British cartels break up Brazil's CVRD, target continent's raw materials

by Richard Freeman and Cynthia Rush

On May 6 of this year, the British Commonwealth raw materials cartel took a major step toward dismembering Brazil as a nation-state, a step that the oligarchy views as decisive in its plan to reduce Ibero-America to colonial plantation status, and loot it of its raw materials patrimony. On that date, under intense British pressure to "globalize" its economy, Brazil privatized a major portion of the state-owned mining company, Companhia Vale do Rio Doce (CVRD), which is Ibero-America's largest raw materials company and the third largest in the world. Brazil sold 30% of CVRD for $3.2 billion. The purchaser was the Brazil Consortium, a group of investors led by Sweet River Investments of speculator George Soros. Sweet River Investments was incorporated in the drug money-laundering haven of the British Cayman Islands, only days before the sale, expressly for the purpose of gobbling up part of CVRD. The true worth of the mining property of CVRD, within the 30% snatched up by the British for a song, is several hundred billion dollars.

The super-wealthy Anglo-Dutch and other oligarchical families that control the companies of the raw materials cartel, are working on a time-table bounded by the fact that the world financial system is headed toward disintegration. For two years, they have been moving out of bloated financial assets and stampeding into ownership of hard physical assets—raw materials, energy supplies, and increasingly scarce food supplies. Even better than owning a raw material commodity, they calculate, is to own the physical property that mines and produces the commodity.

As the pace of financial disintegration accelerates, the oligarchy steps up its raw materials takeovers. When the smoke clears and 90% of the world's financial assets have been vaporized by the crash, the oligarchy expects to emerge owning 70% or more of the world's raw materials, and mining facilities. This means the oligarchy would have a chokehold on the flow of goods upon which all human existence depends: By squeezing off production, it could blackmail nations, shutting down their industrial and agricultural production, depopulating the globe.

Countries such as Brazil, which are giving up control of their raw materials, will be consigned to the scrapheap. Indeed, most of Ibero-America's population of 490 million will be written off as expendable. The only people the oligarchy will tolerate (aside from its own family members) will be those needed to work the mines, transport the minerals to the ports, and serve as chauffeurs and chambermaids for the mine owners.

This end-game is now playing out in Africa, where marcher-lords such as Uganda's Yoweri Museveni and Zaire-Congo's Laurent Kabila, are wiping nations off the map and reducing economic life to standards of the Dark Ages. This is what awaits Ibero-America, starting with Brazil, economically the most advanced, with one-third of the continent's population.

This is the Africanization of Ibero-America: Its initial phases have already been under intensive implementation for a few years. Here, we look at the raw materials cartel's offensive to seize raw materials. We first look at the location and density of raw materials that the cartel seeks in Ibero-America; who and what the raw materials cartel is, and its reach globally; and finally, the dangerous advance this assault has made.

The wealth of a continent

Ibero-America is a treasure trove of raw materials. The populations of the Western Hemisphere, as well as parts of East Asia, South Central Asia, and Europe, depend on many of its raw materials, to fashion the goods of their existence.

Minerals and metals can be sorted into three groups:

1. Precious metals: largely gold, silver, and the platinum group, all of which have industrial uses, but are held, in this instance, for their value as a monetary reserve or as a hoard (often in the form of bullion, coins, and jewelry).

2. Industrial/base metals: Seven of these—bauxite, copper, iron, lead, nickel, tin, and zinc—account, by weight, for 70% of all the non-carbon-, non-wood-, non-stone-based finished manufactured products in the world. No industrial society can exist without the finished products that come from them, to manufacture everything from machine tools and tractors to electric generators.

3. Strategic metals and minerals: These are usually used as alloys because they are frequently lightweight, have high tensile strength, or resist heat well. They are often used in defense and high-technology production.

