

The Queen Does Push Drugs

Dean Andromidas reports from Vienna on the 52nd session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotics Drugs. Part 1 of 2.

VIENNA, March 13—Her Royal Majesty's British Empire has declared war on the War on Drugs. British Prime Minister Gordon Brown is fully mobilized, with British government officials working openly hand and glove with their top agent, the megaspeculator and foremost promoter of drug legalization, George Soros. If there were any doubts about this, one only had to attend the 52nd session of the UN Commission on Narcotics Drugs (CND), March 11-20.

This was not a forum where drug legalization is a popular issue, or where the likes of Soros would be welcomed. Quite the contrary: The CND is the policy-setting body of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the UN's drug and crime fighting arm, backed by the vast majority of the UN member-states. This year's conference included a two-day High Level Segment where heads of state and ministers reviewed progress on the struggle against drugs since the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on drugs in 1998 (UNGASS).

To be sure, the British did not succeed in deterring the nations present from their commitment to "shared responsibility" to cooperate to fight the scourge of drugs. The conference approved a Political Declaration as well as an Action Plan, committing the nations to redouble their efforts to succeed, where success fell short of the commitment to achieve the "Drug-Free World" outlined in the 1998 UNGASS declaration. The conference also paid tribute to the centenary of China and United States convening the Shanghai International Opium Commission in 1909, which outlawed the production and trading of opium.



EIRNS/Claudio Celani

The Dope Pusher

This article will deal with the British activities to undermine the conference. A follow-up article will deal with the very real commitment of the vast majority of the nations attending to redouble their anti-drug efforts.

For the British, sabotaging the War on Drugs has long been a strategic issue, since the narcotics trade has stood at the center of the British Empire's strategic doctrine for over 200 years—most dramatically in the 19th-Century Opium Wars against China. The

British Opium War of the 21st Century targets the four powers—the United States, Russia, China, and India—that Lyndon LaRouche has defined as crucial to rescuing the world from the current financial and economic crisis, the worst in over half a millennium. All four countries are gravely threatened by the massive Afghanistan-centered heroin trade. Russia, China, and India are all close neighbors of Afghanistan, and the United States is deeply involved militarily and is seeking an exit strategy.

On the eve of the Vienna conference, the director of the Russian Federal Drug Control Service, Viktor Ivanov, told a Moscow press conference, "In recent years, Russia has not just become massively hooked on Afghan opiates, it has also become the world's absolute leader in the opiate trade and the number one heroin consumer. Drug trafficking has become a key negative factor for demography and a blow to our nation's gene pool ... [and] a challenge to Russia's civilization." Russia has up to 2.5 million drug addicts (out of a population of some 140 million), most of them aged between 18 and 39.

The United States is also targeted directly through



EIRNS/Dean Andromidas

The UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs meets in Vienna. Executive Director of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime Antonio Maria Costa (left) emphasized that drug money has become the principal source of liquidity in the global banking system.

its border with Mexico, as violent drug gangs have turned both sides of the border into a “no man’s land” of this drug war.

The other side of Britain’s new opium war is control of the massive financial resources that end up in British-controlled financial centers, including the City of London itself, and offshore banking centers in the Caribbean. UNODC Director General Antonio Maria Costa, in answer to a question from *EIR* at his press conference, reiterated in detail an earlier statement on how drug money is not only the most liquid asset in the current financial crisis, but bankers “are not being as careful as they should be,” and are eagerly grabbing the dirty cash and laundering it through the collapsing banking system.

The British are acting now because they know that the Obama Administration has to take strong action against the drug trade at all levels: in Afghanistan to withdraw its troops; along the Mexican border to protect its citizens; and in the financial sector to reintroduce regulation of the system. Delegates at the conference told *EIR* that they expect very strong support from the Obama Administration in their fight against drugs.

Some considerable successes in the War on Drugs were revealed at the conference, which will be detailed in our next installment.

Foot Soldiers for the Queen

The plethora of No Good Organizations (NGOs) financed by Soros form the regiments for the Queen’s Opium War of the 21st Century. They were deployed in full force in Vienna, running harassment attacks in and around the conference. Several were deployed to harass the delegates as they entered the conference center. The groups include the Hungarian Civil Liberties Union,

the Coalition for Just and Effective Drug Policies, Students for Sensible Drug Policy, and the International Network of People Who Use Drugs. The Hungarian Civil Liberties Union received at least \$100,000 from Soros.

