

LaRouche: Why the War on Drugs Did Not Succeed

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This statement was released on January 4 by Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche, who is a political prisoner in Rochester, Minnesota.

I see directly that our U.S. state and federal prison system is being filled with people on drug charges. Most of these people were small-time dealers, even though the prosecution may have inflated their crime to make them appear to be big-time kingpins of drug-trafficking conspiracies. They're not.

The big-time kingpins in drug-trafficking conspiracies—let's just stick to cocaine for the moment—inside the United States in the 1980s, were the friends of Col. Oliver North of Project Democracy.

Now, Project Democracy was headed by a fellow called Carl Gershman on the one side, politically. Project Democracy was pushed in Central America and South America by the State Department figure Elliott Abrams. Various people were used. The key figures with whom these fellows cooperated in running drugs, cocaine in the Caribbean, were Israelis; and one can look at the Bank Hapoalim in Miami, Florida, and ask what the Mossad was doing at Bank Hapoalim. One can go across the bridge from Miami to Miami Beach, and take a row of quasi-gentrified hotels with certain banks there above bargaining shops; one can find people like the Israeli gun-runner and drug-runner Pesach Ben Or running around there. The Mossad and the Israelis were running a great deal of the drug traffic with Colonel North. They were also working with Colonel North in running weapons into Iran, and they were running weapons into Iran before Colonel North got into the act, at the time that the Iranians were holding U.S. hostages. But they were doing it with U.S. figures close to Stanley Pottinger, a former Justice Department official and attorney for Cyrus Hashemi, the Iranian banker and gun-runner.

These are the kinds of problems which have to be recognized.

Now, additionally, in terms of the leveraged buyouts, hostile takeovers, and so forth, that have occurred in the United States in the 1980s, a new crowd has taken over American

industry and looted it. Where did this crowd get its money to buy out American industry? From drugs!

The drug money went through the Caribbean trade—cocaine money, for example. It went not into U.S. banks directly, but into offshore banks. It came into the United States as financial investment capital, or as loan capital. Then people borrowed this money, in large denominations; and they used it together with junk bonds and similar kinds of instruments to move in and take over companies and loot them, to create monsters such as RJR/Nabisco. Or the Campeau operations that the Reichmann brothers were involved in. That's how this drug money operation worked.

People are saying, "Why didn't the war on drugs work?" Because George Bush, as vice president, was running a good part of it, and running it together with people like Oliver North and Elliott Abrams, who were in fact bringing in tons of cocaine into the United States.

Do I see Oliver North in prison? Do I see Elliott Abrams in prison? Do I see a Bush in prison? Because of their involvement and condoning and partnership with these drug-runners? No! I see tens of thousands of small dealers in prison—who are being replaced by 50,000, who filled their shoes when they were sentenced. That's why the war on drugs never worked.

Now, we've got to get serious about the drug problem if we're going to have a nation. *Go at the source*. No drugs coming into the United States. And anybody whose money is found to be traceable to drug money, under rules of audit transparency, will find they've been engaged in an illegal enterprise, and will suffer legal penalties for that kind of operation.

We've got to stop the drug traffic by stopping the big traffickers from Colombia and elsewhere, through the Caribbean, including the Israelis, and we've got to stop it by going after the banks and other financial institutions which launder the big quantities of drug-money proceeds.

The Europeans are going to face that, particularly Germany, right now. They're going to have to decide whether they should cut off all relations and take other sanctions against nations such as Colombia, which make peace with the drug-traffickers.

If we're serious about saving our civilization, we're going to do something about this drug problem. We're going to start looking at what Oliver North really did, what Elliott Abrams really did; what was being done on George Bush's watch as vice president, and as head of that Special Situations Group over at the National Security Council, where he supervised Oliver North's operations in part. We're going to look at Carl Gershman of Project

Democracy, and who's behind Carl Gershman, from what organization does he come? What's their connection to Robert Vesco, for example? We're going to get law firms, brokerage firms, big banks. Who are these swindlers who looted America with drug money? Who shut down the firm in your town after they looted it? And other countries, such as Germany today, are going to ask them the same thing.