

So I think that has to be evaluated in relation to war crimes.

EIR: How about the Pentagon's admitted disinformation about the size of the Iraqi war machine?

Lifton: That should be looked into also, because the whole Iraqi war machine was built up as a vast monolith, or as a vastly effective war machine, which required half a million Americans to be sent there. . . . The disinformation about the Iraqi war machine was part of the drumbeating for American warmaking.

EIR: In terms of Bush's psychological state, what would bring him to wage this kind of war?

Lifton: There's an obsession in this country with doing profiles on Saddam Hussein. And it's useful sometimes, because personality can matter in relation to leadership and warmaking. But the way it's been done has been a kind of walled-off demonization of Saddam Hussein, and you can't understand the war, unless you have a double profile of Saddam and Bush. In both cases, you want to ask about individual psychology, ideology, and relationship to history and culture. You would want to stress in Saddam not just his having been beaten as a child, but also his ardent nationalism—his extreme nationalism—as part of the Baathist movement. And his relationship to a kind of collective Arab Mideastern rage toward the West, that stems from Western colonialism and Western domination, extending through American influence in the Middle East.

[In Bush's case], you'd look at his individual psychology, but also his ideology, which has to do with American hegemony and a certain kind of American elitism, and his relationship to culture and history, his vision of himself as having a great moment on the world stage in relationship to this war, and as probably buttressing American power at a time when it's been threatened, American influence in the world, and at a time when there are grave problems at home, in the cities, in the economy, and in other areas. . . .

EIR: You talked in the *Guardian* about the effect of the war on the American psyche. Does it make Americans more inured toward human suffering at home?

Lifton: One of the goals, consciously or preconsciously, in promoting this triumphalism, is to help people forget about terrible human problems like homelessness, and the collapse of our cities, drugs, violence and poverty. As one maximizes triumphalism and militarism, one is likely to diminish and minimize one's commitment to dealing with dire social problems.

EIR: Do you see any connection between Bush's mentality on the war and his big push now for the death penalty?

Lifton: There's a whole mentality Bush is promoting that is vastly unhealthy for all of us and harmful to our polity and to our people. It has to do with militarism, American hegemony in the Third World, and a punitive approach to American problems, rather than a compassionate one.

Bush claims 'victory' in phony war on drugs

by Jeffrey Steinberg

The Bush administration has just released two annual reports on the so-called war on drugs, which represent a total white-wash of the true state of affairs.

The first report, dated February 1991, is the third annual National Drug Control Strategy, a document signed by President Bush and prepared by the White House drug czar. The report is a shameless collection of doctored statistics which proclaim virtual "victory" in a war on drugs that has been a joke—even by Washington standards. While claiming that the past two years saw sharp cutbacks in drug use by Americans—surpassing all goals set out in previous Drug Control Strategy reports—the White House document failed to provide any data whatsoever on the two crucial indicators: total availability of drugs and levels of domestic marijuana production. In both these critical categories, the White House claimed that "data were not yet available."

No data?

On Feb. 8, *EIR* published a cover story titled, "Where are the sorties against U.S. pot fields, Mr. Bush?" which documented the fact that in 1989, marijuana was the number one cash crop in America, bringing in over \$50 billion in profits to Dope, Inc. In 37 states, marijuana brought in more cash than the leading legitimate crops.

Despite the fact that these statistics were compiled from public sources, the Bush White House report claimed that no data were available. Had the pot statistics been published, the fraud of the Bush administration's war on drugs would have been exposed for all to see.

Another lie peddled in the new report is that hospital emergency room incidents of drug overdoses and drug-related injuries and deaths are down 18% since 1989. According to several federal drug enforcement professionals interviewed by this magazine, *the only decline is in the reporting procedures*. The Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN), a federally funded program for accumulating data from hospital emergency rooms, has experienced a 30% falloff in personnel and reporting rates in the past year, due to massive budget cutbacks. The system is in such a shambles that the government has decided to shift over from a system of

reporting every instance of drug-related emergency room treatment, to a random sampling method which is much less reliable. Last year, the system was totally chaotic as the result of severe manpower constraints and the logistical problems associated with the change in procedures. In short, the data are worthless.

