

# President Clinton warns: Narco-terrorism 'threatens our world'

by William Jones

In an unprecedented move by any American President in recent years, President Bill Clinton, speaking before the United Nations on the occasion of its 50th anniversary celebrations on Oct. 22, took off the gloves against the international drug cartels. Stressing the need for international cooperation in an era when the "forces of disintegration" move freely across borders, the President drew a connection between terrorism and the drug cartels: "Nowhere is cooperation more vital than in fighting the increasingly interconnected groups that traffic in terror, organized crime, drug smuggling and the spread of weapons of mass destruction. These forces jeopardize the global trend toward peace and freedom, undermine fragile new democracies, sap the strength from developing countries, threaten our efforts to build a safer, more prosperous world."

In a recent strategic paper, economist Lyndon LaRouche stressed the critical need for understanding the concept of "narco-terrorism" in order to deal with the growing threat. That this is the way the administration is increasingly looking at these problems was underlined in a briefing on the initiative in New York on Oct. 23. One incredulous reporter asked Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics Matters Bob Gelbard, how the White House could connect drug trafficking and terrorism, and asked for examples of countries where terrorist activities are financed by drug trafficking. "We coupled them only in the sense that we are looking at these four major elements of criminal activity," Gelbard said, "but there are, indeed, cases where there are terrorist organizations which are engaged in drug trafficking, usually to finance their activities." Gelbard then named some of the most outstanding narco-terror outfits: the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the National Liberation Army (ELN) and the M-19 in Colombia; parts of the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) in Turkey; the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in Sri Lanka; and the Hezbollah in the Middle East.

## Strangle drug-money flows

More importantly, the President's initiative takes aim at the all-important laundering of drug money. "Criminal enterprises are moving vast sums of ill-gotten gains through the international financial system with absolute impunity," the President said in his U.N. speech. "We must not allow

them to wash the blood of profits from the sale of drugs from terror or organized crimes." "Nations should bring their banks and financial systems into conformity with the international anti-money-laundering standards. We will work to help them to do so. And if they refuse," the President warned, "we will consider appropriate actions." As far back as the 1978 publication of the bestseller *Dope, Inc.*, commissioned by LaRouche, knocking out the "drug banks" was underscored as the *sine qua non* of any true war on drugs. In the words of one administration official, money laundering represents one of the "critical choke-points" in eliminating international crime.

The President also called on the nations of the world to negotiate an international Declaration on Citizens' Security and Combatting International Organized Crime. In such a declaration, nations would join in a series of international commitments to deny sanctuary to terrorists, narcotics traffickers, and other international organized criminals, and provide mutual assistance in investigating such crimes.

The Clinton initiative also called for the formation of a "counterterrorism pact," so that countries could band together to urge more States to ratify existing anti-terrorism treaties and work to "shut down the gray markets that outfit terrorists and criminals with firearms and false documents."

President Clinton announced that, the previous evening, he had signed Executive Order 12978, in which he blocked all property and interests in property in the United States of individuals or entities known to play a significant role in international narcotics trafficking centered in Colombia (see *Documentation*). In order to do this, he has utilized the International Economic Emergency Powers Act, which gives the President the power to regulate financial transactions involving national security. In addition, the Executive Order prohibits dealings by U.S. citizens or other individuals or entities operating in the United States with the persons designated as being known front companies or collaborators of the Cali, Colombia drug cartel. The Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control published a list of 80 such companies and individuals in connection with the issuance of the Executive Order. Although specifically targeting the Cali Cartel, which accounts for 80% of the cocaine and probably 15% of the heroin entering the United States, according to administration officials, the moves have broader ramifications.

This administration's latest measures turn up the pressure in the campaign to dismantle the Cali Cartel. In close collaboration with the Colombian police, the administration has achieved the arrest of some of the most notable—and most protected—cartel, contributing to a political shake-up at the top in Colombia, where President Ernesto Samper Pizano is being investigated for his connections with the drug mafia. As Gelbard put it very diplomatically on Oct. 22, "As Colombian police operations have really improved dramatically in their scope and in what they have been able to achieve . . . [they] have really been able to demonstrate the extraordinary penetration of the Cali Cartel through so much of Colombian society."

### **Bush, Kissinger, and the drug cartels**

The reanimated war on drugs is a serious blow to the Bush-Kissinger networks. What had been the initial commitment of the first Reagan administration to a "war on drugs" was effectively squashed when Reagan made the blunder of naming Vice President George Bush as the "man in charge." Not only was there no "war on drugs" during the Reagan-Bush years, there was, in fact, a close collaboration between Bush as vice president, and later as President, and the drug cartels. The most notorious example of this interface was the collaboration of Bush National Security Council operatives Oliver North and Roy Godson with the drug operations of the Nicaraguan Contras in the "Iran-Contra Affair." There was also the less public—at least until *EIR* began to make it so—financing of the terrorist mujahideen in the "surrogate war" against the Soviet Union in Afghanistan, which was

extensive. The hysteria among the Bush networks over President Clinton's new offensive against their Colombian drug friends has given them new-found impetus to their recent attempts to crank up the dormant "Whitewater affair" in an attempt to destroy the President.

### **World leaders join Clinton**

Clinton made ample use of the U.N. celebrations in New York to hold bilateral meetings with other world leaders, to consolidate the international political forces to deal with the crises now facing the world. Clinton's historic meeting with Russian President Boris Yeltsin at the Hyde Park home of Franklin Roosevelt, and the following day's meeting with Chinese President Jiang Zemin, supported by the efforts of France's Jacques Chirac and Germany's Helmut Kohl, provide the back-drop to the President's anti-drug offensive. President Jiang especially, brought up the issue of drugs and money laundering, after listening closely to the President's U.N. speech, according to NSC director for East Asia, Bob Suettinger. "It was very clear from the discussion at several points that President Jiang had listened very carefully to the President's address to the U.N. address . . . and that they were looking forward to cooperation in a number of the areas that the President [Clinton] had raised."

