

## EIR Feature

# State Department plots with Nazis to destroy Panama

by Valerie Rush

In our March 7 issue, *EIR* charged that Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) and the U.S. State Department had joined forces to bring to power a Nazi-run opposition movement in Panama, in the name of “democracy” and “human rights.” We presented preliminary evidence, then in hand, that Arnulfo Arias Madrid, leader of the State Department-backed “democratic opposition” in Panama, was a bona-fide Nazi who had conspired with the Hitler regime to foment a Nazi movement in Ibero-America against the United States.

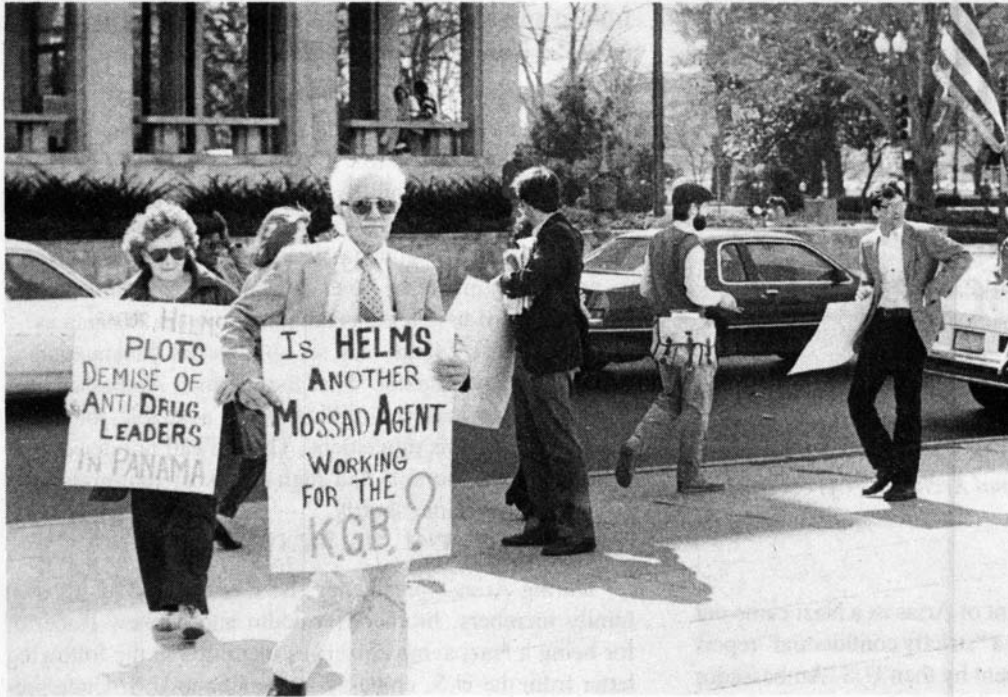
Since our initial report, the plot has advanced on several fronts, making immediate action by U.S. and Ibero-American patriots more vital than ever.

For those of our elected representatives who claim they “didn’t know,” we point out that the full story on Arias’s Nazi history—from his 1937 meeting with Hitler, from which he reportedly emerged “a Nazi convert body and soul,” to his post-presidency travels throughout Ibero-America to foment anti-American revolutions—has been sitting all this time in the National Archives in Washington, D.C., from which we have drawn our documentation.

While the U.S. government’s files—despite the disappearance of key missing documents—provide incontrovertible evidence of Arias’s Nazi commitment, he is but one of a circle of fascists with whom Jesse Helms and the State Department have made common cause, in their zeal to overthrow the government of Panama:

- **Nicolás Ardito Barletta**, former World Bank vice-president and ex-President of Panama, is the son of a Nazi. Ardito Barletta the father was the chief of Arias’s secret police force, which was reportedly deployed to massacre resident Jewish families in Panama; he was linked to the same drugs-and-gambling mob which ran Panama with Arias; and, as mayor of Panama, he protected Japanese and German spies who were conducting surveillance of the Panama Canal, preparatory to planned war-time bombing raids on that strategic chokepoint of the Western Hemisphere. Ardito Barletta the son, of course, drafted and pushed through the banking legislation which turned Panama into a “hot money” haven of the international narcotics mafia.

- **Hugo Spadafora**, the dead terrorist whom Helms and the State Department have hailed as an “insistent critic” of the “dictatorship” in Panama, was not only



NSIPS/Leo Scanlon

*The National Democratic Policy Committee demonstrates outside Senator Helms's hearings, which brought in a parade of terrorist sympathizers and liberal economists to demand that the United States destabilize Panama, like it did the Philippines.*

financed and armed by Hitler-admirer Muammar Qaddafi of Libya, for the overthrow of several governments, among them that of Guatemala, but was hired by Arias himself in 1969 to wage terrorist warfare against the Torrijos government in Panama.

The efforts of the State Department to overthrow the Panama government are now being pressed on two fronts.

First, the U.S. Senate hearings on Panama, sponsored by Senator Helms, began March 10 with the announcement that this was just the first in a series of hearings to take up the "problem of restoring stability" in Panama. Helms added that U.S. administration witnesses, including Assistant Secretary of State Elliott Abrams, spokesmen for the Drug Enforcement Administration, and members of the Bureau of Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs, have agreed to testify at hearings planned for late March or early April.

Using the halls of the U.S. Senate as their arena, Panamanian "opposition" witnesses called for a terrorist insurgency against the government of Panama, a strategically key ally of the United States, and for the imposition of the old Nazi Arias as President of that country. Equally dangerous as a President Arnulfo Arias, would be Arnulfo's vice presidential candidate in the last elections (and nephew!), Ricardo Arias Calderón, head of the Christian Democracy and prominent opposition leader.

It became clear throughout the Helms hearings that the next phase of the destabilization of Panama will be run under the hypocritical cover of fighting "narco-terrorism," with special targeting of Panamanian Defense Forces head Gen. Manuel Noriega, for allegedly forcing Barletta from power when the President tried to impose an International Monetary

Fund dictatorship on the country. The hypocrisy of this attack on Noriega is especially unconscionable given whom Helms and the State Department have chosen to embrace in their quest for "a democratic solution" for Panama.

The second destabilization front is to use economic chaos to drive a population still standing behind President Eric Delvalle straight into the arms of the Nazis. With Panama constitutionally prohibited from printing its own currency, (the U.S. dollar is legal tender in Panama), the Delvalle government has been forced to accept World Bank austerity conditionalities, designed to destroy industry and break the labor movement and turn Panama into a Hong Kong-styled sweat shop, along the lines of the recommendations of Henry Kissinger's commission on Central America.

But the population is not turning to the Nazi-led opposition. A nationwide strike to protest the World Bank's blackmail is underway, gathering strength with each new day. In an unprecedented development, the nation's industrialists, with as much to lose as labor from the austerity regimen being rammed down their throats, have joined forces with the trade unions to send a message to Delvalle that acquiescence to the World Bank will not be tolerated.

With the example of the Philippines still fresh in its memory, the Panamanian government has few options to choose from. Should it accede to the World Bank's austerity dictates, there will be social explosions and Panama will become ungovernable. Its other choice is to join the strategy of Peruvian President Alan García, when he arrives in Panama March 31, and move ahead with the Ibero-American debtors' summit meeting to discuss creating a new international economic order.