

# Colombia's Bedoya Calls for Alliance vs. Drugs

General Harold Bedoya (ret.), former Commander of the Armed Forces of Colombia, gave an extremely successful news conference Sept. 7 at the National Press Club, where he briefed an international contingent of 40 reporters from government-linked and private news services, on the nature and scope of the narco-terrorist threat to Colombia and other nations, and what must be done to vanquish it.

According to the senior military leader, the way the situation in Colombia is portrayed, as a 40-year political struggle, "is false." What you have, is a drug cartel—a known drug cartel—attempting to seize power. Bedoya noted that the drug culture could have been defeated, had the will existed to do so. But the previous government was beholden to the Cali cartel, and this current government was installed by the narco-terrorist FARC cartel.

Using maps to address the group, the General stressed three interrelated points in his remarks.

First, he called for a Marshall Plan for development of Colombia, specifically *without* any conditionalities or involvement of the I.M.F. He attacked Richard Grasso, the head of the New York Stock Exchange, for visiting the FARC drug region recently, and talking of collaboration. General Bedoya pointed out that what's involved are drug money flows, and that Grasso knows



General Harold Bedoya (ret.) addresses Washington, D.C. National Press Club.

this. These are speculative money flows to Wall Street, which needs this dirty money. Wall Street is facing a crash. But, Bedoya pointedly added, even if they were not, they would still need this kind of money to keep their system going.

Second, he said, we must change the situation in Colombia. The current government has been in power for one year, but "it feels like a hundred." They are destroying the country and the territory. He said that Colombians "are mobilized" for a change. We cannot stand the government for the next four years. We must have change. We can't have the indebtedness we do now. We must have no more I.M.F.

He also called on Washington to change its current policy of support for the Colombian government's "absurd" negotiations with the FARC cartel, in pursuit of an illusory peace that will not come through this kind of capitulation.

General Bedoya spoke of the need for a "change in the culture." The state has but a single function—to look out for the welfare and progress of its people. But the most basic norms are now being violated. He pointed to the 4,000 Colombian children who have been kidnapped by the narco-terrorists, and made to carry grenades, guard drug labs, and do the narco-terrorists' bidding. We cannot have children treated this way.

## Hungary, Slovakia

principle of national sovereignty, presenting Lyndon LaRouche's proposal for an immediate Marshall Plan for the region.

Margaret Greenspan reported on human rights violations in the United States, concentrating on the cases of Lyndon LaRouche, who, although now free on parole, served five years in prison despite his innocence; and of her brother Michael Billington (currently serving a 77-year sentence in Virginia) and two other LaRouche political prisoners, Paul and Anita Gallagher.



Margaret Greenspan (left) and Anno Hellenbroich discuss human rights issues with a Hungarian journalist.