But unlike any previous conference, this year, some of these groups became official members of the British delegation and spoke in the name of the British government. While members of the press could monitor the Conference Plenum, they were not allowed to attend the round table meetings on various aspects of the drug fight. *EIR* learned from a participant in the round table on Emerging Challenges and New Trends and Patterns that the British government delegation gave the floor to the International Network of People Who Use Drugs (INDUP), for the full length of time allotted to the British government, to state its official position! The INDUP issued a statement after the meeting, thanking the U.K. government for allowing it to be part of the delegation, and attacking the UN’s drug-control program, because “the coordination of drug policy remains exclusive to Governments of Member States only.”

EIR challenged a representative of the group, which is demanding that “the voice of drug users” be brought into determining UN narcotics policy, saying that it is a Soros-financed front to push legalization and protect the drug trade. “No!” he protested. “We are financed directly by the British government!” While no doubt true, the INPUD was founded as an initiative of the International Harm Reduction Association, which is directly financed by Soros. As for drug legalization, this same representative could be seen with a gaggle of foot soldiers from other Soros-financed NGOs, distributing for free, the March 7-13 issue of *The Economist*, whose cover story calls for drug legalization. One wonders



EIRNS/Dean Andromidas



EIRNS/Dean Andromidas

George Soros's foot soldiers were in evidence in and around the conference, including as official members of the British government delegation. Here, pro-drug-legalizers picket. Most nations strongly rejected their message.

who was paying for the thousands they distributed.

One source who attended the workshop told *EIR* that he simply could not believe what was going on. "Listen," he said, "this guy Soros is paying the airline tickets for all these people to be here," so that they can push drug legalization and so-called harm reduction. He was shocked at how openly the British were pushing the issue.

Other Soros-financed, British-based fronts were allowed to attend other workshops, including the Beckley Foundation, which we will deal with below, and the International Harm Reduction Association. Their presence could only be explained by the demand of one or more governments—the British or members of the European Union—to allow for their participation.

Harm Reduction for Dope Pushers

Among the anti-drug fighters at the conference, Soros is clearly identified as the financier of the legalizations drive, including using such tactics as a call for "harm reduction." Even the UNODC uniformed security police were aware that Soros was an enemy of the fight.

While not attacking Soros by name, Costa, in his powerful plenum keynote, entitled "Drug Crime a Threat to Development and Security," attacked the legalizers, declaring, "Drugs are not harmful because

they are controlled; they are controlled because they are harmful," and "a policy change is needed against crime, not in favor of drugs."

As for the sophistry around the issue of "harm reduction," Costa, on a previous occasion, had said that "the harm reduction syllabus must start with A: A for abstinence." He argued, "Would you tell an obese friend: 'Here, have some more candy and then get an insulin shot'? Of course not."

For Soros, the idea of harm reduction is sell the candy, and then, the insulin shot, and make a profit from it.

Soros received a body blow on this issue at the conference, and Her Majesty was not pleased. The British and the European Union lost the fight to get the notion of "harm reduction" played up big in the Political Declaration. Thanks to resistance led by the United States, Russia, Japan, and the majority of the other member-states, it was nowhere to be found. The resistance reflected not just the moral repugnance of the concept, but also knowledge that any inclusion of such a clause would be exploited by Soros and his legalization campaign.

While the EU representative criticized the fact that harm reduction was not in the declaration, the British delegate made the issue the main point of his plenum speech, demanding that his protest be clearly stated in the minutes of the conference. He was seconded by the

delegates from Germany and ultra-liberal Switzerland.

The de facto endorsement of Soros by the EU is especially criminal, since Europe has become the principal growth market for illicit drugs. Afghan heroin does not find its way to the U.S. market, but to Europe. Mexican Prosecutor General Eduardo Madina Mora told a press conference that the cocaine barons have targeted Europe to become their primary market, through the new African transshipment corridor.

