

Soros and the British Drug Lords: How the Empire Created ‘Decrim’

by Michele Steinberg

Feb. 20—British “drug lord” George Soros, banker to the Queen of England, and financier of a worldwide campaign to legalize mind-destroying drugs, received a hammer-blow from the United Nations International Narcotics Control Board today, when the INCB released its 2008 report. Contrary to the legalization campaign into which Soros has poured millions of dollars over the last years, the INCB took its toughest stand against marijuana in years, saying: “The international community may wish to review the issue of cannabis. Over the years, cannabis has become more potent and is associated with an increasing number of emergency room admissions. Cannabis is often the first illicit drug that young people take. It is frequently called a gateway drug. In spite of all these facts, the use of cannabis is often trivialized and, in some countries, controls over the cultivation, possession and use of cannabis are less strict than for other drugs.”

In the report’s Foreword, INCB President Dr. Hamid Ghodse writes that 2009 is the 100th anniversary of the International Opium Commission in Shanghai, China. “A hundred years ago, substances that are internationally controlled today were unregulated and widely abused,” Dr. Ghodse says. “The consumption of opiates in China alone was estimated to be more than 3,000 tons in morphine equivalent, far in excess of global consumption [today]. In the United States, about 90 per cent of narcotic drugs were used for non-medical purposes. *As drug abuse spread, an increasing number of people became familiar with the wretchedness, misery and evil connected with that affliction*” (emphasis added).

Within hours of the report’s release, Soros’s drug pushers were denouncing the INCB and the United Nations. Soros’s Big Dope, Ethan Nadelmann, head of the Drug Policy Alliance, demanded the “abolition of the INCB,” because of “its shameful commitment to poli-

tics over science ... [and] shocking indifference to the failures and harmful consequences of the global drug prohibition regime.” In lockstep, the British-based legalization front-group Transform, complained that “the INCB and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) posed a greater threat to global well-being than drugs themselves.” The INCB has turned over narcotics production and distribution to “terror groups, paramilitaries, and organized criminals,” Transform wailed.

Soros’s drug lobby wants to turn the clock back 100 years, to the era of the slavery under imperial powers!

Ironically, just one day earlier, Nadelmann had been the featured speaker at the fascist economics center, the Cato Institute, where he proclaimed “optimism” that the prohibition forces are losing ground, especially after Soros’s three bought Latin American former-Presidents had come out in favor of marijuana decriminalization (see article, this section).

Although the Big Dope got a warm welcome at Cato, especially since Soros paid for the event, the world is moving in a different direction—taking steps to shut down narcoterrorism, and making the long-overdue moves against bank secrecy that could shut down drug money laundering.

The following report on drug pusher Soros, is an update of several comprehensive dossiers by *EIR* on Soros’s drug-pushing operations. It is in three parts: how the British oligarchy invented decriminalization; a profile of Soros’s legalization operations in the United States: and, the backlash against “Marijuana, Inc.”

1. How the Brits Invented Decrim

This section is excerpted from an article in the April 1981 issue of *War on Drugs* magazine, “Why British Aristocrats Invented ‘Decrim,’” by Karen Steinherz.



The April 1981 issue of War on Drugs showed how the British invented “decrim,” as a foot in the door for the full legalization of all drugs. The U.S. dope lobby, NORML, employed the methods of the British Empire’s “India model.”

In 1980 the original U.S. “pot lobby,” the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML), traced its policy to legalize dope directly to the British Empire’s “India model,” an elaborate tax system which was imposed on the population of India by the British in 1895, at the height of the era when “the Sun never set on the British Empire.”

For more than a century, the British have tried to block the prohibition against cannabis and opium. But it is clear historically that the international laws against cannabis came into effect because of the desire of

nation-states to make economic and social progress. The countries—like Egypt and China—which fought to outlaw dope, recognized that if there was to be progress in a nation, there could not be rampant drug usage. For the British and Dutch empires in the 19th Century, the reverse was just as true—progress could be blocked if the population in the colonies of the Imperial powers were kept in a stupefied state, and that was precisely their strategy.

