

# British Crown's minions promote legalization of drugs

by Mark Burdman

"In the golden age of Empire, Britain was awash with drugs of every description — all legal. The Queen herself was a user of opium and cannabis; and opium, morphine, cocaine and cannabis were easily available from pharmacists."

This quote is the kernel of the argument put forward, under the title "Drugs Are Here to Stay — So Make Them Legal," by James Delingpole, in a Sept. 4 commentary in the Hollinger Corporation's London *Daily Telegraph*. Invoking Queen and Empire, the perverse Mr. Delingpole insists that "the only way of dealing with the problem" of massive drug use currently throughout the United Kingdom, "is to accept a solution that we have rejected for far too long: We need to make *all drugs* totally legal" (emphasis added).

Were the author a lone lunatic, he could be dismissed. But his article was only the most blatant, in a full-fledged campaign by elements of the British oligarchy linked to the British Crown, to re-enact the British Empire's earlier policy of open drug legalization and massive trafficking in drugs. As Delingpole surmises, the adoption of his recommendation

would make Britain "the drugs capital of Europe."

On Sept. 24, Delingpole's line was endorsed by the City of London's *Financial Times*. In an editorial entitled "Colombian Drugs," the paper demanded a "fundamental re-think" of the policy of a "war against drugs," in a country, Colombia, which "produces roughly 80% of the world's cocaine." What should be brought to bear, instead, are "market and price mechanisms. . . . For many, decriminalization, let alone legalization, is impossible to contemplate. But eventually this may be the only way to limit the damage." This echoed those in the British House of Lords who had earlier argued in favor of a legalization perspective for the Colombian drug problem, as they jumped to the defense of the Cali Cartel's own state President, Ernesto Samper Pizano. (See *EIR*, April 26, 1996 and Aug. 29, 1997.)

In recent weeks, the *Financial Times* has also glowingly heralded drug legalization "experiments" in the Canadian city of Vancouver. The *Financial Times* line matches that, over the past months and years, of its fellow City of London mouthpiece, the London *Economist*. Both publications are obviously intent on legitimizing drug-related monies, as a way of keeping the collapsing global financial bubble inflated.

## 'We're all going to pot'

The current London pro-drugs offensive began in earnest, in mid-August, when the new head of the British Liberal Democratic Party, Charles Kennedy, called for a drastic reassessment of British laws on cannabis (e.g., marijuana), and for the creation of a Royal Commission on drugs, which, as he told the London *Observer* of Aug. 15, "should be about not just directed at the legislation of cannabis, but the whole drugs issue."

The *Observer* on that day ran nearly a half-dozen articles devoted to drugs, all of them pro-legalization. One favorably cited the precedent of those six American states that have now backed legalization of medical marijuana, "in the teeth of White House opposition" — without mentioning the funding of this campaign by financial speculator George Soros. Another article was entitled, "The Economic Case for Drugs," written by Jeffrey Miron, chairman of the Department of Economics at Boston University, who argued that drug legalization would have "beneficial tax and expenditure effects," by increasing taxable revenues available for state budgetary expenditures.



Queen Victoria was a user of opium and cannabis, and the British monarchy has been "high and mighty" ever since.

# Drug legalization, by any name, still stinks

by Valerie Rush

If you think the issue in the ongoing debate in Washington over Colombia policy is about how much money to give that country for the war on drugs, or whether it should be channelled to its police or its military, or whether it needs Huey or Black Hawk helicopters, then you have been sadly misled. What is, in fact, at stake now, is the de facto legalization of drugs in Colombia, and the establishment of the hemisphere's first full-fledged narco-republic, violently carved out of that nation. And, curiously, the "liberal" international human rights lobby is in bed with "conservative" Congressional Republicans in this project, whether they choose to admit it or not.

