

Soviet link to Rotterdam heroin haul breaks into international press

by Our Special Correspondent

Following a two-month blackout, the international press has widely reported the Soviet link to the transport of 220 kilos of heroin seized in the Port of Rotterdam last May 30. The illegal drugs had been transported from Kabul, Afghanistan, through the Soviet Union to the Soviet Baltic port of Riga, and transported from Riga to Rotterdam on the Soviet cargo vessel, *Kapitan Tomson*.

The story, with which readers of *EIR* and related publications have been familiar for over a month, broke after *EIR* opened up a can of worms in the Netherlands while following up a report on the Soviet connection to the drug seizure by the Italian High Commissioner for Investigating the Mafia, Riccardo Boccia. The story was then picked up by the Amsterdam-based *De Telegraph*, the largest-circulation daily in the Netherlands, on Monday, Aug. 18. The *De Telegraph* story prompted Dutch Christian Democratic Parliamentarian Hans Gualtherie Van Weezel to convene a press conference demanding a government explanation as to why the Soviet involvement was kept secret for nearly two months.

Following this press conference, which was widely covered by the European press as well as radio and TV, Mr. Van Weezel on Tuesday, Aug. 19 put before parliament six questions demanding an explanation of the affair from the foreign, interior, and justice ministries. Joined by fellow parliamentarian Mr. Van Der Bergh, Mr. Van Weezel asked: 1) Did the Dutch government receive any cooperation from Soviet authorities in the investigation; 2) Have the Soviet police authorities in the Port of Riga done anything on this case; 3) Why did the Dutch police wait two months before releasing the information; 4) Has the Dutch government any information on other cases of Soviet involvement in other European ports; 5) Will the Dutch Secret Services inform the parliamentary security commission on the case; and 6) Has the Dutch government informed other governments of its information on Afghan heroin entering Europe. The ministries have up to 20 days to reply.

It is hoped that the questions will not only prompt the Dutch government to come forward with information on the Soviet role, but other governments as well, most particularly, that of the United States. Mr. Van Der Bergh told *EIR* he felt that "the U.S. government knows very well what is going on" in terms of Soviet involvement, but has refused to make that information public. This refusal was affirmed by a comment from an unnamed U.S. Drug Enforcement Administra-

tion official cited in the Aug. 20 issue of the London *Daily Express*. He said that he doubted Soviet official involvement!

An editorial in *Die Welt*, the leading West German conservative daily, clearly underscored the implications of the Soviet role. *Die Welt* writes: "Free nations have become accustomed to a lot by way of East bloc 'exports.' Spies, disinformation, terror, peace movements, and weapons are 'exported' . . . In South America, communist terrorists work together with drug dealers. . . . At the same time, détente politicians in the West are anxiously trying to prevent anyone from getting the impression that a socialist dictatorship destabilization is under way. . . . It will be interesting to see how Soviet authorities try to justify their smuggled heroin wares. Is state terrorism, which has left so many tracks in blood, to take on a new dimension?"

The original source for this story, as was reported over a month ago in this publication, was Commissioner Ricardo Boccia, whose written report on the Soviet role in narcotics trafficking was reported in Italy's *Il Giornale*, in a series of articles published on July 2 and 5. Commissioner Boccia, outlining the route from Kabul through the Soviet Union to Riga, and on to Rotterdam, underlined the significance of the seizure: "For the first time, we have proof that narcotics traffickers of Soviet citizenship have been involved." The commissioner's report was delivered to the joint United States and Italian anti-terrorism and anti-narcotics committee, which includes U.S. Attorney-General Edwin Meese.

Commissioner Boccia revealed in his report the existence of a top secret directive, number "M-120/00-050," outlining Soviet plans to use the drug trade to destabilize the West. A copy of this directive, plus 499 other Soviet KGB-related documents, was handed to Western intelligence services on Feb. 10, 1971 by the former high-ranking officer of the Bulgarian State Secret Service (KDS), code-named Stafen Sverdlev, after he escaped from Bulgaria in 1971.

Commissioner Boccia explained that everything started in 1967, the year Yuri Andropov took over the KGB, during a top-level meeting in Moscow of Warsaw Pact security service chiefs to develop plans to "exploit and hasten the inherent corruption of Western society." A subsequent meeting of the KDS officials in Sofia established a three-year "action plan" to implement the "exploitation." The defector, Sverdlev, said KGB-KDS directive "M-120/00-050" was issued in June 1970, assessing the status of the East bloc plan

to "destabilize Western society through . . . the narcotics trade."

Commissioner Boccia's report again fingered Bulgaria as "a big open door for narcotics trafficking." This charge of Bulgarian involvement in arms-for-drugs deals has been well documented by both the American Drug Enforcement Administration as well as various Italian prosecutors and judges involved in investigating Bulgaria's links to the attempted assassination of Pope John Paul II, and to organized crime and international narcotics and illegal-arms trafficking. Subsequent investigations have also linked Bulgaria to the Colombian drug mafias along with the Soviet Union's other ally, Cuba.

'Normal commercial shipping channels'

The only information released by the Dutch authorities is that the heroin was put into two shipping containers that had raisins and wool, and shipped to Rotterdam along "normal commercial shipping channels" from Afghanistan. Sources admit that the Dutch authorities have no account of how and by whom the heroin was transported from mountain growing areas and put in containers, assert that no Soviet citizen was

involved, claiming that the containers had been sealed prior to crossing the Soviet border. Also, a Dutch organized-crime network was involved on the Rotterdam side of the operation. In fact, on May 14, in the city of Amsterdam, a known, though not major, organized-crime figure Rob Koning (38) was professionally gunned down; he was believed to have been involved in the case.

