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## Interview: Manuel Fraga Iribarne

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# A war on drugs is now 'more relevant'

*Mr. Fraga Iribarne, Spanish Member of Parliament, former government minister, and leader of the Alianza Popular party, spoke to EIR correspondents Webster Tarpley and Ronald Kokinda. The interview was given in English. Excerpts follow:*

**EIR:** We read your speech on Central America with great interest. In terms of a strategy to pacify this region without military intervention, one thing that has been discussed in the United States, is a war on drugs.

**Fraga:** It was mentioned here as a relevant factor, especially in the speech of the former President Pastrana of Colombia, who emphasized the importance of this. As you find, I have not taken the suggestions of that famous Mr. LaLouche [sic]. There is a famous fellow here in America who pretends that everything is connected to drug traffic and has printed a book on this.

**EIR:** Mr. Lyndon LaRouche?

**Fraga:** Yes. Well of course, I am not familiar with all of the charges. But I have to say that recently—in a trip to Miami and in a trip to Panama, and regarding the information I can collect, especially in Colombia—in fact it seems that this is more relevant.

Today it was mentioned by President Pastrana that in Colombia—and this is not the worst of the cases—there are private armies. Big companies are paying to those private armies, amounts of money which are incredible, to keep protected. That creates a connection between drug traffic, terrorism, and private armies, which is one factor which would have been unthinkable several years ago. How big a problem it is, I don't know. But some say you can't understand the economy of Bolivia without taking this factor into account. You can't speak of the boom of the so-called banking center of Panama, and even some in Miami, without taking this into account. To what extent is terrorism as such connected to drug traffic? No one could say, but certainly there is a connection. In Colombia, without drug traffic, [terrorism] would probably already be suppressed.

**EIR:** They say that Carlos Lehder has an army there that is bigger than the national army.

**Fraga:** Well, that perhaps is an exaggeration. But certainly, it is such a big country that with a small army, there are parts of the country that can be under the control of those kinds of people. I would say that this is not the only, or more relevant

factor, and especially in Central America, where I suppose that traffic ends in Panama. I would not say more, because I am not an expert on the question. But when you remember that this may have more value than perhaps 10 locomotive engines or 2 ships, then you come to the realization that this is very serious.

**EIR:** The International Monetary Fund has been accused of pushing policies which promote drugs.

**Fraga:** These are the charges which Mr. LaRouche is promoting, which I think are exaggerated. Especially the personnel of the institution have nothing to do with this affair. But certainly the policies of the International Monetary Fund have not much to do with present reality in Latin America. The present state of economy in many of those countries is not understandable, explainable just in terms of their own policies. You need social and political considerations, that are part of the truth. The more you defend impossible theses, the more you put those economies in a situation where anything may happen. That is an indirect connection; I will not say more than this. Certainly, I think the present interpretation of the Fund of the debts of those countries, is out of order. You need to put political factors into consideration.

**EIR:** Another point in the discussions here was the Strategic Defense Initiative, and the economic spinoffs that could come from this program. Will Spain take part in the effort to develop an anti-missile shield?

**Fraga:** There are many of us who said, do not have a previous conception against this project. We had interesting discussions with Ambassador Nitze at the meeting. Second, we thought that instead of making a contradiction between the Eureka program and the SDI, the French have presented Eureka as a non-military one, and there is a possibility of mixing both. Spain, which now has a socialist government, has made a pronouncement in favor of the Eureka program, but means the non-military aspects. Unfortunately, Spain is not a high-tech country, and we should do more on this. We should incorporate them both, if we may, but we have to be sensible.

**EIR:** What do you think the future holds in terms of Spain's membership in the Atlantic Alliance?

**Fraga:** Our party is for full integration, further integration in military organization, and also for us to expand our responsibilities. But the Socialist government has made a gesture of being with the non-aligned people, and for keeping the present state of integration, which means refusing the military integration, and putting other conditions on the American bases. We are for full cooperation; we think it is good for everybody, and especially for Spain, of course. What is the future? I think our viewpoint will come. But for the moment, we are between the constant oscillations of point of view of the Socialists, who still keep the view of pacifism.