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## CONFERENCE REPORT

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# Rome greets a real war against narcotics

by Leonardo Servadio

*On March 21, the major Rome daily Il Tempo reported on the Italian Antidrug Coalition conference held at the Palazzo Valentini, headquarters of the provincial government. The Il Tempo coverage was titled "An International Tragedy," and subtitled "The basis of the discussion going on at Palazzo Valentini is the American project for a total war [against drugs] in all the countries of the world. Il Tempo was one among many newspapers, TV and radio programs which covered the March 20-21 conference of the Antidrug Coalition. The conference was the first stop on a Europe-wide tour of Colombian Antidrug Coalition President Fausto Charris Romero.*

*Charris's tour intersects heightened organizing drives by the Antidrug Coalitions in Italy, France, West Germany, and Sweden. Charris, a vehement opponent of decriminalization in his own country, plans to help the ADCs push for a Narcotics Enforcement Treaty Organization. A translation of the Il Tempo article follows:*

With the international conference that began yesterday at Palazzo Valentini, sponsored by the Antidrug Coalition, we are getting back to talking in concrete terms of the problem of drug addiction, a subject that seems to have become a bit out of style in past months, at least to judge from the lack of meetings on this issue or of any particular sensitivity to it on the part of political groups.

The meeting going on at the provincial headquarters has a title which finally goes beyond the anachronistic and useless messages of the type "down with drugs," "it's a scandal," and so forth. With "The Strategy for Winning the War on Drugs" the main title of the conference, we are already a step ahead, at a critical point in the analysis of the phenomenon, of what has been done so far and how it is possible to correct the direction of interventions to reach real solutions.

The Antidrug Coalition proposes not only to stop the presence and spread of drugs in schools, factories, and other social environments, but above all to inform public opinion on the danger of the phenomenon and on the national and international forces that are collaborating at various levels to spread drug use.

And to demonstrate the different intellectual approach with which the coalition has decided to give muscle and concrete purpose to its own subject, the conference opened with the reading of a proposal which the American [National] Antidrug Coalition (whose official magazine, *War on Drugs*, has a very large circulation in the U.S.A.) has worked out and presented to President Ronald Reagan for the realization of a "Narcotics Enforcement Treaty Organization," that is to be an international entity.

To this end the Antidrug Coalition proposes that Reagan open negotiations with his main allies in Europe (France, Italy, Germany) and with the leading countries of the developing sector (Mexico, India, Colombia) to carry out such a treaty, which has three main points: 1) the coordination of intelligence and repression of drug-trafficking organizations; 2) the imposition of economic sanctions (embargo and boycott included) against any nation that promotes or approves on its national soil the cultivation, spread, or trade of narcotic substances; 3) the issuance of long-term, low interest credits for those countries in the developing sector so that the drug cultivation fields can be destroyed—through chemical substances like paraquat—and productive agricultural activities can be promoted.

Overly optimistic projects? Perhaps, but it has already been shown that evil should be pulled up by the roots, without a lot of hypocritical niceties and frills. This should be welcomed even if it may be attacked as "childish" by the shrewd capos of the multibillion-dollar business in death by syringe.

Among yesterday's presentations ("Heavy Lira Against the Drug Financiers," by Maria Cristina Fiocchi, president of the Antidrug Coalition, "The State and Drugs," by Dr. Lucio Ciarletta, judge of the Rome tribunal, and "The Activity of the Antidrug Centers in Italy," by Lt. Col. Luciano Rossi of the Command of the Tax Police), we feel it is our duty to draw attention to the report by Fausto Charris Romero, president of the Colombian Antidrug Coalition.

Behind the title of his speech, ("The Drug Cartel and the Drama of the Producing Countries"), there is a true, desperate appeal, a demand for measures to be taken, and an overwhelming denunciation of what is going on in Colombia. "My country is the victim at this time of a vast genocidal intervention conducted by the forces of the international drug traffic," Charris said. "Not to fight for the elimination of drugs around the world means to sanction the rapid transformation of Colombia into a concentration camp. It is not enough to free ourselves of marijuana: we must carry out the development of the rural areas where drugs are now cultivated, and create a labor force within the population to transform the life of a peon."