
Media witchhunt in Venezuela

Why Cisneros's gang is slandering *EIR*

by the Editors

On Feb. 13, 1985, the editors of Executive Intelligence Review responded to the ongoing defamation campaign against this publication in the Venezuelan media by issuing the following statement. The slander campaign was launched the first week of February at the instigation of the powerful Cisneros family of Venezuela, in response to *EIR*'s publication of its new book, *Narcotráfico, S.A.*, in which the Cisneros's connections to Cuban and KGB-linked drug-running interests are documented. The *EIR* statement follows:

Let's put a few things straight.

1) The Cisneros family have nowhere dared to either deny or try to refute the documented charges made in *Narcotráfico, S.A.* They have preferred to use their checkbook to carry out a filthy campaign of defamation against *EIR* and its founding editor, Lyndon H. LaRouche.

Why the silence on the substance of our report, Mr. Cisneros?

2) The Organizacion Diego Cisneros has sought to discredit our documented evidence by charging that *EIR* is "KGB," because we attack basic institutions of the West such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Come now, Mr. Cisneros, couldn't you have found a more honest way to defend the debt collection policies of the IMF and your banker friends, policies which over the last years have led to genocide in Africa and misery and social chaos in Ibero-America? The Latin American Bishops Conference (CELAM) is also on record as attacking the IMF, as is His Holiness Pope John Paul II during his most recent tour of Ibero-American nations. Does this mean that you share Tradition, Family, and Property's (TFP) belief that Pope Paul VI and Pope John Paul II are both also tied to the KGB?

3) Yesterday's headline in the Caracas scandal-sheet *2001*, accusing *EIR* correspondents of engaging in "espionage" to sabotage Venezuela's debt negotiations, is an outrageous slander and lie; but like all untruths, it reveals what is on the guilty mind of the liar.

Cisneros' boss, Chase Manhattan International Advisory Board Chairman David Rockefeller, is most concerned to maintain debt service payments to his financial empire, and his recent trip to Venezuela served to deliver a message: Anyone found opposing the Rockefellers' debt-renegotiation package and its attached IMF conditionalities, will be accused of "crimes" similar to LaRouche and *EIR*.

The fact of the matter is that Rockefeller and the IMF plan to force anti-sovereign changes in the foreign investment laws and to impose such levels of genocidal austerity on Venezuela, and all Ibero-America, that they are terrified that pro-development and nationalist forces in the continent will turn to LaRouche's well-known "Operation Juárez" policy proposals for the formation of an Ibero-American debtors' cartel and common market. Thus, the pre-emptive, lying assault on LaRouche's credibility.

There is particular fear that the Reagan administration could drop American backing for the IMF's policies and negotiate a New World Economic Order with such a united Ibero-America. They note worriedly that Ronald Reagan took such a command decision in March 1983, when he adopted the beam-defense strategic policy earlier advocated by LaRouche.

Avalanche of lies

As for the avalanche of wild slanders thrown at LaRouche and *EIR* over the past days under the direction of Venevisión TV chief and Club of Rome member José Rafael Revenga—which today went so far as to allege that LaRouche has a "hit list" for physical assaults against Venezuelan personalities!—we address just a few of them.

A) In their eagerness to defend the pro-drug policies of Seaga's Jamaica, a document reportedly circulated by the Organizacion Diego Cisneros stated:

The book [*Narcotráfico, S.A.*] accuses Seaga of having declared in a press interview on American national TV that he proposed to make marijuana Jamaica's principal export. Loyal to the canons of misinformation, the investigative team that wrote the book complacently omits all specific reference to the medium, date, and content of the supposed declaration attributed without foundation to Seaga.

But the facts are straightforward: On the CBS-TV program "Face the Nation" of Nov. 23, 1980, Seaga stated that marijuana "has almost been the lifeline economically to providing dollars and foreign exchange" to Jamaica. A few weeks earlier, Seaga had told the

Washington Post: "Regardless of whether we want it or not, the [marijuana] industry as such is here to stay. It is just not possible for it to be wiped out, and if it is here to stay, then we have to make up our mind from that point as to how to best deal with it . . . [including] the question of legalizing it so as to bring the flow of several hundred million dollars in this parallel market through official channels."

B) The Caracas daily *Universal* has chosen to reprint in full a recent slanderous series from that daily on LaRouche's influence within the Reagan administration—the same *Washington Post* whose hostility to the U.S. beam-weapons program reached such extremes that they published classified military information regarding the latest Space Shuttle flight, causing Defense Secretary Weinberger to denounce them

for providing “aid and comfort to the enemy”—the technical definition of *treason* in the U.S. Constitution.

C) Another Big Lie circulated in Caracas, this one reportedly with the help of the Ministry of Information and Tourism, is that deported Mexican journalists Carlos and Lucia Mendez were not really accredited in Venezuela. As the couple informed the press in Mexico upon their arrival, they did have official press credentials #45 and #46 . . . issued by none other than the Ministry of Information and Tourism itself! Furthermore, Carlos Mendez wrote a column three times a week for two years in the Caracas daily *El Mundo*—a column widely read throughout the government bureaucracy.

D) There is another person in Caracas who needs his memory refreshed by *EIR*. Carlos Andres Perez recently told an interviewer on Venevisión that he had been approached by *EIR* for interviews over the years, but that he had repeatedly refused to grant them. How then does he explain that *EIR* published taped interviews with the former Venezuelan President in its editions of April 6, 1982 (interviewed March 19, 1982 in Caracas), Feb. 15, 1983 (interviewed Jan. 26 in Madrid), and May 22, 1984 (interviewed May 9, 1984 in Lima). At the time, Mr. Perez was presenting himself as a great warrior against the IMF. Is he still?

