

LaRouche calls for U.S. to aid Guatemala

On March 13, 1985, at a conference in Mexico City, a continental strategy for a war on drugs authored by Lyndon LaRouche was presented to representatives of Ibero-American governments and the press. This initiative was followed up in July, when EIR released a 33-minute film documentary on Guatemala's battle against the narco-terrorists. The film was played simultaneously on all Guatemalan government-run television stations on Sept. 8 and 15. In it, LaRouche issues the following challenge to U.S. policy:

Narco-terrorism is today an international entity, which functions in some respects like a government. This entity, international narco-terrorism, is conducting warfare against states of the Western Hemisphere and other states. Now, while the President has described his combat against this evil as a "War on Drugs," we cannot win that fight unless we go from the word "war" to the practice of what the word "war" means. The only solution to deal with the drug problem, without which all the other things that should be done won't work, is that we must have a declaration, a formal declaration of war, against narco-terrorism as an entity, and fight it as necessary by the methods of war. It's a war we could fairly easily win, or at least establish major victories in the Caribbean area. . . .

The clock is ticking. Some countries like Bolivia, for example: The armed forces of the drug-traffickers exceed the military capabilities of the government itself. The income, the revenue of the drug sector of the economy in Bolivia, is greater than the legal economy. As a result of this kind of power shift, we have, increasingly, sections of the population who are suffering the effects of the debt crisis and so forth, who find that the way that they can get money, can participate in power, is to go on the payroll of the narco-terrorist apparatus.

Bolivia is the worst case; Peru is similar; Colombia is on the edge of falling totally under the control of the narco-terrorists—you still have a government that's willing to fight this problem, but with diminishing confidence. In Venezuela, we have a similar situation. In Guatemala, we have a strong ally whom we've neglected, but there is a commitment to fight this war.

But, throughout the continent, if we let the clock tick, yes, we will have governments which are owned and controlled by the narco-terrorists. Then, yes, maybe U.S. troops go in. Now, if we act in time, to assist these governments in doing the job themselves, with nothing more than technical support from us, they *can* win the war. So, the question of whether we ultimately go into the hemisphere to fight wars below our Rio Grande border, is a question of whether we have the sense and commitment *now* to help these governments while they still are our friends, before they become completely controlled creatures of the narco-terrorists.

The problem of those countries where forces have been willing to fight the war on drugs, is that the United States uses the word "war," but our performance as a nation doesn't match the words. If we assisted one country, such as Guatemala, to wipe out the major part of the drug-trafficking apparatus, that is, the parts we could hit with military means, which would be the major part, and thus destroy the logistics of the terrorists, we would set a precedent where these countries and their governments would, for the first time, begin to believe that our deeds will match our words.

Here are highlights from LaRouche's 15-point action plan for a continental anti-drug effort, presented in Mexico City:

1) What we are fighting, is not only the effects of the use of these drugs on their victims. The international drug-traffic has become an evil and powerful government in its own right. It represents today a financial, political, and military power greater than that of entire nations within the Americas. It is a government which is making war against civilized nations, a government upon which we must declare war, a war which we must win in the same spirit the United States fought for the unconditional defeat of Nazism between 1941 and 1945. Law-enforcement methods, by themselves, will fail; even joint law-enforcement efforts by the nations bordering the Caribbean would fail. The nations of Central and South America will each and all either fall under bloody, Nazi-like dictatorships, or will be destroyed through more or less perpetual civil war, unless the international drug-traffic's invasion of the Hemisphere is crushed by the methods and weapons of war. . . .

3) A treaty of alliance for conduct of war, should be established between the United States and the governments of Ibero-American states which join the War on Drugs alliance to which the President of Mexico has subscribed. Other states should be encouraged to join that military alliance.

4) Under the auspices of this treaty, provisions for actions of a joint military command should be elaborated. These provisions should define principles of common action, to the effect that necessary forms of joint military and law-enforcement action do not subvert the national sovereignty of any of the allied nations on whose territory military operations are conducted. . . .