

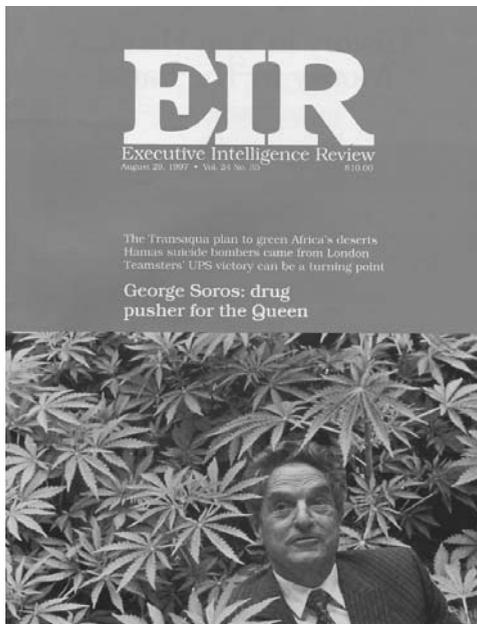
George Soros and the international dope lobby

In our cover story of Aug. 29, 1997, *EIR* documented the role of international speculator George Soros, banker to Queen Elizabeth II, in promoting drugs and drug legalization around the world. Here are some highlights:

- Soros, in recent years, has funneled at least \$15 million to the Drug Policy Foundation, a group devoted to the legalization of drugs. He created his own drug legalization lobby, the Lindesmith Center, in the headquarters of his Open Society Institute in New York City, at an initial cost of \$5 million. He has poured undisclosed millions from his personal fortune into a number of state ballot initiatives, in an effort to legalize “medical” use of narcotics.

The Soros-funded Americans for Medical Rights group is now preparing new ballot initiatives to legalize “medical marijuana” in Colorado, Maine, Alaska, and Washington, D.C.

- In Ibero-America, Soros is a leading financier of the drive to legalize cocaine. For example, he bankrolled



a meeting on Oct. 8-9, 1997, in the Colombian city of Medellín, for the purpose of pushing drug legalization. Participants included representatives of the Drug Policy Foundation. Soros is also a principal funder of Human Rights Watch/Americas, which specializes in attacking those national forces deployed against the drug cartels—especially the armed forces.

- The “Burma Project,” in which Soros’s Open Society Institute is a partner, with the British Crown, is attempting to topple the current military government in Myanmar. As the U.S. National Narcotics Intelligence Consumer’s Committee (NNICC) pointed out in a report released in September

1997, the Myanmar government is having significant success in closing down the production of opium and heroin in the Golden Triangle, bordering Thailand, Laos, and China. The campaign by Soros and the British is aimed precisely at preventing that. (See *EIR*, Sept. 26, 1997.)

[World Health Organization] to assist them in the fulfillment of that task.”

In Asia, the UN report points to Myanmar and Cambodia, which have emerged from a long period of strife; both countries have reportedly been used for cultivation. Opium poppy is grown in Myanmar, where heroin is also produced. In Cambodia, the UN mission visiting in 1997 found increased drug trafficking, transit activities, and also money-laundering. The reasons were war-related: “Strong measures against drug abuse and trafficking in neighboring countries have led traffickers to move their operations to Cambodia, taking advantage of its weak legislative, enforcement, and administrative structures and scarce resources resulting mainly from decades of war and political instability. International seizure reports indicate increasing illicit cultivation of cannabis and transit trafficking in heroin in Cambodia. The clandestine manufacture of methamphetamine is likely to take place. Attempts to import large quantities of ephedrine into the country for such illicit purposes must therefore be investigated by national authorities.”

But the most alarming situation reported in the study, is certainly that in Afghanistan, which is the theater of a massive insurgency carried out by the Taliban forces. The UN report notes with satisfaction, that several of the newly independent republics in central Asia have become parties to the three main international anti-drug treaties. But this “promising development,” which includes cooperation among these states for cross-border anti-drug operations, has no echo in Afghanistan. On the contrary, during 1997, Afghanistan became a leading opium producer.

“In Afghanistan, due to civil war, political turmoil and lack of administrative structures, large-scale illicit opium poppy cultivation, opium production and heroin manufacture continue. Largely as a result of the increase of 25% in the opium yield in 1997 in Afghanistan, opium production in southwest Asia now exceeds that in southeast Asia. A ban has recently been issued on poppy cultivation, opium production, and heroin manufacture. For the time being, the extent to which the illicit traffic can be reduced depends mainly on the law enforcement services of neighboring countries of Af-