Trends. On Drugs? Response to the Peruvian Elections

Editor
As of this writing, concerns over an outright stealing of the presidential election in Peru have been temporarily abated. Even with the many documented campaign and electoral "dirty tricks" primarily effected by agents of the incumbent, there will be a run-off between President Alberto Fujimori and Mr. Alejandro Toledo. This is good news to Peruvians and to other observers inside and outside of Peru who value a move towards some notion of fair elections, shared governance, and democracy.

In this context, the response of the head of the United States (US) Office of National Drug Policy and Control, General Barry R. McCaffrey, is most intriguing. As cited in The New York Times, he stated that for the US and Peru to cooperate "these elections (must) be viewed both by Peruvians and the international community as having been fair and above board." He also posited that the future would be very uneasy "unless it's demonstrated convincingly to the international community that that's (fair and above board election) what's happening."