

Colombians Judo Dope-Pusher Bourne's Smear Tactics

For more than a year, Dr. Peter Bourne has been trying to blackmail the government of Colombia on behalf of World Bank policy. But the effort has finally blown up in Bourne's face, and left the Carter Administration with a serious international incident on its hands.

COLOMBIA

Bourne, President Carter's special dope advisor, is notorious in the United States for his advocacy of legalized marijuana, heroin, cocaine, and so forth. The transformation of Colombia into a drug-economy — one of Bourne's long-term goals — corresponds nicely to his domestic drug-pushing, and would have set a Third World precedent: low-capital, cheap-labor agriculture to produce narcotics export to generate foreign exchange, "hyping" instruments of national indebtedness drawn in London and New York, predominantly London.

But last week, the Colombian government kicked Dr. Peter Bourne in the teeth for direct interference into Colombia's election. Colombian President Lopez Michelsen and his near-certain successor, Liberal Party candidate Julio Cesar Turbay, sharply refuted Bourne's effort to implicate

drug trafficking, blasting the allegations as blackmail and an assault on Colombia's national sovereignty.

The Lopez government not only made Bourne look bad, but severely damaged the broader British policy of spreading drugs and imposing retrograde, labor-intensive economic policies internationally.

Bourne, who is a British intelligence "mole" in the White House and is attached to the Institute for Policy Studies' broader British networks, was called to account for unsubstantiated allegations contained in a confidential memorandum he delivered to President Lopez on Colombian cocaine traffic in the summer of 1977. The memo was accompanied by a list of government officials allegedly involved in that trafficking, among them Defense Minister Varon Valencia, Labor Minister Oscar Montoya, and presidential candidate Turbay.

Bourne's "secret" list was clearly part of a general diplomatic and political offensive designed to crush what remained of the Lopez government's resistance to World Bank policy.

In "Pentagon Papers" fashion, the "secret" memo and list were "leaked" and, over a period of months, came to constitute the core of a press and slander campaign which specifically targeted Turbay. Such British-influenced newspapers as *Le Monde* of Paris, the *New York Times*, and the *New York Post* revelled in accusations that Turbay was a leading drug mafioso and

Who Is Julio Cesar Turbay?

Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala, the Liberal Party candidate for President of Colombia, has built his career on the development of a political grassroots machine whose sole objective is to take power. Turbay himself lacks a clear intellectual and moral commitment to the industrial development of the nation. Although the program he has defined to date stresses the need to upgrade agricultural production to produce cheap foodstuffs for the urban population, it essentially adheres to the World Bank's conception of limiting economic development to agriculture.

There is a faction within the Turbay camp, however, which more definitively opposes the World Bank and IMF programs for deindustrialization and labor-intensive "development." It looks instead toward Mexico and Venezuela, and the need to develop the state sector of the economy, as the model for the

modernization and industrialization of Colombia. This tendency has also stressed the need to convert Turbay's political grassroots machine into a constituency-oriented party along the lines of Mexico's Revolutionary Institutional Party (PRI).

To the degree that this prodevelopment faction is in a position to link constituency demands to a positive program for the development of Colombian industry and labor power, and shape Turbay's presidency, it is a threat to those British-connected U.S. political factions committed to devastating what remains of Colombia's productive economic activity. The recent barrage of attacks on Turbay and his supporter, President Lopez Michelsen, from outside and inside Colombia, are designed to so weaken Turbay that he will be forced to accede to the World Bank's policy once he reaches the Presidency.

Colombia his "Cocaine Empire."

In March of this year, *New York Times* columnist David Vidal echoed the charge that Colombian democracy was on the verge of collapse under the weight of enormous corruption stemming from drug trafficking. He repeated the warning made by the World Bank's chief advocate in Colombia, Carlos Lleras Restrepo, that if the "corrupt" Turbay were elected, the country could face a military coup.

Then, on April 2, Bourne arranged for CBS-TV to air the charges made in his secret memo on its "60 Minutes" program. This followed Turbay's decisive Feb. 26 primary victory over Carlos Lleras Restrepo, which guarantees — barring a coup or major destabilization — Turbay's entry into the Colombian presidency in August of this year.

