

Editorial

Now, U.S. must back Colombia

We excerpt from a statement released on Aug. 23 by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.:

"It goes without necessary explanation, that I am in full support of the efforts of the government and military and other relevant forces, of the sovereign nation of Colombia, to defeat the horrible narco-terrorist enemy, which has just recently unleashed escalated war against that government. However, I think as an American I ought to emphasize what the role of the United States ought to be in respect to this situation in Colombia, and similar situations perhaps developing in other countries. "It should be recalled that during the course of 1985, I was involved in a number of actions defining an anti-drug policy for the hemisphere, a policy which I described as an 'anti-narco-terrorist policy,' pointing out that it is impossible to separate terrorism, in all its various forms, from the drug traffic. That remains true today.

"The work that I did during that period centers around a summation by me presented to a Mexico City conference, and also in a demonstration project which some friends of mine and I ran in cooperation with the government of Guatemala that year, culminating in the famous Operation Guatusa. That was a highly successful operation, a model project, by the Guatemalan military and government itself, with our onlooking advice and counsel, as the culmination of an experimental project, which was observed by U.S. qualified observers and reported back to relevant people in the U.S. government, military, and elsewhere.

"While the proposals which I had laid out during that period are my own responsibility, they reflect the advantage I had of the best thinking of military and other leaders, in many countries of Central and South America, as well as in the United States, and reflect also my attention to the role of what are called 'special forces' in the current military situation globally, as well as attention to the matter summed up in part in the book by Gen. Prof. von der Heydte, on *Modern Irregular Warfare*.

"First of all, the U.S. government must recognize that it was an incredible error, to drop the category

'narco-terrorism' from the U.S. strategic vocabulary. The two entities—using 'terrorism' in the broadest sense—are integral, and any attempt to separate narcotics traffic from terrorism or vice versa, means assured defeat. Also, other political errors of the United States government in, shall we say, 'shading' its political perceptions, of various forces in the various countries of Central and South America, should be recognized by the U.S. government.

"In that light it should be recognized, as I emphasized then, that it is *counterproductive* to put U.S. troops as combatants inside any nation of Central and South America for dealing with a problem such as this one. It is very important that the job against the drugs, particularly in combatant roles, be done by nationalists as a sovereign act of a sovereign nation, as in the case of Colombia.

"What the United States *must* do, is provide logistical and technical support, including, if necessary, special kinds of weapons, to assist these sovereign forces in doing their job, in assuring their ready victory. This should include the providing of U.S. intelligence assistance; including so-called 'non-human' intelligence, as by satellites, especially real-time, electronic, and related kinds of surveillance, to assist national forces in pinpointing growing areas, laboratories, and so forth.

"Mr. Thornburgh may have been well-meaning, in offering U.S. troops to Colombia in this crisis, but it would be a mistake for the United States to insist that that is appropriate. The United States has a military role to play against drugs, admittedly—in *open waters*. The role is best played by the Coast Guard, and with giving support to the Coast Guard as it may require it, by other arms.

"The time has come to recognize that what I put together in my own name, during 1985, was the combined work of the best military and related minds, of the Americas, on the question of fighting drugs. The government of Colombia has acted in that direction: Now is the time for the government of the United States to utilize the proven valid proposals which I represented, and bring that to bear in full support of the efforts of the government of Colombia."