Finally, Venevisión and *Universal* have delighted in calling Lyndon LaRouche and *EIR* “mercenaries of disinformation.” Was it “disinformation” when in 1982 *EIR* stood alone in the United States in support of Argentina during the Malvinas War? Were we “mercenaries of disinformation” throughout 1982 and 1983 when *EIR* promoted beam-weapons defense even before President Reagan announced the policy? Was it “disinformation” when in August 1983 *EIR* alone revealed that at a secret meeting in Vail, Colorado, Kissinger and Rockefeller had adopted a policy to use the debt crisis to force Ibero-America to pay its foreign debt with its national patrimony? Or when one month later *EIR* quoted a banker close to Rockefeller and Kissinger—perhaps someone who is also an intimate friend of the Cisneros family—saying:

The concept of bankruptcy in the public sector must be introduced. It is necessary to change government laws in Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, and other countries. Either they are allowed to go bankrupt, or, if they need money, they must be opened for foreign private investment. . . . We must use austerity and social chaos to break down the social institutions of the country, to change its laws.

No, sir. No amount of hysterical slanders in the Cisneros and allied media can disprove the facts contained in

Narcotráfico, S.A.,

lapse of the world monetary system. At that point, honest Venezuelans will recall our information and our warnings, and perhaps even heed our policy advice.

Documentation

The Venezuelan press on LaRouche

The following coverage appeared in the Caracas scandal sheet 2001, in its Feb. 12, 1985 edition, under the headline “Disciples of Lyndon LaRouche, Foreign Spies Were Preparing to Sabotage the Refinancing of the Foreign Debt.” The author is Omar Zavarce P.

The immediate mission of the *EIR* and the disciples of Lyndon LaRouche in Caracas was to create an unfavorable climate for the refinancing of the foreign debt through an orchestrated campaign in which the creditor banks would be especially attacked. According to documents discovered by the DISIP [Venezuela’s political police] in 3 raids, [the group] intended to create conditions to inconvenience the government and the international banks and achieve a confrontation whose repercussions would be felt in the negotiations.

. . . Their immediate objective, however, was to upset the refinancing of the foreign debt through a public opinion battle.

On Feb. 13, the same author outdid himself with an article entitled “The LaRouche Cult Intended to Assassinate Political and Business Leaders,” with the subhead “Some would be physically eliminated, and others would be discredited, accused of being drug traffickers.”

A list of Venezuelan personalities nomics would appear to be the eventual victims of the “LaRouche cult,” according to confidential reports captured by the DISIP in its raid on the headquarters of the *Executive Intelligence Review*.

Sources at the Ministry of the Interior said yesterday that political and business leaders, especially prominent figures, appeared as the next targets.

According to a government investigation, attempts against the physical integrity of certain VIPs would be made for the purpose of creating a climate of instability in the nation, but at the same time the news media would be used to inveigh against Venezuelan and foreign personalities, who would begin to be seen as connected to the international drug trade.

The DISIP opened the investigation on the initiative of a powerful business group in Venezuela that was the first to be

attacked, and raided the *EIR* headquarters on Avenida Libertador where, according to government sources, they found extensive documentation on the projects of the "LaRouche cult." Three of its foreign representatives were thrown out, but in the Interior Political Commission of the Chamber of Deputies, presided over by Dr. David Morales Bello, an investigation will be opened because LaRouche had almost succeeded in legalizing a political party in the Supreme Electoral Council.

On Feb. 14, Omar Zavarce P. continued 2001's vendetta against LaRouche, claiming, "LaRouche Cult in Campaign Against Venezuela, Accusing the Government of Being an Accomplice in the International Drug Trade."

Yesterday, information reached the Interior Political Commission of the Chamber of Deputies, presided over by Dr. David Morales Bello, to the effect that in the United States, Mexico, and Colombia, the LaRouche cult has begun a campaign against Venezuela and, among other niceties, has accused the government of being a "disguised accomplice of the international drug trade."

In the capitol, there are press clippings from New York, Miami, Mexico City, and Bogota on the LaRouche sect's reaction to the expulsion of four of its representatives from Venezuela.

It is considered unlikely that such accusations would take hold abroad, however, not only because of the government's success in the capture and prevention of drug trafficking, but also because Lyndon H. LaRouche has accused Jimmy Carter, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger . . . Queen Elizabeth of England, Paul Volcker of the Federal Reserve, the Duke of Kent . . . of being drug traffickers!

On Feb. 14, Diario de Caracas published an op-ed written by Juan José Monsant. Monsant formerly headed the foreign affairs commission of the COPEI, Venezuela's Social Christian Party, and was a founding member of the Club of Life in 1982.

Who are those very powerful pressure groups and individuals who put themselves above the law, morality, or public decency? In Venezuela, we are witnessing dangerous manipulation of public opinion, and of governmental groups at its service, which indeed begins to be worrisome, and [causes] reflection on the true extent of democracy in our country. Sudden seizure of books, the law of silence for those being charged, ideological blackmail, ethereal accusations, threats, and homicide. At this point, we Venezuelans don't know if the activities of the *EIR* group directed by the American Lyndon LaRouche, is communist, a satanic cult, drugrunners, simple enemies of the British and Republicans, agents of the CIA, of Fidel Castro, or of Qaddafi. We citizens will never know what was said in those seized books, or what the journalists, or professionals of whatever discipline, expelled in the old way, had to say.

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