

has to surrender to the KLA ultimata, including the subversion of the Macedonian Constitution, opens up a dramatic contradiction. That contradiction throws light on the virtual reality the world has been propelled into after the Sept. 11 attacks.

Who Runs Al-Zawahiri?

The Macedonian daily *Dnevnik* reported on Oct. 19 that the group led by the brother of Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri, the closest associate of bin Laden, had crossed the border from Kosovo into Macedonia. Quoting intelligence sources, *Dnevnik* wrote: "The younger brother of the chief of the Balkan headquarters of al-Qaeda, Ayman al-Zawahiri, with around 50 mujahideen, has entered Macedonia and has started building fortifications in the Skopska Crna Gora region. The aim of the terrorist group is to attack the water supply" for Skopje.

The newspaper reported that the gang had been stationed earlier in the training camp near the village of Ropotovo, Kosovo—as *Novosti* also reported—and received orders to enter the Macedonian town of Matejce. On Oct. 16, a convoy of refugees, who were previously expelled by the KLA, were supposed to visit their destroyed houses. However, the observers from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe entered the village first, and reported that at least 50 armed men had communicated they were going to fire on the convoy if they dared to enter Matejce. The OSCE order to the heartbroken refugees was: Go back, we cannot guarantee your security!

But who is Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri, whose brother Zaiman is running terrorist camps under NATO protection in the U.S. zone in Kosovo? As the London *Guardian* wrote recently, "Even to say he is bin Laden's right-hand man may understate his importance." He is considered by many to be the real head of what is known as the bin Laden group. "Some analysts believe that in his current role in Afghanistan, al-Zawahiri has taken over control of much of bin Laden's terrorist finances, operations, plans, and resources," wrote the *Guardian*. His known terrorist career started no later than 1981, with his involvement in the assassination of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat; it includes the massacre of 70 people on a tourist bus in 1997 in Luxor, Egypt, and the assassination attempt against Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in 1995.

Strangely enough, according to an expert who testified before a U.S. Congressional committee in January 2000, al-Zawahiri was granted U.S. residence by the Immigration and Naturalization Service—something almost impossible for many legitimate immigrants to obtain. Should we be surprised that one of the centers of operation for al-Zawahiri was London, where one of his closest relatives resided? President Mubarak is believed to have referred to him when, after the Luxor massacre, he stated: "There are people who carried out crimes and who were sentenced [in Egypt] and live on British soil."

Australia: Election May Bring Drug Legalization

by Robert Barwick

An unprecedented step toward drug legalization in Australia, a government-run, prescribed heroin trial, may be one election away from reality, and that election looms on Nov. 10. Australian Prime Minister John Howard has steadfastly refused to allow a heroin trial under his administration, despite an intense lobbying campaign by the pro-dope lobby and many of Australia's state governments. However, federal Opposition Leader Kim Beazley has long promised a heroin trial, and so, the Nov. 10 election, which is at present too close to call, will not just determine who governs Australia for the next three years, but whether Australia takes that fatal step on the slippery slope of legalized drugs.

State Initiatives

Over the past decade, Australia's highly influential pro-dope lobby has shifted drug legalization to the top of the political agenda. Almost all issues relating to drug problems are now couched in legalization language, and propose legalization as a solution. The state governments of Victoria, New South Wales, and Western Australia have all hosted community "Drug Summits" in the past two years; the most common recommendation to emerge from all of them is for heroin-injecting rooms, a.k.a. "shooting galleries," where addicts will be medically supervised as they get their "hit" (and police are obliged to look the other way).

New South Wales is currently running an 18-month trial of one shooting gallery in the notorious "red light" district of Kings Cross—although this experiment almost didn't get started, when His Holiness Pope John Paul II personally intervened and forbade the original administering charity, the Catholic Sisters of Charity, from participating. The Victorian government plans five shooting galleries in the city of Melbourne. The newly elected mayor and city council have promised to consider the idea again if the state government revives it, after the previous mayor quashed the plan for an inner-city shooting gallery. The New South Wales and Victorian police forces have adopted an active legalization position, conducting experiments where police issue warnings for drug possession, instead of making arrests. All of these legalization initiatives are carried out in the name of "harm minimization," which since 1986 has been the official policy of Australia's Federal Health Department.

