

# London sows chaos in the Caribbean

by Gretchen Small

British diplomats have provided official backing to the drug cartel's agents, including terrorists, operating in the Spanish-speaking Caribbean. Do not suppose, however, that British interests are not also deployed to profit from the chaos, war, and destruction that the Crown's agents foment. As the evil Lord William Rees-Mogg argues in his 1988 book, *Blood in the Streets*, to the British mind, that is when the best money is to be had.

**Colombia:** Great Britain threw its backing behind the Cali Cartel's Samper operation, before Ernesto Samper Pizarro had ever won the election:

- In April 1994, one of the inner core of the Samper team visited London. Gustavo de Greiff was then serving as Prosecutor General for the Gaviria government. An outspoken advocate of drug legalization, he was attempting to arrange a legal whitewash of the Cali Cartel kingpins, as "legitimate" businessmen. From London, De Greiff told Colombian radio April 20: "The British welcomed and understood my thesis on legalization of drugs. . . . Here the subject is treated with more rationality, without the hysteria which exists in Colombia. Moreover," he huffed, Britain is "a country with dignity and pride, which does not let itself be pressured by other countries."

- In July 1994, President-elect Samper visited London, at the height of the "narco-cassette" scandal over cartel financing of his election victory. Prime Minister John Major, the foreign minister, and others received him with open arms. "The President-elect . . . in his visit to London received the warmest welcome from the government, press, and businessmen," *El Espectador* reported on July 19. Samper confirmed that he would continue the accords with Britain initiated under outgoing President Gaviria, including that the British secret services would train Colombian security personnel, particularly the DAS.

- On Feb. 20, 1995, British Vice Secretary of Foreign Affairs David Davis arrived in Colombia, accompanied by the president of British Petroleum, Lord Ashburton. Less than two weeks before, U.S. Ambassador Myles Frechette had warned that, if the Samper government did not take action against the drug trade, come March 1, Colombia would be decertified as a U.S. anti-drug ally, causing U.S. aid and trade benefits to be cut.

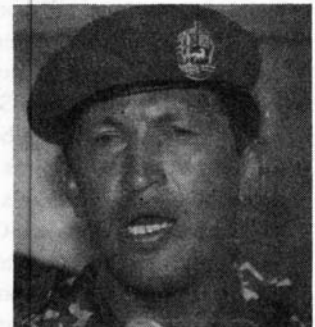
The British government delivered a different message. "Our aid is not conditioned," Davis told the Colombian press.

"The British government has very strong ties of friendship with Colombia, and part of this friendship implies confidence." Davis visited British Petroleum's huge oilfields in Cusiana, and an opium poppy plantation in Huila, from where Colombian television broadcast shots of him sniffing a poppy plant. Lord Ashburton, inaugurating oil installations at the Cusiana fields, hailed former President Alfonso López Michelsen for opening Colombia's oil industry to foreign investors, and reminded Colombians of British ties going back to Independence days. "Allies yesterday, partners today," said Ashburton. Samper answered: "The United Kingdom has expressed its confidence in Colombia this week." He ordered Colombia's Petroleum Stabilization Fund, handling 40% of Colombia's oil income, to be held abroad, exclusively in British banks.

- On June 1, 1995, British Trade Minister Richard Needham arrived in Colombia, accompanied by 40 British businessmen. By now, Great Britain had become Colombia's second-largest economic partner, with investments of over \$1.7 billion. British "businesses from the energy sector, construction, and gas, come with large wallets, prepared to invest if conditions are attractive," Needham announced. He told the press that the British have great confidence in Colombia's economy, and the drug trafficking and violence which the country suffers are not considered obstacles to British investments. Asked what he thought of "other countries" which consider these to be negative for Colombia, Needham replied: "That is their problem."

**Venezuela:** Here, the British Embassy has also been busy meeting with Dope, Inc.'s assets. According to *El Nacional* of July 31, 1995, Britain's ambassador in Caracas recently met with former President Carlos Andrés Pérez, in his mansion where he is under house arrest.

On March 12, 1994, another *El Nacional* column, titled, "Perfidious Albion," had reported that the British Embassy's political counselor, Paul Webster Hare, had invited former Venezuelan Army Lt. Col. Hugo Chávez, the head of a failed military coup in February 1992, to dine with him at an elegant restaurant in Car-



Lt. Col. Hugo Chávez

acas. That news was received with anger in the Presidential residence, where advisers were heard asking how Prime Minister Major would view it, if Venezuelan diplomats in London hobnobbed with the Irish Republican Army.