Table 1 shows the amount of world mine production, in

TABLE 1

Ibero-America's share of world mining production or refining

(all tons are metric tons, 1995 output; numbers highlighted in **bold** indicate that country is one of world's top six producing nations of the cited commodity)

			Percent of world production in:					
Mineral or metal	World production	Unit of production	Ibero-America	Brazil	Chile	Mexico	Peru	Other*
Precious								
Gold	2.25	thousand tons	12%	3%	2%	1%	3%	3%
Silver	14.6	thousand tons	41%	1%	**7%**	**16%**	**13%**	3%
Base/industrial								
Aluminum	19.4	million tons	10%	**6%**				4%
Arsenic trioxide	41.3	thousand tons	29%		**15%**	**11%**		3%
Bauxite and alumina	109.0	million tons	28%	**8%**				**20%**
Bismuth	3.0	thousand tons	63%			**30%**	**33%**	
Boron	2.4	million tons	11%		**4%**		1%	**6%**
Cadmium	18.5	thousand tons	6%	1%		4%	1%	
Copper (mine production)	10.0	million tons	32%		**25%**	3%	4%	
Copper (refinery)	11.7	million tons	18%	1%	**13%**	2%	2%	
Feldspar	6.1	million tons	10%	2%		2%		5%
Fluorspar	3.9	million tons	15%	2%		**13%**		
Graphite	718.0	thousand tons	11%	**5%**		**6%**		
Gypsum	98.1	million tons	8%	1%	1%	5%		2%
Iron ore (metal content)	554.8	million tons	27%	**22%**	1%	1%	1%	2%
Lead	2.7	million tons	16%			**6%**	**9%**	1%
Nickel (metal content)	1.0	thousand tons	14%	3%				**11%**
Sodium sulfate (natural)	2.5	million tons	21%			**21%**		
Strontium	135.0	thousand tons	53%			**53%**		
Tin	187.0	thousand tons	28%	**9%**			**12%**	**7%**
Zinc	7.1	million tons	20%	2%		**5%**	**10%**	3%
Strategic								
Beryllium	6.8	thousand tons	13%	**13%**				
Cobalt	22.1	thousand tons	9%	2%				**7%**
Columbium (metal content)	17.8	thousand tons	86%	**86%**				
Manganese (metal content)	7.6	million tons	14%	**12%**		2%		
Molybdenum	126.0	thousand tons	20%		**14%**	**3%**	3%	
Tantalum (metal content)	356.0	tons		14%	14%			
Vanadium	63.5	thousand tons	8%		**4%**			**4%**

* Argentina, Bolivia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, and Venezuela.

Source: U.S. Geological Survey.

1995, of 26 precious, base/industrial, and strategic minerals and metals (and the refinery output of copper and aluminum). Then, for each commodity, it shows the percent of world mining output that Ibero-America represents; that the four biggest mining countries in Ibero-America each represent—Brazil, Chile, Mexico, and Peru; and that the rest of the nations of Ibero-America combined represent. **Table 2** shows for the essential 26 minerals and metals, the name and world rank of each nation in Ibero-America that is among the top six producers of that mineral or metal.

Ibero-American countries are the top producers in the world of five minerals or raw materials: Mexico, silver; Peru, bismuth; Chile, copper; Mexico, strontium; and Brazil, columbium (niobium). Three Ibero-American nations produce more than half of the world's output of three minerals: bismuth (Peru, 63%), strontium (Mexico, 53%), and columbium (Brazil, 86%). The continent also boasts nine countries that rank as second largest world producers of a mineral or raw

TABLE 2
World rank of Ibero-American nations as raw materials producers

Commodity	Nation (rank)
Precious	
Gold	*none in top rank*
Silver	Mexico (1), Peru (2), Chile (5)
Base/industrial	
Aluminum	Brazil (6)
Arsenic trioxide	Chile (2), Mexico (4)
Bauxite and alumina	Jamaica (3), Brazil (4), Venezuela (5)
Bismuth	Peru (1), Mexico (2)
Boron	Argentina (3), Chile (5)
Cadmium	*none in top rank*
Copper (mine production)	Chile (1)
Copper (refinery)	Chile (2)
Feldspar	*none in top rank*
Fluorspar	Mexico (2)
Graphite	Mexico (3), Brazil (5)
Gypsum	*none in top rank*
Iron ore (metal content)	Brazil (1)
Lead	Peru (4), Mexico (6)
Nickel (metal content)	Dominican Republic (6)
Sodium sulfate (natural)	Mexico (2)
Strontium	Mexico (1)
Tin	Peru (3), Brazil (4), Bolivia (5)
Zinc	Peru (4), Mexico (6)
Strategic	
Beryllium	Brazil (2)
Cobalt	Cuba (6)
Columbium (metal content)	Brazil (1)
Manganese (metal content)	Brazil (5)
Molybdenum	Chile (2), Mexico (6)
Tantalum (metal content)	Brazil (2)
Vanadium	Venezuela (5), Chile (6)

Source: U.S. Geological Survey.

material. There are only four of the listed 26 minerals and metals, in which an Ibero-American nation is not among the top six producers.