Colombia immediately struck back. President Lopez Michelsen attacked the allegations as false and intentionally so. Bourne's policy on drugs, he implied, is rooted in the tradition of British imperialism. He told a CBS-TV interviewer that, although today's drug problems are "not exactly the Opium Wars" of the 19th century, when "entire governments" (Great Britain) backed drug trafficking, the Carter Administration has yet to grasp the "real dimensions" of the problem.

The Bogota daily *El Tiempo* declared in an April 5 editorial that Peter Bourne's policy on drugs is not based on eradication of drug trafficking or combat against the drug mafias. The policy is aimed at forcing a higher price for drugs in the international market, making trafficking "more dangerous and corrupting" in Latin American countries as a result. If Bourne is in charge, in

the White House, the paper suggested, perhaps U.S.-Colombian collaboration on the drug problem should be "reevaluated."

At last report, Bourne was not answering phone calls, and was reported by his Washington office to be "out of the city."

Economics of the Scandal

City of London financial interests and their collaborators in New York and at the World Bank are understandably concerned at the potential for development forces within Turbay's camp who could play a major role in shaping his presidency. They are already pressuring him to break with the current, misnamed National Development Plan (PND) which is based largely on small, labor-intensive industry and agriculture, according to World Bank plans, in particular.

In a guest editorial published in the *New York Times* April 5, Bourne himself publicly endorsed the World Bank's labor-intensive deindustrialization program, promoted under the guise of "income distribution and agrarian reform," as the model for Third World development.

In four years of the Lopez administration, the World Bank has not succeeded in imposing that program, due largely to the resistance of a well-organized labor force, strongly influenced by the country's pro-Soviet Communist Party, and a small faction of business layers who favor capital-intensive development for Colombia.

Fight Back

In his eagerness to discredit Turbay, Bourne simply overplayed his hand. The outrage with which the Lopez

What Is Peter Bourne?

As the details of his training and background demonstrate, Dr. Peter Bourne is morally incompetent to "advise" President Carter on a national drug policy which serves the interests of the American or any other population. British-born Bourne is a leading advocate of the decriminalization of marijuana and cocaine, and the British system of "heroin maintenance." He is trained in behavior modification techniques. He received his early drug experience in Vietnam conducting psychological profiles of Special Forces troops under aversive combat conditions for stress, at which time, he also became an "expert" on international drug trafficking. He put this experience to use in building the drug culture in San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury Free Medical Clinic, where he worked as a psychiatric staffer. Among the "expatriates" of that clinic was mass-murderer Charles Manson.

Throughout his work at Haight-Ashbury, Bourne maintained contact with the counterculture operations run through the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington D.C. In the late 1960s Bourne founded the Maoist proto-terrorist group, Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW). In the early 1970s, he worked directly with terrorist mastermind Marcus Raskin, director of the Institute for Policy Studies, to

set up the southern control point for Maoist and terrorist operations, the Institute for Southern Studies. Simultaneously, he served under the governorship of Jimmy Carter as a special advisor on health matters, creating the largest methadone maintenance system in the South.

Since 1971, Bourne has worked in Washington, D.C. in a variety of drug abuse agencies to promote his policy of drug proliferation and "decriminalization." He collaborates closely with Keith Stroup, director of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML), and with NORML advisor Andrew Weil, a personal friend who carried out research in the Colombian Amazon to show the "beneficial" effects of chewing coca leaves and called for their import into the United States as a "recreational drug."

Immediately following his approval as special White House advisor in early 1977, Bourne and his staff began organizing for implementation of and research into the British system of heroin maintenance. His staff worked directly with Fabian networks in Ohio to draft legislation to this end. The bill was passed by the Ohio House last year, and is expected to be brought before the full Senate shortly for a final vote.

government and other political layers responded to the allegations made against Turbay and cabinet members have enormously strengthened the candidate and placed the Carter Administration in what is — at best — an embarrassing situation.

A salient aspect of the Colombian response is that it identifies Bourne's antics as an overt assault on the country's national sovereignty. Referencing his nation's staunch republican and constitutional tradition, the head of the Colombian House Foreign Relations Committee announced that such flimsy allegations, aired by a U.S. government official, had done a serious "disservice to democracy and to Inter-American politics....(these accusations) have placed in danger the political stability of the Latin American continent. While Turbay himself told the U.S. that Colombia would not succumb to "moral terrorism" of any kind, the heads of state of several Latin American nations sent messages of support to the Lopez government.

