

Dukakis team helped cover up for Bush

San Diego lawyer Edgar Paul Boyko was a guest together with EIR's Carlos Wesley on the talk show Radio Free America with host Anthony J. Hilder on Dec 28. What follows are portions of the transcript, printed with the kind permission of Radio Free America.

This occurred . . . in the fall of 1988, prior to the presidential election. I was contacted by a person who claimed to be a middleman for the Noriega entourage, and this was shortly after General Noriega had been indicted by a grand jury in Florida on drug charges. I was told that the Noriega people were interested in talking to me about representing the general. I said I don't know why they would; they have capable lawyers in Florida, and I don't particularly like to go there to practice anyway.

They said, "No, no we're not interested in your representing him on this criminal case. We're interested in you representing him in his efforts to talk to a subcommittee of the

United States Senate headed by Senator Kerry of Massachusetts, and he would like to go before them and disclose secret information that he has about the role of the CIA, the role of George Bush, the role of the Reagan administration, in importing large amounts of illegal drugs into the United States through certain entry points along the border, notably El Paso, Texas, and also into California, partly by air, partly by surface." I was given details of the dates and places of those shipments and the particular days in which the CIA arranged to divert the DEA and Customs surveillance, and the arrangement supposedly was that the cash realized from the sale of these drugs in the United States would be returned to Panama and there would be laundered through Panamanian banks, and a portion of it would go to the Contras.

Noriega supposedly was privy to all this. It was not clear to me whether he was supposed to be partner in this, or simply had knowledge of it, and he wanted to do all this, in return for a safe conduct and for immunity. . . .

I said yes, I would be interested in that, and yes, I had the kind of connections in Washington that would make it possible for me to explore that. And I was then contacted by one of his military aides, . . . and he said that they were interested and would I be standing by for a call from General Noriega himself. A call did come through. . . . And the next thing, the general was on the phone. . . .

Panama's democratic drug pushers

The leading "opposition" paper in Panama, *La Prensa*, was reopened the second week of January with the full blessing of the U.S. government and the U.S. military. Its director, Roberto Eisenmann, Jr., was simultaneously the subject of an adulatory full-length feature in the "Style" section of Katharine Graham's *Washington Post* on Jan. 9. Presented to the American public as a principled democrat and dedicated patriot who suffered untold persecution at the hands of alleged "sex pervert" and "torturer" Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega, Eisenmann appears to be the Bush administration's candidate of choice to replace a temporary Guillermo Endara in the Panamanian presidency—when the moment is ripe.

The real "Bobby" Eisenmann is a drug trafficker, as the following excerpt from an April 1987 *EIR* Special Report entitled "Project Democracy: The Parallel Government Behind the Iran-Contra Affair," demonstrates:

"The *La Prensa* group—publisher, editors, and their

closest business and political associates—worked together as a drug-trafficking ring for nearly ten years—a fact that is a matter of record in U.S. courts and well known to U.S. law enforcement officials. . . .

"The drug ring in which the *La Prensa* group was involved was the 'Fernández syndicate,' a group of Cuban-Americans and Panamanians which admitted to smuggling at least 1.5 million pounds of marijuana from Colombia into the United States between 1977 and 1981. The syndicate was indicted on Dec. 12, 1984 by a Florida grand jury," charged with drug trafficking, distribution, and laundering of drug proceeds.

"The syndicate owned shares in Eisenmann's Dadeland Bank of Miami . . . [which] was used by the syndicate as a storage point for the group's drug profits, before the dirty dollars were smuggled down to Panama to be 'laundered.' *Robles y Robles*, a law firm run by *La Prensa's* founding editor Winston Robles, advised the drug ring, and served as go-between between the Fernández group and the Gaviria gang in Colombia, members of the group admitted."

Eisenmann's co-owners of the drug-laundering Dadeland Bank were none other than "Vice President" of Panama Guillermo Ford and "Panamanian Ambassador" to the United States, Carlos Rodríguez.

One of his aides came on later, and said, we will send you a fax inviting you to come down here. . . . I responded and I said, okay, number one, I do not recommend that the general come to the United States on any kind of safe-conduct because I do not think that that word will be kept. My suggestion was that if he wanted to I could try to arrange for the committee to go to a neutral place, perhaps Costa Rica, and if he would appear there with sufficient protection so that his safety could be assured, and he would do all this. . . .

