

Peru to Soros: No More Drugging Us

by Luis Vásquez Medina

Lima, Sept. 3—In early August, in one of his first statements as Peru's Interior Minister, retired police Gen. Octavio Salazar announced that he will submit a bill to the appropriate authorities, eliminating existing criminal statutes that permit possession of small amounts of drugs. The current law constitutes "implicit acceptance of micro-sales of drugs in society," declared General Salazar, a police officer with a long history of battling drugs and organized crime, and therefore, "even the possession of drugs for personal consumption should be prohibited."

And so, Peru, 15 years after accepting the decriminalization of drug consumption, wants to do an about-face on the path to legalization, something which unfortunately—due to the pressures of the international drug mob and its leading spokesman, George Soros—Argentina and Mexico have just embraced.

The results of such policies could not be more eloquent: According to the Center of Information and Education for the Prevention of Drug Abuse (Cedro), today there are a quarter of a million Peruvian families who have at least one drug addict among them. And of these, 100,000 are addicted to cocaine, a statistic which does not include the more than 1 million farmers who feed their addiction by chewing coca leaf.

According to the same source, the constant rise in drug consumption over recent years in Peru has primarily affected minors: Today, 12-year-olds are starting to drug themselves!

Soros Operative: 'Measure Absolutely Absurd'

These results mean nothing, however, to George Soros's employees in Peru. Carlos Basombrío, analyst for the Institute of Legal Defense (IDL), one of the Peruvian NGOs which receives the most money from Soros and which was up to its ears in June's bloody conflict in Bagua, in Peru's Amazon region

(see last week's *EIR*) ranted against Salazar, charging that his re-criminalization proposal "is an absolutely absurd measure, and will give rise to a bigger problem, since the number of drug consumers will rise, and at increasingly earlier ages. Is he going to jail them all?" Basombrío didn't say whether he made these statements out of fear of being arrested himself.

These are the results of the path taken by Peru since 1994, under the cynical argument that "the drug addict is sick," but instead of treating him, and repressing the origins of his illness, the perverse drug trade was de facto legalized. In 1994, an article was added to the Peruvian Penal Code establishing that *possession of certain quantities of drugs for personal consumption was not punishable*. The quantities permitted varied over time, to the point that today, in Peru you may freely possess five grams of PBC (basic cocaine paste), two grams of cocaine chloride, eight grams of marijuana, two grams of its derivatives, and one gram of opium gum.

Even Ecstasy Had Been Legal

In this sinister slide downward, the most scandalous decline came in July of 2007, when the Alan García Administration—apparently without anybody requesting it, and ironically using special powers granted to it by Congress to issue legislative decrees combatting the drug trade, terrorism, and organized crime—decreed that it is legal to possess up to 250 milligrams of Ecstasy, a highly-addictive synthetic drug that contains methylenedioxymphetamine (MDMA), methamphetamines, or similar substances.

The speed with which García leapt to do the mafia's bidding was incredible. Ecstasy, produced largely in Canada and Mexico, and whose consumption is growing faster than any other drug in Ibero-America, is heavily distributed at discotheques, a practice which has indirectly caused the mass deaths of youths at recent disco fires in Lima and in Buenos Aires.

As the new Interior Minister has charged, the existence of such laws decriminalizing drug consumption has made law enforcement's battle with the drug trade in the streets of Peru extremely difficult.

The results couldn't be more conclusive: if we want to have a future as sovereign and viable nations, we have to stop the likes of Soros and his drug-legalization agents once and for all.