

Dope, Inc. stooges going down in the Caribbean

by Dennis Small

When British Trade Minister Richard Needham arrived in Colombia on June 1 of this year, he brought with him crucial political and financial support for Ernesto Samper Pizano, the man whom the Cali drug cartel placed in the Presidency of Colombia one year ago with millions of drug dollars. British investors, Needham told the local press, were unconcerned by Colombia's massive drug-running and related narco-terrorism. And when asked by the media about U.S. insistence on cracking down on drugs, his excellency responded snootily: "That is their problem."

Perhaps not for much longer.

Four days after Needham's provocative remarks, the Clinton Justice Department indicted the entire top leadership of the Cali Cartel, including four former U.S. Justice Department prosecutors. Four days after that, on June 9, Colombian authorities captured Gilberto Rodríguez Orejuela, the number-one man in the Cali Cartel. Follow-up raids netted hard evidence proving that virtually the entire Colombian government which the British were trying desperately to salvage—including President Ernesto Samper Pizano, Defense Minister Fernando Botero, Interior Minister Horacio Serpa Uribe, and Communications Minister Armando Benedetti—had received multimillion-dollar payoffs from the Cali Cartel. And then, on Aug. 6, the Cali Cartel's number-two man, Miguel Rodríguez Orejuela, Gilberto's brother, was also finally captured.

These latest events in Colombia signal a major strategic shift that is under way throughout the Caribbean Basin: The political apparatus behind the region's drug trade—all of it associated with former U.S. President George Bush—is being taken down, piece by piece. From the 1993 ouster of President Carlos Andrés Pérez in Venezuela, to the departure of President Carlos Salinas in Mexico, to the latest discrediting of President Samper and other children of the López Michelsen machine in Colombia, Britain's "House of Bush" in the Caribbean is crumbling.

If properly pursued, this shift could mean the beginning of the end for "Dope,

FIGURE 1

Recent victories in the Caribbean theater war on drugs

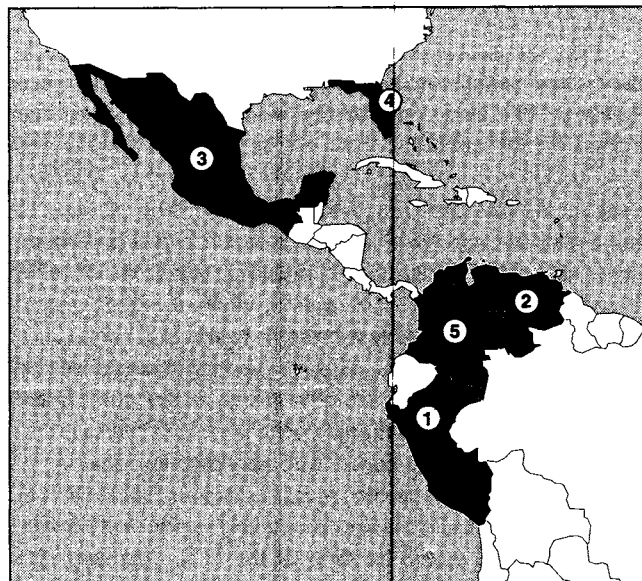
① **Peru, September 1992:** Abimael Guzmán, head of the Shining Path narco-terrorist gang, is arrested and sentenced to life in prison. Most of the rest of Shining Path's top leadership is captured and tried over the following two years, dramatically undermining their role as armed protectors of Peru's drug trade.

② **Venezuela, May 1993:** President Carlos Andrés Pérez is forced to step down from office to face trial on multimillion-dollar corruption charges, for which he is subsequently jailed. Over the next year, scores of corrupt bankers he had protected are indicted, many accused of drug-money laundering. Most of the bankers fled the country and are still at large.

③ **Mexico, December 1994:** President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, whose famous "Mexican economic miracle" was built on laundering billions of narco-dollars every year, leaves office. Three months later his brother, Raúl, is arrested for complicity in the murder of the head of the PRI party. Both Salinas brothers, according to Mexican press accounts, were directly involved in protecting the drug trade which flourished during the Salinas years.

④ **Florida, U.S.A., June 1995:** The U.S. Justice Department unseals an indictment in Miami against the entire leadership of the Cali Cartel, including four former Department of Justice prosecutors.

⑤ **Colombia, June-August 1995:** Authorities capture six of the seven top leaders of the Cali Cartel, including Gilberto and Miguel Rodríguez Orejuela. Other anti-drug raids turn up hard evidence of Cali Cartel payoffs to hundreds of top government officials, including President Ernesto Samper Pizano.



Inc.," the global financial and political apparatus, headquartered in the British monarchy, which runs the \$800 billion per year international drug trade. Moreover, it means that a new, winning front has been opened up by the Clinton administration in its ongoing "war and a half" against London, as *EIR* founder Lyndon LaRouche has characterized the current strategic situation.

There are two, connected components of this strategic shift. First, beginning in 1992, patriotic forces in a number of Ibero-American nations rose up to begin to break their countries out of the grip of Dope, Inc. and its local enforcers. They deposed the corrupt Presidents of Brazil, Fernando Collor de Mello, and Venezuela, Carlos Andrés Pérez, and they militarily defeated narco-terrorist armies such as the bloody Shining Path in Peru. Their revolt was carried out against the hysterical, and often violent, opposition of the pro-British Bush administration in Washington, which was itself in cahoots with the Dope, Inc. apparatus. The Inter-American Dialogue, a Washington think-tank favoring drug legalization, had the inside track on Ibero-American policy in the Bush administration, and actively promoted narco-terrorist gangs grouped in Fidel Castro's São Paulo Forum.

