

Soros a leading funder for drug legalization

by Scott Thompson

Arnold Trebach, president of the Drug Policy Foundation, recently confirmed that speculator George Soros's Open Society Funds has been perhaps the leading funder of the DPF for one-and-a-half years. The DPF is the leading voice for legalization in the United States of every kind of deadly, illegal drug, and it has used every trick, from claiming drugs are harmless to seeking their medical use as a foot in the door, to get these substances legalized.

Trebach said that he has met Soros and Aryeh Neier, the president of the Open Society Funds, many times. Soros, he said, argues that in an "open society" (a concept he got at the London School of Economics from British Aristotelian Society leader Sir Karl Popper) it is all right to debate all strategies for dealing with drugs, except for the law enforcement approach, which Soros and his cronies argue is not working.

Soros was the main funder of the DPF's conference in Baltimore last year. It was hosted by Baltimore Mayor Kurt Schmoke, who is an advocate of "decriminalization." Trebach characterized Soros and Neier as being like Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders, who said that the law enforcement approach was just increasing criminality, but he never openly broached the legalization alternative. Elders's statement has been rejected by the White House and Attorney General Janet Reno.

DPF vice president and counsel Kevin Zeese has stated that Soros has made ever-growing contributions to the DPF, including \$75,000 in 1992 and \$500,000 in 1993. He is expected to double his contribution to \$1 million in 1994.

Neier is in close touch with DPF pro-legalization board members such as Ethan Nadelman at Princeton University and Mithea Savry at Cornell Medical Center. The DPF works closely with the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, and works with the Alliance for Cannabis Therapeutics (ACT). According to statements made at DPF conferences, ACT is a ploy to legalize the use of marijuana for treatment of cancer and glaucoma, thereby opening the door for comprehensive legalization.

Zeese reports that he is very close to Soros personally. He added that although Aryeh Neier pretends he is above the outcome of a debate on drug policy, Neier has previously spoken out in favor of legalization.

According to the winter 1994 issue of Soros's *Open Society News*, Soros named Aryeh Neier to be president of his Soros Foundation's Open Society Funds in September 1993.

For 12 years, Neier was executive director of Human Rights Watch, and he worked with the American Civil Liberties Union for eight years as national director. Neier is working on two projects in the United States: Nazi-like "death with dignity," and "a non-law enforcement approach" to drugs. He elaborates:

- Nazi euthanasia: "We seek to promote a culture of dying that permits death with dignity, death with comfort, death under circumstances which allow the dying and their families to communicate and achieve reconciliations."

- Drug legalization: "We don't espouse a particular approach. . . . However, we do think that the law enforcement approach has made a bad situation worse. . . . [We want] to create a national debate over drug policy."

Neier added: "Both the concern with dying and the drug issue have this basic philosophical commitment. . . . We want the dying to gain greater control over the way in which they die and we want persons involved in the drug culture, who are currently treated as objects of state action, to regain control over their own lives."

Neier states that this is coherent with the Aristotelian philosophy of the Open Society Funds. In fact, it is a formula from Aristotle's *Politics* for creating a sub-class of sense-certainty, pleasure-seeking helots, who are reduced to something less than human.

Ties to Jeffrey Sachs

At the same time as Soros is pushing drug legalization, he is also pushing economic policies that foster the proliferation of illegal drugs, as his ties to Harvard's Jeffrey Sachs show. On Nov. 20, 1993, Sachs, whom Soros hired to implement International Monetary Fund shock therapy throughout the former East bloc, gave a lecture to some 400 of Colombia's elite. Sachs first came to Soros's attention for his imposition of IMF shock therapy in Bolivia, which destroyed the real economy in favor of increased cocaine cultivation.

EIR recently confronted Sachs in Bogotá on his record of spreading misery, as exemplified by Poland, where production dropped to 30% of what it had been under communism. "You yourself have admitted that your shock therapy program caused mass unemployment in Bolivia and that many of the newly unemployed went to work on the coca fields," he was told. Sachs argued that his Bolivia program had been a complete success. Sachs praised Soros, saying, "He is a great philanthropist. . . . We are very close friends."

Asked by presidential candidate Llorentes about financial liberalization and drug dollars, Sachs said he favored liberalization of markets. And, as for drug legalization, he said that there was a debate on the question, and those supporting legalization included "Chicago School" monetarist Milton Friedman and former Secretary of State George Shultz.

EIR later asked Sachs privately, "Are you or are you not in favor of dope legalization?" Sachs admitted, "I tend to lean in that direction."