

So I think that the partnership between Russia and China should demonstrate that if we respect sovereignty, and deal with friends more sincerely, I think this is the way, the model, for the other powers to follow this example, to help each other to cooperate, and join together to solve the crisis, and the challenges that we are facing in this world as we enter the new century.”

## U.S. cooperation is needed to fight drugs

by Carlos Wesley

A leading Panamanian legislator warned his American colleagues in the U.S. Congress that another invasion of Panama is being concocted on spurious charges, which would lead to disastrous relations between their two countries and for the rest of the region. Miguel Bush Ríos, president of the Committee on Credentials, Interior, Justice, Rules, and the Judiciary of the Panamanian Legislative Assembly, issued his warning during a press conference on June 23 in the U.S. capital, and at various meetings with U.S. Congressmen on Capitol Hill.

Bush's visit to Washington, his second in three months, coincided with the testimony of Gen. Charles Wilhelm, head of the U.S. Southern Command, to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on June 22. At that hearing, Wilhelm said that, since Panama is “neither manned, trained, nor equipped” to deal with the Colombian FARC narco-terrorists increasingly making incursions across the border into Panama, “we are very mindful of our obligation to intervene, either cooperatively with the Panamanians, or unilaterally if the conditions dictate.”

### LaRouche is the alternative

Panama refuses to accept that its only alternatives are the FARC narco-terrorists or another U.S. military occupation, which would be in open violation of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties that require the withdrawal of the last U.S. soldier from Panamanian territory by midnight of Dec. 31 of this year, said Bush at his press conference. “That is why we are asking” the U.S. population, and the Democratic Party in particular, “that they make Lyndon LaRouche their candidate in the [Presidential] primaries. LaRouche's proposal for the world, to seek improvements for our peoples and for your own, is a positive, human proposal, and touches all of our people, because we are all equal before God,” said Bush.

During *EIR's* seminar that day, Bush pointed out that since the time of infamous British pederast Jeremy Bentham, founder of the British secret service, the region of the Gulf of Urabá, which borders the Panamanian province of Darién

where the Colombian narco-terrorists and paramilitaries operate, has been coveted by Great Britain and its allies.

In the meetings with members of the U.S. Congress, Bush reminded them that during his previous visit to Washington, on March 22-26, he had already warned that the presence of Colombian narco-terrorists in Panama was going to be used as a pretext for a military intervention. Panama has no army, he said, but that is because the 1989 U.S. invasion destroyed the Panamanian Defense Forces. Ironically, the transshipment of Colombian drugs through Panama has quintupled in the aftermath of that U.S. invasion, which was supposed to have “put an end” to Manuel Noriega's alleged drug trafficking. However, Panama has achieved important successes. In 1998 alone, the Panamanian Judicial Technical Police, despite its scant resources, seized more than 11 tons of cocaine.

Bush said that it is ridiculous to talk about an intervention to protect Panama from the FARC, when it is widely known that the U.S. State Department fully backs the policy of Colombian President Andrés Pastrana, of balkanizing his own country by giving territory to the narco-terrorists to set up their own “Coca Republic.” Even members of the U.S. Congress have held dialogues with the FARC as if it were a legitimate government, he said. And the president of the New York Stock Exchange, Richard Grasso, recently went to Colombia to meet with a top leader of the FARC, and invited him to visit Wall Street (see *EIR*, July 16).

Bush said that he doubted the seriousness of the United States's commitment to fight the drug trade, especially in light of the fact that, a week before he arrived in Washington, the U.S. Congress held hearings on June 16 on the legalization of drugs. That the majority of Congressmen oppose legalization was not the point, he said. Rather, the fact that such a matter was seriously debated in the Congress of the United States, with the participation of the main drug-legalization lobbies, is by itself dangerous.

Further, Bush said, except for a few specialized U.S. agencies like the Drug Enforcement Administration, the United States has offered Panama little collaboration in fighting drugs. When one Senate official reminded Bush that the United States had donated several used helicopters to Panama, Bush responded: “Yes, that's true. We were given some helicopters one day, and the next day they crashed,” causing the death of several police agents of both countries (see interview which follows).

To improve the efficiency of the police force and to defend Panamanian territory, Bush has prepared a bill for setting up a Ministry or Vice Ministry of the Interior, which would coordinate the fight against drugs. He has prepared another bill, to create a border guard to protect both the national borders and the banks of the Canal itself. Bush said that the best thing would be if the United States were to cooperate with modern equipment and training, and leave it to the Panamanians to guard their own borders.