Who is this Colonel Chávez whom the British wine and dine? On March 14, Venezuelan security officials arrested 150 members of Chávez's Revolutionary Bolivarian-200 Movement (MRB-200) and another terrorist group, the Red Flag, on charges that they were preparing to cause nationwide

chaos on March 15. Documents outlined plans to kill government officials, blow up the headquarters of the political police, and unleash looters in cities across the country.

On March 19, Chávez called a press conference to complain that the British government had invited him to London, but the invitation had now been cancelled after the Venezuelan government protested.

Chávez and his MRB-200 are an integral part of the Cali Cartel's narco-terrorist operation in the region. On March 15, Colombian security officials announced that they had documented Chávez's personal role in coordinating the founding of a so-called "Greater Colombian Revolutionary Alliance" with Colombia's National Liberation Army (ELN). Indeed, the March issue of the ELN's magazine, *Dignidad*, featured an article, "The Bolivarian Ideal," dedicated to Chávez, whom they portrayed as a model leader for the continent.

Formed by Castro and Liberation Theology activists, the ELN dominates the Colombian-Venezuelan contraband trade, and charges "taxes" to protect cocaine shipments across the border. British ties to the ELN extend back at least to 1984, when Armand Hammer, the Anglo-Soviet Trust agent who founded Occidental Petroleum, negotiated a deal with the ELN, in which three multinational companies operating in Colombia would pay the ELN \$200,000 a month, not to attack their oil installations. Hammer told the *Wall Street Journal* in July 1985: "We are giving jobs to the ELN. We give them work as suppliers."

**Cuba:** Chávez and his MBR-200, like the ELN, are members of the São Paulo Forum, the continent-wide political/military organization founded by the Cuban Communist Party after the fall of the Berlin Wall. The steering committee of the Forum includes, with the Cuban CP, several of the hemisphere's most violent narco-terrorist armies. Many of them share Cuba's involvement in the region's drug trade.

Chávez has toured various Ibero-American countries, organizing military officers into the Forum. Fidel Castro accorded Chávez a hero's welcome when he visited Havana on Dec. 14, 1994. Castro received Chávez at the airport, as if a head of state. Said Castro, "It's never been more appropriate to come to this airport than it is for me to receive a visitor such as Lt. Col. Hugo Chávez. I hope I will have many more such opportunities to greet figures as important as he." Replied Chávez, "It is an honor which, in truth, I don't believe we merit yet. . . . I hope that we will soon be worthy."

Britain has stepped up its long-standing ties with the Castro regime in recent months. Most prominent, was the five-day visit of senior Conservative Party leader Baroness Young to Cuba in February 1995, her second visit in 18 months. She was accompanied by a 40-person trade delegation, and herself heads a newly founded "Cuba Initiative," a British group seeking to increase business in Cuba. She met twice with Castro, and told reporters that for Britain, Cuba was a "very important market in the Caribbean."

## 'Human rights' cartel targets the military

by Gretchen Small

It has become commonly accepted wisdom that, in the post-Cold War world, threats to the sovereign existence of the Ibero-American nations have been eliminated, and therefore the military must be reduced in size, limited in its sphere of activities, and its structure reshaped for new "globalist" missions. A strong military, participating in national decision-making, has been defined as a threat to democratic government.

Such lies have played a critical role in allowing the near-takeover of large areas of Ibero-America by the drug traffickers and their terrorist partners. That was the goal of the policy from the outset. The so-called human rights and anti-military lobbies are actually part of the dope cartel, assigned the task of preventing the States of the region, through their armed forces, to defend themselves from Dope, Inc.'s assault.

The campaign to demilitarize Ibero-America was set into motion by Anglophile policy centers such as the Inter-American Dialogue, the leading lobby for legalization of narcotics in the Western Hemisphere. It was adopted as policy by the Bush administration. On such grounds, for example, Bush refused in April 1990 to allow the sale of Cobra helicopters to the Colombian military and police, under the pretext that they were too "lethal," involving "firepower in excess of anything [we] believe is appropriate."

### Coordinator: the Inter-American Dialogue

The foot-soldiers for the war against the military are the so-called "human rights lobby," the plethora of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), run by the United Nations and often by the British, which are an integral part of the drug-legalization lobby. The unity of these operations—human rights, drug legalization, and demilitarization—is illustrated by the remarkable interlock among the Inter-American Dialogue, Human Rights Watch/Americas, speculator George Soros, and the Drug Policy Foundation.

Start with the Inter-American Dialogue (IAD), the bankers' lobby founded in 1982, which united leading Anglophiles of the U.S. establishment with their hangers-on from Ibero-America. In 1986, the IAD threw its political weight behind the drug legalization drive. Legalization should be taken up, because "waging war on drugs costs money. More