

Begin crackdown on IMF drug trade

Tighter law enforcement follows congressional blast at int'l trafficking

Grassroots political pressure, transmitted through the U.S. Congress, has forced the Carter Administration to take preliminary action to halt the tidal wave of illegal narcotics traffic which threatens to overwhelm the United States.

Since the enforced departure of White House drug abuse advisor Peter Bourne this past summer, when it was revealed he had written phony prescriptions for White House staffers and had allegedly used marijuana and cocaine at Washington parties, the Drug Enforcement Agency and its chief Peter Bensinger in collaboration with federal and state agencies, have conducted a modest crackdown on drug traffic. A well-publicized series of busts and Bensinger's own emphasis on the importance of vigorous law enforcement against marijuana traffic followed hearings by a Congressional narcotics committee labeling the activities of "offshore" banking drug-and-crime networks operating through the Caribbean and south Florida "a national disaster" for the United States.

The government of Colombia, a country which is currently a major point of origin in Latin America for marijuana and cocaine smuggling into the U.S., has taken strong action to prevent drug exports, sealing off an entire province where marijuana is a principal crop.

President Carter himself, previously on record as a supporter of the decriminalization of marijuana, has responded to the pressure, stressing to newsmen his "unprecedented" cooperation with Colombia's President Turbay to stem the drug plague.

As yet, however, the Carter Administration remains firmly wedded to the policies of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, whose emphasis on forcing developing nations to pursue "cash-crop-for-export" economics in the tradition of the British Colonial Office, and opposition to rapid industrialization, is actually promoting "dope economies" in the developing sector.

Moreover, Congress and law enforcement personnel, aware of the connection between drug traffic and certain international financial offshore banking networks ultimately based in the City of London, have yet to crack the British "dirty money" networks at the top. Until they do, London's "war on the U.S. dollar" and takeover attempts against U.S.

banks, financed by the \$100 billion a year drug trade, will continue.

The U.S. Labor Party has launched a campaign to escalate present rearguard actions against narcotics traffic into fullscale investigations, prosecutions, and convictions of the major banks, and political figures who are the ultimate "merchants of death." The party is now preparing for publication a mass of documentary evidence and a political roadmap of the "Drug International" to aid professional law enforcement personnel, elected officials, and citizens groups to nail the criminal "brains" behind these operations.

—Don Baier

House committee rips drug trade, drug banking

In August 1978 the U.S. House of Representatives Select Committee on Narcotics issued a report on drug trafficking in south Florida which blasted laxity in Federal enforcement of drug laws and concluded that "sophisticated" off-shore and foreign banking operations are key to the drug trade. Excerpts from the report follow.

Introduction

In June 1977, at the urging of the ranking minority member of the subcommittee, Congressman J. Herbert Burke (R-Fla.), the committee began an inquiry into the extent and nature of drug trafficking in south Florida. In the fall of 1977 and again in the spring of 1978 the committee dispatched investigators to the scene.... But the information obtained by the committee's investigators did not adequately prepare the members of the committee who traveled to Florida for the hearings on June 9-10 for the actual extent of the present drug disaster which those hearings revealed.

Marijuana, from Colombia, is dispatched by the ton-load in all manner of vessels, some foreign flag, some American, destined for south Florida. Seizures of marijuana at the Miami airport had quadrupled over the past six months. Almost daily, tons of marijuana

and kilos of cocaine were interdicted, yet it is clear from testimony... that these seizures represent only the tip of the iceberg. Despite dedicated and heroic efforts by Federal, State and local law enforcement personnel, the committee estimates that less than 5 percent of the total contraband coming into south Florida was seized prior to the committee's hearings. The committee found among other things that fortunes were being built on the drug trade... that the drug trade was so pervasive that many millions of dollars in cash were being diverted by the Federal Reserve System to the Miami district in order to meet the demands of the illicit drug trade. The committee discovered that the total gross dollar value of the drug trade in south Florida was at least \$7 billion annually, of which the majority represented sales of marijuana and at least \$500 million sales of cocaine.

Testimony made it clear that illegal drug trafficking had, within the past two years, become the single largest commercial activity in the Florida area. Such a situation not only breeds disrespect for the law but also, as the recent *Miami Herald* editorial puts it, "erodes the moral fiber of the community."

If the Federal Government were to adopt a mistaken policy of overlooking the smuggling of large quantities of marijuana because of an ill-founded notion that marijuana is not "all that harmful" and is being "decriminalized" by several States, grievous harm could be caused. The smuggling of any contra-

band, especially in large bulky shipments, cannot be countenanced because if traffickers are left free to smuggle, they will soon be dealing in arms, explosives, and other terrorist paraphernalia, as is beginning to be the case now....

Law enforcement responses to this horror were even more disturbing than the actual situation. The manpower, funds and material available to Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies were found to be totally inadequate....

