

What the world's press reported

By the time Patricia Paredes de Londoño's abductors released her on Aug. 1, news of her disappearance had been telegraphed several times around the Spanish-speaking world. Anti-Drug Coalition President Fausto Charris gave hundreds of interviews to news services internationally. From this voluminous press coverage, we excerpt a sampling from those articles which were in hand at press time. Full texts were not available yet from the following countries:

Argentina: Charris was interviewed on Radio Mitre and Radio Continental. El Tiempo Argentina ran EIR releases.

Brazil: Correio Braziliense (Brasilia) ran EIR releases.

Costa Rica: Coverage in La Prensa Libre, La Nacion, and La Republica.

Dominican Republic: Listin Diario and Hoy each ran several stories.

El Salvador: El Diario de Hoy related the drug traffic to the subversive movement in Central America.

Panama: Coverage in every major newspaper, including La Prensa, La Estrella de Panama, Diario Ya, La Republica, La Critica, and El Matutino. Fausto Charris was interviewed by Radio Millonaria, by the RPC and Canal Dos TV stations, and by the "El Canonero de Domplin" radio program.

Peru: Ojo reported on a press conference given in Lima by Sara Vasquez of the Peruvian Anti-Drug Coalition. Expreso ran wires.

Venezuela: Two TV networks ran Patricia's photo with statements by her husband. El Mundo (Caracas) ran a front-page headline Aug. 2, "Kissinger and López Michelsen Implicated in Drug Traffic." El Universal, Diario de Caracas and Venevision TV reported on the founding of the Venezuelan Anti-Drug Coalition. Ultimas Noticias noted that the new organization compared the abduction with that of Patty Hearst.

Continent-wide Spanish UPI

Under the headline "Henry Kissinger Accused of Belonging to South American Drug Mafia," UPI reported from Buenos Aires Aug. 1:

The head of the Anti-Drug Coalition of Colombia, Fausto Charris, today accused U.S. ex-Secretary of State Henry Kissinger of being linked to the South American narcotics mafia. In a telephone interview with Radio Mitre of Buenos Aires, Charris said that Kissinger, "by proposing that we adopt the Hong Kong model as our economic solution and

by praising the United Fruit Company as a model business, is asking that we legalize narcotics traffic." . . .

Charris praised his country's President, Belisario Betancur, for the position he has taken against the drug mafia in Colombia. . . . He then accused former Colombian President Alfonso López Michelsen of having made himself into "the spokesman of the narcotics traffickers," following a "secret meeting in Panama," but he said López was rejected by Betancur, who didn't want to negotiate with the drug traffickers.

UPI's Norberto Svarzman filed a story from New York Aug. 3, headlined "Continental Front to Wipe Out Drug Traffic Proposed":

A continental front must be formed to end narcotics traffic, which "is a threat to the health of nations and their peoples," said Fausto Charris today, president of the National Anti-Drug Coalition of Colombia.

This group is made up of citizens of all political sectors and social groups, "everyone interested in wiping out narcotics traffic in Colombia," said Charris. . . .

He added that the recent kidnapping in Colombia of Patricia Paredes de Londoño, writer for the magazine, *War on Drugs* and vice-president [sic] of the coalition in Bogotá, "is the handiwork of the narcotics traffickers."

He commented that the woman "has reappeared with signs of torture and being forcefully submitted to drugs," for which it is presumed that her kidnapping was committed by drug smugglers.

Asked about the results of his visit [to New York], he said that "coinciding with the kidnapping, it permitted an international mobilization for the rescue of Mrs. Londoño. . . . We were able to demonstrate that the State Department had made a mistake in saying that it was not a kidnapping but only a family matter."

Charris said, "We are coordinating to make the United States government cooperate more with the anti-drug fight on the continent."

He added that he also visited Mexico and concluded that "the idea of creating a continental front against narcotics traffic is taking off."

Colombia

El Tiempo, Bogotá, "Strange Disappearance of Anti-Drug

Fighter in Bogotá," July 28:

The security agencies yesterday investigated the strange disappearance of Mrs. Patricia Paredes de Londoño, wife of the general secretary of the Andean Labor Party (PLAN) and vice-president of the National Anti-Drug Coalition, Maximiliano Londoño. . . . Mrs. Londoño is on the editorial board of the National Anti-Drug Coalition organ, *War on Drugs*, as well as a member of the PLAN.

