

ADL rushes in to protect Dope, Inc. in Venezuela

by Carlos Wesley

The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL) has rushed in to keep an on-going drug coverup in place in Venezuela. On Oct. 27, readers of the Caracas daily *El Nacional* had to swallow some execrable Spanish together with their Sunday coffee: a paid insert from the ADL attacking U.S. presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche for his role in the publication of the best-selling exposé on the drug trade, *Narcotráfico, SA*.

Narcotráfico, SA is the Spanish-language version of *Dope, Inc.*, the book-length study by an *EIR* investigative team commissioned by LaRouche, which names the names of the ADL, otherwise known as the American Drug Lobby, and the command structure of the drug trade. The book identifies the drug ties of, among others, such ADL luminaries as booze king Edgar Bronfman, of Seagram's liquors, Max Fisher from Detroit, and gangster Morris Dalitz, partner of the late mobster Meyer Lansky.

The attack inserted in *El Nacional* was purportedly a joint publication of the ADL's Jerkow Institute for Latin America and the so-called Anti-Drug League of Venezuelan Gaston Guisandes. It was authored by Morton Rosenthal and by an admitted former CIA employee, Mira Lansky Boland. Rosenthal was a mentor of Elliott Abrams, the former Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, who recently pleaded guilty on misdemeanor charges stemming from his role in the drugs-for-arms Iran-Contra scandal.

The expensive, four-color ADL pamphlet boasted in bold letters that LaRouche is in jail. But it is indicative of the power of LaRouche's ideas that, even though his enemies have kept him behind bars for more than a thousand days as a political prisoner, they are still sufficiently afraid of him to spend millions of dollars to slander him. As the pamphlet itself stated, in typical ADL racist fashion, "in Latin America there are naive democracies" and, "unfortunately, an insufficiently developed public conscience about the sordid and grotesque components of the LaRouche political apparatus." As a result, "the LaRouche network is flour-



From left to right:
George Landau, U.S.
Ambassador to
Venezuela, Manuel
Azpurua, Venezuela's
Finance Minister, and
Gustavo Cisneros, in
1985.

ishing.”

Otherwise, the pamphlet spewed the usual garden variety ADL slanders that LaRouche is “an anti-Semite who says that the Queen of England pushes drugs.”

An urgent matter

While a lot of money was spent on the slick production, the ADL scrimped on the translation of the scandal-sheet, a total mishmash of English construction and illiterate Spanish. Since this was not the first time that the ADL had deployed to protect the dope lobby from exposure (see page 27), the slapdash translation, besides giving away the fact that the slander was concocted at ADL headquarters in Washington, indicated a desperate effort to put the lid on the erupting volcano of *Narcotráfico, SA*.

Why the urgency?

Narotráfico, SA was banned in Venezuela in 1985, ostensibly because it made reference to certain prominent Venezuelan businessmen and financiers, among them the current head of Venezuela's Central Bank, Pedro Tinoco, who also represents the interests of Chase Manhattan Bank in Venezuela. Tinoco is Venezuela's lead negotiator with the country's creditors on the nation's foreign debt.

The other prominent Venezuelan mentioned in *Narcotráfico, SA* is multimillionaire Gustavo Cisneros, who used to be on the board of the once-huge, food-packaging multinational, Beatrice Foods corporation (“We are Beatrice!”), and who, among other businesses, owns the Venezuelan subsid-

iary of Pepsi-Cola and a television network. Cisneros is one of David Rockefeller's and Henry Kissinger's best friends in Venezuela. In fact, last year, Cisneros accompanied Venezuelan President Carlos Andrés Pérez—the favorite Ibero-American leader of George Bush and the Anglo-American establishment—on a state visit to Washington when Kissinger was named Venezuela's official adviser on foreign investments.

It was an associate of the Cisneros family's holding company who arranged for Venezuelan authorities to ban *Narcotráfico, SA* in 1985. Agents of Venezuela's political police, DISIP, raided the offices of the Venezuelan Labor Party (PLV) in Caracas, to confiscate a handful of copies of the book. During that raid, Alejandro Peña, secretary general of the PLV, was arrested together with other leaders of the party.

Journalists Carlos Méndez and Lucia López Méndez, who were *EIR*'s correspondents in Venezuela, were detained and expelled from the country, as were two other *EIR* correspondents who were visiting Venezuela at the time, Stefania Sacchi, an Italian, and Lorenzo Carrasco, a Mexican.

International outcry

But the recent resurfacing of Cisneros's name in connection with an on-going Venezuelan congressional investigation of drugs and corruption, has renewed media attention in *Narcotráfico, SA*. It has also sparked an international campaign to end what a group of Venezuelan congressmen de-

nounced as an “irregular and unconstitutional” ban.