Ibero-America produces 15% of the world's output of two of the seven most important base/industrial metals; 20% of the world output for one of the metals; and at least 25% of the world output for three metals. It produces one-third of the world's output of copper. It is no small wonder that the British Commonwealth raw materials cartel assigns the greatest strategic importance to controlling this mineral output and the reserves of these minerals, which are even greater still.

Who owns the raw materials

In 1990, between 75% and 80% of all mining properties in Ibero-American nations were owned either by state-owned mining companies, or by private concerns owned by that country's nationals. These nations saw raw materials as a patrimony to be used for the industrialization of the nation. Most countries, if they did allow foreign ownership of mining properties, restricted it to no more than 49% ownership—i.e., minority ownership. The one exception was Chile, which, following the dictates of the Mont Pelerin Society, had "liberalized" its mining laws, over 1978-85, to allow both majority foreign ownership, and more widespread foreign ownership. But, as the accompanying box shows, in 1993-95, as part of the British push to spread the disease of "globalization" to Ibero-American financial markets and mining sectors, these nations changed their laws along the Chile model. Several also adopted privatization, or selling off state-held mining companies to private owners.

The outcome is that today, in several Ibero-American nations, foreigners, both in their own names and through dummy corporations, own between one-third and two-thirds of the nations' mining properties.

Of the foreigners, by far, the principal owners are companies of the British Commonwealth raw materials cartel.

Figure 1 shows the leading members of the Commonwealth raw materials cartel, operating in the principal mineral-rich countries of Ibero-America, along with the symbol for the name of the raw material property that they own in the respective country. All the entities are from Britain, Canada, South Africa, or Australia. There are other foreign mining firms which operate in these countries, but these listed firms are the British Commonwealth firms, and they own the majority of projects in most countries. For 150 years, Australia, Canada, and South Africa have acted as the vanguard for London interests.

Notice that these firms operate in Cuba as well, which has maintained close economic and political links with London, and especially, Canada, since the 1959 Castro revolution.

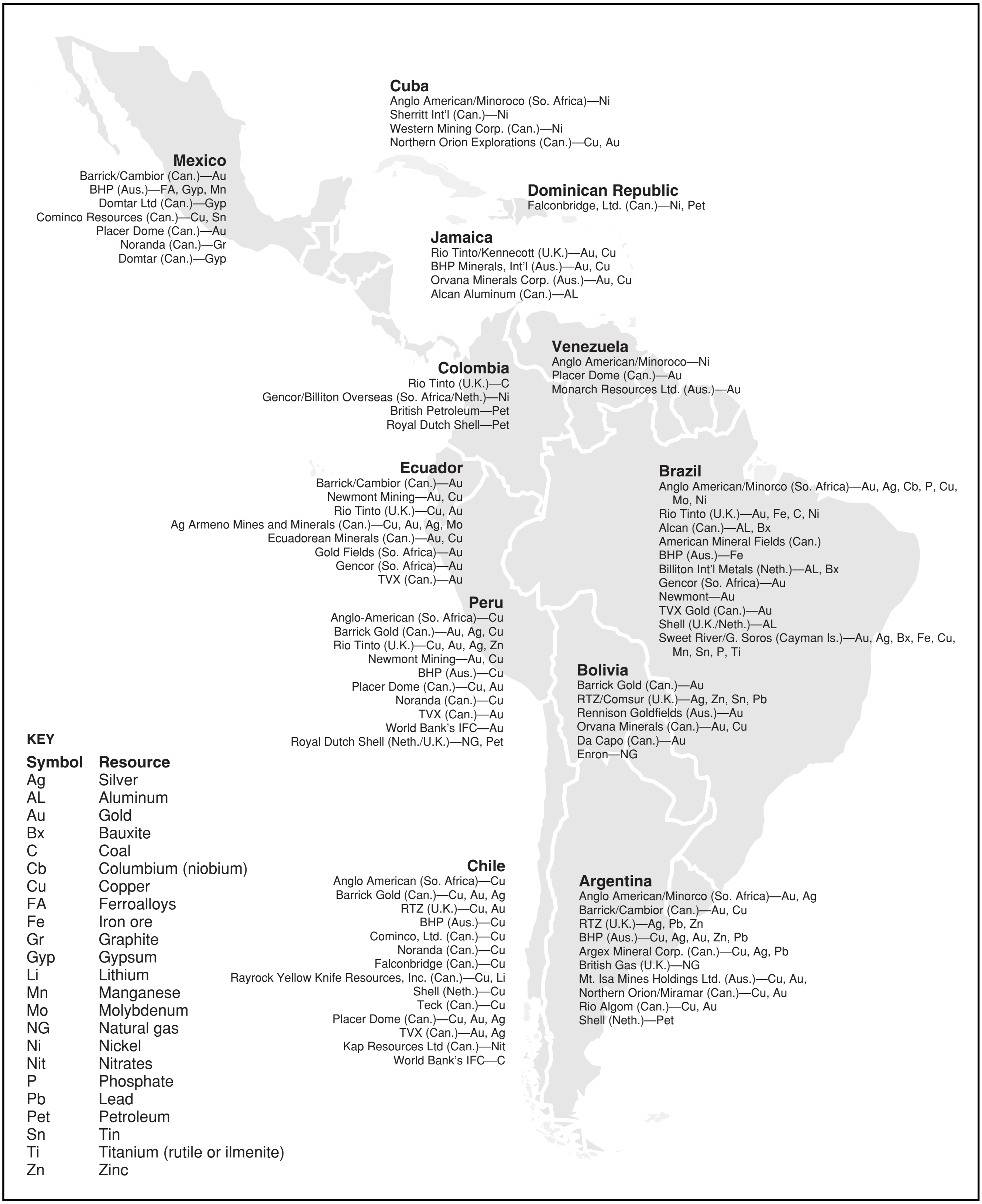
The British Commonwealth is the most formidable economic force on this planet. It encompasses 24% of the world's land mass and 29% of its population. Grouped around the Anglo-Dutch monarchies, it operates as a single cartel, which is divided up into subordinated categories: a raw materials cartel, an energy cartel, a food cartel, and a financial cartel (see the flow chart on p. 5). These firms, through their share ownership in each other, and through tightly interlocked boards of directors, comprise a single operation. Operating through Britain's Royal Privy Council and its Commonwealth subsidiaries, and through the British Overseas Development Office (formerly the Colonial Office), they shape imperial affairs.