After speaking with the general briefly and exchanging faxes, I submitted a proposal. . . . I said I would like to arrange for a meeting on neutral ground in Costa Rica and try to persuade the Senate Committee to go there and give General Noriega a hearing. . . . In response to his direct invitation, I said yes, I will come to Panama but I would like to bring down a team of people. One of them would be a security person, because I was warned that there was considerable personal risk involved in going down there, which seemed pretty logical. I wanted a translator, a good interpreter, since I do not speak Spanish, and I wanted a bilingual attorney, who is associated with me, to come with me. . . . And I proposed a certain amount of money that it would take to bring this down.

I then received a phone call from a Greek gentleman, . . . an associate of General Noriega's. . . . He said "Well, we don't want to spend the amount of money here, we'll send you a plane ticket." And I said, "Thank you, I don't go to Panama and stick my neck out for a plane ticket. . . ."

. . . So more faxes went back and forth, and the next thing I knew I received another call, and a fax saying "We have changed our mind, we don't need your services any more. We have made a deal with Reagan-Bush, that President Reagan and his successor [presumably George Bush] will take the pressure off General Noriega and there will be no more problems between them and there is no need to do anything." And I said: "If General Noriega buys this, he is a real fool, because obviously, right now, Bush needs him, because Bush does not want, on the eve of the election, a disclosure of his role—which I was assured was a real one—in arranging, orchestrating, and directing this two-way drug and money traffic between Panama, Colombia, and the United States. Now it would be devastating to him. Once he is safely elected, what reason does he have to keep his word?"

. . . I thought this was very valuable information. And while I was certainly not an admirer of Gov. Michael Dukakis, I thought, well, the election is coming up, and these people ought to have access to this information. So I called Governor Dukakis's man in San Diego, named Larry Lawrence . . . and I told him the story. And he said, I will immediately put you in touch with the Dukakis headquarters. About an hour later I received a call from some arrogant woman in Boston . . . and she said, "We don't want to have anything to do with this." And I said, "Well, go ahead. Lose the elections. See if I give a darn." And that was the end.

Syrian drug-traffic connection indicted

by Thierry Lalevée

A little-noted trial which ended on Jan. 5 in the western French city of Brest has resulted in the conviction of two agents of the Syrian government, Mohammed Partoussi and Ahmed Ali, on drug trafficking charges, and their sentencing to eight years in jail and a fine of 96 million French francs. This alone might give many cause to reconsider the backing which the Bush administration has given to Syria in its effort to crush the sovereign nation of Lebanon. But the convictions themselves are of minor importance compared to what was revealed at the trial, and introduced into the court record on the initiative of Judge Fahet. Namely, for the first time ever in any court, the role of the Syrian government in international drug trafficking, as repeatedly exposed in this publication, and the activities of its intelligence agents, were tried, convicted, and sentenced.

As noted by reporters, it was the first time ever that a French judge decided to incorporate into the legal record of the prosecution, a thick intelligence report written by a non-French intelligence agency, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). The report was nothing less than a thorough compilation, detailing how the Syrian government has been involved in protecting, growing, and exporting hashish and heroin out of the Lebanese Bekaa Valley, since as early as 1976.

The bare facts of the case are as follows: On Nov. 11, 1988, French customs officials seized the ship *Cleopatra Sky*, arresting Partoussi, Ali, and seven other crewmen of Syrian, Egyptian, and other nationalities. Aboard the ship they found a mere 25 kilograms of marijuana. Yet, the seizure was not at random, but was done on the initiative of British customs which, it was revealed later, had an informant in the network, one Paul Cryne. An investigation showed that *Cleopatra Sky*, owned by a Lebanese-Syrian named "Hijazi," had left the northern Lebanese port of Tripoli in mid-October with no less than four tons of hashish. Its meeting and delivery point was just off the coast of the British port of Newcastle, where it had arrived on Nov. 6. Delays in the delivery of the drugs to local British mobsters forced the crew to throw the Hashish overboard in order to avoid being seized by British customs, only to be caught in France.

A year-long investigation involving the cooperation of British and French police officials and repeated trips to Spain, Cyprus, and the Middle East brought some highly interesting evidence to light. First, it was proven that the four tons of