

George Soros Spreads Opium Wars Across the Americas

by Gretchen Small

Richard Grasso no longer serves as chairman of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), but Wall Street's drive to bring to power those "very sophisticated capitalists" who head Ibero-America's narco-terrorist cartels, as Grasso so brazenly declared to the world on June 29, 1999, is roaring ahead. Thanks, in large part, to the efforts of the "grassroots" billionaire narco-lobbyist, George Soros.

As the Bush Administration fixates on the Middle East

debacle it has created, a conflagration looms throughout Ibero-America. Wall Street's narco-terrorists are mobilizing to overthrow any government which does not do as they say, and hand them power. Smelling victory, they are manic, and not without reason. The mind-set which has taken over, was succinctly summarized by Soros' jet-setting *cocalero* asset in Bolivia, Evo Morales. Evo told a conference of the Latin American Council of Social Sciences, meeting in Havana,

LaRouche: Combat Coca With Development

With a diplomat from an Ibero-American nation, Lyndon LaRouche discussed how to fight the problem of coca in the Andes. The following is a paraphrase.

We must change the system, in order to do anything. The choice today is between the debt, and the people. If you don't nationalize the debt to save the people, you will end up like Africa. But no one will do it, because of the United States. They will take defensive measures, partial measures, but they won't move against the system. Therefore, we need a strategic policy to change the United States.

On drugs: This is a war against civilization. Take Bolivia, which has suffered British wars—the War of the Pacific, and the Chaco war. These questions are live today; some people think like this still. The question is, how do you help the people under these conditions? First, there was the mining period of exploitation. People were dying at high altitudes; they were impoverished; they had no

food; they were looted. That history is known. What you need, in a place like Bolivia, is obvious: large infrastructure projects, which are a great challenge in a mountainous region, where it's harder than on the plains.

When people go into coca, a normal response under European civilization, would be to develop the country to solve the problem. And to use the military. It's a logistical question. You have to defend the whole country. You use the military to build up infrastructure: transportation, power, water, health, education. And you offer the people a better life. Even potatoes are better to grow than coca.

Coca is not considered a problem by leading U.S. interests, nor for any of the leading ruling circles in the Americas, because they all have their hands in the drug money. That's all they have: control over raw materials, and drugs. They don't have anything else.

In dealing with the *cocaleros*, you have to offer them a way out. This point goes back to Livy, who said you always have to give an enemy you are trying to defeat, an honorable way out. The United States should go after the transport of the drugs; forget the eradication—for now. We should interdict, get the big international dealers, and concentrate on that. And we have to go for development

Cuba on Oct. 30, that if they work hard enough at achieving regional unity, “very soon we could celebrate in Latin America another Vietnam for the United States.”

Target: Uribe Vélez

Evo Morales soared to international fame in October, when he and his fellow Soros asset, declared terrorist Felipe Quispe, led mass protests which overthrew the government of Gonzalo Sánchez de Lozada in Bolivia. Now, it is the government of Colombia’s President Alvaro Uribe Vélez, the one hard-line anti-drug government left in the region, touted by the Bush Administration as its best ally in the Americas, which is on the line, and it is Washington’s own policies that are bringing him down.

The resignation of Uribe’s hard-line Interior and Justice Minister, Fernando Londoño, on Nov. 6, may in hindsight prove to be the beginning of the end for Uribe. Repeatedly, the corrupt narco-political class in Colombia had tried to get Uribe to dump the blunt-speaking Londoño. First among Londoño’s enemies was former President Alfonso López Michelsen, whose three-decades-long efforts to legalize drug monies, drug-traffickers, and the drug trade itself have earned him the nickname “The Godfather.” Also demanding Londoño’s head, was Soros’ human rights lobby, especially after he dared denounce, a year ago, the myriad of human rights Non-Governmental Organizations opposing any war on drugs or terrorism, as “agents of terrorism.” (Soros is the leading financier of, and sits on the board of the mother of the self-

proclaimed “human rights” NGOs in the region, Human Rights Watch/Americas.)

