

Virginia truth barrage shocks Oliver North's campaign

by Nancy Spannaus

The political campaign of George Bush's flunkey Oliver North was hit with a shock on Sept. 29, when more than 200,000 leaflets on his record of running cocaine into the United States through the Contra operation hit the Northern Virginia-Washington, D.C. area. The fact that the major Virginia media, including the *Washington Post* and network television, has refused to expose major elements of North's criminal record, has left most voters in the dark about why the controversial former National Security Council official is morally unfit for public office. The "truth squad" distribution of leaflets by the Defeat that Son-of-a-Bush Committee brought an immediate positive response from many who have been waiting for an in-depth offensive against the multimillionaire candidate.

The leaflet distribution was especially called for in light of the deliberate press blackout of the scandals against North. The SOB Committee has begun a \$10,000 per week radio ad campaign, but has met with the refusal of major Washington, D.C. media to air the straight, informational spots. A media-press tour by former Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agent Celerino Castillo, who has direct evidence of North's role with drug-running, was also largely blacked out by the media. (*EIR* published an explosive interview with Castillo in our Sept. 23 issue.)

The first indications are that the combination of the mass leafleting and the appearance of Castillo, who filed DEA reports from 1985 onward about Contra drug running, has alarmed the North campaign. North himself has so far confined his responses to the charges of drug running, which have come from former candidate and former governor L. Douglas Wilder as well as the SOB Committee, to monosyllabic dismissals. The self-proclaimed hero declined to respond to a challenge by Castillo that he meet him in Richmond on Sept. 29, and "look me in the eye and tell me it didn't happen." But North's supporters bombarded calls into SOB headquarters and into a radio interview show where Castillo was documenting his evidence, shrieking that the former DEA agent was a "LaRouche agent."

Will North respond?

Reached for comment on Sept. 30, North's correspondence director Joe Mertz responded to Castillo's challenge as follows: "The charges are erroneous, unfounded, and our

lawyers are looking into these charges."

If North intends to sue Castillo, he will meet someone very well prepared. The 12-year DEA veteran has been keeping a record of his reports, as well as pictures and other documentation, ever since he was posted to Central America in 1985. He has been seeking to get an investigation of his evidence from that time forward, and succeeded at various times in getting national news stories on CNN and "A Current Affair." Each time the story begins to make national news, the clamp comes down.

At his press conference in Richmond on Sept. 29, Castillo stressed that North has never been investigated for the charges of Contra drug-running, and that he is minimally guilty of violating the Federal Narcotics Law, by refusing to report his knowledge of narcotics being run by the Contra pilots. Castillo recounted his attempts to get an investigation by special prosecutor Lawrence Walsh's office on the Iran-Contra affair, and the failure of the Kerry Committee on Drugs, Law Enforcement, and Foreign Policy to interview him on his evidence. He also blamed his own former employer, the DEA, for maintaining the coverup.

Castillo also shocked the journalists present by revealing that North was actually the subject of a DEA investigation as late as 1991—when North's use of drug-traffickers in operations around the Philippines resulted in the opening of case file GF-GD-91-9139. He added that there was a U.S. Customs agent named Richard Rivera who would confirm his story on Contra drug running, and numerous other DEA agents who, if subpoenaed, would also testify to support his charges.

Castillo has written a book called *Powder Burns: Cocaine, Contras, and the Drug War*.

Where is the other opposition?

North is opposed by two candidates on the ballot, incumbent Democrat Chuck Robb and independent Republican Marshall Coleman. So far, however, the two have hardly laid a glove on North. North's slight lead in the polls may not mean much, but he certainly has been the only candidate to mobilize effective forces on the ground up to this point.

The Virginia Democratic Party just began to produce anti-North literature at its statewide meeting on Sept. 24. But, pleading poverty, the party chairman indicated that their

Truth Kit about North would not be mass produced. Many local party leaders, especially in the African-American community, are extremely worried about lack of an effective counterattack.

Coleman, whose campaign is sponsored by Virginia's senior Republican senator, John Warner, currently is credited with 18% in the polls. His radio ad campaign has been scurrilous against both North and Robb (without using their names), but not very extensive.

