

CONVERGENCE

The Christic Institute

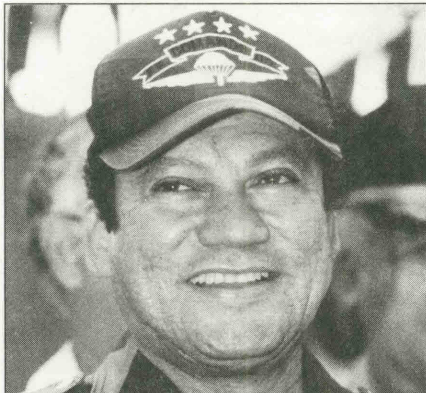
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One Dollar

Washington, D.C.

Special edition: war on drugs

INSIDE



Manuel Noriega

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Covert operations, drug trafficking are closely linked

No industrialized country consumes more drugs than the United States. This special issue of *Convergence* examines one cause of the drug crisis: the historic relationship between United States intelligence agencies and the drug lords of Asia and Latin America.

Experts on the international drug trade argue in the following articles that the United States Government enlisted druglords to fight insurgencies and subsidize covert operations. These alliances were not exceptional. They have been repeated on almost every continent where the United States has been at war, from the poppy fields and heroin factories of Asia to the coca plantations of South America.

Successive Administrations have never officially admitted this relationship, and have almost never investigated or prosecuted those responsible. In case after case, drug producers and smugglers have escaped justice because they were protected by their special status as "intelligence assets." For this reason, no action has ever been taken against the Nicaraguan *contras* who smuggled cocaine into the United States on the same planes used to transport weapons to their bases in Central America.

In 1991 the Christic Institute, working with other religious and social-justice organizations, launched a campaign of research, education and action to seek the true "Causes & Cures" of the drug crisis. With support from Christians, Jews, Moslems, community organizers, scholars and drug-treatment professionals, this campaign recognizes that the Bush Administration's "War on Drugs"—like similar "wars" proclaimed by the Nixon and Reagan Administrations—has been a failure. Alternative policies that will effectively counteract the drug trade's legacy of suffering and violence will be found only if the true origins of the crisis are exposed. This issue of *Convergence* is a small contribution to that effort.

To learn more about Causes & Cures, please call our Organizing Department at (202) 797-8106, or write us at one of the addresses provided on page 2.