This intercontinental collaboration in going after the drug-money laundering can have significance beyond the war on drugs as such: It means that President Clinton has pulled together the forces needed to tackle the financial gale just waiting to strike with "hurricane force winds."

## **LaRouche refutes Pentagon report on defense policy**

On Oct. 19, Lyndon LaRouche's campaign for the Democratic Party Presidential nomination issued the first major policy document of his campaign. Titled "The Blunder in U.S. National Security Policy," the strategic analysis, nearly 60 pages long, appeared first on the candidate's electronic Homepage; it can be accessed at

<http://www.clark.net/larouche/welcome.html>

LaRouche's paper takes the form of a rebuttal to a September 1995 report by the U.S. Department of Defense's Office of International Security Affairs, titled "United States Security Strategy for the Americas."

The candidate writes: "If the policy set forth in a recent

Department of Defense (DOD) report on the Americas were actually carried into effect, the United States is presently in the process of shooting itself in the foot all over Central and South America. This problem has not been created by the Clinton administration; it is a continuation of a worsening series of U.S. foreign-policy and related security catastrophes in Central and South America, which has been a built-in trend within our permanent national security bureaucracy since McGeorge Bundy's reign at the National Security Council, Robert S. McNamara at DOD, and the poisonous influence of the economic dogmas of such devotees of the Mont Pelerin Society as Prof. Milton Friedman. We have come to the point of global crisis, when the failure to reverse that 'utopian' tradition, launched under Bundy, McNamara, and Kissinger, could have virtually fatal consequences for U.S. security."

The full analysis will soon be made available in hard copy by the Committee to Reverse the Accelerating Global Economic and Strategic Crisis: A LaRouche Exploratory Committee, Box 730, Leesburg, Virginia 22075.

### E.O. 12978 hits 'nexus of drug pushers, terrorists'

*On Oct. 22, President William Clinton signed an historic Executive Order declaring a state of national emergency and initiating a series of measures aimed at eradicating the "growing nexus" of international narcotics traffickers, terrorists, and other criminals, with heavy emphasis on the role of international financial institutions in facilitating the laundering of illicit narcotics-trafficking profits. What follows are excerpts from the Executive Order and the Summary Sheet issued by the White House press office, and the letter to the U.S. Congress by President Clinton, released Oct. 23.*

#### **From the Summary Sheet**

The President today announced that the growing danger of international organized crime constitutes not only a law enforcement problem but also a national security threat to the United States. . . . The actions are designed to counter the growing nexus among terrorists, narcotics traffickers and other international criminals that has been fostered by developments in international communications, travel and information-sharing, and the end of the Cold War.

The President's actions recognize that international criminal enterprises now move vast sums of illicitly derived money through the world's financial systems, buy and sell narcotics and arms, and smuggle aliens, nuclear materials, and weapons of mass destruction. International criminals know no geographic boundaries and they cooperate across barriers of language and ethnic origin. . . .

To attack the danger of international organized crime the President has ordered five specific initiatives designed to deny the criminals their ability to launder their illicit profits, shut down so-called "legitimate" front companies financed and controlled by the world's largest drug cartel, enhance U.S. legislation to put the criminals in jail, increase training and assistance to the world's law enforcement agencies and promote greater international cooperation in the fight. . . .

In support of the ongoing multilateral efforts to bring all nations into conformity with international standards against money laundering, the President has ordered that the U.S. identify the most egregious overseas sanctuaries for illegally obtained proceeds. We will then enter into active negotiations with those nations to achieve conformity with interna-

tional standards and end their safe-haven status. If they fail to comply within a reasonable time, the President has authorized the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Attorney General, to consider applying unilateral sanctions against them and encourage other States to do the same. . . .

Accordingly, the President will propose that the countries of the world negotiate an international declaration in which nations pledge cooperation in efforts to combat international organized crime, including nuclear-materials smuggling, terrorism, narcotics trafficking, money laundering, alien smuggling, and counterfeiting. The U.S. will work with other concerned nations to develop a draft text which would then be negotiated and signed.

#### **Executive Order 12978**

I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, find that the actions of significant foreign narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia, and the unparalleled violence, corruption, and harm that they cause in the United States and abroad, constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States, and hereby declare a national emergency to deal with that threat. . . .

The Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of State, is hereby authorized to take such actions, including the promulgation of rules and regulations, and to employ all powers granted to the President by the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) as may be necessary to carry out this order. The Secretary of the Treasury may redelegate any of these functions to other officers and agencies of the United States Government. All agencies of the United States Government are hereby directed to take all appropriate measures within their authority to carry out this order.

#### **The President's letter to Congress**

President Clinton informed the Congress in writing about the declaration of national emergency, and specified the two principal initiatives contained in E.O. 12978: "[The order] blocks all property and interests in property in the United States or within the possession or control of United States persons of significant foreign narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia designated in the Executive Order or other persons designated pursuant thereto; and

"prohibits any transactions or dealings by United States persons or within the United States in property of the persons designated in the Executive Order or other persons designated pursuant thereto."

Simultaneously, the Treasury Department Office of Foreign Asset Control issued a list of 66 individuals and corporate entities associated with the Cali Cartel that will be immediately affected by the initiative. Treasury officials report that a broader list is being compiled.