Every effort to dump Londoño failed, until the President suffered his first big political defeat on Oct. 25-26. In back-to-back elections that weekend, Colombians defeated the government’s referendum to authorize far greater austerity (a referendum demanded by the International Monetary Fund and Wall Street), and then elected a narco-terrorist frontman as mayor of the nation’s capital, Bogotá, because he, unlike Uribe’s candidate, promised economic improvement.

Ten days later, Londoño was ousted, victim of a crude watergate: He had held a private arm-twisting session with opposition Senators, which, unbeknownst to him, was taped by a hidden microphone. When his threats that the Senators had better back up the President, or he might be forced to resign early and call new elections, were leaked to the media, his enemies went wild. Former Finance Minister Rudolf Hommes, an intimate in Grasso’s dealings with Colombia’s terrorist cartel, the FARC, threatened in a commentary in *El Tiempo* that Londoño had to be dumped to restore Colombia’s “international credit.”

Then, in quick succession, Uribe’s entire security and defense team resigned: his Defense Minister on Nov. 9; the national Chief of Police on Nov. 11; and the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces on Nov. 12. It is rumored that a reorganization of the entire military command may follow.

Each resignation ostensibly occurred for different reasons, which varied from in-fighting to corruption. Nor has

in the producer countries, so you have something to offer people.

The coca/drug problem has been imposed on us. The enemy who imposed the problem has to be destroyed. They are the problem, not the *cocaleros* who are their pawns. Therefore, the issue is one of philosophy. You have to build up an intelligentsia. That’s why I focussed on building the LaRouche Youth Movement. You have to start by building a cadre force, which understands the global and national strategic situation in which they are operating. You have to educate them for that. And then you have to give them the power to implement these ideas.

So my view of basic combat, is education. But you need a social vehicle for this. You have to look for the natural leadership in the population and develop them. Then, when those people have the power, you have to crush the enemy. But you have to offer something to people. The country has to develop over the long-term. You have to have a vision of a viable future. You must have a sense of mission. That’s why soldiers are willing to die: not for a practical reason, but for a mission. Politics is the same thing. You don’t organize society around practical programs, but around a mission. And that’s what leadership is.

You need a mission for the continent.

Ask: Why do we have a drug problem? Where did it come from? Financial interests *want* us to have it, in order to destroy us! They are trying to keep the situation under their control, to create a situation of “terror against terror.” Therefore, we need a more conscious, more articulate network working together in the Americas. Take the case of Peru. They had an effective anti-drug program under Fujimori. In Colombia, it has not been as effective. In part, this is because Peru has a more cohesive and coherent society: People view their neighbors as like themselves. We are all the same. We are all human. The army is understood as *our* institution in Peru. They go to it for suggestions, ideas, help.

Bolivia, with its current crisis, needs a flanking operation. What is its flank? Peru and Brazil. The key countries in the area are Brazil, Argentina, Peru, and Bolivia: It’s a complex. Venezuela is much harder to deal with. Colombia is divided, but what’s left of its patriotic forces can participate. Also, the enemy is deploying new Wars of the Pacific to divide one country from another. This has to be avoided by working together, by integration.

—Dennis Small

any formal announcement been made that the government intends to change course from the program upon which it was elected to office: that of defeating, rather than negotiating with, the narco-terrorists destroying the country. The narco-terrorists had had the run of Colombia under Uribe's predecessor, Andrés Pastrana, who championed Wall Street's policy of negotiating with the cartels (it was under Pastrana that Grasso carried out his infamous personal negotiations with the FARC in their redoubt in the southern jungles of Colombia). In 2002, the population gave Uribe an overwhelming mandate to fight.

The signs that a capitulation to Wall Street's insistence on power-sharing with the narco-terrorist cartels is in the works, are mounting, however. Chief among them, is the naming of the head of the National Business Federation, Sabas Pretelt de la Vega, as Londoño's replacement as head of the Interior and Justice Ministry.

