

Editorial

For a total war on drugs

The massive drug raid carried out on the morning of Aug. 13 in the jungles of northern Peru could signal the beginning of a new phase in the war on drugs—a phase which will lead to victory if it continues to expand in the same direction, which is the direction of fulfilling Lyndon LaRouche's proposal for a strategic operation against the Western Hemisphere's drug-traffic.

Fidel Castro, who has admitted to his protection of gangster Robert Vesco, the "boss" of the South American drug kingpin Carlos Lehder, is in a corner. Henry Kissinger and his piggybank David Rockefeller, who happen to be on the same side of the fence as Castro when it comes to illegal drug trafficking, have reason to get very, very nervous.

On Aug. 13, a unified military commando action of three nations, codenamed "Operation Condor," swept down on a massive cocaine refining center run by Carlos Lehder's gang in Peru, captured the entire band of 25 drug runners, and seized a site that included 15 buildings, a network of airstrips, dams, generators, and radar and other sophisticated equipment. The complex processed at least 300 kilograms of refined cocaine per week, mostly destined for the United States. Key to the operation was information gathered through the U.S. NASA's satellite surveillance, which identified the locations of the coca growing and processing centers.

The joint action involved the Peruvian government of President Alan García, who since his inauguration on July 28 has launched a ruthless war on narco-terrorism; the Colombian government of President Belisario Betancur; and the United States government. Reportedly, the commandos included Peruvian troops, Colombian officers and aircraft, and American Drug Enforcement Administration officers, and the raid was launched from Colombia.

What occurred followed the prescription laid out five months earlier, on March 13, in a message by Lyndon LaRouche to a Mexico City *EIR* conference on the illegal drug traffic. LaRouche (the full text of his proposal was in *EIR*, April 2, 1985, pp. 36-39) stressed that "It is clear to the governments fighting the

international drug-traffickers, that the drug-traffic could never be defeated if each of our nations tried to fight this evil independently of the other nations of this Hemisphere."

LaRouche argued that "the international drug-traffic has become an evil and powerful government in its own right. It represents today a financial, political, and military power greater than that of entire nations within the Americas. It is a government which is making war against civilized nations, a government upon which we must declare war, a war which we must fight with the weapons of war, and a war which we must win in the same spirit the United States fought for the unconditional defeat of Nazism between 1941 and 1945."

LaRouche called for a treaty of alliance for the conduct of war to be established between the U.S. and Ibero-American states which join the War on Drugs alliance. Under such a treaty, provisions for actions of a joint military command should be elaborated. LaRouche also called for technologies appropriate to detection and confirmation of growing, processing, and transport of drugs, including satellite-based and aircraft-based systems of detection, to be supplied with the assistance of the United States.

The García government has started to implement another facet of the LaRouche war-plan: to investigate "the corruption of governmental agencies and personnel, as well as influential political factions, by politically power financial interests associated with either drug-trafficking as such, or powerful financial and business interests associated with conducting the revenues of drug-trafficking." Shortly before García's inauguration, the National Anti-Drug Coalition of Peru published in Lima the book, *Narcotráfico, SA*, written by the editors of *EIR*, which names some of these powerful figures.

The Peruvian government has pledged to bomb the rest of the cocaine fields in Peru. United States and other countries' backing for this operation must expand, until the LaRouche plan is fully implemented and every last vestige of "Dope, Inc." has been wiped out.