

# EIR readers knew that North's Contras were running drugs

by Gretchen Small

The Nicaraguan Contra operation of the 1980s was a central part of a broader, evil policy, run by the British-centered Project Democracy networks and foisted upon the Reagan administration by self-professed British agent Henry Kissinger. It had two primary goals: to use narco-terrorist wars in Central America as a bargaining chip for a global deal with the Soviet Union, and to transform the Caribbean region into a narcotics-based Hongkong-style economy. It was this anti-American policy for which Oliver North was a witting hired gun.

Lyndon LaRouche warned in the *EIR* of Aug. 21, 1987 that the Kissinger-North Contra policy was a fraud, had betrayed U.S. allies, and had helped build up the narcotics trade. LaRouche summarized his policy to free Nicaragua and the region from Soviet-linked narco-terrorism this way: "My thesis was this. Since terrorist operations in the Caribbean and adjoining nations depend chiefly upon revenues from drug-trafficking for their logistical support and weapons, if the drug-trafficking is shut down, as we have the means to do this very effectively, the effect of blocking the production, processing, and shipment of drugs will cripple and isolate the terrorists to the point that they disband operations, or are easily mopped up. By assisting these nations in their economic development programs, by means at very little cost to the U.S., we would strengthen the stability of these nations, and thus strengthen their individual and regional security."

In the following chronology, we select some highlights of *EIR*'s coverage.

**Feb. 14, 1984:** *EIR* warns the Reagan administration that the policies for Central America outlined in the final report issued in January by Henry Kissinger's Bipartisan Commission on Central America served to place U.S. political prestige and muscle behind the narco-terrorist apparatus then spreading across the Caribbean-Central American region. Kissinger's report demanded that Central America model itself upon Hongkong, the British Crown Colony which served as the international capital of the narcotics trade; argued that United Fruit's notorious plantations in the region should be expanded; demanded that population be reduced; and explicitly ruled out any U.S. strategy to contain the

Sandinista Soviet client-state in Nicaragua by fostering the development of the other nations in the region.

**May 1, 1984:** "Reagan's anti-insurgency polices in Ibero-America remind us of a man setting forest fires with a flame-thrower, while trying to put out those fires with a garden watering can," comments LaRouche. *EIR* warns again that Kissinger's Central America policies match a Soviet-designed trap to draw United States forces into a Central American quagmire, giving Soviet forces greater leeway in the European and Asian theaters. The attempted mining of Nicaraguan harbors by U.S.-directed covert forces won't counter the Sandinistas, but falls into the Soviet trap, as outlined in an interview given to Germany's *Der Spiegel* magazine in November 1983 by Soviet President Yuri Andropov, in which he referred to the region as a U.S. "sphere of influence."

**April 4, 1986:** The \$100 million in U.S. government monies requested for Project Democracy's Contras were better used to aid U.S.-allied nations in Ibero-America to fight drug-trafficking, *EIR* argues in its article, "U.S. Urged to Aid Nations, Not Contras."

**April 25, 1986:** "Narcontras Scandal Blows Up Central American Policy." With Associated Press revealing that the FBI, Customs Service, the U.S. Congress, and the U.S. Attorney for Florida were all investigating North's Contras for drug-running—and that included Contra plans to assassinate the most outspoken U.S. ambassador against narcotics, Lewis Tambs, whose work in Colombia had threatened the heart of the drug cartel—*EIR* demands "a top-to-bottom inquiry into the Contras, and any U.S. official who collaborated with narcotics traffickers, or suppressed evidence of such activities, [as] the minimum starting point for recouping U.S. strategic interests" in Ibero-America. North's Contras are players in the regional drug trade which feeds their supposed opponents, the Sandinistas, and maintains headquarters in Castro's Cuba.