Pretelt's track record on narco-terrorism is far different than Londoño's. He participated in every major negotiation with narco-terrorist groups which the Pastrana regime carried out, from the discussions with the ELN in a German convent and in Havana, Cuba, to visiting the FARC's southern headquarters in the Caguán as a member of Pastrana's National Peace Council. "A negotiated solution is absolutely indispensable to reach peace," he told Colombia's RCN radio after being named on Nov. 7.

Ironically, the ouster of Londoño may prove the catalyst for exactly the chain of events he was watergated for mentioning. Uribe could, indeed, become the next Sánchez de Lozada of the continent. Uribe is far more popular than the millionaire mining baron Sánchez de Lozada ever was, but only because of his commitment to defeat the narco-terrorists. Take that away, reduce him simply to being the enforcer of Wall Street's policies, and he's gone.

The ouster of Uribe would deal a devastating blow to a region already reeling from the Bolivian crisis. With all the limitations and errors of his administration—most especially his abject subservience to the neo-conservative-dominated Bush Administration—the Uribe government nonetheless has kept alive the principle that the drug trade *can* be fought, that capitulation is not the only option available, as the government of Alberto Fujimori in Peru once did, albeit more strongly.

In the view of Soros' drug legalization team, the time is now ripe to eradicate that concept entirely from the region. Last February, representatives of the *cocaleros* of Peru and Bolivia (including Quispe) met with drug legalizers from around the hemisphere, and from Italy, at a conference in Mérida, Mexico, entitled "Out From the Shadows," called to map out the next phase of the war to legalize drugs in the Americas. The conference was made possible by Soros' money, and a featured speaker was Ethan Nadelmann, executive director of Soros' Drug Policy Alliance. Nadelmann declared that the meeting "shows us that opposition to drug

prohibition is popular and widespread in Latin America. And it has begun to unite."

In July, Nadelmann announced that the time had come to force a break. In an article published in the July-August 2003 issue of the Carnegie Endowment's *Foreign Policy* magazine, rapidly circulated widely in Spanish by the legalizers, Nadelmann called for "Latin America to start breaking with Washington over the war on drugs." The region should "regulate" dope use, through "harm reduction" strategies such as those implemented in Europe (cannabis coffee houses, "medical" heroin dispensation, etc.), and join together in "an organized revolt involving a number of Latin American countries," to say "no" to any war on drugs.

Central to his proposal, was that Ibero-America, as a whole, launch a campaign to establish international trade in coca, the basic ingredient of cocaine. *EIR* documented, in June 1998, how Nadelmann and fellow legalizers designed the subterfuge of establishing an international coca trade, as yet another flank in their drive to bring back the good old days of Britain's Opium Wars against China, when the global narcotics trade was legal, and how Evo Morales was a creation of that project. Not surprisingly, establishing such a coca trade is the central plank of the Morales/Quispe team today, who threaten that any Bolivian government that does not legalize the "industrialization" and export of coca, will be overthrown, just as Sánchez de Lozada was.

Repeating the Bolivia 'Model'

Popular anti-government sentiment is rising across the continent. Bolivians have been visiting universities in Bogotá, briefing Colombian students on how they overthrew their government. Leaders of the Jacobin unemployed movement in Argentina known as the *piqueteros* are calling for a mass demonstration on Dec. 20, the second anniversary of the demonstrations that brought down the government of Fernando de la Rúa in 2001, "to demand a people's and workers' government." A speaker at a Nov. 5 rally of this crew called for Argentines to follow the example of the Bolivian peasants, and go out and "take power. . . . It's not good enough to get to the doorway; we have to go in, and take over the government palaces."

The situation in Bolivia is calm, for the moment. There is a hiatus in the popular conflict, which local observers chalk up to the fact it's planting season now, and the *cocaleros* are busy with the next crop. That ends in December, but the time of renewed conflicts generally does not begin again until after *Carnival*, at which point, popular mobilizations are guaranteed against President Carlos Mesa, unless he can offer some economic hope to Bolivia's desperate population.

At about that time, from Feb. 9-12, 2004, some 800 people are expected to attend the First Latin American and Caribbean Harm Reduction Conference, in São Paulo, Brazil, organized by the International Harm Reduction Association (IHRA), yet another arm of the Soros dope machine.