Take the case of an Oct. 15 conference, held at the Rayburn Congressional office building in Washington, and organized by a vast array of human rights non-governmental organizations (NGOs), under the aegis of the U.S./Colombia Coordinating Office and Colombia Human Rights Committee. Addressing the meeting alongside such top human rights mouthpieces as Amnesty International's Carlos Salinas, the former President of Mexico, and a gaggle of Colombian human rights NGOs, were U.S. Reps. William Delahunt (D-Mass.) and Assistant Secretary of State Harold Koh.

Delahunt, who has gone to Colombia twice to meet with the leaders of the drug-running FARC narco-terrorists in the "demilitarized zone"—handed over to the guerrillas by Colombia President Andrés Pastrana—began by insisting that the solution to Colombia's problems is "neither helicopters nor bullets," i.e., don't try to win a war against drugs—precisely what the FARC loves to hear. Delahunt then introduced Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights Koh, who had stunned Colombians on April 9 of this year, when he visited their country to publicly pronounce that the Colombian Armed Forces, institutionally, are the behind-the-scenes sponsors of narco-linked death squads, known as "paramilitaries." Koh's Oct. 15 speech in Washington repeated these accusations, setting the tone for continued "Army bashing" throughout the conference.

Most strident was Carlos Salinas of Amnesty International (AI), who attacked U.S. anti-drug chief (ret.) Gen. Barry McCaffrey's insistence on U.S. support for the Colombian military, saying that it amounts to "the final push to a human rights catastrophe." Salinas lied that the evidence of

The drug legalization propaganda occurs amidst a plague of drug abuse in Tony Blair's Britain. The *Observer* ran one shrill news feature, entitled "We're All Going to Pot," and the lead editorial began by noting that 10 million Britons, out of a total population of 57 million, have used drugs. Delingpole began his commentary: "Cocaine use is up, says the latest Home Office survey. No fewer than a quarter of British children have tried drugs by the age of 14, and more than half have done so by 15, claims a government-backed study of schools in northern England."

A similar account was published in the Aug. 19 *Guardian*, which reported that "thousands of British ravers have helped to turn [the Spanish island of] Ibiza into the narcotics capital of Europe." Further accounts abound, for example profiling the massive use by British youth of the dangerous stimulant Ecstasy.

Of course, with the demoralization and collapse of British society leading to a vast drug plague, what better solution than to make this degeneracy legal, the Crown's minions argue.

## Lords Harris and Mancroft

One interesting feature of the legalization push, is that a major force behind it, is the same group of high-level British figures, who have been involved in the looting and pillaging of Russia, under such rubrics as "privatization" and "the free market."

*EIR* has it on good authority, that a leading drug legalizer is one Lord Harris of High Cross, founder and director of London's Institute of Economics Affairs, and one of the international stars of the Mont Pelerin Society, the association of radical free-market ideologues founded by the late Austrian Anglophile Friedrich von Hayek in 1947. Lord Harris's role in the destruction of Russia has been documented by *EIR* (see Rachel Douglas, "Criminality Was the *Policy* in Russian 'Reform,'" *EIR*, Sept. 3, 1999).

One of Harris's lordly cronies in drug legalization efforts is Lord Mancroft, a "reformed" heroin addict. On Aug. 15, 1997, the *Guardian* reported that Mancroft had been a director of a "cyberspace bank" in Antigua, the which was a haven for Russian organized-crime dirty money. According to the article, "thousands of investors across the globe are nursing heavy losses, after the collapse of the world's first offshore Internet bank. The European Union Bank, located in the former British colony of Antigua, has gone into receivership, the Bank of England said yesterday. Its two Russian-born owners are believed to have fled with depositors' money. EUB, which has share capital of \$10 million, is said to have links with Russian mobsters, who allegedly used it to launder money." The article was accompanied by a photo of Lord Mancroft, staring into space, with the caption, quoting him, "We could have been very rich."

In recent weeks, the European Union Bank story has resurfaced, in the context of investigations into Russian mafia figures involved in money-laundering and other illicit schemes.