Conspicuously absent from the White House report is any mention of the just-resigned drug czar, William Bennett, who reportedly walked out in disgust after he lost a power struggle to the megalomaniacal Attorney General Richard Thornburgh. His recently confirmed replacement, defeated Florida Republican Gov. Robert Martinez, presided over a state notorious as the entry-point of preference for every Ibero-American drug cartel. Governor Martinez was selected for the post on the basis of his close family links to the Bush clan—not his dubious commitment to fight against drugs.

During his governorship, Jeb Bush, the President's son, was the Florida secretary of commerce. Never one for discretion, Jeb got himself in the middle of one of the nastiest drug money-laundering scandals in the state's sordid history. The full extent of Jeb Bush's involvement with the cocaine-peddling Nicaraguan Contras has yet to be told in public.

So much for George Bush's domestic "victories" against drugs. The international situation is even worse.

State Department double standards

On March 1, 1991, the U.S. State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics Matters issued its annual "International Narcotics Control Strategy Report." In addition to providing an overview of international progress in combatting narcotics, the report officially certified those nations which had been, in the eyes of the Bush administration, actively committed to the war on drugs. Nations denied certification would be cut off from U.S. anti-drug funds.

Two cases in particular stand out in this year's report as shining examples of Bush administration hypocrisy.

The first is Panama, which, since the Bush administration's December 1989 invasion to "arrest" alleged drug trafficker Gen. Manuel Noriega, has become the hemisphere's most notorious safe haven for drug money launderers. *EIR* has documented this in great detail, and more recently even the *New York Times* wrote about the links between U.S.-installed President Guillermo Endara and the Colombian cocaine cartels. The same evidence has been widely published about the country's new Attorney General and Supreme Court chief justice, who sat for years on the board of one of Florida's leading drug money-laundering institutions, Dadeland Bank.

But the State Department report had the following to say, in listing Panama among the governments certified to receive U.S. drug enforcement aid:

"In the year after the military action which removed Manuel Noriega, Panama joined the international effort to fight

illegal drugs. The Endara government has taken important steps against money laundering, made record drug seizures, and entered into important narcotics control agreements with the U.S. Government. It has also begun to restructure, restaff, and professionalize its narcotics control agencies. The record of bilateral cooperation with the U.S. is good, but lack of resources and the need to rebuild institutions hamper Panama's efforts."

Apparently somebody at State experienced a pang of conscience at this coverup, because the rest of the Panama entry took a radically different tone:

"Money laundering continues to be Panama's most serious narcotics control problem. There have been charges of corruption or involvement in illicit narcotics against Panamanian officials. While some of these allegations seem to be politically motivated, possible corruption continues to be a concern. On balance, however, Panama's record of anti-narcotics cooperation is positive."

Praise with faint condemnation

The doublespeak in the Panama case was only outdone by the State Department's handling of Syria, which was denied certification, and remains the world hub of narcotics trafficking and narco-terrorism.

The harsh verbiage in the State Department's report was more than offset by Secretary of State James Baker III, who visited with Syrian President Hafez al-Assad just days after the report was released—not to discuss Syria's dope trafficking activities, but to chart out the "new world order" in the aftermath of the genocidal war against Iraq.

The State Department report had the following to say about the pals of Secretary Baker in Damascus:

"Syria is a transit point for illicit narcotics as well as a refiner of heroin. Much of Syria's drug trafficking activity stems from Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, where Syria maintains a military presence but fails to enforce anti-narcotics controls. Credible reports indicate that some Syrian officers are directly involved in drug trafficking."

Due to the fact that, during the reporting year, 1990, Lebanon became a virtual militarily occupied colony of Syria, the State Department report granted Lebanon a "national interest waiver," noting that "Lebanon had no means of taking actions against narcotics production and trafficking during the year because of continuing political upheaval."

It is a wonder that the State Department narcotics control strategy report didn't come right out and praise the Syrian regime. After all, it was Syria's dominant role in the worldwide narco-terrorist structure that allowed it to keep the lid on any terrorist violence, per agreement with Washington, while the United States bombed Iraq back to the Stone Age, paving the way for narco-terrorist Hafez al-Assad to emerge as the undisputed strong man in the Arab world.

Perhaps next year's report will include a new category of certification: "cooperating drug informant nations."