

Ivanov Blasts Drug Legalization; Underscores Role of British MI-6

June 15—Viktor Ivanov, the head of the Russian Federal Drug Control Service and a close associate of Russian President Vladimir Putin, charged on May 20 that the push for legalizing narcotics “is directly or indirectly related to enormous drug business income, estimated by experts at \$800 billion per year.” He spoke at the World Forum Against Drugs in Stockholm.

“The objective of drug legalization supporters is to legalize transnational organized crime, a global criminal international, to make drug trafficking smooth and comfortable,” he observed bluntly.

Ivanov singled out the role in this drug-legalization drive “of a former director of the British Intelligence Service, MI-6.” He was referring to Nigel Inkster, the former number 2 of MI-6, now posted to the London International Institute of Strategic Studies (IISS), where he has authored a new report, “Drugs, Insecurity and Failed States: The Problems of Prohibition.” Inkster admits that his report was financed by George Soros, London’s favorite hedge-fund money-launderer, and his Open Society Foundation.

Inkster, in presenting his report in April, specifically attacked resistance to his campaign coming from the United States, Russia, and China. He denounced the Chinese Communist Party’s “foundation myth of a hundred years of humiliation, unequal treaties, opium sales,” and even went so far as to assert that “we’re dealing with the iron laws of supply and demand”—as if the British Empire’s Opium Wars against China in the 19th Century were merely a response to Chinese demand for opium!

War on Killer Narcotics

Ivanov who has been Russia’s “drug czar” since 2008, has been on the stump internationally on these issues for many years, as *EIR* has reported.

A particular focus is Afghanistan, where drug-production and -trafficking has soared since the NATO-U.S. invasion began in 2001. Russia is now the world’s largest consumer of Afghan heroin, so stopping this



WFAD
Russia's anti-drug chief Victor Ivanov addresses the 3rd World Federation Against Drugs conference in Stockholm, May 2012. He roundly denounced the advocates of drug legalization.

new Opium War is a matter of life and death for Russia. In 2011, then-Speaker of the Duma Boris Gryzlov said that there were 6 million addicts in Russia out of a total population of 141 million, and that 100,000 people die every year because of drugs.

Ivanov’s Stockholm speech underlined the dramatic situation in Afghanistan itself, saying that the head of a study by U.S. toxicologists “made a statement that the current generation of Afghan children is doomed, since all of them are typical opium and heroin addicts.”

“Dear colleagues,” Ivanov declared, “it is high time to qualify Afghan drug production as a threat to international peace and security as per Chapter VII of the UN Charter.”

Ivanov is not limiting himself to anti-drug appeals,

but on numerous occasions has outlined policies to reorganize the financial-economic system that thrives on drug money, the system that the drug-legalization lobby is defending.

- In a speech last November in Washington,¹ he called for drastic reform of the international financial system to clean out the dirty money, adding that “the model for such a transformation must be a revival of the logic of the Glass-Steagall Act of the United States in 1933.”

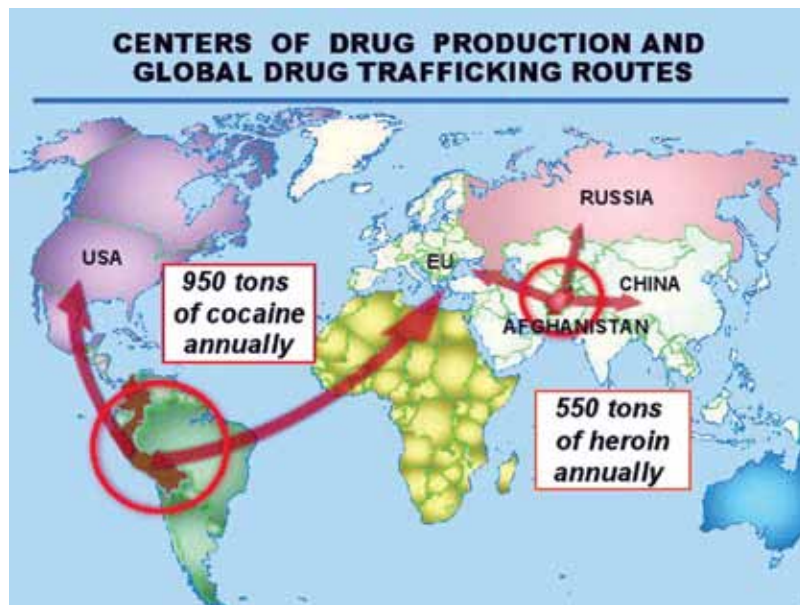
He particularly appealed for cooperation between the United States and Russia to smash the drug trade in Afghanistan.

