1) this material makes it out of the country, and 2) the people whom the delegation has met in Peru are not compromised by having information about them end up in the hands of the authorities.

It's important that one or more members of the delegation call the IEC in London at least every evening, and more often if necessary. We will be available 24 hours. These phone calls will likely be listened to, so this should be kept in mind. We will also try to arrange other means of communication.

The delegates should rest assured that the IEC in London and the committees around the world stand ready to support its delegation in every way possible. Whatever happens in Peru-- and we expect it will be a great success-- thousands of people will know about it by fax, and will be ready to act accordingly.

With this journey, the delegation is embarking on a mission which will have a great impact on the people, we are certain of that. Contact us with any questions and ideas. Saluds!

Warm Regards,

IEC Coordinating Committee, London

Excerpt from the Keynote Speech at the IEC Founding Conference
Duisburg, Germany - 27 February, 1993
"Why We Say Dr Abimael Guzman is the Most Important Political
Prisoner in the World"

"...From the moment of Dr Guzman's arrest, this broad and diverse campaign rose up around the world to defend him. This is because he is the most important political prisoner in the world today.

"Why do we say this?

"One answer is that we have heard it many many times ourselves, for instance, from behind the walls in far-off Buca prison in Turkey. There, nearly a hundred political prisoners, on hunger strike against the vicious U.S.-backed Turkish regime, united their voices in defense of this man, Dr Guzman.

"But you don't have to go so far as Buca, Turkey to see this. You only have to pick up your local newspaper, and you can read that the imperialists and reactionaries themselves have singled out Dr Guzman as world enemy number one. That sacred institution of the U.S. government, the U.S. Senate, unanimously passed a resolution hailing the capture of Dr Guzman -- when else have they done such a thing? The rulers in Washington hate this man so much that one Congressman, Torticelli, right in the halls of Congress called for Dr Guzman's execution. For what other person today has the entire secret police of a country been mobilized to track him down, under the guidance of the CIA itself? ...All this amounts practically to a holy crusade against Dr Guzman, and all these forces have been aided at every step by the world's media, who have tried to demonize him as the devil incarnate, without a single virtue.

"It was, above all, the U.S. itself which singled out Dr Guzman. Why has the U.S. singled out Dr Guzman like this, and what do they want to accomplish?

"They are first of all trying to save their control of Peru and crush the hopes for radical change of its people. As we say in the IEC Call, millions of people in Peru look to Dr Guzman as a political leader. For centuries, the Peruvian people have been bled dry by the dominant rich Western countries -- and the only item on the U.S. agenda is that this goes on and on and on. This is why we say, U.S. Hands off Dr Guzman -- Yankee Go Home!

"They are also trying to send a message to anyone who dares oppose them anywhere in the world that they will be crushed. When the U.S.-backed Fujimori regime tries to bury Dr Guzman alive, they are trying to bury alive all the rebellion and dissent that opposes them. Yet Dr Guzman himself showed better than anyone that they can never succeed in this. For even in the darkest hours of his confinement, when the Fujimori regime wanted to present an image of a beaten and defeated man to the world, instead Dr Guzman roared like a lion, and it was this roar of uncowed defiance that was heard round the world, even in the darkest dungeons of Buca, Turkey, and Leavenworth, USA.

"The determination of the U.S. to get Dr Guzman was reflected in the actions of its flunkey, Fujimori; when the U.S. pulls the strings, Fujimori dances. Dr Guzman's trial trampled on the most elementary rights of the defense, with its hooded Spanish Inquisition justices, its military trial, its secret session, its refusal to hear any legal arguments on Dr Guzman's behalf. This reached a new low last month when they imprisoned Dr Guzman's attorney, Dr Crespo, for life, just for being his lawyer. When they locked up Dr Crespo, they were saying that those who oppose them have no rights to a defense, not even the right to a lawyer, in fact, no rights period.

"This singling out of Dr Guzman is seen too in the fact that they are

building a special prison just to hold this one man! The outrageous treatment of Dr Guzman goes hand in hand with the entire reign of terror that the U.S./Fujimori dictatorship maintains over the poor of Peru -- through disappearances, rape, murder and the repeated massacres of the political prisoners there.

"When looking over this entire process of the hunting down, capture and imprisonment of Dr Guzman it can be seen that the U.S. is trying to set a reactionary precedent. In the rapidly changing world situation that they call the New World Order, the Yankee rulers above all are determined to step out aggressively against any opposition to their interests, particularly in the Third World. Part of this is trying to mount a campaign to divide up resistance movements into acceptable or unacceptable, according to their own big power interests. For instance, they now have labelled Kurdish fighters in Saddam Hussein's Iraq as acceptable, while they say Kurdish fighters in NATO Turkey are unacceptable, and so are Irish fighters in Great Britain and Tamils in Sri Lanka. And for them, the PCP, who is supported by no foreign power, is the worst of all, and anyone who talks about its rights or the rights of Dr Guzman is an apologist for terrorism, whom they now put in prison for life -- as some members of our own delegations have been threatened.

"This effort has, unfortunately, been aided by the major international human rights group in the world, like Americas Watch and even Amnesty International. These groups go around equating the acts of those movements like the one led by the PCP, who rise up in arms against a fascist government, with the murderous acts of the Fujimori regime and the Peruvian armed forces. This is the new meaning of the codeword: 'human rights abuses'.

"This is the reactionary new precedent they are trying to set with Dr Guzman's case. This is seen in the new laws they are passing in many of these countries where struggles are going on that they consider 'unacceptable'. In Peru, Turkey and other places they are making 'terrorism' a legal category, such as the 'apology for terrorism' charge I just mentioned. This kind of development, plus the recent arrest of any lawyer who dares to defend political prisoners has enraged many lawyers and human rights activists around the world."