

French forces when they took over the city in 1830—calling it a symbol of Algerian sovereignty. In a moving gesture, President Chirac shook hands with two leading Algerian fighters in the renowned Battle of Algiers, and laid a wreath at a tomb for those who died fighting for independence. Chirac himself had fought against independence as an army lieutenant.

Chirac led a delegation of 80, including five Cabinet ministers, many political figures, artists, and business and industrial leaders. He visited Oran, Algeria's second largest city, addressed Algerian youth at al-Senyah University, and visited the newly reopened Michelin tire factory in Algiers before ending his three-day visit on March 4.

Bouteflika, on French radio, said Chirac deserved the Nobel Peace Prize if he could prevent a war against Iraq.

France's New Partnership With Africa

Chirac's Algerian move gave punch to his declaration, at the 22nd Franco-African summit in Paris on Feb. 20-21, that France and Africa have entered a new phase of equal partnership, that "extends from development issues, such as fighting AIDS and improving agriculture and education, to fighting terrorism and organized crime." "France will encourage African development, but not dictate what to do," Chirac said, adding that France would serve as Africa's "advocate" before international organizations.

The Algerian visit, however, is only the latest, most spectacular of the steps Chirac is taking to implement the declaration. At the summit itself, Chirac violated globalization's free-market principles by speaking of the need to raise the prices of raw materials, and proposed at least ten years of favorable trade terms for Africa. He did not say how that should be done. He reversed existing French policy by urging developed countries to suspend subsidies for agricultural exports to African countries temporarily, pointing out that cheap imports into Africa were undercutting African production. How farmers in the developed sector would be ensured parity prices, he did not say. But while the European Union is the biggest exporter to Africa, only 3% of EU farm exports go to Africa.

Stepping into English-speaking Africa—which the Anglo-American powers think is their turf—Chirac offered to help the governments of South Africa, Nigeria, and Zimbabwe find solutions to problems of democracy, justice, and landownership in Zimbabwe; his proposal has been accepted by all three. South African President Thabo Mbeki said on Feb. 21, that Chirac insisted, "if there is a problem, let's discuss it and let's find a solution. And if there are things that need to be done that might require resources . . . let's see what we can do."

Beginning Feb. 8, France, South Africa, and India held a week of joint military exercises in Gwalior, India. French ties with South Africa are "visibly warming," the South African Broadcasting Corporation reported Feb. 21.

Jorge Castañeda

Drug Legalizer Soros' Man in Mexico

by Rubén Cota Meza

"The Soros Foundation isn't operating yet in Mexico, but soon it will be, and it will be headed by former Foreign Minister Jorge G. Castañeda," wrote Federico Arreola, executive vice president of the Multimedios Editorial Group, in the Feb. 5 edition of the Mexico City newspaper *Milenio*. According to Arreola, Castañeda will use the funds of the "famous speculator" George Soros for his "run for the Presidency which, of course, will take off as soon as next Summer's intermediate elections are over."

Although Arreola's revelation has not yet been officially confirmed, neither has it been denied by either Castañeda or Soros. And it comes as no surprise, in any case, given their close, long-term ties, and their common goals of destroying Mexican national sovereignty and of legalizing drugs.

Soros' Penetration of Mexico

In October 1998, on the eve of the special session of the UN General Assembly on drugs, the world-class speculator and drug-legalization proponent Soros paid for a full-page advertisement in the *New York Times*, in which he claimed that the war on drugs has caused more damage than the consumption of illegal drugs, and therefore, the production, trade, and consumption of drugs should be legalized. The man who put together the advertisement is Ethan Nadelmann, who served for many years as executive director of the Lindesmith Center, and is currently executive director of the U.S. Alliance for Drug Policy. Both are organizations financed by Soros. Among the dozens of signers of the advertisement who support Soros' position, is Mariclaire Acosta, who at the time was president of the Mexican Academy for the Defense and Promotion of Human Rights in Mexico.

In 2000, as Foreign Affairs Secretary for President Vicente Fox, Castañeda created two new under-secretarial positions to push Soros' drug legalization plan from inside Mexico. In the special "Human Rights" post, Castañeda put Mariclaire Acosta, and in that of "Global Affairs," he put Patricia Olamendi. Olamendi's responsibility was to revise the UN policy on drugs agreed to in the October 1998 special session. According to a Nov. 3, 2002 report from *Narco News*, the news service on drug legalization activities, Nadelmann "spent two days in private meetings at the Mexican Foreign Ministry" before giving a speech at the Center for Economic



Former Foreign Minister Jorge Castañeda is soon to become the head of financier George Soros' drug legalization effort in Mexico.

