

Mand, and Pishin, formed a pipeline to Teheran chalking out a tortuous route from the NWFP. . . . The close ties and relations between the people of this area and those across the border in Iran, Afghanistan, and Oman, combined with inter-marriages between the all-Sunni population across the borders, also helped in boosting the trade.”

Despite the death penalty, heroin addiction remains high in Iran, where it was traditional to pass opium pipes crafted of solid gold. “In the past,” reported *The Herald*, “relatives of people living in Iranian Baluchistan often returned home to Pakistan with tales of deadly white powder that had plagued Iran.”

In addition, a sizable number of Iranian Sunni Muslims also migrated across the border to the Makran coast cities. “According to accounts by local fishermen, many of these people are fabulously rich and moved in to capture the already-thriving smuggling business in the area. VCRs, tape recorders, gold, whiskey, and motorcycles have long been smuggled from Iran and sold for nearly half the market price. What made things smoother was the fact that Iranian Baluchistan is known as one of the major heroin markets in the Gulf.”

Pakistani intelligence sources told *The Muslim* that the drug shipments captured March 17 would not have been possible without the assistance of alleged tribal drug baron Haji Ayub Afridi. Ayub Afridi’s close associate Anwar Khat-tak has been under detention in the Central Prison at Karachi for the last nine months. But Ayub Afridi is the only big fish in Pakistani drug trafficking under detention. The hunt is now on for one Mullah Khuda Bux, who allegedly arranged the captured shipment and whom police say has been involved in numerous hashish shipments in the past year, along with his sidekick Arif Baluch (a.k.a. Noora Teddy). Arif Baluch was arrested for heroin trafficking in Karachi last year but was acquitted. For some reason, the government did not appeal the acquittal.

‘From the prison in which the politician’s career expires, the influence of the statesman is raised toward the summits of his life’s providential course. Since Solon, the Socratic method has become the mark of the great Western statesman. Without the reemergence of that leadership, our imperiled civilization will not survive this century’s waning years.’

—Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

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Thornburgh Doctrine targets Thailand

by Linda de Hoyos

On March 15, the Bush administration made a splashy show on the war on drugs front, with the handing down of a 10-count indictment on charges of drug trafficking against Khun Sa, the famed druglord of the Golden Triangle of Southeast Asia. The indictment appeared as the next step in the Bush administration’s carrying out of the “Thornburgh Doctrine,” the concept put forward by U.S. Attorney General Richard Thornburgh by which U.S. courts and law enforcement agencies violate the sovereignty and laws of other nations in order to arrest and bring to trial foreign nationals believed to have violated U.S. domestic law.

A month later, it is clear that the highly publicized indictment against him has done nothing to damage Khun Sa’s thriving business. U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Melvin Levitsky announced in Bangkok April 1 that the United States was not planning any military action against Khun Sa, who operates in the northeastern corner of Burma. Not only would military action involve invading a sovereign country (Burma), but even if Burmese authorities were willing to cooperate, Khun Sa maintains control over his own Shan state area, Levitsky said.

Then why the indictment? The most immediate answer is that by handing down an indictment against the world’s most famous druglord, Thornburgh and company hope to lend some veneer of credibility to the indictment of Gen. Manuel Noriega and the U.S. invasion of Panama in order to capture him. Since Khun Sa has been indicted and it is known that he is a drug pusher, then, by inference, Noriega must be too—goes the syllogistic logic expected by the public.

Second, the U.S. intelligence community has been unhappy with Khun Sa for the last two years, since he released the names of high-level U.S. officials that he claims he was involved with in Southeast Asian drug trafficking. Khun Sa called the CIA “his best business partners for 20 years,” and pointed to Richard Armitage, currently undersecretary of state, as his key partner.

Third, the Thornburgh Doctrine has become a convenient tool for the U.S. bullying of allied nations, in this case Thailand.

Propaganda barrage

Following a congressional delegation visit to Thailand in February, led by Rep. Charles Rangel, Thailand has become a focal point for U.S. pressure on the flow of heroin and other

drugs coming from the Golden Triangle. It is estimated that heroin from the Golden Triangle—the area of northeast Burma, northern Thailand, northwestern Laos, and (until Henry Kissinger excised it from the map) Yunnan province of the People's Republic of China—accounts for at least 40% of the heroin on the U.S. market.

