

Soros' Army of Legalizers

"Many *cocalero* brothers . . . after what happened in Bolivia . . . are asking to take up arms," Peru's leading *cocalero* Nelson Palomino told *Correo* daily Oct. 27. Palomino's Peruvian Federation of Coca Growers coordinates tightly with Evo Morales, the leader of the Bolivian uprising. Last February, representatives of Morales and Palomino met with Soros' drug-legalization team at a conference in Merida, Mexico, billed as a strategy session to map out the next phase of the legalization war throughout the Americas. The conference was made possible by Soros' money, and a featured speaker was Ethan Nadelmann, director of his Drug Policy Alliance, who said the Merida meeting "shows us that opposition to drug prohibition is popular and widespread in Latin America. And it has begun to unite."

Since the mid-1990s at the latest, Soros' apparatus has financed and directed the Andean Council of Coca Leaf

Producers (CAPHC), which joins Morales and the Peruvian coca-growers, with Ecuadorian, Colombian, and Brazilian assets of the drug cartels. And the Soros-financed Andean Commission of Jurists is one of the leading drug-legalization lobbies in Ibero-America. That commission functions as a de facto branch of Human Rights Watch/Americas; both target government officials and military officers involved in fighting the drug cartels as human rights violators.

Human Rights Watch/Americas is Soros' "baby." He gave it start-up capital, sits on its board, and has poured money into it ever since, as a central part of his drug-legalization project. Jorge Castañeda, Mexico's former Secretary of Foreign Relations and an outspoken advocate of legalizing dope, was named to the executive board of HRW earlier this year. Argentina's former Montonero terrorist leader, Horacio Verbitsky, a member of the HRW advisory board, co-authored the prologue to a new book pushing drug legalization, with none other than Argentina's newly-named Supreme Court judge, Eugenio Zaffaroni.—*Gretchen Small*

Disproving the Lies

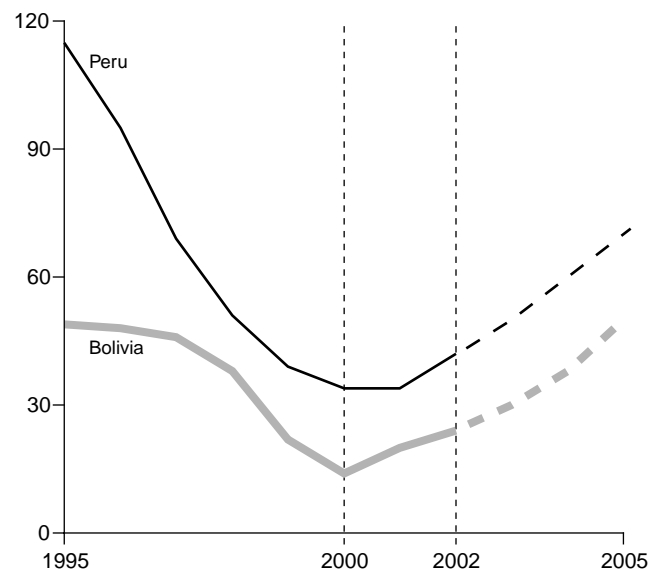
Lyndon LaRouche said of the *Financial Times* commentary: "This is pushing drugs. We caught them dead to rights. They're pushing drugs, which is what George Soros is doing. And Soros is trying to buy the Democratic Party with the proceeds of his policy."

As for the line that Sánchez de Lozada cracked down on drugs, it just isn't so. **Figure 1** shows that coca cultivation dropped dramatically in Bolivia from 1997-2000, by 70%, under the August 1997-August 2001 Presidency of General Hugo Bánzer. When Bánzer left office because of advanced cancer in mid-2001, cultivation began to increase again under interim President Jorge Quiroga, and maintained its upward trajectory when Sánchez de Lozada became President in August 2002. Over two years, it rose from about 14,000 to 24,000 hectares, a 70% rise. This trend can be expected to continue, and worsen, in the coming years, as IMF policies in Bolivia have destroyed other sources of livelihood, and consequently strengthened the hand of *cocalero* leader Evo Morales, who could well become President of Bolivia in the months ahead.

The dramatic increase in drug production under Sánchez de Lozada's should come as no surprise. Back in June 1993, when he was elected President of Bolivia for the first time, he told Spain's *Tiempo* magazine: "Prohibition has never achieved anything. . . . It is terrible to say it, but taxes should be placed upon the drug trade." Nor is promoting drug legalization merely some personal opinion of his. Sánchez de Lozada is a member of the Inter-American Dialogue, a leading Washington think-tank of the Anglo-American bankers, which first began its campaign for legalization back in 1986,

FIGURE 1
Coca: Net Area Cultivated, 1995-2005

(Thousands of Hectares)



Sources: U.S State Department, United Nations, *EIR*.

arguing that drug proceeds were needed to pay foreign debts: "Drug profits . . . are substantial for strapped economies carrying large burdens of external debt."