

International Intelligence

Afghan Drugs: \$150 Billion To International Bankers

Zaid Hamid, security expert and head of the Pakistani think-tank BrassTacks, told the Turkish news agency Adnchronos International July 12, "The total drug economy of Afghanistan is estimated to be \$150 billion, out of which only \$1 billion returns to Afghanistan. The rest is laundered through the international banking system, which indicates that several other players are involved in the game of drug trafficking, and the receipts to the Afghan insurgency are very small." Among those other players, he mentioned, are Afghan officials.

Hamid said that Russian and Chinese anti-narcotics forces had recently told their colleagues in Pakistan that the flow of drugs from Afghanistan into their respective countries had reached a crisis. "The figures provided to Pakistan suggested the majority of the drug smuggling is taking place through northern corridors," a non-Taliban area, he said..

Colombia, Venezuela Foil British Plans for Chaos

Much to the dismay of the British Empire's game-masters, who have been trying to unleash regional war in South America, the Presidents of Colombia and Venezuela met on July 11, in the Venezuelan state of Falcon, and agreed to a broad-ranging and optimistic agenda of joint infrastructure projects, involving railroads, food production, energy, and water. Prominent among the projects discussed was the proposed Colombia-Venezuela railroad.

A summit of this nature between Venezuela's Hugo Chávez and Colombia's Alvaro Uribe would have been impossible a month ago, due to political tensions between the two. But the Colombian Army's stunning July 2 rescue of 15 hostages held by the narco-terrorist FARC, followed by Uribe's acceptance of Chávez's proposal to build a Colombian-Venezuelan railroad, has altered

the regional dynamic, and laid the basis for "kicking the British out of the Americas," as Lyndon LaRouche has proposed.

In the press conference following their long private meeting, both Chávez and Uribe emphasized that "a new phase" has begun in their relations: They frankly discussed the causes for past tensions, and committed themselves to working together to bring about improved living standards and economic development of their combined population of 71 million people, through joint "productive projects." Colombians and Venezuelans "are the same," Uribe said. "We are brothers; brothers in history, in the present, and in the future, and knowledge of that reality facilitates everything."

Uribe noted that the combined Colombian and Venezuelan plains regions are one of the few areas in the world where land under cultivation for food production could easily be increased. But, he added, big agriculture projects "need railroads and water transportation. We have the possibility of building the water transport, and with great effort, we can build the railroad too."

Within eight weeks, the foreign ministers and other officials from both countries will be meeting to follow up on the summit, and plan concretely how to proceed on individual projects.

WWF Lackey Threatens Mexican Water Planners

The deputy director for Hydroagricultural Infrastructure Development of Mexico's National Water Commission (Conagua), Sergio Soto Priante, threatened to harass leaders of the citizens' committee that is advocating construction of the great tristate North West Hydraulic Plan (the Pro-PLHINO Committee), if they do not stop "raising false expectations" among the Mexican people that the government could take measures to ensure there will be enough food to eat in the country.

The PLHINO would transfer water now being lost to the sea in Nayarit and southern Sinoloa, moving it north through a series of dams, tunnels, and canals, to open up exten-

sive new agricultural lands in Sinoloa and its northern neighbor, Sonora. The Committee has gained tremendous support in the three states for its demand that the government immediately get the project under way, to secure Mexico's food supply and provide jobs as the global financial system collapses.

Meeting with three leaders of the Pro-PLHINO Committee on July 4 in Mexico City, and in the presence of other Conagua officials and a representative of the Congressional Rural Development Committee, Soto Priante put up lying arguments about the PLHINO costing too much, being too far off, etc., but then got nasty. "We know who is doing this press campaign.... It were better if you didn't go around creating false expectations in the people," Soto Priante reportedly threatened. "But if you continue this press campaign, we are going to respond, too. We can tape, photograph, and monitor you."

Such thuggish threats coming from Conagua reflect the character of its current leadership. Soto Priante's boss, Conagua Director José Luis Luege Tamargo, works for the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), founded by Britain's Prince Philip and the late, erstwhile card-carrying Nazi Party member Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands. In 2007, Luege Tamargo's protégé and former Conagua official, Rene Bolio, led the organizing for a new political party of the National Synarchist Union, a union which was founded in the 1930s by agents of Hitler's Nazi Party.

"Is this the way the Bush Administration influence in Mexico is being expressed?" Lyndon LaRouche asked. LaRouche has campaigned for U.S. support for the PLHINO water project for decades.

Turkey and Iraq Sign Cooperation Agreement

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his Iraqi counterpart, Nouri al-Maliki, signed an agreement on July 12 that is being called a strategic "Turkish-Iraqi axis," comparable to the Franco-German peace treaty of 1962 signed between President Charles de Gaulle and Chancellor Konrad

Briefly

Adenauer. Such an agreement could potentially overturn a very important part of the British strategic gameplan for destabilizing Southwest Asia.

