***Chapter 15***

 **Between December 28th and 31st , 1981, all the major national newspapers, including the NY Times, the Washington Post, LA Times, Boston Globe and others, printed an astonishing press release: an arrogant, self-glorifying appropriation of responsibility of the bomb hoax and its destructive aftermath by a fanatic, heretofore unknown Marxist-Leninist Puerto Rican terrorist group calling itself the *Jibaros de la Violenzia*. It read:**

**The *Jibaros de la Violenzia* takes every justifiable pride in acknowledging responsibility for the success of its revolutionary action on Christmas Eve at the Academy of Music in Philadelphia.**

**The *Jibaros de la Violenzia* is a classic Marxist-Leninist vanguard movement aimed at the total disruption of the metropolitan superstructure through the strategic implantation of situations of violence. Apart from our implacable hatred of Pablo Casals, whom we regard as a class enemy, the presence of the cowardly Hernando Guzman, lackey ‘governor’ of Puerto Rico with his train of boot-licking stooges, turned this act into a revolutionary obligation.**

 ***Death To All Imperialists! Kick Out The Yanqui Leeches! Freedom for Puerto Rico***

**Nobody had ever heard of the “Jibaros de la Violenzia”. Spokespersons for Puerto Rican and Hispanic community organizations across the country rose up the denounce the Jibaros . They disclaimed any sympathy with their cause and methods as well as all knowledge of their existence. Militant nationalist organizations in Puerto Rico and elsewhere followed suit.**

 **The lone exception was registered by a handful ancient members of a defunct organization calling itself the ALC : “Armed Liberation Commandos”. The ALC had known a brief exposure to the limelight for a series of explosions and other terrorist acts in early 70’s. They’d never killed anyone, the papers had never shown any interest in them, so the organization had withered away through public indifference.**

**A wizened Puerto Rican, claiming to be a former staff member of the ALC, had consented to be interviewed by NBC, provided that he remain anonymous. Although he’d never heard of the Jibaros either, he expressed full sympathy for its methods. Were he were 20 years younger he would join them. Speaking in the name of a now defunct ALC, the Jibaros had shamed its *machismo* . “If only”, he mourned, “we’d been able to kill a few people!” In its decade or so of existence it had never done anything so brilliant, so well-planned or well executed.**

 **Moments after the newspapers hit the stands the FBI unleashed a systematic round-up, arrest and deportation of Puerto Rican independence activists. They were easy to track down, having been on their lists of trouble-makers for decades. Numerous individuals went underground. Many had already returned to the island voluntarily to wait out the storm. These options were denied The HIPR was too prominently connected with the tragedy to avail itself of these options.**

 **All political organizations in the Puerto Rican community, not only the nationalists, readied themselves for a new wave of repression. Fresh in the public memory there was the sensational hi-jacking that had grounded a 707 jet, with 2 US Congressmen on board, in Havana. Castro had handed the hi-jackers over to the FBI. Now its’ team of 3 men and a woman were serving 75 year sentences in federal penitentiaries. Arrests and deportations had blazed through the Puerto Rican community for awhile, then had died away after a year or so. The present situation was bound to be met with far greater severity.**