

How will Clinton respond to drug lobby offensive?

by Jeffrey Steinberg

Executive Intelligence Review has learned that for the past two years, derivatives speculator George Soros has been pouring millions of dollars into the Drug Policy Foundation (DPF), the pro-drug legalization lobby. In part through the largesse of the Soros Foundation, the drug lobby has been able to expand its international operations over the past year, while keeping steady pressure on the Clinton administration to make good on what the dopers had hoped would be a "benign neglect" attitude toward the War on Drugs on the part of the White House.

The involvement of Soros, the international speculator who has been in the forefront of efforts to peddle shock therapy inside the former communist bloc, in the dope legalization effort underscores the close ties between Dope, Inc. and the free traders. Soros's name first arose in connection to the drug lobby over a year ago when his brother and business partner took out an ad in the *New York Times* assailing the Peruvian government's military crackdown on the narco-terrorist Shining Path. In the past, DPF's main funder had been Chicago commodities speculator Richard Dennis. Dennis continues to be a patron of the group, providing \$100,000 a year for a "Drugpeace Award" which is presented at an annual convention in Washington, D.C.

Last November, that award was presented to San Francisco Mayor and former Police Chief Frank Jordan. Just weeks before the award was given, Mayor Jordan's District Attorney Arlo Smith had shut down a year-long criminal probe of spying and theft of classified documents by officials of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL), another organization with strong ties to the international dope lobby. No formal link has been established between the San Francisco DA's whitewashing of the ADL spying and Jordan's receipt of the \$100,000 cash prize, but the mayor's appearance

at the drug lobby fête raised eyebrows back home among law enforcement and prosecutors who were shocked to discover in February 1993 that Jordan had participated in an all-expense-paid ADL junket to Israel several years earlier, and who were enraged at the city's dropping the ball on the ADL criminal probe.

Targeting the mayors

The highlighting of Mayor Jordan's role in opposing an all-out war on drugs (he administers one of the country's biggest needle exchange programs, which sanctions hardcore drug abuse under the guise of "fighting AIDS") is an integral part of the drug lobby's international gameplan. Since 1990, when Baltimore's Mayor Kurt Schmoke emerged as one of the leading pro-dope lobbyists, the Drug Policy Foundation has been building an international network of local government officials whose frustration at the failures of national and international anti-drug efforts has driven them into the grips of the legalizers.

Last Nov. 16-17, Mayor Schmoke hosted the First Conference of the International Network of Cities on Drug Policy. The event was not only co-sponsored by the DPF (whose board includes Schmoke), but took place the two days preceding the start of the DPF's convention in Washington. At the Baltimore event, city officials from the United States, Europe, Australia, and Ibero-America signed on to the dope lobby's agenda, issuing a declaration that stated:

"The war on drugs has failed to reduce drug-related problems in the world's major cities. . . . Cities must be the laboratories of changes in drug policy, because national governments worldwide are still dominated by advocates of continuing and expanding drug prohibition."

The Baltimore event was dominated by speakers from

western Europe, who have been far more successful than their American collaborators in implementing the drug legalization agenda. Among the speakers were Rome City Council member Vanna Barenghi and Frankfurt, Germany, Alderman Margarethe Nimsch.

Beginning in November 1990, local officials from a number of European cities launched a campaign to force their national governments to abandon any effective anti-drug policy. At the First Conference of European Cities at the Center of the Illegal Trade in Drugs, held in Frankfurt, officials from Amsterdam, Frankfurt, Hamburg, and Zurich signed what became known as "The Frankfurt Resolution," which pronounced the war on drugs finished and advocated several legalization schemes.

The Frankfurt Resolution began: "We have ascertained that the attempt to eliminate both the supply and the consumption of drugs in our society has failed. The demand for drugs persists to this day, despite all educational efforts, and all the signs indicate that we shall have to continue to live with the existence of drugs and drug users in the future." Arguing that the majority of drug users live in major urban centers, the signers effectively declared autonomy from their national governments and vowed to legalize drugs in the major cities of Europe. As of August 1993, officials from 11 additional European cities had signed onto the resolution, including representatives from Rotterdam, Hanover, Basel, and Zagreb.

