

Brazilians challenge U.S.-backed genocide

One hundred sixty-four members of the Brazilian Congress have signed a call to officially establish a Congressional Commission of Inquiry, which will investigate United States government involvement in a decade-long mass sterilization program directed primarily against poor, black Brazilian women. The call, which has stirred nationalist passions in the country, comes on the eve of a June visit to Washington by President Fernando Collor de Mello, where the Brazilian head of state is hoping to link his flagging administration to Bush's fascist new world order.

Current estimates by Brazilian Health Minister Alcenio Guerra are that as many as 20-25 million Brazilian women of child-bearing age—an incredible 44%!—were sterilized, many of them without their knowledge. He has stated that evidence exists of *continued* mass sterilization programs today, and that the population reduction programs in Brazil's poorer cities, such as Recife and Salvador, have been so "successful" that his ministry was unable to find enough children to vaccinate last year! Dr. Guerra has ordered his ministry's Division of Infant and Maternal Health to investigate.

The congressional investigation call was sparked by extensive media revelations during the past three weeks, of secret U.S. National Security Council (NSC) documents detailing an explicit U.S. government policy to force Brazil and a dozen other Third World countries to reduce their populations, as part of a neo-colonialist strategy of domination to ensure U.S. access to those countries' raw materials. The recently declassified documents were written between 1974 and 1977, under then Secretary of State and NSC director Henry Kissinger and his successor, Brent Scowcroft. George Bush, Director of Central Intelligence and U.S. ambassador to China during that same period, collaborated in the development and implementation of the policy, the documents show.

An article published on May 2 by Brazil's most important newspaper, *Jornal do Brasil*, and written by the respected law professor and journalist Heraclio Salles, noted that of the 13 countries listed in the NSC memo as principal targets of the U.S. depopulation scheme, Brazil was the first on the list. The other countries considered of "special, strategic, and political interest to the United States," reported Salles, are India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nigeria, Mexico, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Egypt, Turkey, Ethiopia, and

Colombia. Salles writes that the NSC documents first became known in Brazil through a special memorandum circulated by the Brazilian office of *Executive Intelligence Review* magazine.

Salles charged that depopulation programs in Brazil have been generously financed by the U.S. Agency for International Development and Bemfam, the Planned Parenthood local chapter, which coordinates sterilization programs. "Millions of women were, and continue to be, subjected to procedures which differ in no way, in terms of their final objectives, from those used by the Nazis in Hitler's Germany to try to stop the numerical growth of the Jewish people," he said.

Sterilization: 'hidden apartheid'

At least 90% of the women who were sterilized were black and uneducated, residents of the impoverished *favelas*, or shantytowns, surrounding Brazil's major cities, according to Congresswoman Benedita da Silva, who gathered the signatures to establish the Commission of Inquiry. Da Silva called this "hidden apartheid," and has announced her intention of calling many of these women before the commission. The black congresswoman also charged that companies in Brazil were asking for proof of sterilization as a condition for employment, and demanded an investigation of what agreements may have been signed in recent years enforcing such policies. She suggested that "even the International Monetary Fund could be involved in all this."

Jornal de Brasilia, a daily published in the nation's capital, reported on May 10 that São Paulo Senator Mario Covas, a former presidential candidate, said that while the question of birth control was up to each individual, an investigation was warranted due to the "interference of a foreign state in this matter." Covas, who headed a similar congressional probe on the involvement of foreign agencies in the sterilization of Brazilian women during the late 1960s, said, "the evidence was very strong then, and is now being confirmed by impartial documents."

On May 18, *Jornal de Brasilia* revealed that the previous administration of José Sarney had zealously supported these depopulation programs. One of Sarney's departing acts was to decree that families could not take more than five deductions (for children) on their income taxes, a China-modeled policy which current President Collor has pledged to overturn. In 1989, Sarney personally awarded the International Planned Parenthood Federation \$100,000 "for services rendered to Brazil." The Brazilian daily *Hora do Povo* reported May 1 that those "services rendered" have led to "a collapse of Brazil's population growth, from 3.5% per year during the 1970s, to 1.9% during the '80s."

An official study by the Brazilian and Statistical Institute (IBGE) has just revealed that birth rates may fall to zero by the year 2000. *Hora do Povo* has appropriately dubbed this "a strategy for extermination."