Such cooperation has existed at a modest level for the past two years or so, and Ivanov has praised U.S. and Russian joint drug lab raids where Russians, U.S. military and Drug Enforcement Agency personnel, and Afghan units worked together. He clearly recognizes that U.S.-Russian collaboration is key to breaking the British-led push for drug legalization.

- Speaking at a meeting of the UN Commission of Narcotics in Vienna² on March 12, Ivanov called for “abandoning sick neoliberal economics,” and further expressed concern about what will follow the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan. Rejecting the farce of crop substitution for Afghan peasants (the farmers take the bags of wheat offered to them, but keep on growing the lucrative opium poppy), he said that what Afghanistan needs is industrialization, electrification, technology, and infrastructure development. The speaker mentioned that “the viewpoint I have stated here coincides with the position of ... Vladimir Putin.”

- Following meetings in Beijing with anti-drug officials from the member countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Ivanov announced at a Moscow press conference on April 5 that the SCO will be creating a new anti-drug agency to cooperate with both NATO forces and the Afghan military to break the back of drug production and trafficking. “For the first time,” he said, “we’ve proposed to divide responsibilities. The SCO police will be combatting drug traffickers in its member countries. NATO, which has 150,000

FIGURE 1



Victor Ivanov, Russian Federal Drug Control Service

FIGURE 2



Victor Ivanov, Russian Federal Drug Control Service

troops in Afghanistan and controls the country’s army and police, can fight drug production in that region. These efforts could destroy this year’s poppy crops in just a couple of months.”

While in Beijing, Ivanov met with Chinese State Councilor Meng Jianzhu, Minister of Public Security, who pledged China’s support for the effort.

Focus on *EIR*’s Role

Shortly after the Stockholm conference, the website of Ivanov’s Federal Drug Control Service (FNCS)

1. See *EIR*, [Nov. 25, 2011](#); [Dec. 2, 2011](#) and a [second article](#).

2. See *EIR*, [March 23, 2012](#).

posted a Russian translation of *EIR*'s April 12 interview with Antonio Maria Costa,³ the former Director of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime. The posting makes clear that the drug legalization push is part of desperate efforts to bail out the crashing trans-Atlantic banking cartels. The website's introduction to the interview states:

"According to generally accepted estimates, including by UN experts, drug money defines an annual market greater than \$500 billion, while its adverse impact on the real economy is two or three times greater. The annual damage to the world economy is \$2 trillion, equal to the GDP of countries such as France or Great Britain.

"For example, at the height of the 2008-2009 financial crisis, around \$352 billion in drug money was thrown into the world's largest banks to deal with their critical liquidity shortage; the

3. *EIR*, [April 27, 2012](#).

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Victor Ivanov, Russian Federal Drug Control Service
Ivanov showed this slide of opium consumption in Afghanistan. Even young children are addicted, he said, as the country has become flooded with opium since 2001.

funds were subsequently integrated into interbank operations.

"Investigations of the laundering of criminal revenues have revealed that the biggest banks have a critical dependency on the dirty but liquid proceeds of narcotics sales.

"In his presentations at the Washington CSIS [Center for Strategic and International Studies] in November 2011 and the Davos World Economic Forum in January 2012, Russian FNCS Director Victor Ivanov noted that reformatting of the existing economy could become a key area for eliminating global drug production, including in Afghanistan. This means a transition to an economy that excludes criminal monies and guarantees the reproduction of 'clean' liquid assets, i.e., a development economy, in which the basis for decision making is development projects and targeted long-term credits.

"This is the topic of the interview given to *EIR* magazine by former Deputy Secretary General of the UN and former Executive Director of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime Antonio Costa."

Costa in his interview made clear what financial interests are behind the campaign for drug legalization, and presents what amounts to a wake-up call for Glass-Steagall, and measures to end the interface of crime and banks. He also said that the biggest campaign for legalized drug sales in history was the British Opium War against China.