

The drug mob's legalizers go on the warpath

by Jeffrey Steinberg

It is no small irony that exactly at the moment when the government of Colombia launched an all-out war against the drug cartels, seizing tens of millions of dollars in properties, rounding up thousands of cartel foot soldiers, and extraditing a key dope money launderer to the United States to stand trial, an international collection of prestigious dope mafia apologists have surfaced all at once, to proclaim the War on Drugs “unwinnable” and to call for unilateral surrender.

From “free market” economist Milton Friedman to the editorial board of the London *Economist* to Carter era “drug czar” Dr. Peter Bourne, one by one the same crew of legalizers who have been the subject of many *EIR* exposés over the years, have crawled out from underneath their rocks. While their words may have changed slightly, their tune remains the same.

In early September, the nation's capital was invaded by representatives from a string of organizations all advocating one or another version of drug legalization: the Drug Policy Foundation—a three-piece-suit retread of the 1970s National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML)—the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), the libertarian Cato Institute, NORML, the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL), the Criminal Justice Policy Foundation, the National Prison Project, and *High Times* magazine.

Throughout Ibero-America, such longstanding mouthpieces for the dope cartels as Colombia's Ernesto Samper Pisano, who toured the United States during the Carter years under NORML's auspices, advocated a “dialogue” and “negotiations” with the Cartel bosses.

In 1984, when the Medellín Cartel assassinated Colombia's Justice Minister Rodrigo Lara Bonilla, a courageous anti-drug fighter, it was former Colombian President Alfonso López Michelsen who secretly caucused with the drug barons in Panama and proposed to “mediate” a truce with the government. Samper Pisano, who had served as López Michelsen's presidential campaign manager, called upon the United States to help achieve “peace” with the drug traffickers, after the cartel



Three chief targets of the drug-traffickers (left to right): Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., former presidential candidate, a political prisoner in the United States since January 1989; Rodrigo Lara Bonilla, Colombian justice minister, assassinated in April 1984; Luis Carlos Galán, Colombian presidential candidate, assassinated in August 1989.

barons assassinated Luis Carlos Galán, the frontrunning presidential candidate and a friend of Lara Bonilla.

Belying the “neutral” character of these proposals, the same offer was simultaneously floated by Fabio Ochoa, the father of the head of the Medellín Cartel, Jorge Ochoa.

In times of war, morale is a critical factor. For precisely that reason, propagandizing for the enemy cause is rightly treated as an act of treason. In the context of Colombian President Virgilio Barco’s declaration of war against the cocaine cartel, the behavior of this army of apologists should be considered just that: treason.

A red Trojan horse

While one element of *Dope, Inc.* has responded with howls of protest over the Colombian government’s all-out assault—and the Bush administration’s still limited but constructive support effort—another major component of the international drug cartel has been playing the role of a Trojan horse. The Soviet Union, through its Bulgarian, Czechoslovakian, Cuban, and Syrian satraps, plays a pivotal role in the entire international drug trade. Syria’s President Hafez al Assad is the principal architect of narco-terrorism throughout the eastern Mediterranean region. Bulgaria was identified once again this year by Drug Enforcement Administration investigators in Switzerland as a major launderer of drug profits and, now, as a manufacturer of heroin and synthetic “designer drugs”—a fact that the U.S. State Department, eager to forge a new *détente* with Moscow, has attempted to systematically cover up.

Yet this “Eastern Connection” to the world drug trade was totally ignored in the Bush administration’s drug control strategy, as was any mention of the other world drug colos-

sus, Communist China. In fact, the United Nations Convention on International Narcotics Control, finalized last December in Vienna, was principally authored by the Russians. If it is endorsed by the U.S. Senate, as President Bush requested in his Sept. 5 television address, the convention would give the Soviet KGB access to all Western intelligence on international drug trafficking and money laundering, and would permit Moscow to instigate overseas asset seizures and demand extradition of those whom Moscow decides to label “drug traffickers.” The Big Lie in Moscow’s sudden willingness to collaborate in the War on Drugs is evidenced in the political profile of many of the most outspoken drug legalizers in the West, beginning with the London *Economist* magazine. The very same financial community organs screaming the loudest about the “no win” nature of President Barco’s war on drugs, are at the same time the biggest spokesmen for the appeasement of Moscow and, in most cases, for the surrender of Lebanon’s sovereignty to Syria’s drug interests.

In recent editorial comments, some British newspapers have pointed to the simple truth that those who advocate legalization of drugs or softpeddle on the need for a true global war against the narcos, are simply front-men for the drug runners themselves. Lyndon H. LaRouche Jr., the American statesman who was politically framed up and jailed because of his 20-year crusade against the drug mafia, recently endorsed this view, and proposed that the City of London financial institutions standing behind the *Economist* be among the first to be prosecuted for collusion with the enemy. A few well-targeted blows like that would go a long way toward demonstrating just how winnable the War on Drugs actually is. Then, the world can watch the legalizers dive back in their holes.