

Report from Rio by Lorenzo Carrasco Bazúa

'Brazilian perestroika'

Reagan's summit deals with Gorbachov have given the green light to the Soviet infiltration of Brazil.

High-level military sources have told the economic daily *Gazeta Mercantil* that, for the first time, Brazil and the Soviet Union will be exchanging military attachés. *EIR* has just learned that this will be the central item on the agenda of an official visit to the Soviet Union, to be made by Army Minister Leonidas Pires Gonçalves sometime in the next few weeks.

If confirmed, this exchange of military attachés will have profound significance in light of Brazil's position as the principal military ally of the United States in South America, since at least World War II. The interchange directly reflects Brazil's pragmatic approach to geopolitics: As the U.S.'s star begins to wane, and the Soviet Union's to rise, Brazil will tilt accordingly.

Thus, Brazilian President José Sarney accepted the invitation of U.N. Secretary General Javier Pérez de Cuellar, to be the first Third World head of state to back the recent superpower agreement before the U.N. General Assembly. Sarney repeated his speech before students of the Superior War College back in Brazil, to whom he said: "This year, gentlemen, you had the opportunity to study an extraordinarily rich development abroad. . . . The event, in some ways surprising, of *perestroika*, with its maturation, which led to the agreement of the great powers."

Brazil's agreement to pragmatically accommodate itself to this new condominium policy, explains the fact that the personal envoy of Gorbachov, Vladimir Lomeiko, is in Brazil to in-

form the Sarney government of the results of the superpower summit and, undoubtedly, of the regional agreements reached as well. This last especially touches on Brazilian interest in the Angola situation, and could explain why President Sarney, during his recent trip to the United Nations in New York, held a lengthy audience with Cuban Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodríguez, with whom he had met just two weeks earlier.

Since the times when the Brazilian Expeditionary Force heroically participated in the battle of Monte Cassino and others of lesser importance in Italy during World War II, the Brazilian military has viewed the United States as its strategic ally, while viewing itself as the most important barrier to Soviet penetration on the continent. As a result, the Brazilian Armed Forces have until now successfully frustrated the Brazilian Foreign Ministry's multiple efforts to broaden relations with the Soviets.

The alliance with the U.S. began to crumble as a result of the political and diplomatic stupidities of the Carter administration, a process worsened by President Reagan's support for Great Britain against Argentina during the 1982 Malvinas War. All existing defense and mutual security pacts were suddenly null and void.

The faction of the Brazilian military which still believes that the Soviet empire is a real threat to the "free world," has been seriously undermined by the deals with Gorbachov. During his last visit to Brazil, U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Vernon Wal-

ters—one of the most important U.S. mediators with the Brazilian military—de facto redefined the notion of "hemispheric security" under the new condominium, by demanding Brazilian intervention against Panamanian sovereignty. Walters made it perfectly clear that the Soviet threat was no longer Washington's chief concern, but rather the nationalist forces defending their sovereignty right here in the Western Hemisphere.

It is no accident that such traditional State Department agents in Brazil as Roberto Campos and Antônio Delfim Netto have changed their longstanding anti-communism into fulsome praise for Gorbachov's policies. Similarly, businessman Amaury Temporal, president of Brazil's Trade Association Confederation (CACB), called the Sarney government's new anti-industrial policy a "Brazilian perestroika." The CACB is the stronghold of Project Democracy's National Endowment for Democracy in Brazil, and was host to the Soviet-Brazilian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, created June 2.

Even more important, banker Walter Moreira Salles—a longstanding ally of the Anglo-American establishment and partner of David Rockefeller—is committed to expanding trade ties with the Soviets. Moreira Salles is the main stockholder in the Brazilian Company of Mining and Metallurgy (CBMM), which holds the world's largest reserves of the strategically key mineral niobium, which is exported in substantial quantities to the U.S.S.R. CBMM is the main financier of the Soviet magazine in Brazil *Em Foco*, run by the famous Communist architect Oscar Niemeyer.

Brazil's current ambassador to Washington, Marcilio Marques Moreira, has been a lifelong employee of Moreira Salles.