Said organization was created in 1979 because of the proposal of then-president of the National Association of Financial Institutions, Ernesto Samper Pizano, to legalize marijuana. Since then its leaders, including the victim of the strange disappearance and her husband, have been the targets of intimidation and pressures to give up their work. . . .

El Espectador, Bogotá, "Denounce Disappearance of Member of the Anti-Drug Coalition," July 29:

The vice-president of the National Anti-Drug Coalition, Maximiliano Londoño, reported yesterday to the authorities the strange disappearance of his wife, Patricia Paredes de Londoño. The aforementioned citizen stated that unknown people had made telephone death threats against his wife and that on two occasions their apartment had been robbed. . . .

Mexico

Stories were published in Ovaciones (Mexico City), Ultimas Noticias (Mexico City), El Jalisciense (Guadalajara), El Mexicano (Tijuana), La Voz (Mexicali), El Sonorense (Hermosillo), El Sol de Sinaloa, and El Siglo (Torreon). Radio Notisistema and the ACIR group ran interviews.

Ovaciones, Mexico City, "Six States Threatened by Drug Incursion; Broken Up by Narcos," July 28:

Because the Colombian government undertook a determined confrontation against narcotics, they are expanding especially to our country, and, in the last 30 days several distributors have been captured in Sonora, Tehuacan, Puebla, and Chiapas.

A few years ago in Colombia the National Anti-Drug Coalition was created; and it has worked very successfully and obtained terrific victories. However, on losing that important operations base, the mafia decided to extend itself and found Mexico to be an ideal site.

One of the latest acts of the Colombian mafia is the kidnapping of the wife of the general secretary of the Andean Labor Party and vice-president of the mentioned coalition. Mrs. Londoño Penilla disappeared Thursday afternoon and hasn't been found yet. There are precedents of kidnapping of many other people who have fought the war on drugs. . . .

Spain

ABC, Ya, Vanguardia, El Pais, La Voz de Galicia, Periodico

(Barcelona), Cordoba (Cordoba), Levante (Valencia), Pueblo Vasco (Bilbao), Diario Las Palmas (Canary Islands) each ran at least one article based on EIR releases. Televisa Nacional put two special stories on national TV news. Ten radio stations interviewed Charris, with tapes going out to at least 400 more stations. An interview with Radio Madrid was carried by 110 stations.

Ya, Madrid, July 30, "Wife of Vice President of Anti-Drug Coalition of Colombia Disappears; Active Member of Andean Labor Party." After reporting the disappearance of Patricia de Londoño, the article continued:

Ever since it was formed in 1979, the National Anti-Drug Coalition has asked the Colombian government to declare a war to the death against the narcotics traffic. The CNA's policies were partly taken up by the late justice minister, Rodrigo Lara Bonilla, since assassinated by the mafia.

Among the CNA's demands are: 1) use herbicides to eradicate marijuana and coca plants; 2) confiscate the drug traffickers' airplanes and expropriate lands used for illicit crops; 3) set up a regional agreement to end the continental operations of the drug bankers; 4) investigate Colombian ex-President Alfonso López Michelsen, "insofar as the financial and fiscal changes made by his mid-1970s government," said Charris, "destroyed Colombia's agriculture and industry, at the same time that financial intermediaries were given a free hand to engage in orgies of speculation." . . .

France

Le Figaro, Paris, Aug. 2, "Colombia: Wave of Kidnappings":

Mrs. Patricia Paredes de Londoño, the wife of the head of the Colombian Anti-Drug Coalition, kidnapped on July 26, is probably kept in custody by agents of the Colombian drug mafia. This kidnapping comes in the midst of a merciless war between the drug runners and President Betancur's administration. . . .

United States

For the most part the U.S. press blacked out the story, although Spanish-language media, including New York's El Diario-La Prensa and radio stations in Florida, California, and Texas ran interviews with Charris. An exception to the English-language blackout was the Boston Globe of Aug. 2, which reported, "Gelber Urges Probe of Drug Trafficking":

Debra Gelber of Boston, a Democratic candidate in the 8th C.D. contended yesterday that the International Monetary Fund is promoting drug crops in Third World countries and urged that the State Department investigate. . . . She said she has also requested an investigation of the disappearance of Colombian magazine editor Patricia Paredes de Londoño. . . . Gelber is challenging the re-election candidacy of House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.