

# Behind AOL's Kimsey's embrace of FARC narco-terrorists

by L. Wolfe

To people who know James V. Kimsey, the co-founder and chairman emeritus of America Online, and his sidekick, millionaire real estate investor Joseph E. Robert, Jr., the recent sight of them embracing the leadership of the narco-terrorist FARC in the jungles of Colombia, was not surprising. Kimsey, a former U.S. Army Special Forces officer, has a reputation for risk-taking and "daring" acts, they explained, and has often dragged Robert along. But, a preliminary investigation by this news service reveals that there is much more to it than that. Kimsey and Robert are part a group of interventionist "New Economy" business executives and speculators who have made their millions and, in some cases billions, from the "New Economy" of the Information Age, and who see themselves as shaping a "new world order," in their own interests — one that supplants the nation-state with corporatist power. The FARC drug lords and their billions in drug profits are instrumentalities in their designs.

Some of this emerged in January of this year at a press conference in Colombia in which Richard Grasso, a friend of Kimsey's and the president of the New York Stock Exchange, announced the existence of a "Millennium Advisory Board," which was "helping" Colombian President Andrés Pastrana deal with the FARC, and would promote business partnerships with them and "investments" in "FARC-land," the vast portion of the country that has been effectively ceded to the narco-terrorists. Besides Grasso and Kimsey, this group of business and banking heavyweights includes Mitsubishi's Minoru Makihara; former Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, now a partner in a Montreal law firm and a board member of several multinational corporations; former American Express CEO James Robinson III; Lorenzo Zambrano, president of Mexico's cement company, Cemex; Eduardo Fischer, president of Total Communication Group, a public relations firm operating in Argentina and Brazil; and Ronnie Chan of Hong Kong's Hang Lung Development company. It is also thought that Robert is a member.

At the time of the Grasso press conference, the Colombian media reported that it was Violy McCausland who orchestrated the meeting.

Colombian by birth and now living in New York, Mc-

Causland is president of Violy, Byorum & Partners, considered one of the top ten investment advisory firms in Ibero-America. McCausland is described as "a pioneer in restructuring, [and] mergers and acquisitions," skills she developed during her 1979-93 work at the J.P. Morgan investment firm. In 1994, McCausland moved into a partnership with James D. Wolfensohn, currently president of the World Bank. In January 1996, she founded her own firm. During her 20-year career, McCausland has "led over \$30 billion in successful transactions, including mergers, divestitures, acquisitions, spin-offs, public and private capital raising, restructurings, privatizations, and project financing."

McCausland's firm employs people from throughout Ibero-America, the United States, and Europe, including Spain, Holland, and Britain. One of the groups she has reportedly worked closely with in Venezuela is the Cisneros financial group, which has been repeatedly exposed by *EIR* for its unsavory links to drug-money-laundering interests.

But, *EIR* investigations indicate the likely existence of a "Millennium Group," comprised of many of the same individuals, with a broader scope of operations — the creation of a "new global order." Sources who are familiar with Kimsey report that he is a zealot for this effort and sees himself in the image of a "corporate Roughrider," and crusader for a "new global democracy" transcending the old order of nation-states. The backbone of this "new order" is to be the Internet, where the company that Kimsey founded, America Online, is the world's largest service provider.

## Kimsey and Robert

Of the two, Robert appears less of the ideological zealot. He is what is called in financial circles, a "bottom-feeder," who has made money on picking on the shards of wrecked real estate projects, both in the United States and, more recently, internationally. He founded his firm, J.E. Robert, back in 1981, by stealing the clients of his father's outfit, for which he was sued by his father and forced to pay a judgment. Robert made a good portion of his money and reputation as a by-product of the 1980s crisis in savings and loan institutions, taking over properties and mortgages from

bankrupted S&Ls for a song, and selling them off for huge profits. More recently, he has picked on the remains created by the so-called Asian financial crisis, triggered by the actions of George Soros, buying up bankrupted properties in Korea. A former Golden Gloves amateur boxer and self-described “tough guy,” he has “hung with” Kimsey for years — both went to the same Catholic high school in Washington, D.C.

