

the “libertarian” drug legalization issue.

One voice of sanity, in the midst of all this, has come from Melanie Philips, weekly columnist for the *Sunday Times*. On July 8, she wrote, “What on Earth is going on? Suddenly, Britain is in the grip of a frenzied campaign to legalize cannabis, and even all drugs. . . . Without exception, these arguments are intellectually dishonest, disingenuous or terrifyingly irresponsible. Yet they are gaining critical mass.”

British Legalizers Aid Narco-Coup in Colombia

by Valerie Rush

Colombian citizens are watching in horror as their government conspires with a terrorist army of assassins, kidnappers, and drug-runners to cancel next year’s Presidential elections, and impose a dictatorship of terrorist blackmail and legalized drugs. Retired military officers are predicting that generalized civil war, certain to spill across Andean borders, will be the unavoidable consequence.

Behind the scenes, the financial elites of London and Wall Street are slaving at the prospect of vast new flows of money from legalized Colombian cocaine and heroin trade, under such a narco-dictatorship. Thus it comes as no surprise, that the din for legalizing drugs is becoming deafening, with the British establishment leading the pack.

July 1, a Commission of Notables, chosen by the government of President Andrés Pastrana and the FARC narco-terrorists to recommend a strategy to kick-start the country’s non-existent “peace negotiations,” issued a surrender proposal: 1) declare a truce; 2) call a Constituent Assembly, with 100 seats split between state delegates and terrorist representatives, to rewrite the nation’s 1991 Constitution; and 3) hold a plebiscite on the new “Constitution.”

Speaking to the press next day, the FARC’s Raúl Reyes was explicit as to the outcome of any proposal his narco-terrorist army agreed to: “What we want, is to govern. The FARC’s fight is to become the government.” President Pastrana assured Reyes that surrendering power to the FARC in a negotiated “peace agreement” would require “solid Constitutional grounding,” thereby necessitating a new Constitution.

So Much for Peace

Just a week earlier, Reyes had declared that the FARC had decided to target Congressmen and judges for kidnapping, for the higher ransoms they bring. He also said the FARC has no intention of confining terrorism to the countryside, but

is preparing the encirclement and occupation of Colombia’s cities. So much for peace.

Although political figures close to the Presidency, such as Conservative Party director Carlos Holguin, have had to deny persistent rumors of a virtual co-government pact between Pastrana and the terrorists, the evidence speaks for itself. On July 3, Colombian TV reported a government decision to seat Pastrana’s entire Cabinet at the negotiating table with the FARC, the better to work out the details of the government’s planned “reforms.”

In July 2 statements published by the Spanish-language edition of the *Miami Herald*, a group of retired Colombian military officers warned that a bilateral cease-fire, as proposed by the Notables, would dramatically expand and consolidate FARC control across the country. They predicted that at least 40 areas where the FARC now claims supremacy, would become untouchable “demilitarized zones” (like the infamous FARClandia in Colombia’s cocaine heartland), into which neither government nor armed forces would be permitted to set foot. “This would be the beginning of civil war,” they predicted, because northern areas of the country, not yet under the FARC heel, would arm themselves. “Every day, we are further from peace and closer to generalization of the conflict,” said one officer.

Drug Legalization Is the Goal

When New York Stock Exchange President Richard Grasso met the FARC’s Raúl Reyes in 1999 to discuss “mutual investment opportunities,” there was little doubt in anyone’s mind that FARC control over much of the Colombian cocaine and heroin trade was the key bargaining chip. The superinflated derivatives bubble that is the international financial system, desperately needs cash infusions to keep it afloat, and Colombia’s drug crops can provide the “fix” the London and Wall Street bankers want.

With Pastrana’s blessing, the FARC is on its way to becoming “legal.” Now the drug crops it oversees must be legalized, too. That is what former British Ambassador to Colombia Sir Keith Morris argued, in a July 4 interview with the *London Guardian*, in which he claimed the war on drugs is “unwinnable, costly, and counterproductive,” and that legalization, “politically impossible today, can become politically imperative tomorrow.” He said that establishing a legal framework, in which drug sales would be taxed “for the common good,” is now necessary.

The *Guardian* celebrated July 4 by publishing four articles pushing legalization. In subsequent days, the *Daily Telegraph* and *Times* of London made clear the British establishment has decided the time has come to ram legalization through, publishing front-page calls. Likewise, the *Wall Street Journal* has promoted the legalization campaigns of billionaire speculator George Soros and cohorts in the United States, hinting at a “softening” on the issue in the Bush Republican Party.