

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, demanding that President Clinton decertify Mexico. The bill, while identifying a very real problem of drug trafficking and corruption in Mexico, nonetheless functions as a deliberate diversionary tactic at a moment when all eyes are on Colombia, as a test case for whether Clinton's war on drugs is going to proceed, or not. As Lyndon LaRouche put it in a radio interview with "EIR Talks" on Jan. 27: "It's simply that the Mexican government is not a puppet of the drug lords in the way that the Colombian government is. That's the difference."

A memorandum issued by *EIR* on why Clinton must decertify Colombia has circulated extensively in Washington and abroad, and has already drawn blood. Samper's ambassador to Mexico, Gustavo de Greiff, an avid lobbyist for drug legalization who used his position as General Prosecutor in the previous Colombian administration to whitewash pre-election evidence against Samper, received a copy of the *EIR* memo, and sent its editors a letter of protest at the supposed "string of lies" presented therein. *EIR*'s response identifies in detail the involvement of both De Greiff and his daughter Monica, in the drug cartel's conspiracy to buy the Colombian Presidency. Both letters are reprinted below (see *Documentation*).

Samper's 'war on drugs' is a farce

There are also arguments, such as that published in the *Wall Street Journal* of Feb. 23, by Terry McCoy, director of Latin American Studies at the University of Florida, to the effect that "the war [on drugs] is being vigorously prosecuted, and outright decertification would undermine Colombian efforts." Nothing could be farther from the truth. Despite the courageous efforts of many, such as National Police Chief Gen. Rosso José Serrano, to run down the cartel leaders and put them behind bars, Samper's "war on drugs" is a farce.

Not only are imprisoned traffickers operating their business from their prison cells, and walking away from them when they choose, but the courts are not even able to impose serious jail sentences on those still behind bars. For example, the number-five leader in the Cali Cartel, Victor Patiño, was just given a nine-year prison term, with possibility of parole after just four years. It turns out that Patiño had plunked down a cool \$100,000 at a \$20,000-a-plate fundraiser for Samper just three days before the June 1994 Presidential elections.

Cartel assets, both illegal and illegitimate, are still virtually untouched in Colombia, with a few exceptions. The banking system continues to function with impunity as a laundry for the cartel's drug profits, despite recent stern warnings by General Prosecutor Alfonso Valdivieso. All State intelligence agencies are now concentrated in the hands of Interior Minister Horacio Serpa Uribe, who is one of Samper's controllers. Serpa is deeply implicated in the scandal of cartel financing of the Presidential campaign, and is currently under investigation by Prosecutor Valdivieso, as well.

Daily, there are more revelations on the extent of the corruption in Colombia, ranging from the political police, or DAS, which has been implicated in harassing Council of State magistrates and witnesses against Samper, to the Comptroller's office, whose deputy director has resigned to protest the use of State funds to buy political support for Samper. Congress is even planning to vote itself an amnesty so that its 120 members suspected of corruption by the cartels can escape investigation.

Samper's use of violence and terror to eliminate his opponents inside Colombia continues unabated. The latest victim is the son of Army Gen. Ricardo Emilio Cifuentes, who resigned his commission in January, announcing that he could not serve under Samper's corrupt regime. His son, a medical doctor visiting Colombia from the United States, was assassinated mafia-style on Feb. 16, with one bullet to the head. Similarly, death threats have been renewed against Londoño's MSIA, which has been organizing anti-Samper demonstrations in Bogotá. One caller to MSIA offices, who phoned after a university rally, asked provocatively, "Is this the movement to overthrow Samper?" When told it was the MSIA, the caller threatened, "You're going to die from the little bullets we're going to shoot you with."

And, only days after his return to Colombia from Washington, Londoño himself received an anonymous letter, "warning that we are giving you a deadline of 48 hours to write: Yes to certification; No to extradition; Yes to legalization," or he and his family would be murdered. Londoño and his associates have been the victims of death threats, assaults, robberies, and intimidation for over a year and, despite repeated appeals to the authorities, have been denied security protection for themselves and their families.

EIR answers De Greiff: Cali Cartel ties exist

In February, the editors of EIR received a letter from Colombian Ambassador to Mexico Gustavo de Greiff, who is a former General Prosecutor of Colombia. In that letter, dated Feb. 7, from Mexico City, De Greiff complained that a memorandum published by EIR (see EIR, Jan. 26, p. 40) had contained "a string of lies" about Colombia, and about himself personally, and he demanded rectification. That EIR memorandum urges U.S. President William Clinton to deny Colombia certification as a full partner in the war on drugs, because of the Ernesto Samper Pizano government's collusion with international drug cartels. We include below the full text of De Greiff's letter, and EIR's Feb. 15 response,

in which each of the points raised by the Colombian diplomat is addressed.

