

Colombian agrarian leader tours U.S.

Calls for international antidrug coalition, Third World growth

In mid-June, the State Department attempted unsuccessfully to prevent Fausto Charris, secretary general of Colombia's 120,000-member National Agrarian Federation (FANAL), from entering the United States and participating in a public meeting of the New York-New Jersey Anti-Drug Coalition in New York City. Charris, an aggressive fighter against plans to legalize Colombia's marijuana traffic and a noted proponent of capital-intensive development of the Third World, was officially invited by the coalition to address its June 24 meeting.

The State Department's reversal of an initial decision not to grant Charris an entry visa, made under pressure of a nationwide mobilization of antidrug forces, and Charris's subsequent arrival in New York to begin a U.S. tour has had precisely the effect Washington feared.

Upon arriving in the U.S., Charris called on this country to rededicate itself to its founding principles of progress and to worldwide economic development and to reject the Malthusian policies that threaten the moral fiber and economic survival of all nations. His appeal is not only catalyzing support for the antidrug coalitions being set up across the nation, but Charris's public appearances, as well as the news coverage of his tour,

are provoking a wide ranging discussion of what kind of administration in Washington is required to implement the policies he is outlining.

Charris capped the first leg of his tour, which included stops in New York City, Washington, D.C., Buffalo, and Detroit, with the call for an international antidrug conference to be held later this year in Bogota, Colombia. The conference will announce the founding of an international Anti-Drug Coalition to bring together those forces committed to ending the world's drug trade. Invitations will be extended to elected officials, professionals, labor leaders, and medical experts from several countries to participate in this historic event.

The Colombian labor leader has also endorsed the 1980 presidential candidacy of Lyndon LaRouche, chairman of the U.S. Labor Party. In a statement issued in Detroit on July 2, Charris explained that LaRouche is the only candidate who can assure a return of the U.S. to the dirigist policies of the country's founding fathers and a foreign policy based on promoting global peace and development.

Charris has specified what Colombia needs for an effective marijuana eradication program and economic

Charris backs LaRouche candidacy for President

Fausto Charris Romero of the Colombian National Agrarian Federation (FANAL), yesterday issued the following statement from Detroit, Michigan, where he is visiting as part of a tour of the U.S. The statement is an endorsement of the presidential candidacy of U.S. Labor Party national chairman, Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

The development of the Third World; promoting new sources of energy such as nuclear energy, for all countries; elimination of drugs; and building peace: these are Lyndon LaRouche's fundamental programmatic proposals.

Given that the greatest resource of the United States is the minds of its population, its science and technology, and given that these resources are vital for the development of the Third World, we cannot allow them to be destroyed.

The minds of the American people must be placed at the service of the progress of humanity, and must be understood as "the patrimony of all mankind," the same term Mexican President Lopez Portillo uses to describe his country's natural resources. This is why all of us, but especially those of us who represent the peoples of the Third World, must support Lyndon LaRouche for President. Only LaRouche can guarantee the United States' incorporation into the great universal alliance in favor of peace, against war, backwardness and drugs—for the progress of all people.

Charris to U.S.: intervene with nuclear power

The following are excerpts of Fausto Charris's address to the meeting of the New York-New Jersey Anti-Drug Coalition, held in New York City on June 24.

In the name of the Colombian peasantry I present to the great people of the United States a greeting and a profound wish that the American people continue in their struggle to be in the leadership of progress....

If George Washington were alive today, I would be a disciple of his in the struggle against drugs. Some liars have said that the development of the North American people is based on the underdevelopment of the Third World. That is a lie! The development of the North American population is founded on science and the desire of the American people to progress further. It is founded on continuing the struggle for high-technology development begun by George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, and Alexander Hamilton....

development both in public forums and in private meetings with elected officials, civic and community leaders. In Washington, D.C., Charris met with Reps. Gilman and Biaggi of New York, and the combined staffs of Reps. Beard of Tennessee and Billy Lee Evans of Georgia—all of whom sit on the House Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control. He also met with Rep. Charles Bennett of Florida.

With the exception of Gilman, who disgracefully evaded serious discussion, the congressmen responded seriously to Charris's warnings that the legalization of marijuana in the U.S. would mean "disaster" for Colombia, and to his proposal for intensive use of the herbicide paraquat in a U.S.-financed eradication program. Discussion with members of Beard's and Evans's staffs included a detailed listing of items Colombia would require for industrialization, such as nuclear reactors, tractors and heavy capital goods. Rep. Bennett committed himself to investigating Charris's charges that the International Monetary Fund and World Bank "appropriate technologies" and no-growth programs were forcing the Colombian population to consider marijuana cultivation as a viable economic alternative—as a cash crop export to the U.S.

Following Charris's presentation to the June 24 meeting of the New York-New Jersey Anti-Drug Coalition, he held a series of working meetings in the metropolitan area. Out of these, a New York state assemblyman and a New Jersey mayor who sits on the board of the coalition, have agreed to take Charris's

We know that if North America progresses, Colombia also progresses, and that if Colombia progresses, North America will also move forward.

Wherever drugs exist they destroy the mind, the morality and the humanity of the population. If the drug menace is not contained, it will mean a disaster for humanity as terrible in its consequences as a nuclear war.... We in Colombia are interested in the development of the United States. Nuclear energy must be developed for the entire world....