In his earlier interview with CBS-TV, President Lopez had accurately described the way in which several Latin American political leaders and heads of state who opposed U.S. policy were specifically targeted for water-gating scandals and drug-running charges. Defense Minister Varon Valencia suggested that U.S. intelligence agencies find out if their informants didn't have "ulterior motives in placing in question the dignity of the Colombian government."

The significance of the Colombian government reaction is located in the fact that it has uncovered the political motivations of Bourne and has thrown back into the face of the Carter Administration its toleration of Peter Bourne's hideous drug policy. Based on advocacy of legalization of marijuana and cocaine, and the implementation of heroin maintenance in both the advanced and underdeveloped sectors, Bourne's policy is not only rooted in the tradition of British imperialism — it is British imperialism.

—C. Rush

How Bourne's Caper Worked — And How It Didn't

The gridding of events below locates Dr. Bourne's blackmail diplomacy against the Lopez Michelsen government of Colombia over a period of months. In June 1977, when the grid begins, three major operations were in effect against Lopez:

In mid-June, Colombia rejected Carter's nominee for Ambassador to Bogota, Jose Cabranes. Cabranes is known to be an intimate collaborator of Mauricio Ferré, mayor of Miami and controller of Cuban exile networks that are themselves involved in drug trafficking. The eastern U.S. press then carried the story that Colombia did not like Cabranes because he is Puerto Rican.

Colombian environmentalists tied to the Ford Foundation began a drive to close down several major chemical plants in Colombia.

A Miami Herald article implicated President Lopez's sister in a network selling Colombian babies to American parents.

June 9, 1977: Rosalynn Carter arrives in Bogota bringing with her Dr. Bourne's "cocaine memorandum."

June 22: Bourne and Malthea Falco, Assistant Secretary of State for narcotics matters, arrive in Colombia. Bourne delivers the confidential list of suspected Colombian drug traffickers to President Lopez.

June 24: Colombia's Justice Minister announces the formation of a fleet of planes and helicopters aimed at combating drug trafficking. Bourne promises that the U.S. will give three helicopters. (Bourne had earlier urged President Carter not to send the helicopters, saying "They are one of the only points of leverage we have.")

*August 5: The first "leak." James Goodsell writes in the *Christian Science Monitor* that there have been "rumors that many prominent Colombian officials have their hands in the drug till. In particular, Julio Cesar Turgay...is accused openly of involvement..."*

November, December, January: Colombian security forces launch a major assault against the country's Atlantic Coast marijuana-growing region. The largest marijuana and cocaine round-ups in history take place.

*Jan. 19, 1978: The second leak. The Paris daily *Le Monde* reports that a U.S. Congressional Commission headed by Rep. Lester Wolff has put out a list of names of people allegedly involved in Colombian drug trafficking: "It seems that the Commission handed the (Colombian) head of state a list of people involved including the names of two ministers — one of which is the Minister of Defense, General Abraham Varon Valencia." Another was Turbay. The article is picked up in all major Colombian press.*

Feb. 21: The U.S. Congress received information on Panamanian Gen. Omar Torrijos's "probable" involvement in drug-running.

Feb. 26: Rep. Lester Wolff goes on CBS's "60 Minutes" to charge that Fidel Castro is connected to international drug-running.

March 16: President Lopez begins a counteroffensive, going on national television to denounce the use of the drug problem as a political weapon.

*March 19, 21, 22: Articles in the *New York Times* and *New York Post* describe Colombia as a drug-pusher's paradise. The *Post* quotes a Queens, N.Y. bar owner as stating: "The story on the street in Colombia is that the man who may be the next president of Colombia heads one of the families (allegedly involved in drug running) in Queens.*

April 2: CBS's "60 Minutes" airs the charges against Turbay and the two cabinet ministers. Interviews with Bourne and Lopez are included.

April 3: Turbay strongly protests the CBS program. Bourne offers interview with Colombian radio, saying he never suspected Turbay.

*April 4: An *El Tiempo* editorial targets Bourne's non-policy against drugs. Colombian Senate and House reject the CBS slanders. Hints at ending U.S.-Colombian collaboration in combating drug traffic appear. The slandered Defense Minister sends a protest to the U.S. Ambassador. Turbay threatens a suit against CBS.*

The U.S. Embassy issues statement clearing Turbay.