In 1893, the British Parliament commissioned what turned into a nine-volume study on “hemp” (marijuana) in India, then a British colony. The India Hemp Commission Report, which took more than two years to compile, was an elaborate justification of an extensive hemp tax system and the continued subjugation of the coolie population by encouraging their use of *ganja*.

In the same way that the British opium trade in China was used to turn China into a drugged nation, incapable of acting in its own interest, the legalization of *ganja* was used to suppress the population of India. The commission report, which was held up by NORML as the model argument for legalization, recommended that cannabis be *legal*.

The testimony of the pro-marijuana witnesses, many of them plantation owners and tax collectors, shows the imperial mindset:

- Mr. Skinner, manager, Gogra Tea company, Tezpur, Darrang, India: “The castes who use it most are Yoosoahé from Gaya . . . bricklayers from Calcutta, and of the jungle caste. . . . I cannot see any harm in the use of the drug. All of those who appear to use it are good, quiet and willing coolies. . . .”
- Mr. Phillips, tea planter: “I advocate no prohibition on *ganja*. . . . If prohibited, the health of our coolies would suffer . . . and of course, discontent would ensue.”

• Deputy Commissioner of the Port Akyar: “It [ganja] is now brought in by the crew of the British India Steam Navigation Company.”

During the first half of the 20th Century, it was an open secret that United Kingdom officials ran the international marijuana and opium traffic. The resulting problems were so acute that two International Opium Conferences, in 1912 and in 1924-25, were held in The Hague, The Netherlands, to force London to adhere to curbs on drug production. In both cases, the British pronounced themselves in favor of “Free Trade” for opium and cannabis.

At the 1912 conference, which declared a ban on opium production, the assembled nations demanded that a study be done of India’s hemp “with the object of regulating its abuses. . . .” But the countries, especially in the Middle East and Africa, whose populations showed the effects of serious abuse of opium and hashish, were blocked by the British Empire.

The Second Opium Conference, in 1925, held under the auspices of the League of Nations, included the countries that had signed the 1912 agreement. This conference focussed primarily on measures to *enforce* the opium ban, and the Egyptian delegation, supported by the Turks, submitted a proposal that prohibition of hashish be included in the list. The British delegation tried to divert the outrage over marijuana and hashish abuse into a proposal for an endless “investigative commission,” like the 1895 India Hemp Commission Report. But this time, the British lost.

A committee of doctors, professors, administrators, and ministers from Belgium, Brazil, Canada, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Switzerland, and the U.S. met to consider complete prohibition of the production and use of cannabis resin. Banning cannabis use was overwhelming voted up—with three absentions: Great Britain, The Netherlands (whose Dutch East India Company ran a Far East dope traffic comparable to the British East India Company), and India, then a British colony.

It was a defeat for the British Empire, and one that they have never accepted. The international law against marijuana, despite frequent challenges by the vestiges of the British ruling circles, has been in effect since the 1925 Convention. In 1961, a Plenipotentiary Conference for the Adoption of a Single Convention on Narcotics Drugs, held under UN auspices, reaffirmed the

ban on cannabis, hashish, and other cannabis extracts. In 1968 again, the UN Narcotics Commission supported banning marijuana, and recommended “that all countries concerned increase their efforts to eradicate the abuse and illicit traffic in cannabis. . . .”

Within months, the British counterattacked, and in 1968, the House of Lords created the very first official commission in the world to explicitly recommend the removal of criminal penalties for marijuana possession and use. An official Committee of the British Parliament, it was chaired by the Baroness Barbara Frances Wootton of Abinger, and bears her name. This Wootton Committee report is the founding document for British agent George Soros’s dope lobby. Lady Wootton, a Deputy Speaker of the House of Lords, may not be well known, but for over 60 years, beginning in 1922 as a disciple of the evil H.G. Wells, Wootton was a key figure in shaping social policies that would turn modern nation-states—especially the United States—into a version of Aldous Huxley’s *Brave New World*.

