

Report from Rio by Silvia Palacios

'Liberation Theology' goes green

The Marxist Liberation Theology has joined Prince Philip in a crusade for ecogolism in its latest gnostic heresy.

After the defeat suffered by Marxist Liberation Theology with the collapse of the Sandinista regime in Nicaragua, its theoreticians have concluded that the best way to assure their survival as an organized movement is by metamorphosing into ecogolists. This was made evident in an article by Frei Betto, one of the most important ideologues of the Workers' Party (PT), that appeared in *Jornal do Brasil* on July 15.

In his analysis of the uncertain future of the Marxist movement in Brazil, Frei Betto vehemently appeals for its embrace of the new banner of ecogoly.

He writes, "By taking on the ecogolical question, the people's movements would be freeing themselves from ideogolical confinement . . . and opening themselves to innumerable people's participation." He was mainly addressing the People's Movements Center, a newly formed organization which seeks to manipulate the social explosions developing in Brazil as the ecogolical depression deepens.

Frei Betto, a defrocked Dominican priest, is the longtime spiritual adviser—and some say controller—of Luis Ignacio Lula da Silva ("Lula"), the head of the PT, who nearly won last year's presidential election. According to Frei Betto, ecogolism is "intrinsically revolutionary." "There are no separate passenger classes . . . on board this terrestrial airplane. We are all equally affected by the greenhouse effect, polluted water, the devastation of the forests, and the chemical residues which poison food," he said.

With this full embrace of ecogolism, the pseudo-Catholic Frei Betto joins the followers of Prince Philip of Britain, the guru of the ecogoly movement who intends to bring the world into a new pagan era whose motto could be summarized as: "The fewer the people, the more animals and trees." It is Philip and his ilk who have sponsored the drive to limit Brazil's sovereignty over the Amazon, in the name of the environment.

Frei Betto's argument is an attack on Verse 28 of Genesis, that man's mandate is to "replenish the earth and subdue it." Frei Betto disagrees: "By conceiving the human being through the optics of Biblical fundamentalism, capitalist pragmatism situates him as the lord who, from the outside and from above, sees and manipulates nature."

Despite the fact that the PT nominally preserves its old slogans in defense of national industry and development, the anti-industry Frei Betto is clearly a top policy shaper for the party. Frei Betto is also a leading propagandist for Fidel Castro's ecogolical initiatives, as well as an influential adviser to Nicaragua's Marxist grassroots church communities.

The PT's ecogolist turn and its intention to spread it on the Brazilian political scene is symptomatic of the flirting it has been doing with the Socialist International. Top Socialist International leaders in Ibero-America serve as the regional mediators of the Anglo-American-Soviet condominium deal to impose genocidal ecogolical conditionalities on the region. Venezuelan President Carlos Andrés Pérez,

the SI's vice president for Ibero-America, played that role in keeping the Sandinistas' military power intact, by making sure that Humberto Ortega was kept on as defense minister. In Colombia, Pérez promoted the legalization of the gnostic narco-terrorist gang M-19.

It is, in fact, no accident that the PT and the M-19 share "warm" relations. In an interview in *Folha de São Paulo* held after Colombia's presidential elections May 28, M-19 leader Antonio Navarro Wolff stated, "Yes, we are friends with members of the PT. We believe it is one of the new forces emerging in South America. We are similar, to a certain degree. A very important renovation of political parties is taking place in South America. I think we should rapidly integrate those parties to build a Latin American integration."

In June, Lula da Silva toured Europe where he met with prominent SI leaders. On June 8, *Gazeta Mercantil* reported that he would meet in Sweden with Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Pierre Schori, one of Henry Kissinger's best Socialist International agents. Schori is also close to Nicaragua's Sandinistas. Lula's trip ended with an agreement with German leader Willy Brandt that the PT would be an observer to the next SI meetings.

Socialist International vice president and president of the Democratic Workers Party (PDT) Leonel Brizola has also picked up the ecogoly banner. In a meeting of the Permanent Council of Latin American Political Parties held here July 16, Brizola and other leaders of his party set up an environmental committee based in Brazil. In May, *O Estado de São Paulo* noted that Brizola had offered Lula to help the PT join the Socialist International. But, it seems that for internal electoral reasons, the PT leaders opted for other mediators.