

Narco-terrorists behind Brazil Raytheon scandal

by Silvia Palacios and Lorenzo Carrasco

A great scandal broke in Brasilia, the capital of Brazil, on Nov. 20, when the press disclosed the contents of various private conversations of Ambassador Julio Cesar Gomes dos Santos, head of protocol at the Presidential palace, Planalto, obtained through wiretaps. A judge, it was reported, had authorized the Federal Police to tap Gomes dos Santos's home telephone.

At first, the scandal appeared to be simply a case of influence-peddling within Planalto by individuals seeking favors for the U.S. defense contractor, Raytheon. Before the news broke, President Fernando Henrique Cardoso had already requested two resignations, that of his chief of protocol, Gomes dos Santos, and Air Force Minister Brig. Mauro Gandra, the latter because the tapes revealed he had once stayed for three days at the home of Raytheon's representative in Brazil, with whom he had been a friend for ten years.

Those who set up the phone-tapping operation, at the highest levels of the government, thought that the scandal would remain targetted against the ousted officials and Raytheon. But the angry reaction of the Air Force high command, and the military crisis provoked by the forced resignation of Air Force Minister Gandra, who had not committed any act of corruption, turned the scandal back against its perpetrators. Investigations began into who had ordered the tapping of Planalto personnel's telephones.

It was discovered that the leaks to the press and the circulation of the transcripts of Ambassador Gomes dos Santos's telephone conversations, had been from top advisers to Francisco Graziano, director of the Agrarian Reform and Colonization Institute (INCRA), who had served until recently as private secretary to President Cardoso. On Nov. 27, Graziano was forced to resign, after the Air Force high command, backed up by the Army and Navy, threatened an open rift with the President, unless Graziano was dumped.

Strategic anti-drug project at issue

The objective of the phone-tapping operation, was to block installation of the Amazon Surveillance System (SIVAM), a sophisticated network of radars vital to protect the strategic Amazon region. From the moment the Brazilian government announced its decision to implement SIVAM,

two defense companies competed fiercely for the project, Raytheon of the United States, and the French company Thomson, to the point that President Bill Clinton intervened personally on behalf of the U.S. company. The Brazilian government had finally signed a contract with Raytheon, but the phone-tapping scandal revived efforts by opponents to scrap the project.

More than international competition over a business deal is at stake in this contract, however. The entire Amazon region in South America has become the transshipment center of the Western Hemisphere for international drug-traffickers. The vast majority of the Amazon lies in Brazil; without the radar system, Brazil has no means to identify, and stop, the dozens of small (and not-so-small) airplanes which the traffickers fly in and out of the area daily.

Thus, it is not surprising to find that Graziano and the operatives caught running this latest attempt to scuttle the radar project, are high-level activists of the Brazilian branch of the São Paulo Forum, the continental narco-terrorist apparatus founded by the Cuban Communist Party—the same São Paulo Forum which has declared that it will block installation of an equally strategic anti-drug radar planned for Puerto Rico, by terrorist means if necessary. The Forum's networks, and its Puerto Rican anti-radar operation, were documented by *EIR* in its Nov. 10, 1995 *Special Report*, "New Terror International Targets the Americas."

Ousting a military opponent along the way

The resignation of the Air Force minister was considered of added benefit to this crowd, because he had served as one of the major obstacles to the policy of reducing the central institutional role which the Armed Forces have historically played in Brazil, a policy which President Cardoso has carried over into government from his previous leading role on the executive committee of the fanatically anti-military Inter-American Dialogue.

Brigadier Gandra had publicly challenged the President's closest advisers, and the international non-governmental organizations apparatus, over a series of measures which they had imposed, which, although disguised as seeking respect for human rights, sought in reality to punish the Armed Forces in revenge for its participation in suppressing the communist terrorism in the 1970s, and ensure it takes no action against renewed terrorism today.

On Sept. 21, for example, Gandra had protested the President's decision to force the Army attaché in London, Col. Armando Avolio Filho, to resign because of accusations by British intelligence's instrument, Amnesty International. Gandra called Avolio's forced resignation a violation of the Amnesty Law which had been passed to close the book on the 1970s war against terrorism. Likewise, Gandra protested a law, drawn up by another intimate of the Presidential circle, Secretary General of the Justice Ministry Jose Gregori, which orders the government to pay indemnities to the families of

some 150 “disappeared” activists from the 1970s. Gandra charged that the law would be “the same as the Army making claims on leftist politicians.”

