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# International Intelligence

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## ***Crisis Restarts Ibero Integration Efforts***

The Presidents of Brazil, Venezuela, Ecuador, and Bolivia met in Manaus, Brazil on Sept. 30, to discuss getting moving on two cross-continental transportation routes, and reviving the Bank of the South, as an independent mechanism for financing regional integration projects, as the international financial system comes down.

The global financial crisis dominated the discussions, as reality cracks the facade of “the U.S. crisis won’t hurt us much” which all four Presidents (Brazil’s Lula da Silva, Venezuela’s Hugo Chávez, Ecuador’s Rafael Correa, and Bolivia’s Evo Morales) had been putting out for public consumption. Lula declared, in his joint press conference with Chávez after their meeting, that they agree that no one knows the actual size of this crisis, which perhaps will be the greatest in the history of the world.

The Presidents reported they had reached a formula for breaking various impasses on founding the Bank of the South, which they will discuss with the Presidents of the other three countries that committed themselves to founding the bank (Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay), with the intent of getting the institution under way by December. Due to Brazilian opposition, in particular, the bank has been dead in the water since its founding agreement was signed nearly a year ago.

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## ***Mexican President Submits To Soros Narcotics Drive***

The Mexican government may open the floodgates for mass “narcotourism,” even as the country is being ripped apart by the drug trade, and the nation’s industry, farming, and other necessary activities are collapsing. On Oct. 2, President Felipe Calderón sent to the Mexican Senate a bill legalizing the possession of “personal doses” of every drug imaginable. A person who gets caught with up to two grams of

marijuana or opium, a half a gram of cocaine, 50 milligrams of heroin, or 40 milligrams of methamphetamine, would face no criminal charges.

The Mexican government action poses the question: Would the United States follow Mexico into the Dark Age pit of drug legalization under a President Barack Obama?

Obama’s principal sponsor and moneybags, George Soros, and his British-led legalization mafia have led the fight to force Mexico to capitulate to the drug trade. Ethan Nadelmann, Executive Director of Soros’s Drug Policy Alliance, immediately issued a statement hailing Calderón’s bill, and not only demanding that the United States not try to dissuade Mexico from passing the bill, as occurred when the previous Mexican President Vicente Fox introduced a similar bill, but pressing the U.S. to follow suit, and legalize, too.

Nadelmann sent Calderón an open letter not long after Calderón took office in December 2006, invoking the ghost of the University of Chicago’s Milton Friedman in demanding that Calderón legalize. Recruiting former Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo to the campaign, Soros’s legalizers set up a “Latin American Commission on Drugs and Democracy” in May 2008, to mobilize the region as shocktroops for worldwide legalization.

In contrast to Calderón, Colombian President Alvaro Uribe is demanding that Congress revoke its 2002 law legalizing “personal doses,” because decriminalization has increased consumption, criminality, and narcotourism.

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## ***Lavrov: We Must Pursue Common Interests Now***

Nations must pursue their “common interest” together in the current crisis, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told *Izvestia* in an interview published Oct. 1. Russia Today TV also quoted Lavrov saying that the issue is “common interest,” not “common values, of which our Western partners so liked to talk in the past few years.” The first priority of these interests,

is “the necessity to protect the world economy from collapse and falling apart as a result of the financial crisis,” Lavrov said. It is very important, he added, that today all countries return to socially oriented economic policies. He claimed that this model, which was born in Europe long ago, was a reaction to the socially oriented economic policy of the Soviet Union. Such a policy was also successful in the United States, he said.

Now, however, that system is failing and it is important to find out why. This can only be done with multilateral efforts, Lavrov said. The United States cannot be excluded from this process, but it must be a participant with the same rights as all other nations, he said, despite being the strongest.

Lavrov said that his main conclusion after his many meetings in New York at the United Nations General Assembly, is that “No one wants to allow the huge problems that we all are facing today, and that require constructive and positive interaction, to become hostage to any kind of crisis.”

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## ***Danish Schiller Institute Testifies in Parliament***

Tom Gillesberg, chairman of the Schiller Institute (SI) in Denmark, testified Oct. 2 before the Parliament’s Political-Economic Committee, on the necessity of junking the debt-strangled current international financial system, and replacing it with Lyndon LaRouche’s fixed-exchange-rate New Bretton Woods system. Seven MPs from four non-government coalition parties were present.

Gillesberg urged Denmark, even though it is not a member of the G-8, to join the Oct. 4 meeting called by French President Nicolas Sarkozy to discuss restructuring of the world financial system.

Directly after the SI testimony, Economy and Business Minister Lene Espersen testified in open committee, with the press in attendance, about the actions she will take to protect Denmark in face of the international and Danish financial and bank crisis.