Kimsey, meanwhile, has a history consistent with his current role, including his operations with the FARC. A Special Forces Ranger officer, he served two tours of duty in Vietnam during 1965–69, where he served as assistant to the commanding general of Special Operations at the Military Assistance Command, and was responsible for making assessments of special operations. Among the operations run through that command were coordination of various mercenary outfits composed of narco-terrorist operatives similar to the FARC. Such operations were precursors to drug gangs used in “covert actions” and as “guerrilla assets” by Lt. Col. Oliver North and the Iran-Contra crowd, as well similar operations in the Afghan war.

Kimsey left military service in 1970 to embark on a career as a stockbroker. He appears, however, to have never left the orbit of leading military and other intelligence operatives. For example, a recent biography reports that he “continues active involvement in national security issues through his participation in the Joint Special Operations Forces Institute Advisory Board.” He is also member of the “Tail to Tooth” Commission of Business Executives for National Security (BENS), who along with a host of ranking military officers and former Secretaries of Defense, want to restructure the Defense Department to be like a normal business; BENS is also involved in counter-terrorism projects. (Kimsey also serves on both the New York Council on Foreign Relations and the Atlantic Council.)

Soon after he began his career as a stockbroker, he ran afoul of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) for allegedly knowingly providing misleading information to clients and participating in a scheme to manipulate the value of stocks. In 1975, as the result of an SEC plea bargain, he was banned for five years from associating with any dealer, investment broker, or adviser. Yet, despite this blot on his record, Kimsey appears to have been selected to enter what was to become one of the more lucrative investment technologies of the last part of the century — the field of computer connectivity, which was to become the Internet.

## The AOL connection

*EIR* is conducting research on the Internet and its adverse effects on human society. For the purposes of this brief report, let us offer some pertinent preliminary findings. The Internet, as such, was created as a by-product of primarily U.S. national security-controlled research, whose commercial application is steered according to theories of various brainwashers asso-

ciated with the Tavistock Institute of Human Relations, the psychological warfare arm of the British royal family and the London-Wall Street financial oligarchy. It is seen, in the hands of such Tavistock brainwashers, as a vehicle for social control and mass brainwashing, with an addicting effect similar to, and as destructive as, the drugs produced and distributed through the networks of the Wall Street/London-controlled global drug cartel, “Dope, Inc.,” of which the FARC is a component feature.

Kimsey, as we indicate, was in on the creation of this medium as a mass distribution product. In 1985, he started Quantum Computer Services; by November of that year, it launched its first online service, “Q-Link,” on Commodore Business Machines. In August 1988, Quantum’s “PC-Link” was launched in a joint venture with Tandy Corp., then one of the largest producers of personal computers. In 1989, “America Online” was launched for Macintosh and Apple II computers; a DOS version of America Online was available by 1991. That same year, Quantum Computer Services changed its name to America Online, Inc., and a few months later, on March 19, 1992, America Online went public on the Nasdaq stock market at the original price of \$11.50 a share. (It now trades at \$60–80 per share on the New York Stock Exchange, and is the most widely traded stock in the world.)

Early in the process, Kimsey brought in Steve Case, a young marketing “whiz kid.” They devised a strategy to promote AOL, which is similar to the way drugs are marketed; the idea was to give away the service initially, offering free hookups and free line-time, with the idea that use of the Internet would become so quickly addictive that people would then pay money for the service. The strategy has worked, especially as the number of pornography and related websites grew, along with the overall expansion of available sites:

By the end of 1993, the service had 500,000 members; it topped 1 million in August 1994, over 5 million in February 1995, and had 10 million subscribers by November 1997. By February 2000, it had 21 million members; reportedly, at any time, about one-third of those members are using the service as part of the free, “addicting” promotions. The average member spends more than one hour online daily, with that figure rising rapidly.

While AOL, which is based in Loudoun County, Virginia, promotes itself as wholesome family-oriented activity, studies have shown that much of its traffic is in so-called “porn” websites, chatrooms, etc.; the vast majority of traffic is related to what is called “entertainment,” of all varieties.

AOL’s board of directors befits a corporation which is at the center of bubble.com, as well as Kimsey’s roots in the intelligence and financial communities. Among its luminaries are former Secretary of State Gen. Alexander Haig (ret.); former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Colin Powell (ret.); Franklin Raines, CEO of Fannie Mae, and former general partner of the Lazard Frères & Co. banking house;

Robert Pittman, the man who created and headed Music Television (MTV Networks); and individuals who created Rupert Murdoch's Fox television network.