Information and Instruction (CIDE), at the invitation of the College of Mexico. In his speech, Nadelmann argued that “legalization is being increasingly accepted as an option,” and “stressed the serious changes that have occurred since he began visiting Mexico” in 1988. Using Soros money, Nadelmann sponsors the Tides Foundation’s awards to the narco-legalizers; not surprisingly, *Narco News* is one of the award recipients.

But the real question is, what was Soros’ Nadelmann discussing behind closed doors with Castañeda? The Mexican Foreign Ministry has revealed nothing of those discussions, but one might suppose that Nadelmann came at least to supervise the revision of UN drug policy with Castañeda, Acosta, and Olamendi, to reorient it in conformity with the wishes of his patron Soros.

The “serious changes” in favor of drug legalization to which Nadelmann referred in his CIDE speech, where he was accompanied by academics Jorge Chabat and Bruce Bagley, are precisely those which Castañeda brought about during his tenure as the head of the Foreign Ministry. The pro-legalization stance of the former minister, and future director of the Soros Foundation in Mexico, goes back years.

Following the July 2, 2000 electoral victory of President Fox, Castañeda, then a member of Fox’s transition team, prepared some “Foreign Policy Points for the Vicente Fox Government: 2000-2006.” Castañeda’s points were published as a chapter in *Chile-Mexico, Two Transitions*, a book edited by Chilean Ambassador to Mexico Luis Maira. In it, Castañeda defines “six challenges” to Mexican foreign policy, of which one is “the long-term decriminalization of certain currently illegal substances,” and “the use of market mechanisms to lessen the damage from the illegal nature of the drug trade.”

On Nov. 28, 2000, in his first interview with the newspaper *La Jornada* as Foreign Minister, Castañeda was asked: “Regarding the question of drugs, do you propose to negotiate a new focus . . . including discussion of drug legalization?” Castañeda replied, “That last point has been aired in U.S. forums, including by very conservative figures such as Milton Friedman, George Soros; these elements must be looked at domestically from a flexible, modern, and updated standpoint.”

Soros, Maker of Presidents

Alejandro Toledo came to the Presidency in Peru following a coup d’état promoted by Wall Street and the U.S. State Department against Alberto Fujimori, which internally made use of Toledo’s Peru Posible movement. During his electoral campaign, Toledo admitted publicly that he had received a million dollars from Soros.

Another Soros investment in the Andean region comes through Human Rights Watch/Americas, a Soros front for defending the “human rights” of the region’s narco-terrorists. Soros also operates through the Andean Commission of Jurists (CAJ), which operates de facto as a branch of Human Rights Watch in the Americas. Diego García Sayán, until he was named Justice Minister for the Peruvian transition government of Javier Paniagua, and then Foreign Minister of the Toledo government, served as CAJ executive director. He meets with Nadelmann, with whom he shares an avid defense of drug legalization.

Working closely with the CAJ is the Andean Council of Coca Leaf Producers (CAPHC) and its leader Evo Morales. Recently, CAPHC expanded its activities through the Bolivian Movement to Socialism, currently heading an insurgency whose aim is to bring Morales into the Bolivian Presidency through violence. On March 13 and 14, 1996, the CAJ and CAPHC held a joint conference in favor of legalizing coca production, at which one of Nadelmann’s British associates participated. Another leader of the Bolivian coca-growers, Felipe Quispe, was in Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico, on Feb. 14, 2003, where he participated in an international conference entitled “Ending the Ban on Drugs in the 21st Century.” Participating along with him were former Colombian Prosecutor General and former Colombian Ambassador to Mexico Gustavo De Greiff; Marco Perduca, Italian ambassador to the UN from the Transnational Radical Party; David Boren, executive director of the U.S. Drug Reform Coordination Network; and Mexican Congressman from the PRD party Gregorio Díaz Germán.

That same day, Castañeda made his first public appearance in Mexico before students of the Jesuit-run Institute of Technology and Higher Western Studies, whose dean, and the former president of the Jesuits’ “human rights” group, Father David Fernández, is yet another drug legalization advocate.

Also, the new political party Mexico Posible—which takes its name from the party of Toledo and García Sayán in Peru, and whose leading light is the human rights activist and National Endowment for Democracy agent in Mexico, College of Mexico Prof. Sergio Aguayo Quezada—began its political proselytizing for the next congressional elections by declaring itself in favor of marijuana legalization. Mexico Posible is also known as the “Party of Jorge Castañeda.”

Everything indicates that Castañeda and Soros have already “smoked the peace pipe” together.