Despite the committee's most urgent efforts, it is unable to determine how much marijuana, cocaine and heroin enters the United States through Florida. The state... has 8,425 miles of shoreline and as many as 200 clandestine airstrips... 7,000 daily international travelers enter the port of Miami through its airports alone.... On June 10, 1978 the committee, comparing the south Florida drug smuggling problem to a national disaster, called for emergency action by the Federal Government to alleviate problems of limited law enforcement resources... a telegram was sent... to the White House, State Department, DEA and Customs....

Summary of testimony

...The regional director of DEA, Mr. Frederick A. Rody, Jr., stated that "south Florida has become inundated with marijuana and cocaine smuggling and trafficking." Seizures by the Coast Guard, Customs,

Carter pledges crackdown on drugs

At a question and answer session with senior editors on Latin American affairs Sept. 22 President Carter was pressured to commit his Administration to international cooperation to stamp out the narcotics trade.

Q. Mr. President, in south Florida...we're concerned about the drug traffic, which we seem to be the chief landing point. We also have a feeling that the Carter Administration is not taking all of the steps that should be taken to stop this flow of traffic. And my question to you, sir, is do you have any plans to try to work out some sort of agreement with the countries that are the source of some of these drugs?

The President. Well, we've already done a great deal, never enough in

the case of drugs. When I became President...about 90 percent of the heroin coming into the country was obtained from Mexico...

That's been almost completely eliminated, the heroin sources in Mexico...with aerial photographs, infrared, that shows the location of poppy fields, with the very good cooperation for the first time, really in an all-out effort along with Mexico to destroy the poppy fields once they are found, to try to shift the small farmers in the high altitude regions above 3,000 feet elevation to alternate sources of income, away from the poppies that were formerly used for heroin. This has been successful.

At the same time, we tried to restrict the shift of drug production, not just from heroin to something else but to reduce it overall. We've still got a serious problem with marijuana....

We do still have a problem of co-

caine. As you know, the coca leaves are produced in nations to the south of Colombia. Much of it is processed in Colombia, and that's been a major avenue of drugs. But we've had good cooperation now from the Colombian Government. We are forming alliances with them, actually signing documents that share responsibility. We provide some technical assistance, some helicopter services, a free exchange of information between our authorities and theirs. We've had very good, unprecedented cooperation at the top level.

But narcotics control is a major element of our relationship with the Latin American countries. They all see it as the most threatening source of corruption and even destruction of their own governmental society. And I've had long talks with President Lopez Michelsen and others, in Colombia and Mexico and different countries about this subject.

and DEA, in the past six months, represent "more drugs than were collectively seized by the U.S. Federal law enforcement community during the entire previous year." ...He concluded that the smugglers are better equipped and have more financial resources than the entire drug law enforcement community....

Mr. Robert N. Battard of the U.S. Customs Service and Rear Adm. Robert W. Durfey of the U.S. Coast Guard... made it clear that the total tonnage of marijuana and cocaine... is overwhelming all containment efforts....

E. Wilson Purdy, director of the Dade County Public Safety Department,... and Kenneth I. Harms, chief of the Miami police and Sam Martin, chief of the Hollywood police... stressed that to a great extent the interception of thousands of tons of marijuana... and cocaine is not totally due to the effectiveness of law enforcement, but rather the tremendous volume of drug traffic....

The local police chiefs made it clear that the combined efforts of law enforcement alone will never greatly affect trafficking. The United States must deal directly with the source countries, as it did with Mexico....

...Mr. Atlee Wampler III, Chief of the Miami Organized Crime and Racketeering Strike Force and Mr. Michael P. Sullivan, assistant U.S. attorney in charge of narcotics prosecution appeared before the

committee.... Mr. Wampler testified that no other area of the United States has been inundated with as many organized crime individuals as south Florida. He estimated that there are over 1,000 racketeers... infesting businesses, labor unions, banks and gambling operations....

Mr. Sullivan testified that Florida judges do not impose sufficiently stiff sentences.... The cases Mr. Sullivan tries involve complex conspiracies and large amounts of money....

Mr. Sullivan testified to the financial aspects of drug trafficking. Under Federal banking law, the Currency and Foreign Transactions Reporting Act of 1970, any deposit or transfer in excess of \$10,000 must be reported to the Internal Revenue Service. However, major traffickers circumvent this requirement by using easily obtainable sources of false identification.... In addition, money transferred from American banks to offshore depositories, is virtually untraceable. Traffickers utilize sophisticated international banking services in the Bahamas, Panama and Switzerland where foreign bank secrecy laws protect their illicit profits.

Findings

3. The success of the paraquat-spraying program in Mexico has contributed to the problems in south Florida. Untainted Colombian marijuana has now

Colombia declares war on drugs

The government of Colombia, under President Julio Turbay Ayala, has begun a tough law enforcement drive to block shipment of some 120,000 tons of marijuana to the United States. As reported previously in Executive Intelligence Review, London-directed offshore banking and crime networks operating in the Caribbean had planned this "dope invasion" for the fall.

