
Documentation

Brazilian press covers fracas over Lutzenberger

Jornal de Commercio, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on Sept. 18, headlined "Internationalization Pits Congressmen Against Lutzenberger":

. . . In his confrontation with the congressmen of the CPI [Parliamentary Commission of Investigation], Lutzenberger will explain his positions regarding the occupation of the Amazon region, and will answer the charges that he has been defending the interests of foreign groups.

"So far, Lutzenberger has proven to be a great Environment Secretary, but for the rich countries, not for the Amazon region nor for Brazil. And we want him to tell us that he is really not part of a project to hand over our region, and to explain why, until today, all of his actions have always been contrary to the development of the Amazon region," said the president of the CPI, Congressman Atila Lins (PLF-AM). . . .

The suspicions regarding the behavior of the secretary, according to Atila Lins, arose on the basis of the testimony before the CPI of the Mexican journalist Lorenzo Carrasco, who accused Lutzenberger of being the representative of the Gaia Foundation in the country. "That is why we suggested that there be an investigation, to find out if the secretary has been receiving donations from international entities in order to keep defending, with such intransigence, foreign interests."

Folha de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil on Sept. 19, headlined "Congressional Investigation Commission Wants Lutzenberger's Resignation," by Claudio Ferreira:

Environment Secretary José Lutzenberger considers the concern over the internationalization of the Amazon a "joke." "Everything that is good on the planet belongs to the whole world," he said yesterday, in testimony before the Congressional CPI on the internationalization of the region.

The CPI decided on Tuesday to ask for his resignation. . . .

The resignation requests will be routed to the commission's plenary by the president of the CPI, Congressman Atila Lins (PFL-AM). If they are approved, they would be

routed on the same day to President Fernando Collor [de Mello]. . . .

The CPI wants to know about Lutzenberger's activities in the British entity "the Gaia Foundation." According to the Mexican journalist Lorenzo Carrasco, Lutzenberger receives money from the foundation in order to "insist" on the preservation of the Amazon. He denies it. . . .

Lutzenberger denied that he receives money from foreign entities. He says that the Fundação Gaia [of Brazil] has agreements with the Gaia Foundation and with some other entities.

Jornal do Brasil, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on Sept. 21, headlined "American Extreme Right Is Against the Holding of Rio-92," by Teodomiro Braga:

The noisy extreme right-wing American group headed by the economist and gangster Lyndon LaRouche—currently imprisoned for tax evasion—yesterday launched a campaign against the holding of Rio-92 which they see as a pretext by the rich nations to "internationalize" the Amazon region. The "war" against Rio-92, as the group's leaders called their campaign, was unleashed at the National Press Club in Washington. . . . The proposal is to cancel Rio-92 and, in its place, to hold a conference to discuss a new international economic order based upon equality among nations.

The Mexican journalist Lorenzo Carrasco, the principal speaker, challenged Brazil's Environment Secretary José Lutzenberger to a public debate about his accusations that the secretary receives money from the British entity, Gaia Foundation, to defend the preservation of the Amazon. Carrasco claimed that Lutzenberger was named to the post on instructions of Prince Charles, one of the main defenders of environmentalist ideas on the international scene. . . .

The offensive of the LaRouche group against Rio-92 will continue with other public demonstrations in the American capital. With an aggressive style and with a rhetoric that is sometimes confused with leftist oratory, LaRouche followers also promised to make their presence felt at the conference in Brazil. One of the issues recently taken up by the group in the ecological area, which was enthusiastically promoted yesterday, was the defense of Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, the target of strong attacks by the environmentalist movement in the last few months, for his environmental pronouncements, which are similar to those of Amazonia's state Gov. Gilberto Mestrinho.

"Despite all its environmental propaganda, the main objective of Rio-92 is to impose on the 166 nations that will be represented there, the new world order that was bloodily inaugurated by President George Bush and his allies with the holocaust against Iraq," said Lorenzo Carrasco, who accused Lutzenberger of being an agent of international environmentalist agencies who has been infiltrated into the Collor administration.