

U.S. REPORT

Taking on 'organized evil'

National Anti-Drug Coalition holds first meeting in Detroit

On Sept. 29, 1979, over 700 people came together at Detroit's Cobo Hall to found the National Anti-Drug Coalition, the first national organization in the United States with an action program to end the drug plague. Most of the 700 conference participants were leaders, ranging from civil leaders, representatives of state and local governments, community organizers, religious leaders, trade unionists, directors of drug abuse centers, to a candidate for President of the United States.

What distinguishes the new organization from any previous anti-drug effort is that it has made no compromise with the "social work" mentality that treats only the localized manifestations of a worldwide drug trade.

On this theme, Lyndon LaRouche, the Democratic presidential candidate who attended the conference, declared that "Drug addiction is not the product of the weakness of our children, but an organized evil that preys on the weakness of our children." The National Anti-Drug Coalition defined its purposes and goals from that perspective.

According to conference participants, Edward Christian, an assistant to the County Medical Examiner in Philadelphia said, "I have fought drugs for 16 years and this is the first time a national organization has ever been pulled together. I know that just from the momentum that we have already created, this coalition will work—we can win."

The impetus for a National Anti-Drug Coalition began with the Dec.

18, 1978 formation of the Michigan Anti-Drug Coalition, which hosted the Detroit conference. Since then, anti-drug coalitions have been established in 27 cities across the United States, and in Colombia, Canada and Western Europe. Already, the coalitions in the U.S. have prevented the decriminalization of marijuana in Michigan, New Jersey, Wisconsin,



and Washington state, and have motivated legislators to undertake "re-criminalization" efforts in several other localities.

A major influence has been the best-selling paperback book, "Dope, Inc.," authored by a U.S. Labor Party research team. The book documents that, behind the street-level "pusher," there is an international cartel operated out of London, in large part through the British monarchy's control of the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank, a central bank for drug production and distribution internationally, from points of origin in mainland China and throughout Southeast Asia. The book defined

the drug trade as a new "British opium war against the United States."

"When the Michigan Anti-Drug Coalition was formed last December, we promised that this coalition would be different," states the original call for a national coalition, authored by Juan Torres and Salahuddin Muhammad, chairmen of the Michigan coalition. "We promised that this coalition would go after the top leaders of the international drug menace which threatens our youth. We promised we would name the names, regardless of how high up the social or political ladder the truth took us." After the resolution for action passed by the Detroit convention, coalition members confidently say: "We have kept that promise."

Task forces

The new National Anti-Drug Coalition resolved that regional and state coalitions will name five task forces to carry out its work in coming months.

An Education Task Force will pool resources for book publication, slide and film shows, and a speakers bureau, to advance drug education in schools and communities, and to serve as a clearinghouse for anti-drug programs in schools and related institutions.

A Legislative Task Force, composed of legislators, lawyers, and laymen will monitor, review, and devise legislation at the city, state and Federal levels relating not only to drug laws, but legalized gambling, pornography, and other "amorality" issues which the convention clearly

defined as related to the drug trade. As a matter of course, the coalition opposes decriminalization of marijuana, cocaine, and other drugs, and opposes the proliferation of drug paraphernalia and other activities contributing to the drug-culture environment. The legislative task force will seek mandatory drug education programs in the schools, will advance or support legislation strengthening law enforcement effectiveness, including U.S. coastal surveillance, and will also seek legislative and other sanctions against mergers and corporate acquisitions by U.S. and foreign banking institutions involved in financing the drug trade, or laundering drug and related "dirty money." Finally, it will seek Federal aid to Third World nations who seek to end drug cultivation, for example, aid for paraquat-spraying programs, as well as agricultural and industrial development aid.

A Fundraising Task Force will work in tandem with other efforts by the coalition's member-organizations to ensure that all events, organizing drives and literature distribution also raise the income needed for the coalition's effectiveness and growth.

A Special Task Force on the American Civil Liberties Union was created, on grounds that ACLU court cases on behalf of "civil liberties" are significantly devoted to removing all obstacles to the proliferation of drugs and related criminal activities. "The ACLU stands, in the eyes of the majority of Americans, as an organization committed to everything un-American," states the convention resolution. The ACLU seeks to prevent police searches of student lockers; to prevent school principals from expelling students caught pushing drugs; to prevent parents from searching their childrens' rooms; to allow children to sue their parents; to allow homosexuality to be taught to youth as an "alternative life-style"; to prevent Christmas carols from being sung, or God from being mentioned in public schools, even in non-denominational ways. "The National Anti-Drug Coalition will provide public forums, literature, and legal cooperation in areas where the

ACLU is trying to undermine parental, educational and public authority," states the conference resolution.

News reached the convention that leading figures in the government of Colombia had advocated legalizing marijuana production for export from that nation, in alliance with U.S. forces under Senator "Ted" Kennedy who seek to "decriminalize" consumption of marijuana "imports" in the United States. The convention therefore endorsed the anti-drug efforts of Colombia anti-drug forces, and created a task force to arrange for coalitions to send representatives to a Bogota, Colombia anti-drug conference this November.

In a related resolution, the coalition called upon all citizens to send letters, telegrams and make phone calls to those senators and others supporting the Revision of the Crim-

inal Code (S.1) introduced by Senator Kennedy, which contains a provision to decriminalize marijuana at a federal level. A third resolution extended coalition support to Congressman Billy Lee Evans of Georgia who is battling to restore recently withdrawn U.S. financial support to nations like Mexico and Colombia who have engaged in spraying of paraquat to kill marijuana crops.

Conference chairman Juan Torres has summarized the National Anti-Drug Coalition's character and goals as this:

"In the coming months, we will be forcing the passage of laws that will shut down the drug traffic in the United States and the drug supply coming into the country. The people of the world know that once the people of the United States decide to fight drugs, the drugs will stop."

The spectrum of the coalition

Organizations and churches represented at the convention included the

African Methodist Episcopal Church
 Roman Catholic Church (three parishes)
 American Muslim Society
 Baptist Conference
 Community of Al-Islam in the West
 Syrian-Antioch Orthodox Church
 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
 International F. & A. M. Masons
 United Auto Workers
 4-H Club
 New Jersey Baptist Ministerial Alliance
 Chicago 18th Street Businessmen's Association
 U.S. Labor Party
 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
 YMCA
Delegates attended from
 Canada
 Mexico

Colombia
 India
 Taiwan
 West Germany
and in the U.S.A. from the states of
 Indiana
 Illinois
 Washington
 Oregon
 California
 New Hampshire
 Massachusetts
 Connecticut
 Wyoming
 Ohio
 Pennsylvania
 New Jersey
 New York
 Maryland
 Washington, D.C.
 Virginia
 Georgia
 Michigan (including 15 towns from the Detroit area)

Greetings to the Coalition were sent from around the world