Ties To The British Establishment

The success of the drug lobby, lies in its direct ties to the highest levels of Australia's very British financial and political establishment. All of Australia's major banks, including the Reserve Bank, fund the Australian Drug Foundation (ADF), the most prominent national lobby group for drug legalization. The ADF is directly connected to the Drug Policy Foundation and the Lindesmith Center in the United States, controlled by global speculator, drug-legalization financier, and investment adviser to Queen Elizabeth, George Soros. For example, a prominent member of the ADF's Policy Advisory Committee, Dr. Ethan Nadelmann, is the executive director of Soros' Lindesmith Center.

The mainstream media are now part of the drug lobby. ADF Director Bill Stronach boasted at a Washington conference in 1992, "We employ journalists not to churn out press releases, but to get in the mainstream media and act as subversives." In fact, the drug-lobby control of the media is much more top-down. Billionaire media magnate Kerry Packer, a close personal friend of Britain's (and Australia's) Queen Elizabeth, even sharing a box with her at the Royal Ascot races, uses all his media outlets in television and magazines, and his contacts, to widely promote legalization. In 1983, Packer was the subject of a massive government investigation, for drug-running and other organized-crime activities — an investigation shut down by his friend, Prime Minister Bob Hawke, before it could release its findings.

There are many other British Crown connections to the drug lobby. For example, leading legalization advocates Prof. David Penington, the author of the defeated 1996 marijuana decriminalization proposal in Victoria, and Canberra Health Minister Mike Moore, are both members of the Institute of Public Affairs, an Australian front for the British Crown's Mont Pelerin Society, which advocates drug legalization as a free-market principle. Also, Australia's leading police advocate for drug legalization is a British cop, former National Director of Britain's Police Training College Peter Ryan. Ryan was imported from Britain to be the police commissioner of New South Wales, following a rigged "corruption" scandal which dismantled the state's highly effective anti-drug squad. As commissioner, he continued dismantling the New South Wales police force, Australia's largest. Ryan, when he was chief constable of the Norfolk Constabulary, developed close ties to the royal family, because Norfolk includes Sandringham, the Queen's country retreat.

Little Popular Support

Despite the success of this powerful cabal, they haven't had it all their own way. There is little popular support among "mainstream" Australia for legalized drugs, as seen in Prime Minister Howard's opposition to a heroin trial. Although the arch-conservative Howard is no great example of a moral leader, he does have a reputation as an astute politician who



Queen Elizabeth. The push for drug legalization in Australia is being carried out by those tied closely to the British Crown.

has a keen sense of what issues enjoy community support. Also, in 1996, a highly publicized political attempt to change the law to decriminalize marijuana in Victoria was smashed by a mobilization led by the Citizens Electoral Council, a national political party allied with the international economic development movement led by Lyndon LaRouche.

In November 1999, the UN International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) wrote to the Australian government, with the blunt warning that shooting galleries would be in breach of Australia's international treaty obligations. The INCB charged that if Australia proceeded with a trial of supervised injecting rooms in New South Wales, Victoria, and the Australian Capital Territory (Canberra, the federal capital), then Australia would be "aiding in the commission of crimes" and "facilitating illicit drug trafficking."

Perhaps most effectively, several spectacularly successful drug busts by the Australian Federal Police in the past 12 months saw the quantity and quality of heroin on Australian streets dry up, giving the lie to the dope lobby's constant refrain that "you can't win a war on drugs." These multibillion-dollar busts were carried out even though the "fiscally conservative" Howard government had drastically cut funds for law enforcement since it came to power in 1996. In Melbourne in February and March, heroin overdoses fell to eight, from more than 30 for the same period last year — giving the lie to another maxim of the "harm minimization" crowd, that because saving lives is the main priority, people should be allowed to use drugs.