

this. So, in the fight for the sovereign institutions of Peru, you have not only the external political efforts to destabilize and subvert Peru, but you also have this zooming price of petroleum, which also puts a factor of potential political instability in a very vulnerable period.

Q: Finally, given the situation in Peru, what concept, what view of the future can you point to? How do future prospects look?

LaRouche: Well, I think in general that we have to look at this from a global strategic viewpoint. We're on the edge of the greatest financial collapse in all modern history. It could have broken out on Friday. There were many things coming together on Friday which threatened to start a chain reaction, which could have sunk the U.S. dollar, and everything else.

Of course, President [Hugo] Chávez of Venezuela is not a personal friend of mine, but it's obvious that the efforts of the OPEC nations, particularly in the context of the recent Caracas conference, are useful to do what I proposed: Which is that there should be nation-to-nation agreements on petroleum, which would set a reasonable range of price. There are other issues of the same nature which are international, but which affect individual nations such as Peru.

So, we're on the edge of a situation which is like the outbreak of war. The danger is global, not local, not regional. As the crisis becomes worse—and it will become worse, rapidly—many people in Europe and elsewhere are already reacting the way the Roman General Fabian reacted to the threat of the Carthaginian occupation: to retreat when necessary, to maintain the integrity of the patriotic forces, and to prepare to defeat the enemy, the invader, at the point that the enemy's weakness overtakes him. Because very soon, perhaps within weeks, the greatest crisis in modern history will begin to erupt, openly. And those who are left standing, intact, when the crisis breaks out, will be in a fighting position. The nations which are standing with such forces, with such leadership, will have a chance then of surviving.

The main thing in a situation like this, is not to lose one's nerve. Not to hide in a foxhole, because someone may drop a hand grenade on you. And not to charge in desperate flight forward, because they'll shoot you down. I think the same spirit was expressed by the President and other forces, in dealing with the terrorist occupation of the Japanese ambassador's residence. I think this is the first line of defense of the nation at this point.

There must be no panic in a situation like this. I've seen a certain amount of panic being expressed in Peru, and I think that's the greatest danger to Peru, from the inside—this kind of panic.

Q: Thank you very much for your views, Mr. LaRouche, and we look forward to talking to you again.

LaRouche: Thank you, and best wishes.

Profile: Sarkis Soghanalian

Bush's Man Supplied Weapons to the FARC

by Dean Andromidas

At an Aug. 21 press conference, Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori, flanked by top officials including National Intelligence Service *éminence grise* Vladimiro Montesinos, announced that his government had just arrested members of a vast arms-for-drugs-trafficking network, which had supplied 10,000 Russian Kalashnikov AK-47 rifles to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) narco-terrorists, by dropping them from the air to narco-terrorists waiting below in the jungles of Vichada, Colombia. As *EIR* detailed in its Sept. 8 issue, the network involved Peruvian and Colombian drug mafias, their FARC associates, the Russian mafia, and corrupt retired junior officers from the Peruvian Army; the weapons were purchased from the Jordanian military.

No agency, whether U.S., Colombian, Peruvian, or Jordanian, disputes the fact that 10,000 AK-47s were delivered to the FARC by this route, nor that more were in that same pipeline. Nor, that the FARC paid for them in cocaine. Here was indisputable evidence that the FARC militants are not preparing for peace, but are arming themselves with sophisticated weapons, in numbers which indicate that they are preparing to double, at minimum, their forces under arms.

Shortly thereafter, a crucial new piece of evidence was revealed: Sitting at the center of the ring, was a Lebanese-Armenian named Sarkis Soghanalian, one of the most famous arms dealers of the last three decades, a trafficker inextricably linked to the Bush family Iran-Contra apparatus at every step along the way.

In their depositions, the arrested Peruvians recounted how it was Soghanalian who had opened the doors for them with the Jordanian military; Soghanalian appears in photographs now in possession of Peruvian intelligence, which show the traffickers with Jordanian officials in Amman. His Amman-based "Atlantic Aerobatic KFT" company reportedly owned the Russian plane used for the four successful air drops to the FARC: a 60 ton capacity Ilyushin-76.

When a Peruvian judge issued arrest warrants for 25 members of the ring who were still at large on Sept. 6, Soghanalian was on the list, along with his son Garabet Soghanalian. Prosecutors were reported to be drawing up extradition papers for the pair.

