

Editorial

A real war on drugs

When Lyndon LaRouche called for a “war on drugs,” in the late 1970s, that was an expression and a concept which he himself coined. At that time, LaRouche was in the forefront of a campaign to prevent legalization of marijuana and other drug use (and also the subterfuge known as “decriminalization”). He warned that a generation of young people was being destroyed in order to prop up a bankrupt monetary system, whose margin of survival was the hundreds of billions of offshore dollars generated by the drug traffic. Some of his associates founded a magazine, *War on Drugs*, which was at one time published in six other languages besides English, dedicated to naming the names of the culprits “above suspicion.”

The expression “war on drugs” has become common currency, but only now, as there is an ongoing civil war taking place between the government of Colombia and the narco-terrorists there, is that *war* being taken with any seriousness in the United States.

In 1985 LaRouche, speaking before a Mexico City conference, made a proposal which was the basis of a model project for how the drug traffic could be stopped. This was a demonstration project which LaRouche and some collaborators in military/intelligence circles that year ran in cooperation with the government of Guatemala. It culminated in a famous cleanup operation called Guatusa.

Of first importance for Guatusa was the recognition that it is impossible to separate narcotics traffic from terrorism. To defeat the narco-terrorists, the principles of irregular warfare must be applied; however, the role of the United States government cannot be one of a direct combatant, for reasons of national sovereignty in the countries involved. Indeed the \$65 million which President Bush has made available to the Colombian government has been a step in precisely the correct direction, according to the program laid out by LaRouche in Mexico and elsewhere.

As LaRouche spelled it out, the role which the United States must play is to provide logistical and technical support, including satellite intelligence, and, if necessary, special weapons.

If LaRouche’s proposal had been taken up beyond

the Guatemala experiment, the brutal wave of assassinations of Colombian patriots could have been averted, nor would the capital of the United States be a war zone as it is today. Many powerful enemies of LaRouche were unwilling to accept the consequences of a serious war on drugs, which would have meant an end to offshore banking and a reorganization of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. They were unwilling to embark on the kind of massive infrastructural development projects which LaRouche proposed as the alternative to the black economy and the unregulated speculation which even then dominated financial markets.

In 1985 the U.S. government denied that a category “narco-terrorism” existed. This coincided with the Kissinger-Eagleburger policy of building up the man who is one of the world’s leading coordinators of narco-terrorism—boss of the Middle East, Syria’s Hafez Assad.

In Ibero-America the key agency which operated to sabotage a serious war on drugs, was the American Institute for Free Labor Development (AIFLD). The AFL-CIO is a member of AIFLD, and AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland can be directly charged with using the American labor movement to carry out the dirty policies of those sections of the U.S. intelligence establishment who have been in bed, politically, with narco-terrorist linked butchers such as Víctor Acosta, in Colombia.

There has yet to be a serious war on drugs conducted by the U.S. government. At least now we can hope that with the Colombian developments, the United States will finally begin to conduct a war on drugs. So far, any actions taken by the U.S. government have been only minor skirmishes, which have not affected the policies of the pro-drug lobby.

Along with specific policies connected to the war on drugs, the broader economic policies long advocated by LaRouche are necessary to stabilize the region. Without a program for development, nothing can stop the ultimate disintegration of the nations of Ibero-America, as the world as a whole descends to a new dark age.