

ADC exposes pro-drug Samper in Sweden

by Ulf Sandmark

Colombian presidential hopeful Ernesto Samper Pizano slipped into Stockholm, Sweden on Nov. 1 for a low-profile visit. The candidate of the Colombian Liberal Party's dope-pushing wing had just arrived from Paris, where his hopes for high-level meetings with the government had been dashed. After the Anti-Drug Coalition (ADC) of France, founded by co-thinkers of American statesman Lyndon LaRouche, circulated a fact sheet on Mr. Samper's career as the longtime mouthpiece of the financier faction that wants to legalize drugs, Samper, who is now pretending to be a supporter of Colombian President Virgilio Barco's all-out war on drugs, was exposed before the Paris press corps as having called for a "dialogue" with the drug mafia only two months ago.

In the Swedish capital, he apparently hoped to avoid further embarrassment. Samper's meetings were kept secret, and the only reporters invited to his press conference were from the Spanish-speaking programs of Swedish radio, the main news agency TT, and the conservative daily *Svenska Dagbladet*. But some other persons from the police and other papers attended, alerted by the informational campaign carried out by Sweden's own Anti-Drug Coalition.

Samper's visit was hosted by Sweden's governing Social Democratic Party, which had booked the room for the press conference in the same building as the party headquarters. The host was the party's international secretary Gunnar Stenarv. More official support than that is hard to get!

But the secrecy was spoiled by the ADC. In the morning the ADC poured out leaflets in the area of the trade union headquarters in Stockholm, and at lunchtime it leafletted outside the restaurant where ministry employees have lunch, exposing the Foreign Ministry for hosting this presidential candidate. The ADC carried picket signs denouncing the Swedish government for sabotaging the Colombian war on drugs. The protest continued outside the press conference long enough to give the leaflet to Samper and his followers, as well as to passersby and all the automobiles in the area.

Sham breaks down

As in Paris, Ernesto Samper Pizano presented himself as a close friend of Carlos Luis Galán, the frontrunning presi-

dential candidate in the Liberal Party who had been an intransigent enemy of the cocaine lords, and was assassinated by the Colombian drug mafia in August. But the sham broke down after one journalist, picking up on the content of the ADC's leaflets, asked how long would Samper be prepared to wait before he would consider the war on drugs unsuccessful and propose legalization. He answered: "Not a long war. At least not one generation, because then all Colombians are dead."

A journalist asked what measures he would take a year from now. Samper answered that it was hypothetical, but then continued: "I would perhaps re-analyze the situation. Last week's poll in Medellín showed that 72% supported dialogue. It is understandable because people suffer. That must be considered. That is what people ask for."

Pressed on why, as campaign manager for the 1982 presidential campaign of Alfonso López Michelsen, he had accepted a huge contribution from cocaine kingpin Carlos Lehder, the candidate stammered, "That was a long time ago . . . the drug bosses were not known," and "that was before all the killings." However Samper confirmed that the money had been used to buy lottery tickets in a lottery where a car was the prize.

The Swedish National Radio news at 6 p.m. blasted Ernesto Samper Pizano as a proponent of legalization of drugs, reporting: " 'In case the legal and police efforts fail, I am for legalization of drugs,' says Samper Pizano from Colombia, on a visit to Sweden. But legalization of drugs he claims is not anything that can be done unilaterally; 'it has to be a multilateral decision.' " The radio report went on to say Samper Pizano has some chance to become the candidate of the Liberal Party in the upcoming presidential elections. If he succeeds in that, he will likely become the next President of Colombia, but "His critics claim that he is running the drug traffickers' interests in his unclear stand on drugs and demands for a dialogue with the drug barons.

"Galán, who was the natural presidential candidate for the Liberal Party, was assassinated. He had a very clear standpoint on fighting the drug barons. The man who is going to succeed him is much more unclear in his stand on drugs," said the radio report.

'Global solution'

The new "anti-drug" cover Samper Pizano has assumed is called the "global answer," on the basis of the fact that, "If you get rid of one Gacha [a cocaine kingpin] you will get 20 new Gachas in Brazil. Now there is a war against two guys. What I want is to give the problem a global solution." The former legalization campaigner's call for support for Colombia contained a demand for "military aid, not bombers as the Americans have supplied, but electronic surveillance equipment." That was the only militant element of Samper's "war on drugs." His further demands were for "economic aid to build peace" and a

call for the importing countries to stop consumption.

The campaign for a global war on drugs put forward by this representative of the drug lobby in Colombia was evidently to be coordinated with similar proposals from the European side. Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti met with his Swedish counterpart Ingvar Carlsson at the end of September in Rome, to launch a major initiative in the drug field, on the occasion of the official visit of Carlsson to Italy.