Under decrees issued Oct. 4 by the Turbay government, the region of Guajira, the principal source of marijuana for the U.S. market, is to be "sealed off" from the rest of Colombia and the world at large. Land, sea and air traffic in and out of Guajira has been placed under stringent government controls, policed by the armed forces and

national police as well as local enforcement personnel. Violators are subject to seizure of property and prosecution.

The official statement announcing the crackdown, which will be fully implemented by Nov. 1, said: "There has been an intensification of organized delinquency in some regions of national territory due to the misuse of airports, airplanes, river and maritime transport, and transport vehicles both domestic and foreign; many of these enter the country, violating national sovereignty, to carry out illegal activities such as trafficking in drugs and contraband in coffee in connection with the illicit commerce of arms, which in turn generates other activities. . . . It is the duty of the government to prevent and repress these acts, taking measures which will lead to the reestablishment of normalcy."

The decrees impose stringent restrictions on the movement of all transport to and from the region. "Fines will be imposed; planes, ships, barges, and other vehicles will be confiscated, and there will as well be cancellations of driving, navigation licenses. Anyone cooperating with the intellectual authors of a crime will be given a sentence one half of that given the intellectual author. . . ."

The government stopped just short of drawing the connection between drug traffic, international terrorism, and the plantation-minded families who prefer International Monetary Fund-ruled cash-crop peasant economies to industrialization and improved living standards. Turbay pointedly noted, however, that illegal gun-running was part of the Guajira drug operation, timed to run with harvest and export of the coffee crop.

become the choice of the marijuana abuser, and Colombia is now the major supplier of marijuana to the U.S. Most of this illegal substance enters through Florida. Efforts to decriminalize marijuana in small quantities for personal use have led to increased demand for marijuana and higher profits for smugglers. In the past few years cocaine has become popular with certain population groups in the U.S. Major shipping patterns have been established from Peru and Bolivia to Colombia and on to the U.S.

18. It is obvious that the tremendous narcotics trade is adversely affecting the climate for legitimate business.... There is an enormous flow of cash into the Miami Federal Reserve District, probably as a result of narcotics trafficking. A chart comparing Miami to districts of the same size such as Cincinnati, Dallas, Houston and St. Louis showed that the proportion of payments to receipts in Miami is much higher than normal....

Conclusions

9. The Federal Government must react to the situation in south Florida in the manner it would if a natural disaster or other grave emergency had struck the area.

DEA campaigns against leniency towards pot

Peter B. Bensinger, administrator of the U.S. Department of Justice's Drug Enforcement Administration, is rallying the nation's law enforcement community to continue their traditional opposition to relaxed enforcement or scrapping of the United States's laws prohibiting the use of marijuana. In speeches to the Federal Bureau of Investigation Academy at Quantico, Va. on Sept. 22, and to the Annual Conference of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, held in New York Oct. 10, Bensinger focused on the growing threat to American youth posed by the illegal traffic in marijuana, which Bensinger estimated at \$15 billion a year.

Even as the DEA adopts an increasingly tough antimarijuana line — including a soon-to-be issued report which demonstrates the high levels of cumulative damage done to marijuana smokers by "moderate" (five cigarettes per week) use — the "pot lobby" is mounting a more and more aggressive drive for marijuana "decriminalization."

On Sept. 9, Keith Stroup, national director of NORML (National Organization for the reform of

Pot condemned as glaucoma remedy

Dr. John Bellows, Director of the International Glaucoma Congress, condemned the state of Illinois's legalization of marijuana use in the treatment of glaucoma as a dangerous and cruel hoax in a letter to the Chicago Tribune Sept. 29. The text of his letter appears below:

Gov. (James) Thompson signed a bill on Sept. 9 legalizing the use of marijuana for humane medical treatment of cancer and glaucoma. As an ophthalmologist, I am concerned that this legalization may give rise to unforeseen difficulties for the uninformed glaucoma patient.

The legalization of marijuana for the treatment of glaucoma suggests that it is a valuable therapeutic agent. Though in some patients marijuana may reduce the increased intraocular pressure caused by glaucoma, conventional remedies are far more effective. Marijuana decreases intraocular pressure for only two hours, whereas conventional drugs are effective for eight, 12, or even 24 hours. The short-term effectiveness of marijuana lessens its usefulness considerably; for example, the intraocular pressure would be uncontrolled during sleep. Since glaucoma requires lifelong treatment, the exclusive use of marijuana would require that the patient smoke "pot" for his entire life.

Marijuana is also known to

produce transitory side effects, including nystagmoid movements, impaired focusing, double vision, transitory loss of vision, corneal anesthesia, conjunctival infection, decreased tearing, and constriction of the pupils. In addition, marijuana may alter perceptions of reality, reduce alertness, and impair short-term memory.

The prevention of glaucoma blindness requires the patient's lifelong compliance in using conventional medication and periodic examinations by a skilled ophthalmologist to determine whether the disease is under control.