

Reagan vows 'full force of presidency' to fight drugs

by Nicholas F. Benton

The White House announced July 29 that Ronald Reagan plans to "place the full force of the presidency" behind an all-out war on drugs "whose ultimate objective will be the total eradication" of drugs from the country. The President was expected to outline the specifics of his program in the first full week in August, and launch a series of major speeches on the topic this fall.

White House spokesman Larry Speakes presented a preliminary review of what the President intends to do before an hysterical press corps that wasted no time misrepresenting the planned offensive as a "repressive assault on civil liberties," citing expanded mandatory drug testing of federal employees. In response, Speakes was outspoken in blaming NBC national television, in particular, for "rating the worst" in such fabrications.

While the President is expected to emphasize efforts at uniting private industry, civic, religious, and other organizations in a national campaign to combat drug abuse at the consumer end, this will be only the "tip of the iceberg" of a much more comprehensive effort.

EIR learned that less than one week after President Reagan "hit the roof" in July when he learned that the administration's anti-drug effort had stalled, "Operation Blast Furnace" was launched, sending U.S. military personnel and equipment to aid a major drug raid in Bolivia. Since then, the President has been kicking people around the White House to gear up a comprehensive program for attacking the international drug trade at both the "point of production" (supply) and "point of consumption" (demand) sides of the equation.

Working in consultation with the Pentagon, the White House has put together an anti-drug offensive which includes continued military forays to destroy crops and refining and transportation facilities, as well as a package of legislation

broadening law-enforcement powers domestically. The operation is seen, insiders report, as a national-security matter. Soviet involvement in the international drug trade, both directly, as documented by recent investigations in Italy and elsewhere, and through surrogates such as Cuba and Nicaragua, is the target. Thus, the war on drugs is seen, operationally, as a form of U.S. "low-intensity warfare" against the Soviets.

But it is also known that the Soviets are not the only players in the international narcotics business, and this is one reason why White House Chief of Staff Donald T. Regan has been shoved aside in the planning of this operation, according to reports. Regan, who represents the Wall Street faction in the White House, was blamed, personally, by for the past year's stall in the drug war. Of course, this should come as no surprise, given that Regan's former employment as chairman of Merrill Lynch implicates him deeply in drug-money laundering, himself. Also, Regan's financier friends either overtly favor the legalization of drugs as a way of financing Third World debt (such as the Xerox Corporation's Sol Linowitz and others in his Inter-American Dialogue group), or are publicly "non-committal" on the subject (such as Federal Reserve chairman Paul Volcker).

The President's new offensive involves both military and civilian components.

On the military front, raids such as the Bolivian "Blast Furnace" operation will continue. Despite massive advance leaks, the Bolivian offensive set back the cocaine producers by six months there, according to Drug Enforcement Administration officials. Future operations will be more heavily protected against advanced leaks by taking a much lower profile overall. Also, Rep. Dan Daniel's (D-Va.) legislation to create an independent "special operations directorate" at the Pentagon, integrating the special-operations capabilities

of the different branches of the military into one unit, includes anti-drug operations in its charter, and is being viewed as a positive step in this war.

On the civilian side, the President will augment the ongoing work of his wife, Nancy, by speaking out on drugs frequently over the coming months, urging volunteer public collaboration in the effort to educate the public against drug use as part of an effort to generate popular support for the overall offensive. Reagan began this with brief remarks to representatives of service organizations at the White House on July 30. "The time has come," he said "for each and every one of us to make a personal and moral commitment to actively oppose the use of illegal drugs—in all forms and in all places. We must remove all traces of illegal drugs from our nation." Alluding to the national security implications of the campaign, he added, "The good and decent people of this country, and yes, as I say, the world now, are coming together in active opposition to the evil use of drug abuse. More and more people are realizing how crucial it is to deal with this insidious problem. Those who smuggle and sell drugs are as dangerous to our national security as any terrorist or foreign dictatorship."

However, to be effective, the administration's new offensive against drugs must include two elements it has not yet considered:

1) The withdrawal of its nomination of William Weld for head of the Criminal Division of the Justice Department. Weld became the subject of massive public criticism for his "slap on the wrist" to the Bank of Boston which was found guilty of hiding over \$1.2 billion in large cash transactions; he has been documented to have extensive ties to vested interests in drug-money laundering activity (*EIR*, Aug. 1, 1986). Weld's nomination, which a White House spokesman said was not recommended by President Reagan himself, was one consequence of the hiatus in the war on drugs caused by Don Regan's obstructionism, and must be rescinded for serious law enforcement against money laundering and trafficking to get backup from the top levels of the Justice Department.

2) The White House must rescind its support for Gramm-Rudman budget cuts. Wielding the Gramm-Rudman ax, sanctimonious liberals in Congress have announced their intent to slash \$2.5 billion from the President's foreign aid request. In reality, a comprehensive strategy of economic development must supplant the "drug economies" of many developing-sector countries in order for the President's war on drugs to ultimately succeed.

The same is true in the United States. For example, the amount of marijuana confiscated by government officials in Oklahoma last year, estimated at only 25% of the state's total production, had a market value of \$800 million, while the state's entire wheat crop had a value of only \$700 million. Wiping out drugs solves only half the problem. Reversing the economic collapse, here and abroad, is the indispensable other half.

Will William Weld give immunity to wanted terrorist?

by Michele Steinberg

The offices of the Senate Judiciary Committee were informed on July 31 that William F. Weld, the U.S. Attorney in Boston, whose nomination to the number-four position in the Justice Department, chief of the Criminal Division, is sitting before them, has subpoenaed a terrorist to testify against 1988 Democratic Party presidential candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

For nearly two years, Weld has had the 1984 presidential campaign committees of Lyndon H. LaRouche under investigation, along with four other organizations that Weld believes to be associated with LaRouche, witchhunt.

Now, to attempt to "make his case," Weld has called to testify in Boston on Aug. 6, Mordechai Levy, leader of the Jewish Defense Organization, a spin-off of the Jewish Defense League. Ironically, insiders in Washington have expected that Levy would be appearing before a federal grand jury soon, but it is common knowledge that the reason Levy would testify was in the investigation of the murders of Alex Odeh, a moderate Palestinian leader of the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, and Tscherim Soobzokov, a leader of the American-Circassian community, who was falsely accused—and cleared of all charges—of being a Nazi war criminal. Both men were killed in sophisticated terrorist bomb attacks in late 1985, after being threatened by Levy and other JDO/JDL members.

The organizations that Weld has been harassing through this grand jury, including The LaRouche Campaign and the National Democratic Policy Committee (NDPC), have protested to the Justice Department, and to the Senate Judiciary Committee, the fact that Levy is being used in this case.

On July 31, Edward Spannaus, treasurer of The LaRouche Campaign (TLC), which was the 1984 campaign committee for presidential candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., denounced William F. Weld in a Washington press conference for attempting to use Levy, a suspected terrorist and discredited FBI informant, as a witness. Spannaus called for the Senate Judiciary Committee to reject Weld's nomination for Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division.

"Weld's office has conducted a dead-end vendetta, cost-