

## Panama Report by Carlos Wesley

### British protect CIA cousins

*British barristers are covering up for the CIA and Israeli role in arming the drug cartels, by attacking EIR.*

**B**ritish barrister Louis Blom-Cooper has published a report he prepared for the government of the tiny Caribbean country of Antigua and Barbudas, a British dependency, on how a shipment of Israeli weapons purchased for a CIA operation against Panama's Gen. Manuel Noriega, ended up instead at the Colombian ranch of the late Medellín cocaine cartel kingpin Gonzalo Rodríguez Gacha. The report, called "Guns for Antigua," is a complete coverup.

It absolves the governments of the United States, Israel, and Great Britain of responsibility for providing training and selling arms to Colombia's drug barons. The three governments, according to Blom-Cooper, are guilty of nothing more than being gullible; at worst, they might have been negligent in allowing some rogue elements to get out of control. The report places the blame solely on Antigua's government officials, for what was clearly an operation carried out by the same Ollie North networks responsible for the Iran-Contra drugs-for-weapons deals.

Blom-Cooper, who is also the chairman of Britain's Press Council, was assisted by another British lawyer, Geoffrey Robertson, who, like Blom-Cooper, is a Queen's Counsel. Robertson was in charge of "marshaling the evidence" for the commission headed by Blom-Cooper. Also lending a hand was Washington lawyer Lawrence Barcella.

The gist of the story is as follows. Earlier this year, Colombian authorities discovered a cache of Israeli-made weapons at the ranch of Rodríguez Gacha. Their investiga-

tions led them to Antigua, and from there back to Israel. At the heart of the operation were Israeli Gen. Pinchas Schachar, the Miami sales representative of the government-owned Israeli Military Industries (IMI); Maurice Sarfati, an Israeli who had purchased a melon farm in Antigua with financial support from the U.S. government; and other members of Israel's Mossad and military reserves, among them Col. Yair Klein, wanted by Colombian authorities for training the hired killers of the drug cartels, an operation in which he employed alumnae from Britain's elite Special Air Services (SAS).

Klein was also assisting the CIA-sanctioned anti-Noriega operation led by Col. Eduardo Herrera, an admitted contract employee of the CIA and former Panamanian ambassador to Israel. The weapons found in Colombia were purchased for that operation. The operation was financed with Panamanian government funds impounded by the U.S. government, which were improperly diverted by former Assistant Secretary of State Elliott Abrams. The money was conduited through a fictitious "government of Panama" in exile in Coconut Grove, Florida, headed by former Panamanian President Eric Delvalle.

From the very start, Blom-Cooper's Antigua commission made it clear that it would ignore the evidence. Lawyer Robertson attacked *EIR* for focusing attention on the role of the CIA, which "has generated much excitement in the international press."

The evidence presented to the commission included sworn testimo-

ny that two CIA agents, Robert Keening, CIA station chief in Barbados, and Robert Hogan, were aware of the Klein operation. Robertson dismissed the evidence, and instead sought to discredit one of the sources. *EIR*, he said, "is associated with Mr. Lyndon LaRouche, currently serving 25 years [sic] in an American prison for fraud and who is best remembered for alleging a few years ago that the world's largest drug runner was none other than Queen Elizabeth II, the Queen of Antigua." In his opening statement on Aug. 27, 1990, before the commission had examined the evidence, Robertson explained: "The CIA has doubtless been responsible for many stupid and perhaps evil deeds, but supplying arms to the Medellín Cartel at the height of President Reagan's war on drugs is not one of them."

Robertson went on to deny (as does Blom-Cooper's report) that Israel's Colonel Klein was "helping Washington to overthrow General Noriega."

But Klein himself says he was involved. Herrera has said publicly that he was being aided by the Israelis, and John Zagame, who—along with George Bush's former deputy chief of staff, Richard Bond, and William Donatelli, the political director of the Reagan White House—was hired as a consultant for the fictitious Delvalle government, has said, according to published reports, that he assisted in getting "the government of Israel" to provide a military expert to help Colonel Herrera's plot.

At least some of the legal work for Zagame's contract with the Delvalle "government" was handled by Barcelona's law firm. Zagame is now a partner with Juan B. Sosa, Delvalle's ambassador to Washington, in a public relations firm, PanAmerican. When we last checked, they only had one major client—Oliver North.