

United States government was unwilling to speak strongly with Syria, under the pretext that they might bring the Soviet Union into the discussion. But in fact, they know very well that the Soviets were not about to come down and fight, whether in Syria or elsewhere in the Middle East. But they took it as a pretext, because they had their own agenda with the Syrians.

**EIR:** In France recently, an attorney by the name of Jean-Marc Vautour has proposed, in an article published in *Le Quotidien de Paris*, that the Nuremberg Tribunals that we had in the postwar period to try the Nazis for crimes against humanity, should be resurrected and brought to bear in order to put the regime of Syria on trial from crimes against humanity being committed in Lebanon today [see *EIR*, Sept. 1, 1989, "For a new international Nuremberg Tribunal"]. What do you think of this proposal?

**El-Hayek:** This proposal is a good one and is timely. International public opinion should know exactly what's happening to the Lebanese people, what happened to the people of Hamma, for example, which is a Syrian city, destroyed by Hafez al-Assad, with 30,000 people dying under the rubble of their homes.

We have all the makings here of an international crime against humanity, where innocent people by the thousands are murdered in the streets, in their homes, everywhere, because a man wants to impose his will on them, and they refuse. This man does not abide by any law. The only law is his, whether we like it or not.

I think we have to stop this, either by establishing a tribunal, as it is suggested by this lawyer, or at least, by a conference of free nations about Lebanon, which Syria cannot really avoid attending, and where this could be stopped, if there is a good intention on the part of the free world to stop this genocide.

**EIR:** What would you like to say directly to the American people, what should they do to stop this genocide?

**El-Hayek:** What I would like to say to my compatriots is the following: that this country has been established on certain principles, basically principles of freedom and liberty. And human values. Now, it is not the time to abandon these principles and go and follow some of these politicians or experts on foreign policy, who are leading us down to other paths of dictatorship. We cannot defend liberty and freedom in this country and destroy it elsewhere. Liberty and freedom are indivisible. Either we stand for them here and elsewhere—or we do not stand for them.

So our role now, is to call upon our governments, and ask them to change their policies towards Lebanon, and other countries in the world, where dictatorships of this kind are destroying the lives of innocent people. Use the media, use the means at our disposal to make this known to your government. Thank you.

## Panama swears in a new President

by Carlos Wesley

Francisco Rodríguez and Carlos Ozores Typaldos were sworn in as, respectively, the new President and vice president of Panama on Sept. 1. They will head a provisional government selected by Panama's Council of State to replace President Manuel Solís Palma, whose constitutional term expired Aug. 31. In announcing the decision, the Council of State said it had to make the selection, because "the general elections of last May 7 were hopelessly tainted by the government of the United States of America and its local allies, who engaged in all sort of dishonest practices."

Those elections were annulled by Panama's Electoral Tribunal, after the Bush administration leaked to the media that it had funneled millions of dollars through the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), to Panama's Democratic Opposition Civic Alliance (ADO-C). The funds, which belonged to Panama, were impounded by the United States as part of the sanctions to force the ouster of the commander of Panama's Defense Forces, Gen. Manuel Noriega, and were employed by ADO-C to buy votes, to suborn officials, and to finance a number of operations to disrupt the country. The Council of State said that the new provisional government will call new elections "as soon as adequate conditions exist." It added that among the "indispensable" conditions for new elections are "an end of United States aggression against Panama and the release of the funds belonging to the Panamanian state which have been arbitrarily withheld by the U.S. government."

President George Bush said that he would not recognize the new government. "Our ambassador will not return, and we will not have any diplomatic contact with the Noriega regime," he said. "The U.S. will continue to take other steps, including the tightening of measures to deprive the illegal regime of funds that belong to the Panamanian people," said Bush, claiming that the intent was "to counter the threat posed by General Noriega's support for drug trafficking and other forms of subversion."

The accusation that Noriega is a partner of drug traffickers and drug-money launderers was also the central feature of a speech delivered by Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, former president of Kissinger Associates, at an "urgent meeting" of the Permanent Council of the Organi-

zation of American States (OAS) on Aug. 31. The meeting was called by the United States to lay the foundation "to purge [Noriega] from our midst," according to Eagleburger, who himself is no stranger to money laundering.

In an investigative report published Feb. 24, 1989 *EIR* showed that Eagleburger was on the board of directors of LBS bank of New York, a wholly owned subsidiary of Ljubljanska Banka of Yugoslavia, when the chairman of the board, Vinko Mir, was indicted for participating "in the illegal laundering of funds by persons whom Mir would have believed to be underworld figures." Eagleburger stayed on the board of LBS bank for more than a month after Mir's indictment, and only resigned after his nomination to the State Department was assured by Bush.

