

Bush Team Favors Narco-Peace in Colombia

by Valerie Rush

On March 8, representatives of 25 countries, the United Nations, the European Union, and the Vatican, travelled to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC)-dominated “demilitarized zone” in southern Colombia, where they held 12 hours of talks with the Colombian government and the narco-terrorist FARC. Supposedly intended to further peace negotiations in the war-ravaged country, the delegation in fact gave the drug-running cartel precisely the official recognition it needs to complete its drive for power. Out of the meeting came plans for the creation of an eight-country “facilitating commission” to keep the “peace talks”—i.e., power-sharing negotiations—moving forward.

While the Bush Administration did not send a delegate to the international FARC-fest—supposedly because these narco-terrorists butchered a number of American citizens a few years back, and have failed to show adequate repentance since—it moved a step closer to doing so for the next such gathering, while continuing to give 1,000% backing to Colombian President Andrés Pastrana’s appeasement policy toward the murderous narco-terrorists.

For example, urged by Secretary of State Colin Powell to “clarify” reports that the United States was boycotting the March 8 “peace dialogue” in Colombia, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs Peter Romero assured the media: “We do not discard the possibility of some participation in the peace process inside Colombia in the future.” It’s just that “we didn’t think it appropriate for the United States to attend this particular meeting.”

At the March 9 U.S. State Department briefing, spokesman Richard Boucher “clarified” that “accountability and good-faith efforts” on the part of the FARC “are both issues that we want to see addressed before we would start talking to the FARC ourselves.” This, despite the fact that the FARC is documented to be the world’s leading cocaine (and increasingly heroin) cartel, and that it appears on the State Department’s list of international terrorists, and the United States is therefore officially prohibited from negotiating with it.

Numerous Colombian press commentators have noted that the Bush government appears to be shifting the emphasis of the \$1.3 billion aid package to Colombia, inherited from the Clinton Administration, away from a supposedly “hard-line” military targeting of drugs, and toward a softer “socio-economic” approach to the crisis in Colombia, and the broader

Andean region. This coheres with the FARC’s repeated demands that the United States abandon its “failed” war on drugs and embrace drug legalization.

Push for Drug Legalization

A reversal of U.S. support for ongoing widespread drug eradication efforts in Colombia also seems to be in the offing. Immediately after a final statement by the 28 foreign representatives in Colombia was issued, giving support to FARC demands for manual, as opposed to herbicidal, eradication of illegal coca and poppy crops, the State Department’s Bill Brownfield told the press on March 12 that the United States is prepared to support a suspension of fumigation efforts if Colombia’s “irregular groups” were to commit to eradication by other means. The FARC’s pledges to oversee manual eradication of drug crops in territory under its control, are ludicrous, in light of the millions in drug-trafficking revenues that go toward its bulging war chest.

Washington’s sudden “softness” toward the FARC is, in fact, not sudden at all, but a reflection of the State Department’s continued domination by Wall Street’s Project Democracy apparatus, first put in place by George Bush senior during the Iran-Contra days. That apparatus has long promoted a takedown of the Ibero-American military, as the precondition for eliminating national sovereignty and imposing economic looting policies designed to shore up the bankrupt world financial system. Power-sharing with narco-terrorists such as the FARC, drug legalization, and supranational oversight are all part of the Project Democracy gameplan.

At the March 8 international confab, the FARC issued an explicit call for “legalization of consumption of psychotropics worldwide.” The FARC also called for a five-year debt moratorium on servicing Colombia’s foreign debt, to free up the one-third of the national budget which now goes to pay that debt. The FARC’s caveat? Because of “the very high degree of corruption of the so-called Colombian political class,” control over the budget funds thus saved should be delivered to the FARC-government “Dialogue Committee”—that is, to the FARC itself.

In the aftermath of the gathering, FARC leader Manuel “Sureshot” Marulanda arrogantly demanded that the country’s Presidential pre-candidates travel to “the FARC zone,” to submit their campaign platforms for his approval. Indeed, the media are already predicting that it will be “Sureshot” who determines President Pastrana’s successor.

Marulanda is also moving quickly to win the release from Colombian prisons of scores of terrorists. While this is couched as a “humanitarian exchange,” under which the FARC would release some of the many sick and wounded soldier and police hostages they are holding, the fact is that many of the terrorists the FARC wants released are its mid-level commanders, who are urgently needed back in the terrorist ranks, to accomplish the goal of doubling the FARC’s irregular army, currently estimated at 20,000.