

Report from Rio by Silvia Palacios

U.S.-Soviet condominium denounced

The foreign ministry warns of the consequences of a superpower pact for the Third World's quest for sovereignty.

For the first time, an Ibero-American government has publicly denounced the existence of a new power "condominium," a power-sharing pact between the superpowers as in Yalta of 1945, posing serious danger to the sovereignty and development of the Third World nations.

In a conference held at the command school of the army chief of staff, the most important institute of military education in Brazil, the general secretary of the foreign ministry, Paulo Tarso Flecha de Lima, "applauded East-West détente, but warned of the collateral effects of an eventual accord: The United States and the Soviet Union should understand well that they would be creating a world condominium and, thus, there would be no room for the emerging nations," reported the daily *O Globo* of May 31.

The official, who frequently serves as acting minister, warned that the most immediate danger is that those agreements "would open up discussion of other issues, such as ecology, where the current focus is on Brazil."

In fact, as *EIR* has documented, ecology has proven to be the master key in opening up "understandings" between the Eastern Establishment forces which came to power with George Bush, and the Soviet leadership under Gorbachov and Foreign Minister Shevardnadze. For such "understandings" to succeed, the principle of limited sovereignty must be imposed at all cost, and in this Brazil has been one of the first to suffer the assaults of both sides.

The warnings of the foreign min-

istry caused such a stir that Soviet Ambassador to Brazil Leonid Kuzman was forced to respond. On June 8, questioned by the press on "the fear of Brazilian diplomacy of the existence of a power condominium to the detriment of the Third World," Kuzman did not deny the existence of such agreements, but limited himself to the vague comment that "the understanding between the powers does not mean reduced importance of the developing nations."

The reporter's question nonetheless clearly ruined Kuzman's party, for he had called the press conference to announce—with great pomp—the imminent visit of an important delegation of the Soviet parliament.

Despite the denials of the Soviet representative, there exists abundant evidence that it is precisely this "New Yalta" accord which explains why Brazil is being treated as a colony, first by denying it the most advanced technology available and simultaneously by strangling it financially.

For example, on the Soviet side, economist and Gorbachov adviser Abel Aganbegyan, a champion of *perestroika*, has made various references to Brazil in which he lines up explicitly with the usurious bankers. "It would be immoral to stop paying the debt," he said at the beginning of this year. He then outdid himself in offering up praise to the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

In the technological arena, Brazil is desperate for transfer of technology to continue autonomously building its aerospace program. To achieve this,

the Air Force Ministry has, for the first time in the country's history, sponsored the visit of high-level Soviet military officers to Brazil. The answer, however, is still, "Nyet." "It is cheaper [for Brazil] to use our equipment" to put its satellites into orbit, insisted Viacheslava Balevanov, assistant director of the Soviet Union's Scientific Space Research Center, in early May.

From the side of the United States, an historic ally of Brazil, the pressure has been even more brutal and insulting. The Bush government has managed to impose as its ambassador to Brazil one Richard Melton, who is known to have been involved in the Iran-Contra scandal.

It was in vain that Paulo Tarso personally appealed to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to desist in pushing the Melton nomination, when the two met at the OAS emergency meeting on Panama last month. Within the diplomatic community in Brasilia, it is said that President Bush spoke by telephone with Brazil's Sarney, to address two issues: Melton and Panama. Sure enough, immediately afterwards, the Brazilian government gave its nod of approval to the unsavory ambassadorial appointee.

Along with this, Bush has just sent his special disarmament adviser, retired Gen. Edward Rowney, to Brazil, supposedly to explain to the government the agreements reached at the recent NATO meeting.

The truth is that Rowney came to pressure Brazil into signing the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Brazil has consistently refused to sign the pact, determined to defend its right to have access to the most advanced nuclear and other technology. The United States, intoned Rowney, "expects many other countries, including those of Eastern Europe, to sign the treaty."