At the nerve center of the raw materials cartel are four powerful companies—Anglo American, Rio Tinto, Barrick Gold, and Newmont Mining—which are coordinating and enriching themselves through the raw materials grab in Ibero-America. Together, in Ibero-America, these four companies own and operate 47 mining projects, covering 16 different raw materials.

The history of this "gang of four," particularly their activities within Ibero-America during the last five years, prepares

FIGURE 1

British Commonwealth mining companies, by country and raw materials produced



one to understand how the British Commonwealth plan for domination of Ibero-America is unfolding.

Anglo American: The world's largest raw material firm, based in Johannesburg, South Africa, is key in the raw materials cartel. Through the cross-ownership of shares, Anglo American is one entity with DeBeers Diamonds and the Luxembourg-based Minorco minerals, all owned and controlled by the immensely rich Oppenheimer family (two Anglo American subsidiaries, ARH and Amgold, own 45.6% of Minorco's shares, and DeBeers owns another 23% of Minorco's shares). DeBeers Consolidated and DeBeers Centenary, the two Oppenheimer-owned DeBeers diamond companies, control the Central Selling Organization, which in turn controls 80% of the world's diamond market. The Anglo American/ DeBeers/Minorco combine is the world's single biggest producer of gold, platinum, diamonds, palladium, antimony, tungsten, and vanadium.

Harry Oppenheimer, the Cambridge-educated patriarch of Anglo American, is part of the oligarchy's 1001 Club, which operates under the aegis of the World Wide Fund for Nature of Britain's Prince Philip, the flagship of environmentalism and anti-industrial strategies globally.

Rio Tinto (formerly Rio Tinto Zinc): The world's second largest raw material firm, Rio Tinto is headquartered in London. Rio Tinto Zinc was formed in the 1870s by China opium-trader Hugh Matheson, a principal in the Hongkong-based Jardine Matheson, who pushed to expand the British Empire. According to published reports, today, Queen Elizabeth II owns a significant share of Rio Tinto stock.

The immense power of Anglo American and Rio Tinto taken together is shown in **Table 3,** which shows their share of the Western world's raw materials production. There are 16 commodities, in which Anglo American and Rio Tinto combined have 10% or more of the Western world's output, and of these, there are 9 in which they control 20% or more of Western world output.

