

delegation, and declared that drugs and narco-terrorism were not an obstacle to British investment in Colombia. Asked what he thought of other countries' concerns about these factors, he answered, "That's their problem."

• On March 1, 1996, the London *Financial Times* editorially denounced the U.S. certification procedure as flawed, and instead urged "a cooperative international approach" to the drug problem, "up to and including the possible decriminalization of some currently illegal substances."

## Samper's troubles have just begun

On March 1, EIR intelligence director for Ibero-America Dennis Small was interviewed by phone by Samir Vergara, of F.M. Radio Caracol in Colombia. The call was prompted by the demand of the Ibero-American Solidarity Movement in Mexico that Colombian Ambassador to Mexico Gustavo de Greiff be recalled, and by an EIR Memorandum, "Why Colombia Must Be 'Decertified' by the Clinton Administration" (see EIR, Jan. 26, p. 40:



Dennis Small

**Caracol:** One of the news items this week is the request in Mexico to declare [Colombian Ambassador] Gustavo de Greiff *persona non grata*. Colombian officials say this is a big operation against Colombia; there have been protests in front of our [Colombia's] embassy by the Ibero-American Solidarity Movement. It was founded in 1990 and represents the Washington news agency, *EIR*, or *Executive Intelligence Review*. Mr. Dennis Small, good morning. . . . What is your relationship to the Ibero-American Solidarity Movement?

**Small:** The Ibero-American Solidarity Movement is a group of Mexican citizens who are politically active in their country. *EIR* is based in Washington, and was founded by current Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche. Recently, *EIR* published a memorandum proposing that Samper's government be decertified on the issue of fighting drugs.

**Caracol:** Let's talk about this. In that four-page document,

you recommend that the U.S. not certify Colombia.

**Small:** Yes, we indicated three reasons for this: First, the elections which put Samper in the Presidency were illegal and dirty, because of the role of drug money. Second, throughout his Presidency, he has kept his side of the deal with the Cali Cartel; and third, Samper has established a narco-dictatorship, not a narco-democracy, as some say, under which opponents of the Samper regime have been assassinated; Alvaro Gómez, for example. Others, such as the journalists affiliated with our magazine, Javier Almario and Maximiliano Londoño, have been intimidated and threatened with death.

Nonetheless, I think that the issue of decertification, the decision on which will be announced today in Washington, is really the least of the problems Samper will face in the coming period. I think it's quite possible that there will be hearings in the [U.S.] Congress from which the entire truth of the Cali Cartel's Presidency, that is, Ernesto Samper's Presidency, could emerge.

**Caracol:** Where do you get your information, and by what means do you affirm what you just said about Alvaro Gómez's murder, a still ongoing investigation? The killers, and what was behind his murder, are unknown—no information has been released on this in Colombia. Where do you get your information?

**Small:** We publish information which is publicly available and well known to Colombian, U.S., and other media. What I just said is public knowledge: Alvaro Gómez Hurtado, an anti-Samper opposition leader, was assassinated. Yes, the murder's material authors are unknown at the moment. Nonetheless, if we ask the famous *cui bono?* that is, who benefits from this assassination, then the investigation must necessarily lead in the direction of the Cali Cartel and the politicians associated with it.

**Caracol:** This is a bold assertion, and I would say, one which doesn't follow the rigorous journalistic guidelines which are especially demanded in the United States.

**Small:** No, no. What we're saying is what any honest journalist is saying right now. . . . I repeat, the beneficiaries—also of the murder of General Cifuentes's son, and of other threats and murders—are the Cali Cartel. And when they threaten our correspondents and representatives in Bogotá, just as they have threatened other journalists who have fought against drugs by indicating who is behind the drug trade, who proposes drug legalization, any investigation necessarily leads in this direction. I would say, in fact, that anyone *not* looking in that direction, is the dishonest journalist.

**Caracol:** You mean that anyone who disagrees with you is dishonest.

**Small:** No. I think the dishonest journalists are those not investigating who benefits from these murders, and trying to cover them up.

**Caracol:** But you're not investigating, you're drawing conclusions.

**Small:** No. We are indicating, as we have done in this document, the direction in which the investigation should go. I think it's clear, and rather obvious, that the beneficiary of Alvaro Gómez's murder is the Cali Cartel.

