

STATEMENT OF JULIO ROSADO, EASTERN REGIONAL COORDINATOR,
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The recent wave of publicity surrounding four bombings by the FALN in New York City demonstrates how often the interests of the press for ready-made news and the age-old police objectives of terrorizing the public with a barrage of misinformation works so well.

Behind all that has been said lies buried the actions of the United States government which are the cause of the bombings.

The United States, as part of its Caribbean Basin Initiative has made of Puerto Rico the central focal point for its political, economic and military activities in the region. Under the ominous title "The 2020 Plan" (after the year 2,020 when it is to be completed) the United States government proposes the creation of eleven industrial parks and 17 military bases in Puerto Rico.

This project, beginning in 1985, would reduce the population of Puerto Rico from an expected five million people in the year 2,000, to 1.5 million in the year 2020. The reduced population would be located around the coastal industrial parks where they would work piecing together the machinery and goods which would be distributed throughout the Caribbean and Central America by a number of corporations which would relocate Puerto Rican factories and distribution centers in that country.

Further, the Central Mountain Range, rich in deposits of nickel, manganese, cobalt, copper, gold, silver, and uranium, would be open-pit mined, and both primary and secondary smelting operations would be located in Puerto Rico before the ingots were shipped to the United States. Offshore mining and petroleum extraction would also take place.

To implement this plan, 80 per cent of the fresh water of Puerto Rico would be required, thus creating the need for a vastly reduced population. It is noteworthy that current sterilization programs run by the United States Health Services as Family Planning Programs have resulted in the sterilization of 40 per cent of Puerto Rican women of child bearing age, and 25 per cent of the men.

The waste products of the mining project and the refinement of metals would result in an increase of temperature in the water surrounding the island of between 10 and 20 degrees, thus killing off the sea life upon which the ecological balance depends, and denying the Puerto Rican people of a means of livelihood (fishing) and food.

But while the 2020 Plan is an objective, the United States government has clearly indicated that it faces two problems in its implementation which must be solved: First, the Puerto Rican independence movement; the armed organizations advocating Puerto Rican independence.

To organize a campaign aimed at the isolation and liquidation of the leading sectors of the Puerto Rican independence movement, the United States Department of State and the United States Justice Department jointly organized a conference on counter-insurgency in San Juan in 1978.

Present at this meeting were on torture, such a General Querrolo, of Uruguay. Others present were United States Ambassador Anthony Quainton, then director of the United States office on Terrorism at the State Department and later ambassador to Nicaragua; British General Richard Clutterbuck; Dr. Richard Mulder of Holland; Reinhart Rupprecht of Germany; Robin Bourne of Canada; Dr. Aaron Katz of the Center for Human Behavior (and the coordinator of the conference); as well as agents of the FBI and the CIA.

The objective was to draft a plan to redefine the laws in order to facilitate political internment, discuss their common experience on psychological torture and "induced suicide," and disinformation campaigns using the media "to isolate guerrillas from their mass base."

The repression of the overall Puerto Rican independence movement has been a constant factor in the colonization, pacification and permanence of the United States in Puerto Rico. The solution to the colonial problem for United States policy makers has always been violence and repression.

In 1936, the United States government began an eight-year long campaign to destroy the Puerto Rican independence movement. In that period, more than 30 persons were killed and over 200 seriously wounded by police and federal agents in Puerto Rico. More than 50 persons were imprisoned under conspiracy laws. In the Ponce Massacre of March, 1937, alone, 20 were killed and 200 wounded when police and federal agents opened fire on unarmed demonstrators.

In 1950, a large scale round-up of independence advocates provoked an uprising which led to the death of over 200 Puerto Rican nationalists and the detention of over 5,000 people.

In the period of 1978-1982, eight Puerto Ricans have been murdered, three totally dissapeared, and over 22 imprisoned for their independence advocacy.

But it is a movement that not only refuses to go away, but grows in its most adequate forms at the proper moment.

One of the current means of repression by the United States government is the uses of the Grand Jury subpoenas to incarcerate people it cannot formally accuse of crimes. Another has been the selective assasination of independence advocates

that the government has considered dangerous.

One of the organizations that the U.S. government considers dangerous is the Movimiento de Liberacion Nacional (MLN) for very significant reasons. First, because it is at present the only Puerto Rican independence organization present throughout the U.S. Second, because it upholds the right of the Puerto Rican people to use all means at their disposal to rid our country of colonialism.

Third, because it has enough support in the Puerto Rican population to run a network of journals, magazines and newspapers which project the current reality of the Puerto Rican question.

The M.L.N. however is not an armed organization. It does not conduct armed actions. Paragraph I-4 of its constitution clearly states: "The tactics of struggle of the Movimiento de Liberacion Nacional prohibit armed struggle as a means of organizing the masses. It is a movement to harness a popular movement and not an armed movement."

The M.L.N., we think, represents a positive force within the Puerto Rican independence movement. We have been principled and open in all our actions and pronouncements.

Our principal contention with the government of the U.S. is to insist on negotiations between pro-independence political representatives in Puerto Rico and representatives of the U.S. government on a project for decolonization.

The attempts by the government of the United States to reduce its contact with the Puerto Rican independence movements to one of criminal proceedings and court litigations is an act of bad faith which can only contribute to a climate of violence on both sides of the dispute and cannot be conducive to a concrete resolution of the political and economic issues of the colonial question.

Finally, being human beings--parents, husbands and wives in many instances, the M.L.N. cannot take pleasure in the loss of a single life, nor in the injury to any person. However, the full responsibility for such tragic consequences can only be on the shoulders of those who continue to insist on a colonial relationship in a world where such a relationship is a aberration.

REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL PARKS (PROPOSED FOR 1985-2020)

1990 - PRELIMINARY LAND USE MASTER PLAN FOR PUERTO RICO COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR - PUERTO RICO PLANNING BOARD