The SOB Committee's leaflet

We reproduce here the text of the mass leaflet which is being circulated in Virginia:

Do you think Ollie North is a "conservative" who promotes family values? Do you believe him when he says he's an "outsider" persecuted by the Washington crowd? If you do, *you're wrong!*

A massive *coverup* of North's real activities as a National Security Council staffer has created a myth of Ollie North that has no correspondence to reality. What the *Washington Post*, *WTOP*, and the *Washington Times* won't tell you, we at the Defeat that Son-of-a-Bush Committee must.

We present here crucial elements of the documentary evidence on just one part of North's record of crime—his oversight of massive cocaine-trafficking into the United States in the Contra supply operation. From the public record alone, there is sufficient evidence to indict North as a drug kingpin—the center of a conspiracy to import illegal drugs into our country, and into the veins of our youth.

North's involvement in drug-trafficking is not the only crime that disqualifies him to be in the U.S. Senate. But it is a damning one—and one that North is lying about to the present day.

The evidence

Due to the corrupt deals around the Iran-Contra affair, North was *never* investigated for the *systematic drug trafficking* he carried out as part of the Contra operation. Nonetheless, the following evidence has come to light:

- Hangars 4 and 5 at the Ilopango Airport in El Salvador, the hangars allocated to the Contra operation under Bush intimate Felix Rodriguez, were found to be frequented by planes carrying cocaine. (Sources: Kerry Committee Report on Drugs, Law Enforcement and Foreign Policy; *Compromised* by Terry Reed; *Powder Burns* by former DEA agent Celerino Castillo)

- According to Castillo, who was in charge of DEA El Salvador operations at the time, "when we finally got the names of all the pilots who were involved, we ran it through our computers, and it was revealed that every single one of them was documented as a narcotics trafficker." (Sources:

Powder Burns; Castillo Interview in *EIR*, Sept. 23, 1994)

- The bank accounts established by Oliver North for Contra supply operations were used to make payments to companies run by notorious drug-traffickers and drug money launderers. Among them were SETCO Air, run by Honduran cocaine kingpin Juan Ramón Matta Ballesteros, and Amalgamated Commercial Enterprises, run by Panamanian drug-money launderer Steve Samos. (Source: Kerry Committee report, 1988)

- North's Contra operation worked with a network of Miami cocaine-traffickers, such as Francisco Chanes and Frank Castro, who provided drug monies to the Contras. (Source: Miami Police Department report, 1984; Kerry Committee report)

- An Aug. 9, 1985 entry in North's own notebook read as follows: "Honduran DC-6 which is being used for runs out of New Orleans is probably being used for drug runs into U.S." The plane was owned by known drug trafficker Matta Ballesteros.

- Jack Blum, an investigator for the Kerry Committee, told Congress on Feb. 11, 1987 that the Contras moved drugs "not by the pound, not by the bag, but by the ton, by the cargo planeload."

Time to act

This is only the tip of the iceberg on Ollie North's drug-trafficking, not to mention other crimes. Lyndon LaRouche's associates were exposing these crimes as early as 1986. But investigations of North were quashed then, and they're still being quashed now.

Sure, North didn't act on his own. He reported to then vice-president George Bush, he worked intimately with Henry Kissinger, and he continues to do so today. His demagogic, lying candidacy is part of a Bush machine offensive to retake the country for their drug-banker friends and others. They are providing the funds for a massive national machine, built on lies as to what North is all about.

Ollie North didn't lie to Congress in order to protect President Reagan. He lied to protect the individual who was in charge of the secret government operations which had been set up by National Security Decision Directives 2 and 3: Vice President George Bush. No wonder Reagan was "pretty steamed" about North's statements, and that NSC head Robert McFarlane, who has documented Bush's knowledge of the Iran-Contra operations, calls North a "degenerate liar."

Nor did North lie because he wanted to fight communism and save lives. He gave his drug millions to communist weapons dealers, who were murderers. His *Contras'* drug runs into the U.S. cost untold lives.

Ollie North is a son-of-a-Bush and he must be stopped. A fuller dossier on his record is contained in a 32-page pamphlet put out by the SOB Committee, and more information is being made available all the time. Call today to get pamphlets, get bumper stickers, and give money to get the truth out!