Bourne: 'Our Strategy Is To Keep The Price High'

Excerpts from the text of the CBS "60 Minutes" interview with Dr. Peter Bourne:

Q: How dangerous is cocaine? How dangerous is the use of cocaine in terms of spreading more largely throughout the population?

A: If you talk about just the health problem in the levels in which it is used in this country at the present time, it does not pose a very significant health hazard. We have somewhere around 20 people a year die from cocaine-related deaths. This compares to 2,000 from heroin. So we are talking about a health problem that is about one hundredth the magnitude of the heroin problem.

The reason we think it is this way is because we have been able to maintain the price at a very high level because the use pattern as a result is generally restricted to relatively affluent people who use it with relatively good judgment and not that heavily. It is not physically addicting so people don't have the craving to use it that they do with heroin.

So we have a situation where there is very, very widespread but generally only recreational use of the drug and very little psychological dependence on it in terms of people becoming habituated to it....

Q: You mean if cocaine was used to the same extent marijuana is used now, it would be a very, very serious problem?

A: I think so. I think so, yes. Our strategy then is to try to keep the price as high as possible. By so doing, we keep this consumption relatively low and keep it in the hands of a relatively limited segment of the population....

Q: I would just like to get straight on the names once and for all. Montoya, Minister of Labor; Varon, Minister of Defense; Dr. Turbay, the man most likely to be the next President of Colombia. Are you now satisfied with President Lopez's explanation that your information was wrong or do we still stand by those names in each case?

A: Well, he is in a much better position to evaluate any information than we are. And I think the whole purpose of our discussions with him was to not be accusatory in any specific way but to say to him, "Here is some information that we happen to have come across that we would just like to pass on to you for your own information, assessment and utilization in any way that you think is appropriate."

And it was exchanged in that kind of spirit, as is the case with enormous other information not relating to corruption or the narcotics issue, but just relating to areas of mutual interest between our two countries. And it was not — we made it very clear that we were not assessing necessarily the accuracy of the information we were giving.

Lopez: 'You Remember Britain's Opium Wars...'

From a March 16 interview with Colombian Lopez Michelson by Sucesos-TV of Colombia:

Every time that they have a problem (referring to "reactionary" political forces in the U.S. — ed) they try to link the problem to that of drugs. If there is a need to discuss the Panama Canal, there comes the drug problem: If you have to discredit a ruler like Fidel Castro, suddenly he is linked to the drug problem; if it has something to do with the President of Peru, casually they say that his niece is linked to the drug problem, and here, in Colombia...

From the April 2 CBS-TV "60 Minutes" interview with the Colombian leader:

I think that you (the United States) have not taken cognizance of the true dimensions of the drug problem. Drug trafficking is a question entirely related to politics, as demonstrated by the case of the Panama Canal, or by the economic problems that arise from an influx of dollars coming from the drug traffic.

Let me comment on something else. This is not the first time in history that a similar situation has appeared. I am sure you remember the opium Wars of the middle of the 19th century... Wars of England and France against China to force her to buy opium. In those days the governments were backing the drug traffickers. I have to say that now the governments are against the traffickers....

On Ministers' Involvement

Something is developing in the United States. It is the idea of implicating high-level officials in certain countries in cocaine trafficking.... In California a young woman by the name of Morales was arrested. The newspapers, and perhaps someone from one of the commissions of the U.S. Senate, affirmed that she was the niece of President Morales Bermudez (of Peru). She had no connection with him. Here, they have been mentioning names of people in the government and I have been informed of these names, and I have personally seen the evidence of how they have been mistaken. Take this case for example: there was a document from the Ministry of Defense introduced into a criminal case. A colonel had sent a statement about a soldier who had been under his command some years ago. Someone read Ministry of Defense (*ministerio de defensa*) and said: Minister of Defense (*Ministro de defensa*). That is how the Minister of Defense was involved in the criminal case....

On the Turbay Involvement

What (the Bourne document) says about Dr. Turbay is not about him. It is about his nephew who during that time was living in the United States. Now do me the favor of explaining this: If he was in the United States, why wasn't he apprehended by the police if those charges made against him were true?...

CBS: You are giving me the impression, Mr. President, that you feel the United States ought to stick to its own problems, before getting mixed up in Colombian affairs...

President Lopez: No! No! No! They they ought to be more careful in the work they carry out against the drug traffic in Colombia. That they must verify each fact and piece of information, and not publicize it without being sure of what they are publicizing or of what they are delivering in a confidential manner.