

Australia Dossier by Allen Douglas

Police take on 'anti-corruption' scam

Are the anti-corruption crusaders wittingly backing the "Mr. Bigs" of the drug trade?

Over the past several years, British-steered "anti-corruption" investigations have been used to destabilize or bring down governments all over the world, to pave the way for globalist looting, as in the "Clean Hands" probe in Italy, and the unending "Starr chamber" assault on President Bill Clinton.

A more modest example of such an "anti-corruption" scam, one which would facilitate an expansion of the multibillion-dollar illegal drug trade in Australia, has just been given a good kick in the teeth in the state of Western Australia.

On Dec. 5, 1997, following a five-month investigation into alleged police corruption in the Western Australian police force, the state's Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), under chairman Terence O'Connor, recommended that serious disciplinary action be taken against six state police officers.

The officers had not even been charged with "crimes," nor with "corruption," but with "improper conduct," that is, violating formal police procedures. According to the law, the ACC should have quietly turned its findings over to prosecutors, who would then decide whether to proceed with charges. Instead, the ACC had acted—illegally—as the judge, jury, and executioner.

Within days, the ACC's findings of "corruption" had been leaked to the press, and Commissioner of Police Bob Falconer publicly named the individual officers involved, and suspended them without pay.

Shortly thereafter, the state police

union organized an unprecedented 1,500-person "Justice for Police" rally in Perth on Dec. 21, which demanded that the state government "immediately suspend all of the activities of the Anti-Corruption Commission," and open an independent judicial investigation of it. State Director of Public Prosecutions John McKechnie, meanwhile, refused to prosecute the case, based on the extremely thin evidence the ACC had compiled, and rebuked the commission for its public statements.

Police Commissioner Falconer, meanwhile, said he might not reinstate the police *even if they were found innocent of all charges*, a statement which pointed to deeper issues afoot than alleged corruption. Indeed, one of the officers charged, Det. Sgt. Peter Coombes, told the police union's rally, "We have been put up as the scapegoats for a far greater hidden agenda."

The six officers were at the heart of the state's highly effective anti-drug squad. On July 31, police union head Mike Dean told *EIR* that those charged "were perhaps one of the most effective drug squad teams ever, with their arrest rates, and the amount of drugs they pulled off the streets," and that they had played key roles in the National Crime Authority and the Bureau of Criminal Intelligence. "All of them have arrest records unmatched," said Dean. "In fact, Coombes and [Christopher] Cull have histories of probably the most effective investigators of organized crime in Western Australia ever."

Acting Assistant Police Commissioner Bob Ibbotson was even more

blunt, telling the press that the ACC's activities had harmed the pursuit of high-level criminals, including the "Mr. Bigs of the drug trade."

The ACC actions to destroy police officers who, at worst, were following long-established state police procedures, come in the context of a mad drive to decriminalize drugs, which has the support of the nation's (politically appointed) police commissioners, including Falconer.

The drive is being coordinated by two institutions notorious for their ties to the City of London: the Australian Drug Foundation and the Melbourne-based Macfarlane Burnet Center for Medical Research, which are financed by the major banks, including the Reserve Bank, by British mining giant Rio Tinto, and by speculator George Soros, an investment adviser to the Queen and the Daddy Warbucks of the worldwide drive for drug legalization.

As for ACC chairman O'Connor, sources in Perth have informed *EIR* that he is from a very wealthy family, and "is at the apex of the Western Australia establishment."

Western Australia's Supreme Court severely criticized the ACC in April, charging that it had "overstepped its authority" in its action against the six officers, whose reinstatement is still pending.

The attack on the Western Australia drug squad follows on the heels of the two-year, \$100 million Royal Commission inquiry into the New South Wales police force. That "anti-corruption" investigation last year destroyed the N.S.W. anti-drug squad, which even Royal Commissioner James Wood had to admit had been "highly effective"; it also called for the legalization of drugs, in order to "combat corruption." Perth and Sydney (the capital of N.S.W.) are perhaps the two most important entry points into Australia for illegal drugs.