Erdogan made his first official visit to Iraq July 10, and was said to have been given a red-carpet treatment.

"This is a first for Turkey. We have signed no such agreement with any other country to date," Erdogan is quoted in the Turkish daily *Zaman*. The accord calls for the creation of a high-level council for "strategic cooperation." Ministers for security, energy, trade, investment, and water resources will sit on the council, and meet at least once a year to review progress.

Barham Saleh, the Iraqi deputy prime minister, said the agreement is "significant enough to change the entire Middle East" and would create a "Turkish-Iraqi axis."

One of the key projects is a proposed gas pipeline to be built alongside the existing oil pipeline from Kirkuk, in northern Iraq, to the Turkish Mediterranean port of Yumurtalik. The gas could then be pumped into the proposed Nabucco pipeline and transported to Europe. Commenting on the project, Erdogan said, "We are not talking about economic relations here. We are actually going into economic integration with Iraq."

Sarkozy Lecture on Lisbon Enrages the Irish

Suggestions that French President Nicolas Sarkozy would use his visit to Dublin July 21, to pressure Ireland to hold a second vote on the Lisbon Treaty as soon as possible, have infuriated the Irish—including those who voted "Yes" to the EU's Treaty, but who, like those who voted against it, feel mistreated by arrogant continental European leaders, in the wake of the June 12 referendum. The Irish "No" vote stymied supra-national leaders of the European Union who want the Treaty passed without discussion, since it quietly strips nations of their sovereignty.

Through the Irish media, Irish Foreign Minister Michael Martin on July 16 told

Sarkozy, who is also this semester's European Union president, that the people of Ireland have voted, and that vote has to be respected, instead of giving Ireland lectures from abroad. Martin said that his government clearly told the other EU leaders at the recent Brussels summit that Ireland needs some time to work out a strategy for what to do after the referendum, and that his country does not want to be put under pressure to vote again "on a treaty that is already dead, actually."

Ivashov Calls for Tough Response to U.S. Missiles

Russia must use economic and political means, and military ties with Asia, to punish European states that agree to host U.S. missile defense elements, Col. Gen. Leonid Ivashov (ret.), the head of the Moscow-based Academy of Geopolitical Sciences, said July 9, in response to the Czech-U.S. deal to install a missile-tracking radar system, signed in Prague the day before. "Russia should not limit itself to statements," he said. "We must have a plan, adopted by the Russian Security Council, setting out measures on the economic, political, and military cooperation levels."

Ivashov, who headed the main directorate for military cooperation at the Russian Defense Ministry in 1996-2001, told RIA Novosti: "On the political level, we must suspend our cooperation with NATO, because it brings us nothing but harm." As an alternative, he suggested that Russia start negotiations with China, India, and other countries to form a global alliance against the U.S. missile shield in Europe.

"A relevant decision must be made, at least in the framework of the Collective Security Treaty Organization," Ivashov said. The CSTO is a regional security alliance comprising Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. On the economic level, he said, Russia must restrict imports and exports from and to countries which allow the placement of U.S. missile defense systems on their territory.

RUSSIAN UN Ambassador Vitaly Churkin on July 11 renewed the Russian call for setting up a "security belt" around Afghanistan to block the international opium trade. This proposal, to stop the drugs themselves and the money used to finance both the drug trade and terror operations, had already been put forward by Russia at the summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, in August 2007.

GIULIO TREMONTI, Italian Finance Minister, interviewed by the Milan daily *Corriere della Sera* July 13, declared that, "2009 will be the year of the Italian G8 [presidency] and this can be the basis for developing an initiative aimed at re-making Bretton Woods."

COLOMBIA'S Jaime Bermudez Merizalde, immediately after being sworn in as foreign minister on July 17, announced that one of his most important tasks would be to get the world, and most particularly Europe, to understand Colombia's battle against terrorism and drugs. The FARC narco-terrorists have counted on European support, even the public blessing of the British Foreign Office, for years.

BRITISH MEDIA and assets in Argentina spent July 17 gloating over the electoral defeat which President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner suffered at 4:00 a.m., when the Senate voted down—by a single, tie-breaking vote—the export tax bill submitted to the Congress some weeks ago. Had it not been for brutal pressures and threats made against pro-government legislators, the bill probably would have passed. Its purpose was to keep more of the country's agricultural production at home, to serve domestic needs.

SPAIN'S secretary general of the ruling ruling Socialist Party (PSOE), charged on July 18 that the country's leading bank, Santander, sank Spanish real estate company Martinsa-Fadessa in order to raise liquidity "to save Great Britain's economy."