

Report from Rio by Silvia Palacios

MST opts for irregular warfare

The Landless Movement is now modelling itself on Shining Path's bloody war against Western civilization.

Leaving behind the pro-terrorist modus operandi it has used to date, the Landless Movement (MST), allied to the Workers Party (PT) and the São Paulo Forum, has now entered a new phase of full-scale irregular warfare. Directing its actions against strategic sectors of the country's infrastructure, the MST is modelling itself on the murderous Shining Path in Peru, whose Pol Pot-like ideology drove it to destroy similar infrastructure in Peru, because it was considered a hated sign of Western, capitalist civilization.

On May 25, Army troops occupied the installations of the huge Tucuruí hydroelectric plant, to prevent its planned seizure by the MST, small landowners, and the electrical workers' union. Tucuruí is Brazil's second largest hydroelectric plant, with an installed capacity of 6,000 megawatts. It is located in the Amazonian state of Pará where, less than two months ago, the MST provoked a bloody confrontation with military police, and gained a significant political victory from the ensuing "massacre" of 19 peasants.

According to government intelligence reports covered in local media, the terrorist action was planned with military precision. MST agitators planned to invade three or four farms near Tucuruí, the small landowners were to invade the village inhabited by officials and workers at the plant, and the electrical workers were to seize the plant's installations. Had the sabotage been successful, part of the northern and northeastern regions of the country would have been left without electricity.

Demonstrating the global nature of these allegedly "national" terrorist movements, Brazilian advocates of guerrilla war invoked the so-called Unabomber, coinciding with the MST's actions at Tucuruí. Prior to the planned seizure, Delman Sergio Ferrel, the energy secretary of the Urban Workers Federation, to which the electrical workers are affiliated, circulated a signed manifesto entitled "Unabomber." It stated: "At the moment, our forces are small . . . open confrontation doesn't interest us. We have to wage a guerrilla war. We have to wage psychological terrorism—destabilization. Things will happen. We don't know what, where, or how. They are part of the destabilization. . . . We are chaos."

For now, the MST continues to concentrate its efforts on the rich and strategically important state of Pará, where the British oligarchy has tried to impose its theory of "limited sovereignty." In a ceremony in Rio de Janeiro, in which he received the title of "citizen of the state," MST leader José Rainha (an admirer of Mao Zedong) boasted, "In Pará, we will occupy lands belonging to Varig [the Brazil state airline], and the millions of *latifundios* which produce nothing. This is how we shall obtain our rights."

Despite these threats, President Fernando Henrique Cardoso continues to capitulate to the MST's demands, thus feeding the terrorist monster threatening strategic regions of the country. On May 24, Cardoso announced that the government had decided to transfer to Pará, control of 21 million hectares of land previously

owned by the federal government, among them, some owned by the Army.

Immediately, the MST's leadership launched an attack on the target it most seeks to destroy: the Armed Forces. With its advanced technological projects, the Armed Forces have sustained the sovereign nation-state; thus, they are hated by the proponents of demilitarization among the international oligarchy. National MST leader Gilmar Mauro has stated that the terrorist group's next target is the lands belonging to the Air Force and the Navy. "They have a lot of unproductive land," he said. "The Navy, for example, could give up a piece of the large, unproductive lands it owns in Ipero," referring to the area surrounding the Aramar Technological Center where the Navy conducts nuclear research on projects such as the nuclear submarine.

While the MST wages irregular warfare, its ally, the continental narco-terrorist coalition, the São Paulo Forum, has also escalated its offensive against Brazil.

Journalistic sources report that the Sixth Conference of the São Paulo Forum will take place in Brazil, reportedly in Pôrto Alegre, the capital of the southern state of Rio Grande do Sul. This would have the obvious purpose of strengthening Raul Pont, currently the PT's candidate for mayor of Pôrto Alegre. Pont is a militant of the party's Trotskyist faction. The Forum's Fifth Conference, which took place in Uruguay in May 1995, determined that Pôrto Alegre possessed the necessary characteristics to become an international example of a neo-communist government. Moreover, the state is a bastion of the MST's activities. According to Frey Betto, editor of the São Paulo Forum's magazine, it is the "jewel of the continent's popular movements."