

# Brits push free trade, drugs on Dominicans

by Carlos Wesley

A significant increase in heroin and cocaine coming into the United States, and a growing instability in the Caribbean that could set off a renewed wave of "boat people," are the likely results if the U.S. State Department and the British government get their way in the Dominican Republic. For the past few weeks, both have been trucking in a number of free-trade gurus, to sell the new President of the Dominican Republic, Leonel Fernández, on the virtues of privatization and the need to do away with "big government," the Armed Forces, and other institutions of the nation-state.

Sources say an invitation has been extended to Jeffrey Sachs, the Harvard flea-market economist who admits that his "shock therapy" policies forced unemployed Bolivian tin miners to turn to cocaine production to make a living.

Already, two libertarian ideologues from the satanic Mont Pelerin Society, which advocates drug legalization and other perversions, were brought in on Oct. 8, by U.S. Ambassador Donna Jean Hrinak and the U.S. Agency for International Development, a branch of the State Department, to lecture President Fernández and his cabinet. The two consultants (whose fees the Dominicans were forced to foot) were the University of Chicago's Arnold Harberger, responsible for the disastrous "Chilean model," and Carlos Boloña.

As economics minister of Peru from 1991 to 1993, Boloña presided over the privatization of the social security system, and then turned around and set up his own Pension Fund Administration (AFP) to soak up those funds. (A class action suit was brought against Boloña, on Oct. 23, by Peruvians who lost their pensions and medical benefits to his policies. Undeterred, on Oct. 29, Boloña proposed to abolish free public education, because "government does not have the resources to provide primary, secondary, and university studies. . . . Private investment in education must be encouraged.")

Then, on Oct. 14, the British Embassy and the British-Dominican Chamber of Commerce sponsored a seminar in Santo Domingo, on "Privatization, the British Experience" (under Margaret Thatcher). They brought in their own Peruvian, Carlos Montoya, the self-proclaimed architect of Peru's privatization. But, the keynote was delivered by Peter Benson, partner and vice president of the British accounting and consulting firm Coopers and Lybrand.

Benson, who is also chairman of the International Privatization Group of Great Britain, said that the British government saved billions of pounds sterling in subsidies by selling

off most public agencies. But he was careful not to mention to his Dominican audience the horrors caused by Thatcher's policies, such as the heart attack victim who had to be flown 90 miles last January for intensive care, because there were no beds available in eight nearby hospitals. Nor did Benson mention that the city of Cambridge plans to use rickshaws to deal with its traffic problems.

## The LaRouche factor

The full-court press on the 42-year-old President Fernández was attacked by Jorge Meléndez, the Schiller Institute's representative in the Dominican Republic, in an Oct. 24 television appearance on the "Revista 110" news and commentary program. He noted that Montoya and Boloña were coming into the Dominican Republic, at the time their policies are being declared a failure in Peru. The Mont Pelerin Society is not a school of economic thought, he said. "They are a cult based on the satanist Bernard Mandeville and Jeremy Bentham, two of whose best-known works are *In Defense of Usury* and *In Defense of Pederasty*."

The interview came one day after a televised address by Lyndon LaRouche, on the economic problems facing Ibero-America and the world, and on how to solve them, had been broadcast by the same Dominican television network.

The British interest in the Dominican Republic is primarily geopolitical: The Dominican Republic shares with Haiti the island of Hispaniola, which straddles the key passages between the Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean. In 1994, then-President Joaquín Balaguer warned the Dominican Congress that the British were plotting to merge both nations into one; sources say that the island would then be placed under supranational control.

Colombian drug traffickers are using the island to transship "increasing amounts of heroin" and cocaine into the United States, said the head of the Dominican anti-drug agency, Julio César Ventura Bayonet, according to the Oct. 29 *Listín Diario*. The comment was made following a meeting to coordinate anti-drug work, with U.S. and Puerto Rican authorities.

But the anti-drug effort will be made more difficult because of a campaign against the Dominican Armed Forces, following a recent visit by Juan Rial, one of the co-authors of the so-called "Bush Manual" to destroy the militaries of Ibero-America. On Oct. 28, Fernández purged 24 generals from the Army and the police. The next day, *Listín Diario* dedicated a full page to an interview with Haiti's Jean-Bertrand Aristide, saying that Haiti had saved 40% of its budget by getting rid of its Army, and implying that the Dominican Republic should do the same. And, on Oct. 31, Dominican Armed Forces Minister Lt. Gen. Juan Rojas Tabar submitted to questioning by the Attorney General, on trumped-up charges of human rights violations brought by a so-called "truth commission," with the aid of the Organization of American States Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.