Wootton joined the board of the Legalize Cannabis Campaign in England, which became the core of an international alliance with the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) in the United States, and a hodge-podge of European groups. Thanks to the Wootton Committee, no longer is the United States known for its “amber waves of grain”; rather, since 1987, marijuana has been the biggest cash crop in America, with an estimated 10,000 metric tons of retail cannabis produced each year as of 2006, according to reports by the United Nations and the U.S. State Department.

2. Soros Model: Legalization by Deceit

The dope lobby that sprang from the loins of Baroness Wootton today belongs to billionaire Nazi-collaborator Soros, who, since 1994, has poured more than \$50 million into elections and resolutions to legalize marijuana in the U.S., along with his co-funders John Sperling of Arizona and Peter Lewis of Ohio. Much more has gone into international efforts.

Soros’s dope organizations have morphed several times from the original Lindesmith Center, to the Drug Policy Foundation, and now the Drug Policy Alliance,



EIRNS/Alan Yue

George Soros's step-by-step plan for full legalization of pot now focusses on promoting the fraud of "medical marijuana." Already, cities like Mendocino, Calif. have legalized pot for "personal use."

which also goes by the name of the Drug Policy Alliance Network. There are a multitude of affiliated organizations and websites that get Soros's money for marijuana legalization, including NORML, the Marijuana Policy Project, *High Times* and *Grow* magazines, stopthedrugwar.com, drugsanddemocracy.com, and Americans for Safe Access, to name a few. There is no fight too small for Soros to adopt in the "step-by-step" approach to legalization. In 1998, when Sperling's medical marijuana law was repealed in Arizona, Soros rushed to reinstate it, proclaiming, "I live in one place, but I consider myself a citizen of the world. I have foundations in 30 countries. . . ."

Now Soros's front groups are on a campaign to prevent the Obama Administration from waging an effective drug eradication program using *non-lethal* and *economic development* means, along the lines described by Lyndon LaRouche.

Soros's drug apparatus opposed Obama's appointment of Attorney General Eric Holder, who had led a vigorous, successful campaign in the 1990s to stop "de facto" drug legalization, when he was U.S. Attorney in Washington, D.C.—although they did not dare to say this openly. Instead, the drug apparatus is ramping up for a barrage of resolutions, referenda, and events, to create the myth that there is a mass movement demanding drug legalization. Nothing can be further from the

truth. Without Soros's millions, the referenda would fail miserably.

Even Nadelmann has admitted this. In October 1999, Nadelmann appeared at the Cato Institute, where one of the main speakers, then New Mexico Gov. Gary Johnson, a "new Republican," came out with guns blazing for legalization: "I am talking about legalization, not decriminalization," boasted Johnson. The drug trade in America is worth about \$400 billion—"larger than the car industry."

Nadelmann countered this "legalization" machismo, warning that such

open talk had failed over two decades. Instead, the road to legalization is by deceit: New terms were needed, such as "harm reduction" and the "medical benefits" of marijuana. Nadelmann admonished hard-core dopers on the left and the right that although these were just "baby steps," *this* would be the way to success.

Pointing to the 1996 California law, Proposition 215, known as the "Compassionate Use Act of 1996," Nadelmann said this was the *first statewide medical marijuana voter initiative ever adopted in the United States*, and guaranteed that there would be greater achievements to come. Nadelmann was right—until now. From 1999 until Nov. 4, 2008, Soros's dopers won almost all of the medical marijuana initiatives. By 2008, more than 14 states had passed medical decriminalization laws, and about 11 states had some form of decriminalization. The campaign had cost more than \$50 million (if not hundreds of millions), mostly from Soros.

Then, in 2008, for the first time in a decade, the dope lobby *lost* in California. Proposition 5, a plan to replace jail time for drug abusers with rehabilitation program time, got only 40.6% of the vote. Dope pushers had spent close to \$10 million on the initiative, including \$1.4 from Soros and \$400,000 from the Drug Policy Alliance. Making matters worse (for Soros), the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has begun a success-

ful campaign to eradicate marijuana production, and seize the drugs and assets from marijuana “dispensaries” that been set up to sell medical marijuana.