**Jan. 23, 1987:** "Who Runs the 'Contra' Cocaine Connection?" *EIR*'s cover story documents that elements of *all* factions of the Contras have been caught running drugs. This news is not surprising, *EIR* writes, because "the Contra policy was designed from the beginning as part of Henry Kissinger's stated plan to turn Central America into a new Hong-

kong, a dope haven bled by endless warfare. The Contras never had anything to do with stopping the Soviet advance upon the U.S. southern flank. *The Soviets control the narcotics traffic of which the Contras are but one part.*” *EIR* identifies how the Contras are run by the dirty networks operating in the region for decades, including the United Fruit-centered financial interests who ran the narcotics trade from the top; Meyer Lansky’s old Caribbean Legion (the group which put José “Pepe” Figueres and Fidel Castro in power); and the Cuban-exile centered networks of former CIA operative Ted Shackley.

**Feb. 6, 1987:** “Failed Contra Policy Comes Under Fire” reports ridicule of North’s Contras by Gen. Paul Gorman, former chief of the U.S. Army’s Southern Command, before Senate committee hearings Jan. 28. The public dismissal of the Contras as a serious threat to the Sandinista regime in Nicaragua by a leading U.S. military figure who had once supported them—Gorman called them “only a cross-border raiding force, of no concern to the Sandinistas” and demanded a policy overhaul—followed media exposés of “the Contras’ involvement in the Soviet-dominated narcotics traffic in the Western Hemisphere,” *EIR* reports. The *Wall Street Journal* had exposed on Jan. 16 the numerous drug ties of one of North’s top Contra supply networks, the Cuban exile crew called Brigade 2506. Pressed on the charges, Secretary of State George Shultz told a congressional committee hearing on Jan. 28 that he could not deny that Contras were involved in drug running, but insisted that “whatever problem there is, is quite under control.”

**April 1987:** *EIR* issues a 341-page Special Report, “Project Democracy: The ‘Parallel Government’ behind the Iran-Contra Affair,” which exposes the controllers of the secret government apparatus for which North worked, an apparatus which had been built up since Henry Kissinger’s restructuring of the National Security Council in the Nixon administration. A case study of “The Cocaine Contras” was but one part of a report which exposed the interlocked Soviet-Anglo-Venetian networks which set up the Iran-Contra operation.

**May 15, 1987:** Feature by Lyndon LaRouche on “The Soviet Role inside Project Democracy” details evidence that the Contras are a Soviet-linked drug-running operation, a fact known by the very U.S. intelligence networks arranging logistics and financing for them. To understand how it is that North and the Project Democracy for which he worked were wittingly collaborating with the Soviet Union, the U.S. citizen must understand the role played since the 1920s by the British-Soviet “Trust,” centered around such personalities as Bertrand Russell, Averell Harriman, and Armand Hammer, LaRouche explains.

**May 22, 1987:** *EIR* reports that North and top Contra fundraiser, the Washington, D.C. homosexual pimp Carl “Spitz” Channell, were attempting to recruit Mexicans to form a “joint commando unit” of Nicaraguan Contras and “Mexican Contras,” to spread Kissinger’s wars right onto the



*EIR's cover of Jan. 23, 1987 showed U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Elliott Abrams addressing a rally in favor of the Contras in June 1986. The cover story documented the role of Ollie North's Contras in running drugs from Central America and the Caribbean to the United States.*

border of the United States, in Mexico.

**Aug. 21, 1987:** *EIR* runs “The LaRouche Plan: The U.S. Strategic Mission in Central and South American Conflict.” LaRouche details how the “maricontra” operation, tied to a leading homosexual ring in Washington, was being continued as “a porkbarrel of money and political influence for the avaricious,” a shoddy Rambo operation which could not succeed, but was kept alive by those who benefitted from the revenues and political influence stemming from it. LaRouche outlines the basic tenets of the policy required instead to crack the Sandinista danger in Nicaragua, “as a nutcracker cracks a nut.”

**Dec. 11, 1987:** *EIR* exposé on “The Cocaine Pushers’ Honduras Connection” fingers Medellín Cartel czar José Ramón Matta Ballesteros as the key to drug-running networks within the Contras’ main component, the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN)—long before the Kerry Commission uncovered evidence that U.S. government agencies were wittingly using Matta’s SETCO corporation for Contra logistics. Oliver North’s intervention to keep his Honduran collaborator, Gen. José Bueso Rosa, from serving jail time for his U.S. cocaine-trafficking conviction, is detailed.