All of this was duly reported in the Peruvian media; all of it was in the public record.

Yet, not a single word of Sarkis Soghanalian's involvement in the FARC supply ring has been reported in the major English-language media anywhere in the world. Instead, a different story is being told: We are asked to believe that responsibility for trafficking the weapons to the FARC lies at the door of the Fujimori regime itself, the one government in the Western Hemisphere distinguished by its very successful, hard-line policy of no deals with narco-terrorists. The ring was run, it is now averred, by Vladimiro Montesinos and the Peruvian military.

No proof has been provided for the charge. Read any of the "exposé" articles on Montesinos's purported connection closely, and the hired assassins of the press are discovered to have covered their legal behinds with ample use of the words "alleged," and "points to," rather than evidence.

The source of the press lies is Madeleine Albright's State Department. Journalists repeatedly cite the demand made in early September by U.S. Acting Assistant Secretary of State Peter Romero, that the Peruvian government must provide the answers, because one active-duty Peruvian general and one retired general are believed to be involved. This set of allegations — all of which studiously avoid the uncomfortable matter of Sarkis Soghanalian — have been a major bludgeon used to break up Peru's National Intelligence Service (SIN), drive Montesinos out of Peru, and bring the Fujimori government to the point of collapse.

A Hard-Core Bush Baby

Sarkis Soghanalian, the one man who knows *all* of the dirty details about the arms to the FARC deal, is no stranger to the world of rogue intelligence operations, and illegal arms and drug trafficking. Throughout the 1980s, he was one of the world's leading "merchants of death," operating under the personal supervision of then-Vice President George Bush and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, in a string of illegal covert arms deals that helped fuel regional wars in Central America and the Persian Gulf.

In fact, shortly after he migrated to the United States in the 1970s, Soghanalian began shipping Soviet bloc weapons to the Lebanese Falange, during the civil war in that country. Soghanalian worked directly for some of George Bush's closest allies within the clandestine department of the CIA in that Falange arms-running scheme: Theodore Shackley, Thomas Clines, and Felix Rodriguez.

All three men, along with Soghanalian, would play pivotal roles in the 1980s in the White House "secret parallel government" operations of Bush and his National Security Council underling, Lt. Col. Oliver North. Rodriguez personally reported to Donald Gregg, the chief national security aide to Bush, who was formally in charge of the Reagan Administration's clandestine wars in Central America, Africa, the Per-

sian Gulf, and Afghanistan, as head of the Special Situation Group (SSG).

From the moment the White House arms pipeline to the Nicaraguan Contras was established in the early 1980s, Soghanalian was part of the team. By his own admission, Soghanalian became one of the primary arms traffickers to Contra leader Eden Pastora, whose so-called "Southern Front" operations were awash in cocaine trafficking.

So deep was Soghanalian's involvement in the Bush League arms-for-drug dealings, that Bush used Soghanalian personally, to transport Adm. Dan Murphy and South Korean money-launderer Tongsun Park to Panama, for a showdown meeting with Gen. Manuel Noriega, to convince the Panamanian leader to keep his mouth shut about the Contra guns and drugs operations.

While the Central American guns-for-drugs scandal grabbed big headlines in the late 1980s, the far larger illegal arms operations of the period were directed into the Persian Gulf and Afghanistan. Soghanalian was a key player in the simultaneous clandestine arming of both belligerents Iran and Iraq, to assure that the first Persian Gulf war (1978-88) continued as long as possible. And here, Soghanalian's activities were directed by both George Bush and then-British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

In just one well-documented case of clandestine arms deliveries to Iraq, at the height of the Iran-Iraq War, Soghanalian sold \$181 million in military hardware. Soghanalian's business partners in that arrangement were James Tully and Jack Brennan. Tully worked directly for Gen. Richard Secord, the head of the Bush-North Iran-Contra "Enterprise." Brennan, a former Marine Corps officer, would later serve as the director of administrative operations in the George Bush White House.

Soghanalian also functioned as the intermediary between Chilean arms manufacturer Carlos Cardoen and Margaret Thatcher, in a number of arms deals with Iraq during the war with Iran. In these efforts, Soghanalian worked directly with Mark Thatcher, the Prime Minister's son.