Not surprising, among AOL's list of joint-venture business partners is the Venezuela-based Cisneros Group, which owns 50% of all AOL's Ibero-American operations. Cisneros, known as the "porn king" of Venezuela, had his connections to international drug-money-laundering circles exposed in *EIR's* book *Dope, Inc.*, the Spanish version of which he arranged to have banned in Venezuela.

AOL, which has announced plans to merge with Time-Warner, to become the world's largest multimedia giant, made a profit of a little under \$400 million in 1999. This compares to its astounding bubble-driven market capitalization of \$150 billion—far more than the Gross National Product of Colombia and many other Ibero-American countries combined.

The hyperinflated value of AOL stock enabled Kimsey to retire in 1994 and to continue to increase the value of his \$150 billion portfolio, while pursuing his other "interests." He runs two foundations, the Kimsey Foundation, as well as AOL's own foundation. He participates in the work of another foundation, the Jamestown Foundation, in which he was part of a team which was sent in 1996 to "observe" the Russian elections; and was planning to do the same this year.

In those activities and in his recent visit to FARC-land, Kimsey has attempted to distance himself from AOL. However, sources report that AOL executives were fully aware of the visit, and supported it. It is widely known that the FARC have used the Internet to post communiqués and send e-mails to journalist "stringers," and have used computers to track the finances of their drug-trafficking and to develop intelligence about potential kidnap victims. It is thought that Kimsey may have touched on such matters with FARC drug lord Manuel "Sureshot" Marulanda.

Kimsey and Robert are both actively organizing for a FARC tour, to address Congress and prominent business forums. In a defensive commentary in the March 20 *Washington Times*, the two argue that giving such prominence to the narco-terrorists might speed their conversion away from drug operations. The FARC leaders "maintained they could and would cooperate in ending drug trafficking, and swore they were willing to make these promises directly to the U.S. Congress and to the American people," the two write. FARC financial expert Raúl Reyes "not only denied he had 'declared war' on us, but does not consider himself our enemy, and he lamented the recent killings of three Americans, branding it a 'mistake,' of the same sort as our bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade." One businessman who knows Kimsey, upon hearing this and seeing a picture of "Sureshot" sporting an AOL cap given him by Kimsey, suggested that maybe the company should change its name to "America Mainline."

## Why Kosovo has become the 'Colombia of Europe'

by Umberto Pascali

Ibero-America is not the only region in which the Project Democracy crowd and the U.S. State Department have gone out of their way to boost narco-terrorist gangs into state power. The role of these agencies in the Balkans, particularly in Kosovo, has been as shameless as their behavior in Colombia and Peru.

"Kosovo today is the Colombia of Europe!" Thus did Marko Nikovic, the vice president of the International Narcotics Enforcement Officers Association, describe the situation in the Balkan province of Kosovo, which has been a crucial element in the drugs-for-weapons "Balkan connection" since at least the early 1980s. The Kosovo mafia was a vital link in the organized crime chain that connects Turkey to Central Europe and, through Albania and the Adriatic Sea, to Italy, whence new traffic routes spread out in several directions. Later on, Kosovo became a transit point for opium and heroin produced in the Taliban-controlled Afghanistan, after the Taliban "freedom fighters," with NATO support, especially from London and Washington, took over the country. However, it was only after June 1999—when NATO took over Kosovo following 78 days of relentless air bombings against Kosovo, Serbia, and Montenegro—that Kosovo became a safe haven for the drug mafia. In less than one year under a "NATO protectorate," Kosovo has become the supplier of 80% of the heroin consumed in western Europe, with routes now also reaching into North America.

The basic reasons for this cancerous growth of the drug traffic in Kosovo, is to be found in the connection between the drug mafia and the organization sponsored, trained, cultivated, and established in power in the province by NATO, and by intelligence organizations based both in London and Washington. We are talking about the Kosovo Liberation Army, whose head, Hashim Thaci, was imposed as the representative of Kosovo at the 1999 Rambouillet "peace" talks by U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, NATO Commander Gen. Wesley Clark, and British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook (see *EIR*, March 31).

In anointing Thaci as head of the Kosovo Albanians, Albright ensured that the KLA's ferocious war waged against Ibrahim Rugova, the elected head of the Kosovo's Albanians, would be a success. That war led to the intimidat-