Nuclear energy is 100 percent positive. Colombia produces a lot of uranium; and we are one of the largest powers in hydroelectric energy in the world. And yet, only 100 yards from the Magdalena River in Colombia, crops are lost for lack of water. If the United States helps us with nuclear energy, we have an area there, now used to grow marijuana, that can feed not only Colombia but many surrounding countries, and can provide vegetables and other foods to the United States....

In Colombia, there is a strong campaign to produce marijuana and stop food production. The organization we direct in Colombia has been a

account of the antidrug fight in Colombia to the U.S. Congress.

No human rights without paraquat

At public meetings, Charris has taken on the arguments of the U.S. "pot lobby" and environmentalist movement, which are demanding that the State Department cease financial aid to countries which use or are considering use of paraquat in marijuana eradication programs—to defend the "human rights" of dope smokers!

At an antidrug gathering at Bronx Community College in New York on June 28, Charris pointed to recent statements by Health, Education and Welfare Secretary Joseph Califano, which suggest that smokers use waterpipes or consume marijuana in brownies to reduce the harmful effects of paraquat. "Califano says there are no human rights with paraquat," Charris said. "Marijuana without paraquat is a violation of human rights ... drugs enter the United States from Central America concealed in bananas. If the environmentalists were consistent, they'd be out there defending the human rights of bananas that (Nicaraguan President) Somoza fills with cocaine."

Charris also told Washington congressmen and state legislators they must confront those interests inside the Carter administration, exemplified by Califano or the Justice Department's Benjamin Civiletti, who support marijuana decriminalization or legalization. "The movement to legalize marijuana is subversive ... It threatens the Constitution, and the sovereignty of any

disastrous victim of the enemies of the Colombian people. An evil cabal has seized the Ministry of Labor and made it the enemy of labor. The wife of the minister of labor has a television program that promotes marijuana.

We are in possession of a letter that implicates the Colombian minister of labor as a friend of Alvaro Gomez. Alvaro Gomez is the leading fascist in Colombia—the friend of Pinochet, the friend of Somoza—who runs the Colombian government through an intermediary called the President of Colombia. That is why the government of Colombia is backing an OAS intervention into Nicaragua.

The solution to marijuana is the same as the means to end the danger of World War III. It is the development of the Third World. We will accept a U.S. intervention in the sense of encouraging that development—as long as national sovereignty is respected. All the Third World wants intervention in that form—the countries of Latin America, of Africa, and of Asia. If this occurs, there will not be nuclear war.

nation.” Failure to challenge these prodrug interests will abet those forces in Colombia led by the fascist oligarch and Somoza ally Alvaro Gomez Hurtado, who want to legalize the marijuana “industry,” and are willing to impose a military dictatorship to do so, Charris warned.

Citybuilding, not marijuana

With the eradication of marijuana and sufficient technological aid from abroad, Colombia will be in a position to begin building the modern cities it so desperately needs, Charris told an audience in Buffalo, New York. While there he called for the construction of “LaRouche City,” named in honor of the U.S. Labor Party’s national chairman, to be built near the border of Panama and Colombia. “Colombia needs citybuilders in the tradition of those who built the United States,” he said. “If the United States allows itself to be engulfed in drug consumption, then the skill levels and mental capacities which helped build this nation will be destroyed ... you can’t let that happen.”

One of the most moving moments in Charris’s presentations was his call to the Bronx Community College meeting for a moment of silence for the great humanist Pope Paul VI, whose encyclical *Populorum Progressio* is an eloquent defense of the Third World’s right to advanced technology and accelerated industrial development. The audience responded with a standing ovation.

To get a firsthand knowledge of the advanced

Stop the drugs at their source

On July 2, Fausto Charris Romero, Secretary General of the National Agrarian Federation of Colombia issued the following message from Buffalo, N.Y., to the Joint Committee of the Georgia State Legislature on stopping drugs at their source.

I have been informed about the fight you are waging to plan the necessary strategy to destroy, at its roots, the drug vice in the world.

In my position as an agrarian union leader in Colombia, I can only extol this great and noble service to humanity. This problem, together with the danger of nuclear war, are the two great terrors confronting us. At the same time, I want to say that, together with the fight to eradicate drugs, the world needs the unprecedented development of all countries, especially the acceleration in the construction of new high-technology energy sources, such as nuclear energy.

Without nuclear energy, drugs cannot be destroyed, because drugs are the daughter of backwardness and vice, whereas nuclear energy is born of the application of science.

We need a world of further generations of scientists and virtuous people committed to progress. There are people who want to maintain the world in backwardness as a way of maintaining their wretched privileges. It is they who promote drug traffic and it is they who want to fabricate a shortage of energy in the United States to impose a reduction in the standard of living of the people of this nation. We have to combat them by promoting the development of the Third World and increasing the supply of energy in the United States.

I wish you success in your deliberations.

technology his country requires, Charris toured the Indian Point nuclear plant outside New York City and discussed with officials of the Con Edison company the feasibility of exchanging his country’s mineral wealth, such as uranium, for nuclear reactors. In Arlington, Virginia, at a dinner sponsored by the Fusion Energy Foundation, Charris elaborated for the audience of businessmen and scientists the absurdity of U.S. Energy Secretary James Schlesinger’s policy of denying nuclear energy to the nations of the developing sector. “It’s time for the population of the U.S. and Colombia to join hands (for development) ... that achieved, we can send the drug pushers like Alvaro Gomez to the moon ... maybe he can grow his marijuana there.”

—Cynthia Rush