A parallel power structure

Discovered in the wake of the scandal, was that Francisco Graziano was part of an entire clandestine network, which included sectors of the Federal Police operating outside the official hierarchy. Formally, the Federal Police are subordinate to the Justice Ministry, yet when the wire-tapping scandal came to light, Justice Minister Nelson Jobim reported that he knew nothing about the order to tap Ambassador Gomes dos Santos’s telephone. On Nov. 23, Jobim confirmed to *Gazeta Mercantil* that Graziano had participated in the operation.

One of Graziano’s advisers, Federal Police officer Paulo Chelotti, had provided the tapes made by the Federal Police, which then were brought to the President. Paulo Chelotti, whose brother, director general of police Vicente Chelotti, had participated in Cardoso’s Presidential campaign.

Sociologist Graziano belongs to the President’s inner circle, and flaunts his personal friendship with the President and his wife, anthropologist Ruth Cardoso. It is to the latter, it is said, to whom Graziano owed his appointment as head of agrarian reform at INCRA—a shocking appointment, given Graziano’s long-standing role in the liberation theology circles which created the Landless Movement (MST), a Zapatista-like operation run by the Workers Party (PT) which is currently organizing violent land seizures across Brazil, in the name of “agrarian reform.” The same Workers Party co-founded and runs the São Paulo Forum with the Cuban Communist Party today.

Graziano named as his chief of staff at INCRA, Paulo Loguercio, a leading member of liberation theology’s Pastoral Land Commission (CPT) out of which the MST was created. When he left the CPT to join Graziano at INCRA, Loguercio named as his replacement, João Stedile, today one of the principal leaders of the MST. Graziano also named a former PT municipal president as one of INCRA’s directors. One of Graziano’s chosen gurus in agrarian reform, is his uncle, José Gomes da Silva, an agronomist linked to the PT.

In light of the network uncovered, political analysts have taken note of the fact that the trade union of the Federal Police is formally affiliated with the PT’s trade union arm, the Unified Workers Central.

Even after the Graziano-Federal Police-PT network was revealed, President Fernando Henrique Cardoso left Graziano in his post, until the Air Force, supported by the Army and Navy, threatened, not so quietly, an open fight with the President, over the fact that he had moved with such alacrity when it came to dumping the Air Force minister, but showed no interest in removing the party caught illegally attempting to torpedo the radar deal.

Dialogue sets Haiti trap for Clinton

by Carlos Wesley

The Inter-American Dialogue, the Washington-based bankers’ pro-drug legalization lobby that serves as the primary channel of British policy into U.S. policymaking toward Ibero-America, unleashed another bloody crisis in Haiti this past month, when it publicly urged Jean-Bertrand Aristide to ignore his deal with President Bill Clinton to leave office on Feb. 7, and instead hang on to the Presidency for at least another three years.

Aristide immediately jumped at the opportunity, and unleashed a wave of violent demonstrations of his Jacobin mobs, demanding that he stay on as President. The Clinton administration is insisting that Aristide leave on schedule, but is nervous that if they push the psychologically unstable Haitian leader too hard, he will give the green light for another giant wave of boat people refugees to head for the United States, which would be a political disaster for Clinton in an election year.

The crisis exploded just as Clinton was proposing to send 20,000 U.S. troops to Bosnia, as part of the NATO peacekeeping force to help implement the U.S.-brokered Dayton peace accord, which the British were opposed to. Thus, Conservative Revolution press hounds in the United States seized on the “unravelling” of Haiti—where Clinton last year foolishly deployed the U.S. military to restore Aristide to power—to challenge the administration’s planned Bosnia operation.

Lighting the match

The signal to ignite Haiti was given in an internationally syndicated column by Peter Hakim, the president of the Inter-American Dialogue (IAD), who called on the Clinton administration to allow Aristide to extend his mandate. According to the Spanish-language version published in Argentina’s daily *La Nación* in early November, Hakim admitted that besides violating the agreement with Clinton that restored Aristide to the Presidency, it would be a violation of Haiti’s Constitution were Aristide to remain in office. He also recognized that Aristide, a defrocked priest, is “an aspiring dictator ready to perpetuate himself in power.”

But, Hakim cynically argued, since whoever becomes Haiti’s next President will be “handpicked” by Aristide anyway, it would be better for the United States, in the interest of “transparency,” to let Aristide revamp Haiti’s Constitution. “Regardless of whether he is committed to democracy or not,