

# Begin crackdown on IMF drug trade

*Tighter law enforcement follows congressional blast at int'l trafficking*

Grassroots political pressure, transmitted through the U.S. Congress, has forced the Carter Administration to take preliminary action to halt the tidal wave of illegal narcotics traffic which threatens to overwhelm the United States.

Since the enforced departure of White House drug abuse advisor Peter Bourne this past summer, when it was revealed he had written phony prescriptions for White House staffers and had allegedly used marijuana and cocaine at Washington parties, the Drug Enforcement Agency and its chief Peter Bensinger in collaboration with federal and state agencies, have conducted a modest crackdown on drug traffic. A well-publicized series of busts and Bensinger's own emphasis on the importance of vigorous law enforcement against marijuana traffic followed hearings by a Congressional narcotics committee labeling the activities of "offshore" banking drug-and-crime networks operating through the Caribbean and south Florida "a national disaster" for the United States.

The government of Colombia, a country which is currently a major point of origin in Latin America for marijuana and cocaine smuggling into the U.S., has taken strong action to prevent drug exports, sealing off an entire province where marijuana is a principal crop.

President Carter himself, previously on record as a supporter of the decriminalization of marijuana, has responded to the pressure, stressing to newsmen his "unprecedented" cooperation with Colombia's President Turbay to stem the drug plague.

As yet, however, the Carter Administration remains firmly wedded to the policies of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, whose emphasis on forcing developing nations to pursue "cash-crop-for-export" economics in the tradition of the British Colonial Office, and opposition to rapid industrialization, is actually promoting "dope economies" in the developing sector.

Moreover, Congress and law enforcement personnel, aware of the connection between drug traffic and certain international financial offshore banking networks ultimately based in the City of London, have yet to crack the British "dirty money" networks at the top. Until they do, London's "war on the U.S. dollar" and takeover attempts against U.S.

banks, financed by the \$100 billion a year drug trade, will continue.

The U.S. Labor Party has launched a campaign to escalate present rearguard actions against narcotics traffic into fullscale investigations, prosecutions, and convictions of the major banks, and political figures who are the ultimate "merchants of death." The party is now preparing for publication a mass of documentary evidence and a political roadmap of the "Drug International" to aid professional law enforcement personnel, elected officials, and citizens groups to nail the criminal "brains" behind these operations.

—Don Baier

## House committee rips drug trade, drug banking

*In August 1978 the U.S. House of Representatives Select Committee on Narcotics issued a report on drug trafficking in south Florida which blasted laxity in Federal enforcement of drug laws and concluded that "sophisticated" off-shore and foreign banking operations are key to the drug trade. Excerpts from the report follow.*

### Introduction

In June 1977, at the urging of the ranking minority member of the subcommittee, Congressman J. Herbert Burke (R-Fla.), the committee began an inquiry into the extent and nature of drug trafficking in south Florida. In the fall of 1977 and again in the spring of 1978 the committee dispatched investigators to the scene.... But the information obtained by the committee's investigators did not adequately prepare the members of the committee who traveled to Florida for the hearings on June 9-10 for the actual extent of the present drug disaster which those hearings revealed.

Marijuana, from Colombia, is dispatched by the ton-load in all manner of vessels, some foreign flag, some American, destined for south Florida. Seizures of marijuana at the Miami airport had quadrupled over the past six months. Almost daily, tons of marijuana