In an article in the Stockholm daily *Dagens Nyheter* Sept. 20 Prime Minister Carlsson announced that he was going to put forward a "global action plan against drugs" at the United Nations. Carlsson, reflecting his discussion with Andreotti, called for no direct government aid to Colombia. The formulations were: "The government of Colombia deserves all our admiration for daring to challenge the powerful cocaine syndicates. But it is getting more and more clear that Colombia cannot master this growing problem alone. For Colombia and other governments in the same situation to be successful, all countries must conduct a global war against drugs." Carlsson went on, "From the Swedish side we are finding out the possibilities to increase the type of support that goes to Colombia, for instance via private organizations." Carlsson referred to the murder of Galán and called for a halt to all the suffering.

A Swedish government official stressed that the international Swedish drug policy "entirely goes through the U.N." Now, when the fight is increasing, "our policy, then, is to strengthen the multilateral cooperation," he said; i.e., no concentration on Colombia.

Carlsson sent his minister of foreign aid, Lena Hjelm-Wallen, to Vienna to meet with the U.N. Division on Drugs, to which Sweden is one of the five largest contributors, and his minister of youth, Margot Wallstrom, to New York to the U.N., where on Nov. 2 she presented the Carlsson Global Action Plan Against Drugs. No minister was sent to Bogotá. No Swedish liaison policeman is being sent to Colombia, and no Swedish bulletproof Volvos or Saabs are being given to protect Colombian judges. Military supplies, especially two-way radios, are not even whispered about, and the "neutrality" posture of Sweden was raised, according to Swedish radio, by a Swedish government anti-drug official as a reason for not giving any support to Colombian effort.

Carlsson's focus, he wrote, is to strengthen the U.N. drug control institutions (another source explained that the idea is to set up a "task-force," for operational coordination); acknowledge the political and economic problems connected to the drug problem; and give active support to drug-producing countries with advice on new drug control laws, efficient organizing of the police and customs, and the U.N.'s crop substitution program.

At best, the U.N. channel is a smokescreen for doing nothing serious. Sweden so far has not even implemented the 1988 U.N. Convention on Illicit Trafficking, much less the

action plan from the World Conference on Drugs last year. Nor has Sweden even officially responded to the demands from President Barco to stop drug money laundering, and the weapons and chemicals trade with the traffickers.

Replacing the drug plantations with more beneficial crops is presented as the "peaceful" solution. While not wrong in itself, for years proposals for crop substitution have been used to block police interventions against drug plantations, while U.N. "experiments with alternative crops" have been conducted by endless groups of anthropologists. The trick is that before an alternative is found, the villagers' drug plantations continue in order to get their cooperation in the "experiments." If the military does not move in and clear out the drug plantations, such U.N. protection and fake "anti-drug" activities can go on for years. There is no need for research on alternatives, since the ordinary food crops are what is needed and can be supported with dirigistic agricultural policies—in Colombia's case primarily by the restoration of the international coffee agreement and a solution to the debt crisis.

Besides Italy and Sweden, the countries active in the U.N.'s informal work group for these international drug initiatives are, according to one government official, Jamaica, France, the United Kingdom, and the Soviet Union.

Swedish police want action

On Nov. 1, the same day Samper Pizano visited Sweden, the national Swedish police presented their new anti-drug manifesto, built around "88 clauses" about "international and domestic cooperation against drugs, smuggling, trafficking, drug abuse, and the treatment of drug users," all in the form, "The Swedish police think that. . . ." It covers everything from a wish to "develop drug detectors that can be used in field operations" to lowering restrictions on telephone and video bugging of suspects. At the well-attended press conference, national police chief Bjorn Eriksson in his 40-minute presentation stressed the urgency of fighting the strong forces in Europe who advocate "drug legalization, despite the fact that for the moment no Swedish proponent is actively working from such a standpoint." Eriksson warned especially about the strong drug-legalization drive which is under way in Switzerland.

After two questions from the press on the dangers for "personal integrity" of more bugging, an *EIR* reporter asked Eriksson to comment on the fact that "the Swedish Foreign Minister and Swedish Social Democratic Party Board today hosted one of the foremost proponents of legalization of Colombia, Samper Pizano, as their guest." The police chief insisted he had no idea of such a thing taking place. A big silence fell on the room. Reality had struck, and no one felt eager to ask any more questions; and so, before the press conference ended *EIR* was able to brief the press corps on Samper Pizano's crimes.