Now the Soros forces are trying to recoup. On Feb. 19, 2009, Nadelmann returned to the Cato Institute to launch a legalization road show that plans to hit 11 U.S. cities in the next month, to try to prevent the Obama Presidency from wiping out drugs. After the California defeat, their strategy will be to bring pro-dope resolutions and laws to city councils and small elected bodies. But already one such effort in El Paso, Texas, was overturned.

3. Welcome to ‘Marijuana, Inc.’

In 1999, Gen. Barry McCaffrey, the drug czar under President Bill Clinton, who is hated by the Soros forces, declared that the United States had become a drug producer. Don’t blame Peru, Colombia or other foreign countries, said McCaffrey; we have the problem here and the means to solve it. McCaffrey understands the perils of drug legalization, and has again joined the fight against Soros’s designs (see *EIR*, Jan. 16, 2009).

Exactly how Soros’s step-by-step plan for full legalization of marijuana production, distribution, and use worked, was revealed by CNBC-TV in a documentary, “Marijuana, Inc.” which began airing in January 2009. But although the documentary painted a horrific picture of middle school children reeking of pot that is grown and smoked by their parents, and of the rising violence from traffickers in Mendocino County, California, it *never once* mentions Soros or the existence of a dope lobby.

Mendocino County is part of California’s “Emerald Triangle,” where marijuana growing has been the major industry since about 1998. But, after “medical marijuana,” the drug production became bigger—and more insane.

It goes like this: Patients obtain a “medical marijuana” plastic card from a physician for conditions ranging from “anxiety” to terminal cancer; various localities pass ordinances that allow residents to grow marijuana for “personal use,” but this turns into a major black market business; “clinics” or “dispensaries” open up, where “patients” buy their marijuana and enjoy their “treatment” on premises.

In economically dead Mendocino County, the marijuana-growing industry brings in about \$1.5 billion a

year (and this is probably an underestimate), and California supplies about one half of the 10,000 metric tons of marijuana produced in the United States.

The most insane aspect of this is that, under *local laws*, about one third of California’s dope production is *legal!* In Mendocino, until recently, a home could have 25 mature marijuana plants on its land. These plants are 8-10 feet tall, and produce about 2 pounds of high-grade marijuana each. With potent marijuana selling for up to \$5,000, a “little garden” can gross \$200-250,000 in retail sales. These numbers were gleefully explained by Eric Sligh, editor and publisher of *Grow* magazine. But, to the dismay of the legalizers, in the last year, county officials voted to reduce the number of plants to only 6, and added other restrictions. Crime and violence have come to Mendocino, and the community as well as law enforcement, are striking back.

Police have uncovered how multiple houses were bought by major growers/distributors, who populate them with family members to create virtual “plantations” of legal marijuana. Some houses are nothing but indoor greenhouses filled with sophisticated lighting, fertilizers, and growing solutions.

Another part of the dope empire is the “dispensary,” such as the Blue Sky Cafe in Oakland, run by Richard Lee, who spent a lot of time in Amsterdam, where dope cafes are legal. Lee boasted that his cafe has a front section where parents can leave their kids with cafe-provided babysitters, while they shop in the back for up to 20 varieties of high-potency pot. Lee says he pays both state sales tax and Federal income tax. But, he warns, this is all illegal under Federal law, and can be shut down at any time.

Even bigger are the “plantations” hidden deep in the forests and mountains of public lands and national parks, run and populated by the Mexican cartels and their U.S. partners. The cartels bring in Mexican marijuana farmers as virtual slaves, to live in the wilderness, nursing the marijuana farms, setting up long-distance irrigation systems from a water source to a sunny clearing. Many of the Mexicans are under threat that their children or families will be killed if they try to escape.

This is just a snapshot of America’s domestic dope business. But as the clear picture of the danger of narco-terrorism now emerges, and as the international community tires of the 100 years of the British Empire’s opium war against the rest of the world, time may be running out for George Soros.