In his OAS speech, Eagleburger as much as admitted that Panama is right in saying that the real reason the U.S. wants to get rid of Noriega is to keep its military bases in Panama. It is true that according to the Canal Treaties, the U.S. needs Panama's agreement for the military bases to remain past the year 2000, he said. But, "The government of the United States has never raised this issue because we believe this is a decision that can be made only at a time much closer to the year 2000, and because any lasting arrangement could be made only with a Panamanian government that enjoyed the support of its people," which, the U.S. says, Noriega does not.

He also let the cat out of the bag by saying that the real reason for U.S. anger against Noriega, was that he broke an agreement endorsed by the United States, by which former PDF commander Rubén Paredes would become President of Panama, and Noriega would turn over command of the PDF to Col. Roberto Díaz Herrera in 1987. Eagleburger said Noriega's breaking of the agreement "abused his institution," the PDF, even though ties of Paredes to the Medellín Cartel are a matter of public record (his son was killed by the cocaine cartel in a drug deal gone sour), and Col. Díaz Herrera has publicly stated that one of the reasons he turned against Noriega, was that Noriega agreed to modify Panama's bank secrecy laws in an attempt to halt drug money laundering in Panama's offshore banking center.

### **No evidence presented**

As for the drug charges, Eagleburger claimed that he could not present hard evidence against Noriega, because of "grand jury secrecy provisions." Instead, he argued that that since Noriega is supposedly a very wealthy man, who owns yachts, paintings, apartment buildings, and private planes, that money must have come from selling protection to drug traffickers. He also relied heavily on allegations already made public, such as the charges made by Steven Kalish—a drug trafficker arrested and convicted with the help of Noriega—and by two of Noriega's political enemies, José Isabel Blandón, and Díaz Herrera, the former colonel cashiered from the PDF for reasons of mental health.

According to the advance publicity, Eagleburger's speech was supposed to finally deliver the goods on Noriega. But in the end, most observers had to agree with Panama's envoy, José María Cabrera, that there was "nothing new in this pack of lies that we are accustomed to hearing from the United States." The speech was "filled with fabrications, lies, and half-truths," he said.

Cabrera said that "there is a group of bureaucrats in Washington that have found in Panama the biggest threat to U.S. national security. How is it possible that the world's biggest power trembles before a country of 2 million people?" The U.S. efforts have failed miserably in the OAS, he said. "They have not managed to get our organization to do their dirty work."

He noted that Eagleburger left out the fact that the administration's "star witness," José Blandón, is a "pathological liar," so out of control that he is no longer paraded in front of congressional committees. Blandón has even accused U.S. allies, such as Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, of being involved in drug trafficking, said Cabrera. As for Díaz Herrera, said Cabrera, if Eagleburger wants his charges to be taken seriously, he should recall that at the same time that Díaz Herrera made the charges against Noriega, he also accused the former commander of the U.S. military Southern Command in Panama, Gen. Wallace Nutting, of being complicit in the murder of Panama's late leader, Gen. Omar Torrijos, in a plot hatched with George Bush. So if an investigation of his charges is warranted, it must extend to the current occupant of the White House, he said.

Cabrera demanded a complete accounting of the Panamanian funds embargoed by the United States. He referred to a GAO report presented on July 26 to a House Foreign Affairs subcommittee by Assistant Comptroller Frank Conahan, charging that former Assistant Secretary of State Elliott Abrams illegally diverted part of the monies to finance illegal operations against the Panamanian government, including a covert military operation in violation of the U.S. Neutrality Act.

Cabrera then called on Noriega's attorney, Frank Anthony Rabino, who told the OAS delegates that the charge against Noriega "is a fraud with political overtones." He said, "the U.S. government has ignored its own Constitution" in the case of Noriega. Addressing Eagleburger on the issue of Noriega's alleged wealth and its supposed links to drug trafficking, Rabino noted that Eagleburger was wearing a \$20,000 watch, but that did not give anyone the right to assume that just because the watch cost \$20,000, Eagleburger had stolen the money.

The United States, said Rabino, is engaging in "indictment diplomacy, using the U.S. court system to achieve political results." He said he was present at a meeting between Noriega and State Department officials, where "the U.S. offered to drop the indictment if Noriega would leave. How do you square that, Mr. Eagleburger?" asked Rabino.