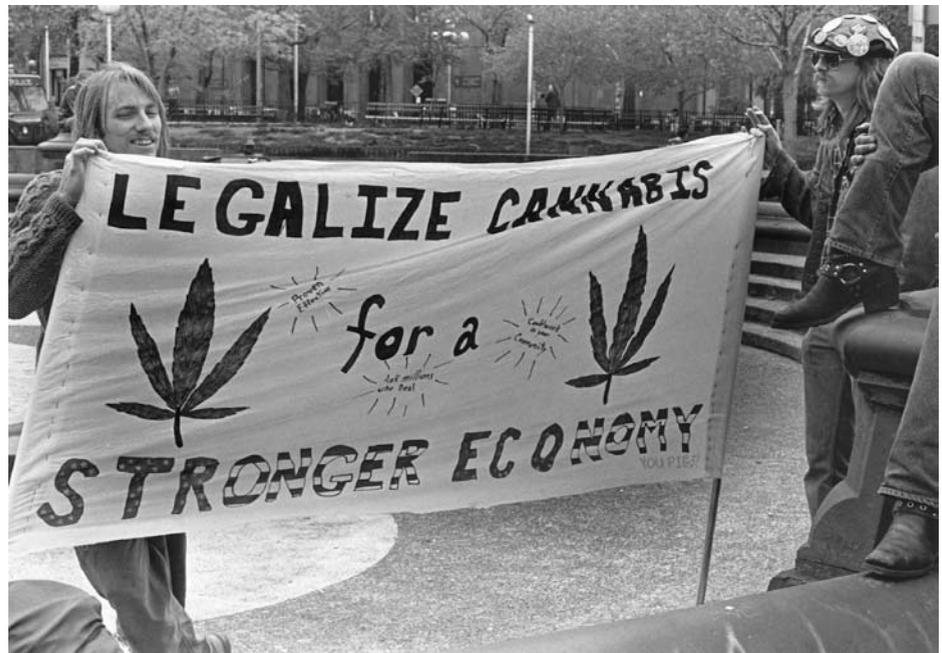
In contrast to the EU, Italian delegate Carlo Giovanardi, Under Secretary of State for Drug Policy, took a hard line, declaring that all narcotic drug use is illegal, and addicts have to be cured of their dependency on this “absurd habit.”

Aging Potheads

Soros’s foot soldiers were able to penetrate the “side events,” which were forums involving mostly NGOs, but had no direct connection to the conference itself. Of the six side events, Soros front groups dominated two of them.

One was entitled “A New Role for Law Enforcement,” organized by the British-based Drug Scope and the International Drug Policy Consortium, one of Soros’s umbrella organizations, which includes tens of other organizations, many of them on the Soros dole. The view of the speakers, a former British law enforcement official, and a former RAND Corporation drug policy “expert” from the United States, was that rather than enforce the law, police should promote—what else?—harm reduction.

Another side event was run by the Beckley Foundation, led by Amanda Fielding, Lady Neidpath, a member of the House of Lords. The “Report of the Beckley Foundation Global Cannabis Commission” was presented as a call for legalization of cannabis. Those attending, no more than a dozen people, were mostly journalists, NGO members, and a couple of Boomer potheads from California.



EIRNS/Stuart Lewis

“Pothead Boomers” from an earlier generation: A rally for marijuana legalization in New York’s Washington Square Park, May 2, 1981.

Commission member Jeremy Sare, a former British Home Office official, introduced the report as an attempt to “start a debate where there is no debate” on legalization. He announced that the report will soon be released by a leading publisher, to maximize its international circulation. While admitting it will be an uphill struggle, Lady Neidpath mysteriously said that “behind closed doors,” officials of governments around the world have expressed serious interest. When asked by *EIR* whether Britain was one of those, she declined to confirm or deny, because of the “political sensitivity” of the issue. When pressed by *EIR* to reveal which governments supported legalization, commissioner Prof. Robin Room of the University of Melbourne blurted out that the only way there will be any change in the anti-cannabis conventions is if it comes from the United States. He then looked at the two “lady Boomer potheads” from California, and said, “That’s why the legalization debate in California is so important.”

On one level, the Soros assault on the conference was no more serious than annoying horse flies, since most of those in attendance, except for the British and the EU, were fully committed to fight drug legalization. Nonetheless, it demonstrated the British determination, through the media and through the power of Soros’s money, to break the back of the War on Drugs.