The second element that has come into play is the policy

change in Washington itself, which began as William Clinton came into office in January 1993. Slowly at first, but then with increasing strength, the Clinton administration has broken with Bush's criminal collaboration with these dirty drug networks, as exemplified by Oliver North's "drugs-for-guns" Iran-Contra operation, run under Bush's personal command. As a result, for the first time in over a decade, Dope, Inc.'s stranglehold over the Caribbean Basin is seriously threatened.

What the British stand to lose

The significance of these developments should not be underestimated. Although viewed throughout most of this century as the "backyard" of the United States, the Caribbean has actually been the United States's soft underbelly, where British dirty operations have wreaked havoc in this hemisphere.

These go back to England's domination of the slave trade in American Colonial times, and run up through the postwar "Caribbean Legion" of "ex"-communists and socialists, today reborn as George Bush's "Project Democracy" networks, who are up to their necks in drugs and weapons smuggling, narco-terrorism, and the use of "human rights"

destabilization campaigns against the region's military.

As for narcotics trafficking per se, the Caribbean region, broadly defined, is, in fact, the logistical center of the entire world drug trade.

Take the case of cocaine. All the cocaine consumed in the United States comes through this area, and the United States is, of course, by far the world's largest consumer market for all narcotics. Coca plants grown in Bolivia and Peru are refined into cocaine mainly in Colombia, and then transhipped into the United States. About 80% of that cocaine goes through Mexico; the remainder enters the United States through the Caribbean, including air drops of bales of cocaine into international waters, where it is then picked up by high-speed boats and brought to the U.S. coast.

Or, look at marijuana. Most of the marijuana consumed in the United States is actually grown *inside* the United States, much of it on national parks land. But the majority of imported marijuana come from neighboring Mexico.

As for opium and heroin, Asia's notorious Golden Triangle is still the world's premier producing region, but Mexico now supplies as much as 30% of the U.S. "demand" for this killer drug.

The Caribbean is also home to a large part of the money-laundering operations which are the heart and soul of Dope, Inc. Banks in Florida, Venezuela, Panama, Mexico, and British-run island havens such as the Bahamas, Bermuda, and the Cayman Islands, routinely launder hundreds of billions of dollars each year.

All in all, it is likely that Ibero-America accounts for as much as \$450 billion of the \$800 billion per year drug trade. As *EIR* documented in its 1986 bestseller, *Dope, Inc.*, British-centered financial interests control this trade, and their collapsing world financial system is fully addicted to the gigantic flow of laundered narco-dollars. Knock that financial and political prop out from under the British, or even seriously weaken it, as is now occurring, and the whole shebang can go.

The latest victories, however, should not be expected to produce a quick drop in the flow of cocaine into the United States, nor less addicts on American streets. That will require dramatic follow-up action politically, economically, and militarily. As Lyndon LaRouche put it in an Aug. 9 radio interview: "We've got some action on the War on Drugs . . . in a real solid manner. . . . We seem to be building up a good strategic alignment of nations against this drug-trafficking. I think that's a modest but important and commendable success."

String of setbacks to the British

The map on page 21 will give the reader a quick overview of the recent battle chronology in the Caribbean theater. Beginning in 1992, the international political apparatus behind the drug trade has been hit hard: in Peru (the defeat of Shining Path), Venezuela (the ouster of President Carlos

Andrés Pérez), Mexico (the dismantling of the Salinas machine), Florida (the Miami indictments, including of lawyers associated with Jeb Bush), and Colombia (the Cali Cartel arrests).

The case of Peru merits further explanation.

On Sept. 12, 1992, the government of President Alberto Fujimori captured the continent's most feared narco-terrorist, Shining Path's psychotic leader, Abimael Guzmán. Guzmán was subjected to a summary military tribunal and quickly given a life sentence. Most of the other top leaders of Shining Path were rounded up in the following months, and by mid-1994, Fujimori had broken the back of the narco-terrorist menace.

Shining Path were more than bloody Pol Potist terrorists, responsible for killing over 20,000 Peruvians. They were also the armed guards for Peru's substantial drug trade, providing military protection of all shipments, in exchange for a cut of the take.

In order to defeat Shining Path, Fujimori and the country's military, headed by Gen. Nicolás Hermoza, had to first crack down on the narco-terrorists' support apparatus in the country. On April 5, 1992, Fujimori dissolved the corrupt congress and Supreme Court, which for years had protected the Dope, Inc. apparatus. The Bush administration in Washington screamed bloody murder, as did the international "human rights cartel," protesting that the Peruvian government was violating the human rights of drug-runners and terrorists. Fujimori ignored them all.

But Bush was not one to be crossed. His State Department, led by Kissingerian career officers such as Luigi Einaudi, moved to first ostracize Peru within Ibero-America, and to then orchestrate a series of military coups against President Fujimori, all of which, fortunately, failed. Even anti-drug aid was cut by the Bush administration, arguing that Peru was not a real "democracy." The State Department's standing policy of toppling the Fujimori government was not reversed until 1994, well into the Clinton administration, when sanity finally prevailed. How much things have changed is seen in the June 1995 remarks to Congress by Undersecretary of Defense Brian Sheridan, who praised the Fujimori government for going after the heads of the Peruvian drug cartel with the same "very decisive actions" that had characterized the successful war against Shining Path.

As for Colombia, as of this writing, six of the seven top leaders of the Cali Cartel have been captured. But they have not yet been tried and sentenced, nor have their assets been seized, nor their armies of corrupt lawyers, politicians, and journalists incarcerated with them. The Samper government has been badly shaken by the unending wave of revelations about his personal involvement with the Cali Cartel, but his deal with the Cartel is still intact, and he has not yet been removed from office—as national dignity and preservation of the institution of the Presidency itself require.