On Oct. 21, Venezuela’s Congressional Committee on Media, which had previously ordered the free circulation of Salman Rushdie’s *Satanic Verses* which, as one of the members of the committee noted, “offended millions of Muslims,” side-stepped a decision on *Narcotráfico, SA* even though “only two Venezuelan citizens—Cisneros and Tinoco—could possibly be offended by it.” The committee noted that it had received a request from Alejandro Peña of the PLV, to lift the judicial ban on the book. “While in principle . . . we reject any prohibition or censorship,” said the committee, “any decision we make, one way or the other, could violate the principle of separation of powers.”

Committee cowardice

Peña attacked the committee for its cowardly behavior. “It is sad that the institutions of the Republic are at the mercy of monopolies and oligopolies with the power to decide even what the average citizen can read,” he said. He added that when “those oligopolies and monopolies, besides owning the communications media, can also forbid the circulation of books, we could be on the verge of a Nazi-fascist dictatorship, something we should reflect upon now that the communist dictatorships have fallen.”

Soon after, on Oct. 23, a dozen senators from the Dominican Republic urged their Venezuelan counterparts to lift the ban on *Narcotráfico, SA* because the prohibition “hurts Venezuela’s image around the world.” The senators, all of whom are members of the left-of-center Dominican Liberation Party (PLD) of former President Juan Bosch, the second-largest political grouping in the country, stated:

“The right to the free expression of thought, whether through speech or the written word, and the right to disseminate the same through any media, must be respected without prior censorship, which is why we are making public our rejection to the censoring or banning of any book or publication.”

A similar call was issued on Oct. 19 in Lima, Peru by Sen. Abasalón Alarcón Bravo de Rueda and by Peruvian congressmen Lino Cerna Manrique and Carlos Riva Davila, a former minister of Economics and Finance, all members of the APRA party of former President Alan García.

Blocking the drug lobby

This international outcry, more than six years after the book was believed dead and buried, couldn’t have come at a worse time for the dope lobby. It fears that circulation of the book could jeopardize plans to ram through a so-called financial reform designed to turn Venezuela into a drug-and money-laundering paradise. There is also widespread hysteria that the book will hamper plans to privatize the state-owned telecommunications monopoly, CANTV, which, if it goes through, would give elements tied to the drug lobby a stranglehold over Venezuela’s economy.

Guisandes, a congressman in the Cisneros camp, published full-page ads in three Caracas dailies on Oct. 23 to warn “public opinion” against LaRouche.

Unfortunately for the credibility of Guisandes’s campaign, in a series of ads published the same week, PLV leader Peña quoted verbatim a newspaper column Guisandes penned in 1988, in which Guisandes lavishly praised LaRouche and *Narcotráfico, SA*. The book contains “the best and most complete information on the impressive world of drugs,” Guisandes wrote then.

Paid to shift?

A televised editorial by Radio Caracas TV (RCTV) network asked Guisandes how much money he got to shift his views on LaRouche so radically. This forced Guisandes to take out yet another series of ads which appeared in most of Caracas’s daily newspapers on Oct. 26, to respond to RCTV and its owner, Marcel Granier. In the ads, Guisandes said that in 1988 he wrote favorably about LaRouche because “Lyndon LaRouche was a prestigious American politician [who was] twice candidate for the presidency of the U.S., where he was considered one of the nation’s most important leaders. Even President Ronald Reagan supported his concepts regarding a Strategic Defense Plan, later known internationally as ‘Star Wars,’ which became the centerpiece of the U.S. defense program under the Reagan administration.” According to Guisandes, because LaRouche “was a very unusual man in the world’s most important nation” when *Narcotráfico, SA* was published, it “gained credibility in society because readers linked the book with the image of its promoter, even though it was forbidden in Venezuela.”

But “when LaRouche was jailed,” wrote Guisandes, “I turned against Lyndon LaRouche.”

Turning against Carlos Andrés Pérez

The same day the ads were published, the ADL collaborator Guisandes turned against another prominent politician he had previously embraced, Venezuelan President Carlos Andrés Pérez. In his weekly column in the Oct. 26 daily *El Mundo*, Guisandes wrote that President Pérez should be impeached if he agrees to a request to base a U.S. radar in Venezuela to fight drug trafficking. “The Americans have the right to ask for whatever they want,” wrote the head of the so-called Anti-Drug League of Venezuela. “But the sovereignty that’s in danger is ours, and not theirs.”

If President Pérez were to agree to the radar request, wrote Guisandes, then “superior reasons of state allow the removal from command of someone who commits the crime of treason.” Since Guisandes works with Cisneros, observers in Venezuela are wondering if his charge of treason against the Venezuelan President means there has been a fallout among thieves, so to speak, between the Rockefeller- and Kissinger-allied millionaire Cisneros, and Bush’s favorite Ibero-American leader Carlos Andrés Pérez.