

## **EIR**SpecialReport

# Joint war on drugs rounds up 'citizens above suspicion'

by Robyn Quijano

When President Ronald Reagan and Colombian President Belisario Betancur issued a joint statement in Washington on April 4, they pledged "irreversible" dedication to winning the war against drugs. "Drug trafficking is a criminal activity that has no frontiers and can only be controlled by a combined effort of all countries involved," they said. Hitting the banking structure which takes in hundreds of billions of dollars a year laundering drug money, they warned, "The financial power resulting from the enormous profits of illicit narcotics trade poses a terrible threat to democracy."

This joint resolve, targeting the financial powers that represent the "citizens above suspicion," the families that have run Dope, Inc. for centuries, is a declaration of war with a strategy to win. It means the turnaround of years of lukewarm relations between the United States and the nations of Ibero-America, particularly since the Malvinas War, and sets the basis for the kind of collaboration which can destroy the real causes of the drug plague.

The Presidents' historic pact was blacked out in all the major U.S. media, along with the details of the joint strategy that has already changed the face of law enforcement in the hemisphere. The media had done everything in their power to provoke a rupture between the United States and Mexico in March, before the Mexican government captured two of the top three drug bosses in the country, accused of murdering U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agent Enrique Camarena and a Mexican counterpart.

As the two Presidents were meeting, reports of a raid by 12 federal agents on the Philadelphia office of Shearson Lehman, a subsidiary of Shearson/American Express, for illegal money-laundering, was well noted in Ibero-American capitals. Other investigations, like those underway against the Bank of Boston and dozens of Florida banks for laundering of dope money, have been recognized throughout Ibero-America as the most serious attempt ever made by the U.S. government to stop the multi-billion-dollar laundering industry, whose profits sustain the board of directors of Dope, Inc. Such actions, together with Colombia's decision to dynamite illegal airstrips used by the drug traffickers and to eradicate all marijuana



*The Mexican army raided a huge marijuana plantation in Chihuahua in November 1984, belonging to mafia kingpin Rafael Caro Quintero. Peasants were kept on the plantation as virtual slaves. Now Caro Quintero is under arrest and is "singing"—fingering the bankers and other "citizens above suspicion" who are financing the drug trade.*

Mexican Attorney General's Office

fields with herbicides, consolidate the in-depth offensive that is already creating panic among the drug mafias and their banker friends.

The escalation of the war on drugs reflects increasingly broad agreement among the governments of the hemisphere on the necessity of a military approach to destroying the drug trade, which represents a financial, political, and military power greater than that of many nations. A document by Lyndon LaRouche, titled "A Proposed Strategic Operation against the Western Hemisphere's Drug-Traffic" (see *EIR*, April 2), was presented on March 13 in Mexico City and distributed widely among government, military, police, and political layers of all nations of the Americas.

Besides recommending that the war be fought with the weapons of war, with the most advanced technologies and total cooperation among police and military forces, while respecting the sovereignty of each nation, LaRouche proposed an assault on the financial power structure of Dope, Inc.—and this is already in various stages of implementation in the United States, Mexico, Colombia, and Venezuela. LaRouche recommended "a system of total regulation of financial institutions, to the effect of detecting deposits, outbound transfers, and inbound transfers of funds, which might be reasonably suspected of being funds secured from drug trafficking," and the confiscation of all real estate, business enterprises, financial institutions, and personal funds of drug traffickers.

Betancur visited Washington after conferring with President Jaime Lusinchi in Venezuela and President Miguel de la Madrid in Mexico. Both men have collaborated with Be-

tancur in the continental anti-drug offensive which formally declared drug trafficking a "crime against humanity," and in the Contadora peace initiative for Central America. De la Madrid sent a message to Washington by praising Betancur's anti-drug efforts as "a model for the continent."

Relations between the United States and Mexico reached a low point in March when DEA agent Camarena was kidnaped and Francis Mullen, then head of the DEA, charged the Mexican government with complicity. After the border was sealed—causing economic havoc on both sides—de la Madrid spoke personally to Reagan and arranged a meeting between Mexican Attorney General Garcia Ramirez and U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese, which took place at the end of March. Meese praised the Mexican government's anti-drug fight, and began patching up what Mullen had tried to dismember.