Busted and Jailed

Soghanalian clearly knows where the corpses are hidden in George Bush's many closets. In 1992, when Bush was running for re-election, Soghanalian was prosecuted for — of all things — selling 103 Hughes helicopters to Iraq! He spent two years in jail, but was released, in return for his cooperation in breaking up a Lebanese network that was counterfeiting U.S. hundred-dollar bills.

Soghanalian, at that point, moved his primary arms business to France, but his son Garabet maintained the family's operations in Florida. In December 1999, Sarkis Soghanalian was arrested at Miami International Airport, on charges that he forged \$3.3 million in checks, drawn on Great Western Bank in California.

When the Peru indictments were handed down in August, Soghanalian was sitting in the Los Angeles Metropolitan Detention Center, still awaiting a bail hearing in the check-kiting case, which also implicated Russian mafia figures. Perhaps Soghanalian's knowledge of the Bush family's involvement in the underworld of illegal arms and drugs was considered a dangerous pre-election factor for "Dubya," and it was felt that he should be "put on ice" until after Nov. 7.

The Peru Indictment

The move by President Fujimori to break-up the FARC arms-for-drugs pipeline changed all that. Now, Soghanalian is at the center of a major international scandal, in which he was the architect of yet another international illegal transaction, again providing arms to Colombian drug killers, in exchange for cocaine.

According to the Peruvian indictment, it was Sarkis and Garabet Soghanalian who arranged the arms purchases from the Jordanian government, procured the phony Peruvian end-user certificates, and provided the Ukrainian IL 76 cargo plane, which delivered the AK-47 rifles to drop zones deep in FARC territory inside Colombia.

Soghanalian's ties into Jordan dated back to his 1980s arms running to Iraq, under the direction of Bush and Thatcher. According to the Scott Inquiry into British involve-

ment in the Iran-Contra affair, during the decade of the 1980s, British arms sales to Jordan skyrocketed to \$500 million, as compared to \$70 million in sales in all of the 1970s. Much of this boost in weapons sales was, in fact, clandestine British sales to Iraq. Arms shipped to the Jordanian port of Aqaba were trucked into Iraq, to stoke the war with Iran.

The United States, too, played a role in the Jordan arms pipeline. In a Jan. 26, 1992 *New York Times* piece, Seymour Hersh wrote that the "U.S. secretly gave aid to Iraq early in its war against Iran," and "one of the major arms brokers was Sarkis Soghanalian, a Lebanese-born, Miami-based arms dealer who has been repeatedly linked in the last two decades to gun-running for the CIA."

In a recent interview with the left-wing Peruvian newspaper *La República*, Soghanalian identified Ricardo "Dino" Baldini, as the person who had introduced him to the Peruvian military officers who provided the phony end-user certificates. Baldini gained notoriety in 1998 as the "deep throat" who exposed NATO Secretary General Willi Claes and other officials of the Belgian Socialist Party, for taking kickbacks from Agusta Helicopters. At the time, Baldini was running Agusta's Brussels office. Agusta also figured prominently in all of the Bush-Thatcher secret illegal arms deals of the 1980s.

The New York Times: A Century of Perfidy

by Anton Chaitkin

The *New York Times'* current favorable stance toward Peruvian terrorists, and against those who fought them, reflects the paper's role for over a century as the leading mouthpiece for Wall Street, in its campaign to destroy the nation-state. The current coverage echoes its earlier support for the terrorist Ku Klux Klan, and for the 1933 coup by Adolf Hitler.

A British Asset

The *New York Times* became a British intelligence and British Crown propaganda channel in the 1870s and 1880s. The paper was then controlled by Leonard Jerome, a Wall Street speculator and political partner of Rothschild representative August Belmont. Jerome's daughter married the degenerate Tory schemer Randolph Churchill, and gave birth to Winston Churchill.

By the 1890s, the *Times* had fallen in circulation and influence, and had strayed from the Tory editorial line. London banking outlets in New York, led by J.P. Morgan, gave control of their paper to Adolph Ochs of Tennessee, whose descen-

For previews and
information on
LaRouche publications:

Visit EIR's Internet Website!

- Highlights of current issues of EIR
- Pieces by Lyndon LaRouche
- Every week: transcript and audio of the latest **EIR Talks** radio interview.

<http://www.larouchepub.com>

e-mail: larouche@larouchepub.com