**Caracol:** Why?

**Small:** Because he was one of the strongest opponents of Samper's government. He was one of those who insisted in having a serious war on drugs. This is also the case with *EIR*'s correspondents in Colombia, who have been the victims of death threats, break-ins, and other attacks.

**Caracol:** But Mr. Small, don't you think that this government has given very clear signs of its willingness to fight drugs, having put [the cartel's] capos in jail, and fully backed the Prosecutor General in his investigation of the congressmen who received this money? Doesn't that indicate to you that it is really attacking the cartels?

**Small:** No, I don't think there are any such signs, and I think that this is exactly what circles in Washington are saying, too. I think that this is what will come to light in the hearings which may very well occur in the U.S. Congress. The point is that the jailed capos stay in jail until they decide to leave, as the Santacruz Londoño case showed.

The key point here is that Samper's Presidency is a 20-year-long, or more, project of those international forces which want to legalize the drug trade. In 1979, Samper . . . came to the United States, invited by the so-called drug lobby, organizations such as the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML), and *High Times* magazine. And here, Samper began to promote the idea of drug legalization, just as Colombian ambassador in Mexico Gustavo de Greiff does.

This idea of legalizing the drug trade is a two-decade-long project of very powerful financial circles in the United States and internationally, with strong representation from George Bush's political group and British financial circles represented by the London *Economist*. This drug legalization project is also something that will be exposed in the coming period.

**Caracol:** Speaking about Washington circles, to which do you belong? Who finances you? Who is behind you?

**Small:** Our magazine was founded by Lyndon LaRouche, a controversial American politician who is currently a Presidential candidate. LaRouche won nearly 10% of the vote in the recent Democratic primary in Delaware. About 10% of all state legislators in the United States have written President Clinton to demand the exoneration of LaRouche, who became a political prisoner under the Bush administration. Bush jailed LaRouche as a political prisoner for five years, and LaRouche was paroled after Clinton took office. Ten percent of all U.S.

state legislators not only oppose what happened to LaRouche, but demand his exoneration.

**Caracol:** That is to say, you represent a person in the United States who is really a criminal.

**Small:** No. We represent an American political figure who is a Presidential candidate, who for five years was a political prisoner of the Bush administration, precisely because he fought against drugs and the financial interests behind the drug trade. Perhaps you don't know it or understand it, but in the United States we have had many cases of political prisoners, as happens in many nations in the world.

**Caracol:** So who gives the money for your magazine?

**Small:** Our magazine is financed through subscriptions and other services. For example, *EIR* has an Alert Service. We sell subscriptions, special reports, and so forth; for example, two or three years ago we published a special report that sells for \$250, entitled "The Bush Plan to Legalize Drugs." Hundreds of those special reports were sold, both in English and in Spanish.

**Caracol:** Mr. Small, are you the people who are demanding the removal of our ambassador, Gustavo de Greiff, in Mexico City?

**Small:** Well, through its Mexico City offices, *EIR* circulated a letter criticizing Ambassador De Greiff and indicating his role in Mexico in defending drug legalization. Ambassador De Greiff answered our letter, and we in turn replied to him. The information *EIR* circulated has also been used by Mexican political groups opposed to the drug trade who want Ambassador De Greiff to leave the country. Mexico has enough problems with having a Cali Cartel representative as Colombia's ambassador in Mexico.

**Caracol:** But, Mr. Small, how can you say that Gustavo de Greiff, a man who was Colombia's prosecutor general, is a Cali Cartel representative? What evidence do you have to make such a bold assertion? Everything you've told us seems to be totally lacking in seriousness.

**Small:** I refer you to public information on the fact that in 1980, Gustavo de Greiff was a partner—and he admits this—in an aviation company called Aerolíneas el Dorado with Rodríguez Orejuela. And at that time, the Rodríguez Orejuelas had already been identified internationally, if not yet convicted, as drug traffickers. Either we assume that Ambassador De Greiff is dim-witted, which I don't think is the case, or he was working with these people, fully aware of what they were up to.

**Caracol:** Mr. Dennis Small, editor of *Executive Intelligence Review*. Thank you for taking this call from Cadena Caracol of Colombia. Have a good morning in Washington.

**Small:** Thanks for the chance to speak with you.