Since the arrests of top mafiosi bosses Rafael Caro Quintero and Ernesto Fonseca Carrillo, the top suspects in the murder of Camarena, on April 4 and 8, the structure of decades of organized crime and its banking and financial infrastructure has begun to topple. The two owned airlines, hotels, restaurants, industries, and systems of communication and armaments that compare with those of the army. Fonseca, known as "Don Neto," is said to provide 60% of the heroin consumed in the United States, while Caro, who owned the huge marijuana plantation in Chihuahua that was discovered last November, is said to have a \$3 billion personal fortune. Caro claims he lost \$50 million when the Mexican army burned eight tons of marijuana that it found when it liberated over 2,000 undernourished peasants whom

the mafiosi had enslaved.

Jailing two of the top three drug traffickers in the country required a sweeping clean-up of the Federal Judicial Police, the Federal Security Police, and certain layers of the military. Caro Quintero and Fonseca, besides charging one another with the murder of Camarena, are providing lists of their contacts and money-launderers, the most scandalous of which is Aracadio Valenzuela, the ex-head of BanPacífico and the Mexican Bankers' Association. Caro Quintero and Arcadio Valenzuela are tied into the Mexican tourist industry, Hyatt, Holiday Inn, Fiesta Americana, and the famous Los Tules tourist complex. Since the crackdown on the drug mafia, some military and police suspects have fled the country, and there is a glut on the market of real estate and other mafia holdings, as the culprits try to liquidate and run to safe territory.

The attorney general's office is investigating the bank accounts of suspects. There is a special team analyzing bank accounts, and aid had been requested of foreign banks to identify mafia accounts and freeze them.

### **The new alliance**

LaRouche ended his War on Drugs strategy proposal with the following approach to resolving other crucial problems in the hemisphere: "By fighting this necessary war, as allies, we may reasonably hope to improve greatly the cooperation among the allies, in many important matters beyond the immediate issue of this war itself."

The Reagan administration proposal for a cease-fire in Central America, and the President's approach to the Presidents of the Contadora nations, demonstrates precisely this phenomenon. The next joint effort must be to solve the economic crisis, and get the nations devastated by drugs and debt back onto the track of industrial growth. Beyond the joint resolve against the drug mafias which the U.S. and Colombian Presidents expressed, President Betancur also focused on the economic and financial crisis, in hopes of extending cooperation between the United States and Ibero-America to that sphere as well.

In a speech at the White House, Betancur defined such a new basis for hemispheric relations, emphasizing "the link between external debt and democracy." He requested new multilateral negotiations to find new solutions. "We believe," he said, "that the time has come . . . for the United States and Latin America to redefine the parameters of their mutual relations. We need . . . a new understanding, a common doctrine, an alliance for peace; with the determination to go from mere tolerance that has marked the relations between Latin America and the United States to the formulation of a new scheme of open, constructive and fruitful cooperation," which would "not only improve economic relations in the hemisphere," but also mean "the adoption of political objectives to defend democracy, which is the great spiritual value of American civilization."

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## Reagan-Betancur Joint Statement

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# Presidents pledge close collaboration

*This is the text of the Joint Statement on Narcotics issued by the President of the United States and the President of the Republic of Colombia in Washington, D.C. on April 4.*

During our meeting today, we discussed the drug scourge which afflicts both our nations, the Hemisphere at large, and mankind generally. We reviewed the measures our two nations are taking and will take, separately and together, to combat the production, trafficking, demand for, and use of illicit narcotics.

Our nations recognize the terrible effect drug abuse has on the health and well-being of individual users, as well as more generally on the economies and public morality of both societies. It is especially deplorable when the drug poisons are found among the young and even small children.

Drug trafficking is a criminal activity that has no frontiers and can only be controlled by a combined effort of all countries involved. We have shared our concern that the financial power resulting from the enormous profits of illicit narcotics trade poses a terrible threat to democracy in the Americas. Our mutual dedication to the anti-narcotics struggle is an integral part of the close relations that exist between our two nations. We both see a vital need to enlist the cooperation of other governments in this intensified effort.

We understand that the gravity of the problem is a consequence of both illegal production and distribution of drugs as well as growing demand. We also understand these factors are closely related and all efforts to suppress one without at the same time taking equally vigorous actions against the other will be fruitless. For these reasons, each government is prepared to assume its responsibilities, eliminating both illegal production and drug abuse.

The United States recognizes the effort, the commitment of resources and the sacrifices that Colombia has made in destroying crops and laboratories, seizing shipments and bringing suspected drug traffickers to justice, including the extradition of traffickers accused of narcotics crimes in the United States. For the United States' part, enforcement activ-