Upon returning from its Asian drug tour, the congressional delegation began singling out Thailand as the key transshipment point for Golden Triangle drugs. In congressional hearings held in early March, Levitsky bluntly stated that “corruption” in Thailand was a major obstacle to adequate anti-drug law enforcement. At the end of March, Levitsky embarked on a “drug tour” of Thailand, Laos, Pakistan, India, and Turkey.

Thailand Narcotics Control Chief Chavolit Yodmani on March 29 dismissed Levitsky's charges, saying that the State Department officer failed to pinpoint which Thai officials may have been involved in drug trafficking or through what part of Thailand's long border with Burma and Laos, drugs may have been smuggled into the country.

The attack has also been waged in the media, beginning with a March exposé in the *Foreign Eastern Economic Review*, a magazine editorially associated with the London School of Economics, on lucrative Thai lumbering operations in Burma. The unproven implication is that the same Thai businessmen are making money on dope, in collusion with the Burmese government. The primary source for the attack has been one Bertil Lintner, a Swedish national who has made his career attacking the Burmese government and defending the Kachin Independence Army. The Kachins, who have close relations with the P.R.C., are one of several dope-trafficking ethnic groups in northern Burma, including Khun Sa's Shan.

The propaganda war escalated again on April 11, when British journalist Martin Smith gave an interview to the British Broadcasting Company (BBC) on the just-concluded World Ministerial Drug Conference in London, where Thailand came under fire. Smith asserted that Thai officials, including Army officers and local police as well as many businessmen, are becoming “more and more involved” in the drug trade. Thai Police General Chavolit Yodmani, secretary of the Thai Narcotics Suppression Agency, denied the charge, stating that Thailand was trying to bring Burma and Laos into its drug-eradication program. That program, involving aerial spraying and crop substitution, has largely eliminated Thailand as an opium grower for the world market.

Thailand is not expected to relent on issues of national sovereignty, even if Washington uses the drug issue to demand it. Thailand has resisted pressures coming from the U.S. embassy to introduce conspiracy law into Thai jurisprudence. In August 1989, a U.S. federal grand jury in Brooklyn, New York indicted Maj. Gen. Veth Petchborom, former head of a Thai military unit, on charges of possessing heroin

and conspiring to import heroin into the United States in 1984. The Thai investigation has concluded that he should be dismissed from the military, but that the evidence is not sufficient to prosecute Veth, and he will not be extradited to the United States.

Thailand has also begun cracking down on networks known to be involved in couriering drugs out of the country. On April 10, the *Bangkok Nation* reported, the Thai foreign ministry decided to revoke visa privileges for citizens from Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, and 13 other African and Middle East countries. Formerly nationals from these countries did not need a visa to visit Thailand.

Coverup of P.R.C.'s role

The attack on Thailand also serves the purpose of drawing attention away from the growing role of the P.R.C. in Golden Triangle drugs. As the Rangel delegation was informed in Hong Kong, a large part of the heroin coming out of Hong Kong is Golden Triangle heroin coming into the port city via the P.R.C. Heroin is shipped across southern China from Yunnan province.

The State Department “International Narcotics Control Strategy Report,” published in March 1990 and partially compiled under Levitsky's direction, has only praise for Communist China. Contrary to reports on drug-growing and refining in Yunnan in particular, the State Department report states that “China does not produce a significant amount of illicit narcotics and does not have a significant narcotics abuse problem.”

The report then praises P.R.C. anti-drug “efforts”: “The P.R.C. is a regional power and an influential neighbor of almost all major Southeast and Central Asian heroin-producing countries. China realizes the threat drug trafficking poses and is moving aggressively at home to crack down on domestic drug use and trafficking.” The State Department accepts at face value P.R.C. claims that any drug production and trafficking that does occur is due to strictly private criminal organizations.

It is hard to determine what expertise, if any, Levitsky has in drug-related matters. His first State Department appointment was as vice consul in Frankfurt, West Germany, in 1963. In 1971, he was detailed to study Russian and was sent to Moscow as political officer from 1972-75. In 1975, he became officer-in-charge of bilateral relations, Office of Soviet Union Affairs, from whence he moved to the Office of U.N. Political Affairs in 1978. Since 1982, he has served as a deputy assistant secretary for human rights and as deputy director of the Voice of America. In 1984, he became ambassador to Bulgaria, a key drug-trafficking country.

In his capacity as director of the International Narcotics Matters division of the State Department, he played a key role in establishing U.S. cooperation with the Soviet Union on “anti-drug” matters, including a ‘memorandum of understanding’ in January 1989.