Feb. 7, 1996, Mexico City
Executive Intelligence Review
Mexico City, Mexico
Dear Sirs,

The Embassy of Colombia has received a copy of a document edited and distributed by you, entitled "Memorandum: Why Colombia Must Be 'Decertified' by the Clinton Administration," in which a string of lies about Colombia and its government is published, and which includes various references to the undersigned.

The unfolding of events will deal with the lies; however, for now, permit me to say the following with respect to myself:

1. It is untrue that my daughter Mónica de Greiff was "the first treasurer of the Samper Presidential campaign . . ."

2. It is absolutely false that "it was later discovered that she is linked to the Cali Cartel." I challenge you to prove this infamy.

3. It is also absolutely false that when, for a very brief period of time, I was a partner in an airline company (Aerolíneas El Dorado Ltda) at the same time as Mr. Miguel Rodríguez Orejuela, that the latter "had already been identified as a drug trafficker." On the contrary, both the Commander of the XIII Army Brigade, as well as the National Narcotics Council certified that there did not exist at that time any drug-trafficking charges against that person. Is this a case where—as happened with the infidels during the Spanish Inquisition—having legitimate dealings with a drug trafficker makes one into a drug trafficker?

4. As for the rest, ask Mr. Joseph Toft, who is mentioned in your publication and who was director of the DEA [Drug Enforcement Administration] office in Colombia, whether it is true or not that in August 1994, he sent me a letter in which he lamented my retirement as Prosecutor General, and in which he said that his office never received such collaboration in the fight against drug traffickers as that which I offered?

5. It is absolutely false that under the government of Dr. Samper, there has not been "any attempt to confiscate the properties of the jailed cartel chiefs. . . ." On the contrary, these properties are confiscated. Further, if they had not been, it would not be the fault of that government, but of the Prosecutor General's office, headed today by Dr. Alfonso Valdiveaso, who would be the person in charge of decreeing these "confiscations." However, I repeat that he could not be blamed either, since he did order it.

I trust in your good faith and therefore I respectfully invite you to research what you publish with more depth, and I know that if you do so with all due honesty and profundity, you will have to rectify what is stated.

Gustavo de Greiff R.

EIR's reply

Mr. Gustavo de Greiff, Ambassador of Colombia to Mexico

Thank you for your letter asking us to rectify what we published in the memorandum "Why Colombia Must Be 'Decertified' by the Clinton Administration." We thank you because, for the last year, our correspondents in Colombia have been receiving death threats by phone or in writing, in response to what *Executive Intelligence Review* has published internationally. We feel that written responses, signed with first and last names, are a far more civilized way of debating these matters.

In your letter, you mentioned five points, referring to yourself, your daughter Mónica de Greiff, and the government of Ernesto Samper which you represent in Mexico. We respond to each of them.

1. You deny that your daughter was "the first treasurer of Samper's campaign." Although we know from several sources who participated in Ernesto Samper Pizano's Presidential campaign that Mónica de Greiff was indeed its treasurer, we limit ourselves only to quoting from the July 28, 1995 interrogation of subsequent campaign treasurer, Santiago Medina, by a commission of prosecutors: "The campaign initially operated normally with relatively limited financial resources, due to the fact that Dr. Mónica de Greiff, who handled finances, worked as the president of Shell Oil, and therefore couldn't dedicate herself full time to that task. That was the situation going into the first round of elections. . . ."

We should also like to remind you that in the Accusations Commission of the House of Representatives, a criminal suit was filed against you by former minister Enrique Parejo González, for not having recused yourself from the investigation of the notorious narco-cassettes, given that your daughter worked in the election campaign referred to in those tapes as the recipient of enormous sums of money from the Rodríguez Orejuela brothers, Gilberto and Miguel.

2. You say "it is absolutely false that it was later discovered she (my daughter) is linked to the Cali Cartel." May we remind you that on Aug. 22, 1991, your daughter, as the person in charge of the Salinas Concession (working under then-Development Minister Ernesto Samper Pizano), signed a contract with Exposal, Ltd., under cover of which, said company shipped cocaine to the United States, disguised as salt. In a July 1992 raid, Panamanian authorities confiscated five tons of cocaine which that company was about to ship.

Your daughter claims that at the time, she told you (then serving as General Prosecutor) about her suspicions. Now that you've written us, we would be grateful to learn what happened to the investigation you supposedly initiated, after your daughter expressed her concerns. Exposal's legal representative, Julian Murcillo, is currently in prison, accused of illicit enrichment and of acting as a [cartel] front man, and named by the National Police as one of the important leaders of the Cali Cartel group.

In fact, the General Prosecutor opened the now-famous Case No. 8,000 after analyzing several documents found in July 1994 by the "Search Squad" (or Special Joint Command) in Exposal's offices, and those of its accountant, Guillermo Pallomari.