Barrick Gold, based in Toronto, is as much a political as an economic power. Sir George Bush helps direct this company, from his position, created in 1995, as honorary senior member of Barrick's international advisory board. While he was vice president of the United States (1981-89), Bush worked inside the U.S. government to manage London-directed illegal weapons- and drug-running operations. Financier Adnan Khashoggi, who underwrote Bush's Contra operations, formed Barrick in 1981. Peter Munk, who was a protégé of the British royal household, eventually became chairman of Barrick. Through guidance by the oligarchy and Harriman-Bush networks, Barrick leapt from out of nowhere to become the second-largest gold producer in the world. In 1996, Barrick muscled in to obtain a concession to mine gold at the Kilomoto and Doko mines in Haut-Zaïre, Zaire's northeast province. In return, it helped bring to power genocidal dictator Laurent Kabila.

TABLE 3
Anglo-American and Rio Tinto combined share of Western world mining production
(percent of total)

Commodity	Share	Commodity	Share
Antimony	20%	Nickel	8%
Bauxite	10	Niobium	8
Chromite	15	Palladium	39
Cobalt	10	Platinum	45
Copper	12	Rhodium	41
Diamond	48	Silver	6
Gold	25	Titanium	31
Iron ore	10	Tungsten	18
Lead	7	Uranium	8
Lithium	5	Vanadium	36
Manganese	6	Zinc	6
Molybdenum	11	Zirconium	23

Mining laws favor raw materials grab

Since the early 1990s, most Ibero-American governments have enacted legislation which facilitates the looting of natural resources by London's raw materials cartels. Earlier legislation which protected ownership and exploitation of these resources, in most cases by the state, was scrapped in favor of laws which, at the very least, put foreign mining and energy firms on an equal footing with national companies, offering all manner of tax breaks, as well as advantages for profit repatriation.

The leader was, no surprise, **Chile,** whose 1973 "revolution" made it the guinea pig for the Mont Pelerin Society's nation-wrecking economic policies. Mining legislation enacted in 1978 began the process, specifically offering protection for the property rights of foreign companies which discovered or purchased mining deposits. This was the signal for such companies as Anglo American, Rio Tinto (formerly Rio Tinto Zinc), and Barrick Gold, to move aggressively into its rich copper belt.

But some countries, such as **Peru,** have sought to "out-Chile" Chile: Legislation enacted in June 1992, according to the deputy mines and energy minister, was intended to "give Peru a competitive edge over our nearest neighbor, Chile." It established that companies would only pay taxes on profits rather than on total sales; it guaranteed tax stability for ten years—i.e., the government would offer contractual promises that foreign corporations wouldn't have to

Newmont Mining, based in Denver, Colorado, is an example of a firm that is based in America, but is decidedly British. The company is controlled by British asset George Soros and his friends (see *EIR* Special Report, "Never Again! London's Genocide against Africans"). Newmont was founded in 1921 by J.P. Morgan banker William Boyce Thompson. In 1989, Hanson Plc, a large British takeover conglomerate, bought Newmont. In 1991, Hanson sold 49.97% of Newmont to British financier, the late Sir Jimmy Goldsmith. In 1993, Goldsmith sold 14% of Newmont to Soros. According to Newmont's records, today, Soros owns 7.88% of Newmont; the estate of James Goldsmith owns between 2 and 3%; and Lord Jacob Rothschild owns 2%. Fidelity Mutual Fund, which represents the Boston Brahmin drug interests, owns another 10.22%.

The tentacles of this octopus reach everywhere: **Table 4** shows their stake in Ibero-America, by project (including exploration) and commodity. Anglo American owns and operates 14 projects in 7 countries; Rio Tinto owns and operates 12 projects in 8 countries; Barrick Gold has 16 projects in 7 countries: Newmont Mining runs projects in 5 countries.