Presumably the Afghani side of the operation involved Afghan nationals, operating in a country occupied by over 120,000 Soviet troops who are heavily engaged in military operations against rebels throughout the country, making "normal commercial activity" relatively difficult.

The U.S.S.R. in fact controls the largest part of Afghanistan territory where opium cultivation is carried out, in what is considered the heart of the "Golden Crescent." According to Dutch sources, opium production has increased tremendously in the past five years. In Mongahar Province alone, poppy production increased from 4,200 kilos to 17,500 kilos.

These areas are also contiguous to major opium-producing zones inside the Soviet Union. The French daily *Le Figaro* of June 4 identified the Soviet Central Asian Republics of Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Tadjikistan, and the Trans-

Soviet hand in financial war against LaRouche

The "Hidden Hand" of Moscow as an integral part of the dirty financial warfare operations mounted against various organizations politically associated with U.S. 1988 Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche has surfaced via a front-page slander article in the Aug. 7 edition of the Soviet weekly *Sovietskaya Kultura*. The article by Grigori Oganev, titled "About a Fraud," purports to inform the Soviet readership about "swindlers" and "fraud" in U.S. society, but the bulk of the text deals exclusively with Moscow's "Public Enemy No. 1" in the United States: Lyndon H. LaRouche.

We reprint here the portions of the article which attack LaRouche and his associates, thus bringing to public light the role of Moscow in co-directing the organized financial harassment by the Dope Lobby against LaRouche's bid for the presidency in 1988:

"Today, a new name has been added to the list of those gentlemen of fortune. The name is Lyndon LaRouche, a typical American nouveau riche businessman, the owner of a large network of financial and credit organizations, who got himself suddenly in the center of attention of reporters dealing with the criminal world of the United States.

"The Associated Press correspondent gives the news from Washington a few days ago that LaRouche was sued in Federal Court for blackmail and fraud. First Fidelity Bank is suing him for \$750,000, which LaRouche appropriated for himself in one stroke, using the resources of his financial empire. This money has been transferred to his account by credit card manipulation. This kind of crime is not new in the United States, especially through the use of computers.

"All this wouldn't be worth mentioning, were it not for one interesting detail. In recent years, Lyndon LaRouche, who professes extreme right-wing opinions, has wanted to assume the role of a political leader to revive America. He even was a candidate for President of the United States, and he has not abandoned this idea, even though he failed catastrophically.

"In a way, LaRouche is right. If one President of the United States could get involved in the Watergate scandal, and another had among his personal friends swindlers who had misused public funds . . . why can't LaRouche manipulate credit cards in the fight. . . ? Why not, in fact, since other Presidents were involved in all sorts of shady business, wouldn't he try his luck and combine the useful—all sorts of tricks with credit cards—with the fight for the presidential seat and become a big shot?"

As *EIR* (and the *Wall Street Journal*) have documented at great length—First Fidelity Bank is one of the foremost mafia-linked banks in the United States!

caucasian Republic of Georgia as the two major poppy growing areas. Big poppy plantations are also found in the south of Russia from Krasnodar to Stavropol—the home territory of Yuri Andropov and Mikhail Gorbachov.

While the cover of transporting raisins as a means of smuggling may appear credible, Afghanistan exported a minuscule 271 tons of raisins last year, the Soviets, 100 tons. According to a Rotterdam fruit importer, “No one imports Afghan raisins unless some Afghani walks into your office and makes an offer, after which he disappears.” A shipping agent of Ocean Freight, the only Western company allowed to arrange shipments from Rotterdam through the U.S.S.R. and which specializes in shipping cargo into Afghanistan, said he never heard of exports from Afghanistan entering Rotterdam.

Shipping cargo through the Soviet Union is extremely uncomplicated. Everything is handled by Soviet state companies, since no foreign transport companies are allowed to operate within the Soviet Union. The only company able to ship cargo through the Soviet Union to or from Holland is Transworld Marine Agency (TMA), the Soviet shipping company that operates as a joint venture between the Soviet state shipping companies and private Belgian and Dutch interests. They have offices in Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Antwerp, and Dusseldorf.

Soviet shipping interest in the port is considerable. Nearly 1,300 Soviet ships call at the port annually, making it the third most frequent flag carrier in the port. TMA was founded in the Netherlands as a private joint venture only after the Dutch government refused the Soviet request for a consulate in Rotterdam, amid fears that such a consulate would be used for espionage and other intelligence activities. In fact, it has been reported in the Antwerp press that Soviet employees of the Antwerp office of Transworld Marine were deported because of espionage activities, and that the company has been used to launder nearly several million Belgian francs to the Portuguese Communist Party in the early 1970s. Transworld is also the shipping agent for the *Kapitan Tomson*, which is a well-known caller in Rotterdam. It is engaged in a regular service between Riga and Rotterdam as well as Antwerp.

Interesting to note was the fact that the *Kapitan Tomson* up until the end of March 1986 had been cruising the Mediterranean, calling at such ports as Syria's Lattakia, Beirut, Lebanon, and ports in Greece, Cyprus, and Turkey.

A call by a would-be Afghani raisin importer to Transworld requesting information for transshipping two containers of raisins from Afghanistan revealed an interesting disparity in the claim that this was a “normal” commercial shipping route. Transworld asserted that these containers could only be taken by rail from the border crossing at Haeratan and forwarded to Leningrad, to be loaded on board ships and then direct to Rotterdam. When asked whether the raisins could be shipped through Riga, our raisin importer was told that would be impossible, as “the normal commercial shipping route is through Leningrad, not Riga.”

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