

rejection of the then-proven fact that there was a strong alliance throughout Ibero-America between narcotics traffickers and Soviet- and Cuban-sponsored guerrilla groups. The Bush rejection of the "narco-terrorist" thesis was used to justify the Bush "secret team's" covert alliance with the Medellín and Cali drug cartels to bankroll the so-called Nicaraguan Contras. From that point on, the Contra operation provided cover and rationale for the smuggling of tons of illegal drugs onto the streets of the United States—to bankroll the narco-tainted Contra war against the equally narco-tainted Sandinista regime in Managua.

Oliver North, the Marine lieutenant colonel who served on the National Security Council staff, was George Bush's towel boy in the covert drug business. The rest of the White House-coordinated operation was staffed by CIA and Pentagon veterans who had cut their teeth in the drug trade during the Vietnam War era, when the "secret war" in Laos was funded to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars a year for nearly a decade by the proceeds of sales of Golden Triangle opium and heroin.

It's no wonder that the dope lobby in the United States flourished during the Bush Presidency. George Bush denouncing narcotics was like J. Edgar Hoover denouncing "damn homosexuals." George Bush was, and still is, one of

America's biggest closet narcos.

When Bush was voted out of office and Clinton was elected President, the drug lobby expected even more of the same. At a triumphal November 1992 national conference in Washington, D.C., the Drug Policy Foundation (DPF) confidently predicted that the just-elected Clinton administration would adopt a policy of "benign neglect" toward the war on drugs, and that during the Clinton Presidency, the United States would adopt a policy of *de facto*, if not *de jure*, legalization of drugs.

The second, Clinton-era phase of the DPF drive to legitimize the dope culture and turn the drug trade into America's most lucrative "service sector," was to be built upon a multi-million-dollar Madison Avenue campaign to ease the path to legalization by the mass marketing of such agit-prop terms as "drug-peace," "drug-reform," and the idea that prohibition of drugs had failed in the same way that the 1920s Prohibition of alcohol had failed. Long-haired, pot-smoking hippies, once the mainstay of the legalization lobby, were told to get a haircut, buy a three-piece suit and a laptop computer—or get out of town.

The DPF offensive was also premised on the belief that, increasingly, the nations of Ibero-America would fall under the domination of narco-regimes, like those of Carlos Andrés

Is Luigi Einaudi the Michael Abbell of the State Department?

Luigi Einaudi, a 20-year State Department career officer who is currently senior adviser to the secretary of state, Policy Planning Staff, should be investigated for his political, and possibly other links to the Cali Cartel and its political protectors in Ibero-America. In light of the facts which have recently come to light about indicted former Justice Department prosecutor Michael Abbell's criminal complicity with the Cali Cartel, the case of Luigi Einaudi—who brags, "I came in with Kissinger," and is widely known as "Kissinger's Kissinger for Latin America"—calls out for a full investigation as well.

Einaudi has repeatedly attempted to marry U.S. security interests to the region's most unsavory characters, such as the Cali Cartel-linked Carlos Andrés Pérez, even after Pérez had been publicly linked with the Colombian drug cartels, and at precisely the moment that he was under investigation for crimes for which he shortly thereafter was jailed.

● **March 11, 1988:** The Venezuelan daily *Diario de*

Caracas published an interview with Fabio Ochoa, the father of Colombia's notorious three Ochoa brothers, all currently in jail for drug running, in which he explained that he had given a horse named "Cupid" to Pérez. "Carlos Andrés Pérez was going to help me with the Spanish king, the Spanish prime minister," Ochoa explained, "so that they would free my son who was imprisoned there."

● **Oct. 21, 1992:** Einaudi, at the time George Bush's ambassador to the Organization of American States, told a public seminar at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington that the entirety of U.S.-Ibero-American relations hung upon maintaining Pérez in power. The Pérez government was "the standard-bearer for the possibility of democracy in Latin America," Einaudi insisted, hailing Pérez in unusually personal terms as "a President with a personal charisma, history, potential of external reality . . . a projection still of vigor, of courage, of modernity, of adaptability." What happens to Pérez in Venezuela, Einaudi went on, "is absolutely critical to our collective, regional future," adding threateningly that any "interruption" of his administration would have "an impact on the whole scene of U.S.-Latin American relations."

● **May 20, 1993:** Pérez was driven from office to face trial for multimillion-dollar corruption, and was soon thereafter convicted and jailed.