

body. . . . Many more arrests will follow. Some celebrities I cannot name will be arrested and indicted shortly." According to the *Express*, these "celebrities" would include a London merchant banking official, and City of London lawyers and financial experts.

The Yard's number-one detective, Metropolitan Police Assistant Commissioner John Dellow, released a statement in London on Oct. 23: "I'm sure there will be further arrests and I think we are very close to identifying where the [gold-bullion robbery] money went. . . . The amounts involved are vast. One hundred and twelve million dollars has already been identified in the first few weeks of the investigation in America. In this country, our inquiries are really only just beginning. Over the long term, there are going to be many arrests. Identification of laundered money would continue over many years. . . . I think we've got the tip of the iceberg here."

Reporting Commissioner Dellow's statements, the *Daily Telegraph* commented that more than 500 million pounds-sterling (about \$1 billion) would be involved in the laundering, overall.

Yet another comment came from Billy Youth, of the U.S. DEA in Miami, reported in the *Guardian* Oct. 23: "There is a massive drug laundering of money into the Isle of Man and the British Virgin Islands. . . . We are talking in excess of \$30 million into both of these islands, with the investigation continuing, which will inevitably document much, much more."

One factor that may lead to new breakthroughs is that U.S. law-enforcement officials have begun questioning a key figure in the Brinks-Mat case, John Fleming. Scotland Yard investigators had discovered that the British-born Fleming had had a secret meeting in Spain with one Scott Errico, a suspected drug dealer wanted by authorities in Florida. Trying to escape from British police officials, Fleming, eventually, ended up in the hands of U.S. authorities. The *Daily Telegraph* Oct. 24 reported that Fleming was being questioned "about a global Mafia banking network 'laundering' huge sums of criminal money." The same day's *Daily Express* reported that it is hoped by British officials that the questioning of Fleming "will cause a scandal among legal and accounting circles on both sides of the Atlantic."

Otherwise, according to an Oct. 22 London *Times* account, important information about the Brinks-Mat network, and its wider ramifications, has been coming from an informant, British-born financier Shaun P. Murphy, managing director of a firm called Financial Management Trust, which allegedly has operated illicitly in the Virgin Islands. Using Murphy's leads, and other information, the *Times* noted, a financial network has been uncovered that is laundering criminal monies in the City of London, Hong Kong, Singapore, Panama, France, and Luxembourg. But the broader network "includes Boston, Chicago, and New York as well as Florida."

## Other fronts

On Oct. 19, British Customs Agents revealed that they had cracked a drug racket involving £18 million in profits from cocaine smuggling. This "evil operation," the *Express* stated, was "one of the world's biggest." It centers around a Colombian jet-setter named Oscar Cuevas, who has been extradited to the United States, where he faces 25 years in jail on 15 counts of drug trafficking and money laundering. The Cuevas gang, the *Express* reported, would launder profits made from cocaine sales in the United States into British banks, and then would redeploy these profits back into the United States, for further cocaine sales.

On Oct. 26, the *Sunday Times* reported that British Customs Agents had cracked a network of Nigerian traffickers, who were transporting heroin produced in Pakistan by air from Lagos to London.

Over the past weeks, senior British drug investigators have been attempting to increase the deployment of detectives abroad, as liaisons with anti-drug officials, including the Netherlands and Spain. The Netherlands, particularly the city of Amsterdam, has been identified by both British and West German officials as the "soft spot" in fighting drugs in Western Europe, and Spain is viewed as the *entrepôt* for drugs coming into Europe from Ibero-America.

## David Mellor on 'crimes against humanity'

*David Mellor, British Home Office Minister responsible for the war on drugs, addressed the British Conservative Party conference in Bournemouth Oct. 10.*

We are pushing for a new United Nations convention against drug-trafficking to which all countries of good will can subscribe. We want drug-trafficking to be made an international crime against humanity—for that is what it is—an international crime triable anywhere in the world, on evidence gathered wherever in the world the trafficker has operated, with effective action against his assets, wherever in the world they are located.

British government legal experts have assisted in the preparation of a first draft which will be discussed in Vienna in February of next year. I hope there will be speedy progress thereafter. . . .

My experience on my travels around Britain, and overseas, makes it clear to me that it would be nothing less than a calamity if we failed to meet and turn back the challenge of the drug-trafficker, and the menace of drug abuse.