One of the founders of the group, which now is known as European Cities on Drug Policy (ECDP), Werner Schneider, spent three months touring the United States last autumn drumming up support for the Baltimore conference. Schneider is the drug policy coordinator for the City of Frankfurt.

From bad to worse

Despite all the "anti-prohibition" propaganda, the European experiment with drug legalization has so far flopped, a fact that even the dope lobbyists have been forced to concede. Their solution, however, is to plunge even deeper into legalization. Zurich, Switzerland, one of the first cities to adopt the decriminalization agenda, was turned into a magnet for addicts. Beginning in 1987, Zurich had designated a park in the center of the city, Platzspitz, as a drug use area, in the false hope that this would curb drug trafficking and use in other parts of the city. By 1992, the park had been dubbed "needle park" because it had become a hard drug-trafficking center for addicts from every part of the continent. Protests forced the city to shut the park after police were able to demonstrate that over 80% of the addicts had come to Zurich from other cities.

Now, however, under pressure from the same dope lobbyists, the Swiss government has signed on to a three-year project that began late last year, in which the national government is distributing hard drugs to addicts in eight cities. The program is being run by a World Health Organization psychiatrist. It includes the manufacturing and distribution

of "smokable" forms of cocaine—i.e., crack! The WHO shrink, Dr. Ambros Uchtenhagen, makes no bones about the fact that the Swiss government effort is, in part, a "Clockwork Orange" experiment aimed at gathering clinical data on what he termed "cocaine psychosis."

Another foot in another door

The Baltimore conference also marked the first public endorsement of drug legalization by Colombia's Attorney General Gustavo de Greiff Restrepo. Speaking at a panel on Latin American drug policy on Nov. 16, 1993, De Greiff said that "the war on drugs is a lost battle. It has been fought on the international level and it has failed. . . . The profits are so large that it is a delusion to think that jailing or killing major traffickers will result in [a smaller amount of] drugs in the market. . . . In the end, the only solution is legalization, with regulations to control the market."

De Greiff's remarks are yet another example of the fallout of the Bush administration's phony War on Drugs. As *EIR* first reported in 1989, drug lobby strategists were fully aware of the hypocrisy of George Bush's professed commitment to fight a drug war. Particularly following the December 1989 U.S. invasion of Panama and overthrow of the Noriega government, all serious drug fighters in the hemisphere knew that the United States was no longer serious about curbing the international drug flow. The dope lobby knew and publicly boasted that Bush's big-budget, big-propaganda effort would help win new converts to the legalization cause, and they adopted a slick Madison Avenue approach.

The dope peddlers also knew that the mid-1980s crack cocaine boom in America's urban centers, which was part of a top-down strategy devised by Dope, Inc. to turn urban America into a living hell dominated by gang violence, would also create a groundswell of protest against the perpetuation of the government's drug strategy. At a series of Drug Policy Foundation conferences throughout the Bush era, DPF leaders cautioned against harsh rhetoric and intransigent demands, adopting instead such doublespeak formulations as "harm reduction," and "drug reform."

Free market honchos such as the Hoover Institution's Dr. Milton Friedman, himself an early 1990s recipient of the \$100,000 DPF "Drugpeace Award," joined with another Hoover member, Joseph McNamara, and the Drug Policy Foundation to sponsor a February 1993 resolution calling for the creation of a new Federal Commission on Drug Policy to overhaul the country's drug laws and put an end to any effort at curbing the illegal drug trade. The resolution was introduced into Congress by Rep. Don Edwards (D-Calif.) as H.R. 3100, the National Drug Control Policy Act of 1993. The resolution, known also as the Hoover Resolution, called on the President to create a federal commission on drug policy to "recommend the revision of drug laws of these United States in order to reduce the harm our current policies are causing."