

Cisneros draws fire for 'abuse of power'

by Gretchen Small

With a two-page editorial broadside charging that the Cisneros family's "abuse of power" has become a threat to the Venezuelan state, *Resumen* magazine of Caracas has opened the domestic front in a war against that drug-implicated family begun by *EIR*.

The *Resumen* editorial, appearing in its March issue, went directly to the taboo subject of six weeks of political warfare within Venezuela: charges in *EIR*'s book, *Narcotráfico, SA, (Dope, Inc.)*, that the Cisneros family is part of the international network of "citizens above suspicion" profiting from the illegal drug trade.

EIR had rushed into print a new Spanish-language edition of *Narcotráfico, SA* in January 1985, for release before Pope John Paul II's end-of-the-month trip to Ibero-America. The oligarchical networks named in the book as the organizers of the "New Opium Wars" (the book's subtitle) are one and the same as those who would stand to gain from an attack on the Pope, the book documented.

The Cisneros family, referenced as one small case study in *Narcotráfico, SA*'s review of how the "dope-oligarchy" works, went berserk. Within two weeks, four *EIR* correspondents were arrested and deported; a corrupt judge prohibited circulation of *Narcotráfico, SA* inside Venezuela; police agents were sent to intimidate Venezuelan passengers caught buying the book at the Miami airport; and the Cisneros' publicity outlets began attacking *EIR* founder Lyndon LaRouche full-time.

Members of the Venezuelan Labor Party, a political party supporting LaRouche's proposals for reorganizing the world monetary system, were threatened with jailings or "accidents." Few spoke out, and the Cisneros family appeared to have bought off and intimidated into silence all opposition to their empire—until *Resumen*'s editorial.

"The book, *Narcotráfico, SA*, mentions, with or without reason, the Cisneros family as involved in the drug business," wrote *Resumen*. "Nobody can deny that it is the enigma surrounding the origin of the wealth" of the Cisneros which feeds such reports, *Resumen* noted. It also pointed to the fact that the Cisneros Organization moved with lightening speed to "shut up all reaction or comment by any Venezuelan press" when a jet of the family's Pepsi-Cola Co. was found carrying cocaine in Florida a few days later.

The focus of *Resumen*'s attack, however, was on the

family's "power and ability to mobilize the entire police and repressive apparatus of the state in the defense of their interests, to use judges and attorneys obscenely in their service and employ, and to infiltrate and use the security bodies of the state for their jobs of intelligence and repression."

The Cisneros family efforts to silence the *EIR* story begins to look like "one of these serialized gringo soap operas," *Resumen* reported. Members of the family wildly accused business opponents and former police officials of responsibility for the book. A family member even went to President Lusinchi to accuse Interior Minister Octavio Lepage of backing those attacking them!

TFP revenge

Venezuelans have now been given proof of *EIR*'s charge that the threat to the life of the Pope stems from the same networks running the opium wars. The very same Venezuelan Judge who banned *Narcotráfico, SA* on March 5 on behalf of the Cisneros family has now permitted the assassin cult Tradition, Family, and Property (TFP) to regroup there.

TFP was forbidden to operate in Venezuela by the government last Nov. 8, following exposés of the TFP's brainwashing of local youth, which included fanatic indoctrination against the Pope. TFP networks, who stated privately that they were convinced *EIR* and LaRouche were behind their banning, merely began preparing to reestablish operations under a new cover.

In an interview with the Caracas daily *El Nacional*, parents of TFP brainwash victims warned that the decision announced that week by Judge Alirio Abreu Burelli on a suit they had initiated against the TFP will permit the prohibited sect to resume operations under another name. The parents had requested further court restrictions and aid in finding their still missing children.

The same Judge Abreu Burelli sits on the civil court of the Federal District and the state of Miranda, from which post he suppressed *Narcotráfico, SA* at the request of Gustavo Cisneros and José Rafael Revenga, the head Cisneros' television empire. It was the first formal outlawing of a book in Venezuela in decades. Abreu's verdict mocked the tough Law Governing Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances passed by the government in 1984, declaring that the book "could lead to the mistaken belief that drug trafficking is a possible and highly profitable business, which is run under the cover of legal activities and is carried out with impunity and directed by persons or institutions that society holds to be honorable. So interpreted, the text could be a stimulus, a subliminal message, which is prohibited by the above-cited law."

Implicit mockery of that decision subsequently appeared in the Caracas daily *El Mundo*, in a column recommending Venezuelans learn the lessons of history by reading Jack Beechin's *The Opium War*. Never mentioning the forbidden *EIR* book, the article pointed to the fortunes Queen Victoria and British bankers made from the 19th-century drug traffic as a model for understanding today's narco-bankers.