You could say that your daughter signed the Exposal contract in "good faith." Nonetheless, authorities are still investigating business your daughter had with Julian Murcillo, which led him to call her from his cellular phone at the end of 1994 and beginning of 1995.

3. You also say it is "a total falsehood" that when you were Miguel Rodríguez Orejuela's partner in the Aerolíneas El Dorado, Ltda. company, he had been identified as a drug trafficker. In the first place, our information indicates that you were a partner of Gilberto Rodríguez Orejuela. So, although they are brothers, Miguel and Gilberto are two different individuals. According to our information, Gilberto Rodríguez has been sought by U.S. authorities since 1979, in which year he had cases pending against him for drug trafficking in Miami, New York, and Baltimore. Despite Colombian drug traffickers' ability to clean up their police records, it is the case that Gilberto had been arrested on other occasions for running an auto theft ring and for kidnapping foreigners. And even if it were true that he had no charges pending against him, anyone dealing with him could readily see that he had access to sums of money totally disproportionate to his legal business activities. To quote Msgr. Pedro Rubiano, archbishop of Santafé de Bogotá and president of the Colombian Bishops Conference, who discussed the drug monies which entered Samper Pizano's electoral campaign, "some things cannot be hidden. That is, if there's an elephant in your house, you have to see it."

4. You say that Joseph Toft, former director of the DEA's office in Colombia, sent you a letter of congratulations when you left office in August 1994. We would be happy to confirm that with him, once we locate him. In the meantime, may we remind you that you accused Toft of having taped the famous "narco-cassettes," and tried to force him to testify at your office as someone suspected of taping conversations without legal authorization. Recall too, that it has been clearly proven that the conversations in the "narco-cassettes" did occur, and in which Gilberto and Miguel Rodríguez, as well as their interlocutor Alberto Giraldo, refer to you by your alias, "El Viejito."

5. We will concede that some drug traffickers' assets have been confiscated under the Samper Pizano government. Nonetheless, this has occurred in spite of the Samper government; and because of legal obstruction, authorities haven't yet been able to determine the extent of traffickers' control in this area. With the exception of the Anti-Corruption Statute, the Samper government has done nothing to correct this problem. Worse, in 1995, the government introduced a tax reform bill to Congress which stipulated that anyone's assets could

be legalized regardless of their illicit origin. The General Prosecutor's office has told us that the value of confiscated assets cannot be revealed due to the "confidentiality of the case." Despite our many phone calls, we haven't yet been sent official information from the National Drug Council.

However, unofficial information indicates that 74% of the drug traffickers' confiscated assets, has been returned to their owners, and that the tax amnesties approved by successive administrations have allowed innumerable traffickers' assets to be legitimized. It has been calculated that, over the last ten years, the Cali Cartel has invested at least \$6 billion in real estate. Does the government have those \$6 billion in assets? Isn't it interesting that the Samper government has shown a great interest in claiming drug traffickers' assets confiscated abroad.

6. You only indicated five points, but we'd like to add a sixth. You made no mention of the fact that you, "like Samper, are a fervent advocate of drug legalization." We can state that the campaign on behalf of drug legalization led by Ernesto Samper from 1977 to 1980, encouraged the climate of connivance in which Colombian society accepted these criminals and viewed them positively, with unfortunately tragic consequences. The same can be said of the fact that you took advantage of your position as General Prosecutor to dispute existing legislation and demand drug legalization, echoing the arguments of Britain's Jeremy Bentham, author of *In Defense of Pederasty*.

Advocates of drug legalization use the sophism that drug traffickers oppose legalization because "that would be the end of the business." Nothing could be farther from the truth. Both the Cali and Medellín cartels have defended drug legalization, as has international financial speculator George Soros, who finances the world's drug legalization lobby. We mention the curious fact that in 1991, a book, entitled *A Drug Trafficker Confesses and Accuses*, written by kingpin Pablo Escobar Gaviria, circulated in Colombia. In it, Escobar defends drug legalization, and uses as an example of the "courage" to apply that policy, the letter written by your daughter Mónica in 1989 when she resigned as justice minister.

We don't know to what extent your campaign, carried out from your important position as General Prosecutor, influenced the Constitutional Court to legalize drug consumption, or whether this were secretly coordinated with then-candidate Ernesto Samper, as several sources have suggested. What we do know is that Samper promised to amend the Constitution to recriminalize consumption, but has yet to do so. We also know that right now, you are using your influential diplomatic post in Mexico to organize for drug legalization internationally. Is this the official or unofficial policy of the Samper government?

Finally, like you, we await the "unfolding of events." But it appears that, with each passing day, that process of unfolding proves us right.