

in February 1990, López formed a group of influentials calling themselves “the Notables,” to offer themselves as a vehicle for negotiating the “surrender” of the cartel chieftains, while publicly promising the cartel “benevolent treatment.”

In May 1990, several of López’s closest accomplices were arrested by the Colombian military on charges of “aiding and abetting narco-terrorism.” It was simultaneously reported that the Army was in possession of a tape-recording implicating López himself. That tape-recording never made it into the courts, nor did López, despite a May 22, 1990 subpoena issued by a judge investigating “accessories to

narco-terrorism.”

The courts may have been bought, but the Colombian people were never fooled, and they certainly don’t need Carlos Lehder to tell them now what they’ve known all along. For years, anonymous patriots have been splashing the walls of Bogotá and other Colombian cities with the painted slogan “López, El Padrino” (“López, The Godfather.”) Visitors to Colombia may well be perplexed by another commonly appearing slogan: “El Pollo Pone Huevos de Coca” (“The Chicken Lays Coca Eggs”). However, every Colombian knows that *El Pollo* is López Michelsen’s official nickname.

## You read it first in EIR

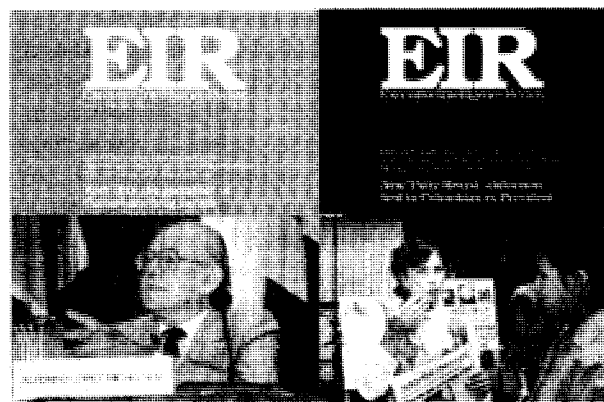
*It is not necessary to rely on the tainted testimony of a crazed cocaine trafficker like Carlos Lehder to learn the facts about either the “narc-Contras” or Alfonso López Michelsen. The truth on both counts has been in the public domain for years, thanks to EIR. The coverage is from EIR unless otherwise indicated.*

### Narc-Contras

**July 1986:** *EIR White Paper: Who Wants to Destabilize Panama and Why?*: “Thus, [Elliott] Abrams has adopted the role of ‘Mr. Contra’ for the Reagan administration. Despite the widespread discrediting of the Nicaraguan insurgents for being up to their necks in drug trafficking, Abrams has not only been their fanatic defender, but has devoted the past few months to a series of personal meetings with the ‘Contra’ leadership to try to force through a ‘reorganization,’ or face-lift, of the motley crew.”

**Dec. 19, 1986:** “From the beginning, the Contras policy was designed to provide a ‘conservative’ cover for the sellout of Central America to Soviet-run narco-terrorists struck with the Soviet Union by Jimmy Carter’s Trilateral Commission government. Carter administration officials spoke of perpetual warfare in Central America, and argued that the United States could not allow any faction—‘left’ or ‘right’—to win. Central America’s militaries were cut off from U.S. assistance, and control handed over to Israeli arms- and drug-running networks under the Carter administration—*policies continued under the Reagan presidency by means of the Contras policy.*”

**Jan. 23, 1987:** “Long before ‘Irangate,’ *EIR* warned that President Reagan risked the biggest scandal of his presidency, if he continued with his ‘I’m a Contra’ policy. Even in the absence of the now voluminous evidence in the possession of the government, *EIR* characterized the



Contra-Sandinista struggle as an internal fight within the Central American branch of Dope, Inc., and urged that Reagan drop the Contras before his entire War on Drugs wound up in shambles.”

### López Michelsen

**September 1984:** *EIR White Paper: Narco-Terrorism in Ibero-America.* “Patricia Londoño’s abduction came in the midst of an all-out war by Colombia’s drug traffickers, who are getting political leadership from former President Alfonso López Michelsen, against the government of President Belisario Betancur.”

**April 1986:** The second edition of the book *Dope, Inc.*, by the editors of *EIR*, is published. “As President of Colombia from 1974 to 1978, López virtually organized the expanding narcotics traffic from the top. . . . Despite significant funding from such known, convicted dope traffickers as Carlos Lehder—whom we will meet later as Robert Vesco’s and Fidel Castro’s business partner—López’s 1982 attempt at a political comeback failed.”

**June 1, 1990:** *EIR* cover story, an updated exposé of Alfonso López Michelsen’s role in sponsoring the drug trade in Colombia, is entitled “Wanted: The Godfather of Colombia’s Drug Cartels.”