

New Zealand's media defends drug lobby

by Allen Douglas

In its Sept. 5, 1986 issue, *EIR* told the story of a group of Soviet agents and agents of influence who had collapsed the New Zealand government of former Prime Minister Robert Muldoon in 1984, bringing to power the anti-American, Labour Party government of David Lange. The men behind Lange are known to intelligence specialists as the "Dryden network," named after its founder, long-time New Zealand Communist Party member and KGB asset Gordon Dryden. Since then, this nexus, with Lange as its representative in government, has succeeded in destroying the ANZUS defense alliance among Australia, New Zealand, and the United States, opening the door to a rapidly expanding Soviet presence in the South Pacific.

Within weeks of the *EIR* article's reaching New Zealand, Dryden's fellow-travelers in the media emitted bitter complaints, led by the *New Zealand News'* *Sunday Star* banner headline, "KGB Smear Stains Kiwis." In the words of local observers, "It looks like *EIR* touched a very raw nerve." The "nerve" was not only the pro-Soviet operations of Dryden and his friends, but *EIR*'s implicit threat to the New Zealand branch of Dope, Inc.

In 1984, Dryden formed the New Zealand Party, with the official patron of the U.S.S.R.-New Zealand Friendship Society, "right-wing" businessman Robert Jones, to split the vote and bring Lange to power. There were three interlinked planks of the New Zealand Party's Dryden-authored platform: 1) break up the ANZUS alliance and cut New Zealand's defense spending by 90%; 2) deregulate New Zealand's economy to create a "little Hong Kong"; and 3) decriminalize drugs.

Dope and the Dryden network

For the past decade, Dryden has been a vocal advocate of drug legalization. Marijuana is now New Zealand's single largest cash crop, valued at close to \$1 billion. Dryden and his associates have attempted to hound out of the media anyone opposed to drug usage. The Bangkok-based New Zealand Drug Intelligence Bureau further reports that a flood of heroin will soon hit the country. Along with drugs, comes the degradation of the citizenry; under Lange, and with the full backing of the Dryden network, Wellington recently passed the Homosexual Law Reform Act, legalizing sodomy.

When an Austrian-born physician, Erich Geiringer, fled the United Kingdom some years ago to avoid charges of illegal drug activities, Dryden welcomed him onto his talk

show on Radio Pacific, and helped him to set up a branch of the British Medical Association in New Zealand, to lobby for the legalization of heroin, LSD, and other drugs, and to circumvent the opposition to legalization coming from the New Zealand Medical Association.

To defend Dryden, a number of his cronies jumped into the fray, such as the author of the *Sunday Star* piece, the *New Zealand News'* Warren Berryman, a pro-sodomy activist, or the *Wellington Dominion's* Cushla Managh, who contributed an anti-*EIR* diatribe, "Magazine's Communist Spies Claims Absurd." Dryden's defenders also lashed out at the book *Dope, Inc.*, by *EIR*'s editors, which exposes the command and control of the world's \$500 billion narcotics traffic, including the Soviet role. Berryman, who had ironically provided information for the *EIR* exposé, admitted in a subsequent phone call, "Almost all your factual stuff is right," but said that it is "the implications you draw" which are objectionable.

The Dryden network boasts, in the words of another Dryden crony, New Zealand's Finance Minister Roger Douglas, of its intentions to turn New Zealand into the "Hong Kong of the South Pacific." As *Dope, Inc.* documents, the largest item in Hong Kong's economy is the drug traffic proceeds of the Golden Triangle. Since Douglas has deregulated New Zealand's formerly dirigistic agricultural and manufacturing system, "hot money" from Hong Kong and elsewhere has flooded New Zealand, causing a doubling of the New Zealand stock market index in 1986. While farmers and manufacturers are ruined and absorbed by cartels owned by other Dryden sympathizers, such as Sir Ron Trotter's Fletcher Challenge Corp., the "growth industries" in the country are drugs and paper-shuffling securities firms, now popping up all over Wellington and Auckland. Finance Minister Douglas recently attempted to get a multibillion-dollar loan from Merrill Lynch, named in the report of President Reagan's Commission on Organized Crime for laundering drug money.

Stung by *EIR*'s exposé, various members of the Dryden network have threatened to sue this magazine—notably Dryden's sidekick, radical libertarian Bob Jones. But the threats are not aimed primarily at *EIR*, as the recent visit of a delegation of the *Sunday Star* to Prime Minister Lange makes clear. The *Star* demanded that Lange deport a long-time New Zealand anti-drug activist, journalist Ned Haliburton. They offered as "justification" for this, the spurious claim that Haliburton authored the *EIR* article (written, in fact, by the present author), and that this article "defamed" the New Zealand government. The bid to deport Haliburton is geared to "make an example" of anyone who dares fight for the best interests of New Zealand, or for New Zealand to resume its place as an important member of the Western alliance.

In 1987, New Zealand faces national elections. The *EIR* exposé, report New Zealanders, said publicly what everyone knows, but doesn't say. Elections will give New Zealanders the opportunity to kick the Dryden network out.