But beyond the sheer number, several of these projects are pivotal in controlling the minerals of the nations of Ibero-America:

- Anglo American owns two key mining projects in Brazil: a 50% stake in the Solobo deposit in Carajás, Brazil, which has an enormous 1.2 billion tons of reserves of copper, gold, molybdenum, and silver; and also a 31.5% stake in a columbium-producing mine in Goiás state.
- Rio Tinto owns 33% of the Cía Minera del Sur, S.A. (Comsur) in Bolivia, a huge mining concern which produces 80% of Bolivia's lead, 65% of its zinc, and 37% of its silver. Comsur is the company of the family of Gonzalo Sánchez de Lozada, President of Bolivia from 1991 until Aug. 5, 1997. While President, Sánchez de Lozada has further opened up Bolivia to the raw materials cartel.
- Newmont Mining bought, in 1996, a 51% ownership stake in the Yanacocha mine in Peru, the continent's largest gold mine, producing nearly 1 million ounces of gold per year.

pay any new taxes imposed by some later government. A tax "drawback" system allowed recovery of taxes paid to the Peruvian state by exporters, the minimum area for a mining concession was reduced, and joint ventures were allowed in all areas of mining.

The pattern has been the same around the continent.

In **Bolivia,** note the role of President Gonzalo Sánchez de Lozada, who for years was Rio Tinto's representative in the country. Before leaving office, he forced through a new mining code in early 1997, described by foreign mining sources as the continent's "most progressive." It offers a single procedure which covers all prospecting, exploration, and mining production activities, granting concession holders full property rights. Sánchez de Lozada, a member of the Inter-American Dialogue, also opened up bidding on portions of the state-run Comibol mining firm, which will effectively privatize its tin and antimony smelting company, Empresa Metalúrgica Vinto, the world's fourth largest.

The British-loving President of **Brazil,** Fernando Henrique Cardoso, wasn't far behind. In 1995, he was able to ram constitutional amendments through Congress which allowed both domestic and foreign private sector companies to invest in the mining, petroleum exploration, natural gas distribution—among other sectors—via privatization, joint ventures, and deregulation. According to studies by the U.S. Geological Survey, foreign firms could now own 100% of any company or property, including those previously owned by the Brazilian state. Moreover, the provisions of Federal Law No. 9249 established that, as of Jan. 1, 1996, there would be no taxes for repatriation of profits. In addition, even though this latter tax was eliminated, a foreign mining company can still apply the *old* 25% tax on profit repatriation against a 35% income tax, reducing the latter to 10%. So, the foreign firm pays no tax on profit repatriation and only 10% income tax. These provisions are what have London's raw materials cartels salivating over the Brazilian riches to be stolen.

In **Argentina,** several liberal mining laws and decrees were enacted between July 1993 and November 1995. "Tax stability" is a key feature of these, guaranteeing that tax levels prevailing when a mining feasibility study is prepared, will remain in force for 30 years! Another provision allows mining operators advance rebates on their goods and services tax payments.

In 1989, there were only four foreign mining firms operating in Argentina. By 1995, some 62 foreign companies had established operations in the country, 42 of them from Commonwealth nations. Today there are 70 foreign companies engaged in minerals exploration, covering an area of 18.4 million hectares. Eighty percent of this area is located in the Andean mountain range, which Argentina shares with Chile. These two governments are about to sign a Mining Integration treaty, which will grant extraordinary concessions to foreign mining companies wishing to exploit resources on both sides of the border.

Provisions of protocols signed in January 1997, in advance of the anticipated Mining Integration law, have already allowed Barrick Gold to begin setting up a no-man's land straddling the border in this strategic area. As the laws are now written, the only real government in these regions will be Barrick.—*Cynthia Rush*

TABLE 4
Four British Commonwealth mining companies' holdings in Ibero-America

Country	Local project or local company	Foreign company's percent ownership	Mineral or metal	Comment
Anglo American/Minorco				
Argentina	Minera Mincorp, S.A. Cerro Vanguardia (Sta. Cruz prov.)		gold, silver	1995 feasibility study shows 3.2 million ounces of gold.
Brazil	Minerão Morro Velho, S.A.	100%	gold	Second-largest gold-producing project in Brazil; half owned by Bozano Simonsen, a subsidiary of Minorco. Operates 7 mines in Bahía and Minas Gerais states; in 1995, produced 16.5 tons of gold.
Brazil	Copebrás (in Goiás state)	9%	phosphate rock, carbon black	
Brazil	Solobo (Pará state)	50%	copper, gold, molybdenum, silver	This holding is enormous; a feasibility study showed the Solobo deposit in Carajás, to have 1.2 billion tons of reserves, having a grade of 0.84% copper with associated gold, molybdenum, and silver. Annual production is planned at the rate of 200,000 tons of refined copper, 27 tons of silver, and 240,000 troy ounces of gold.
Brazil	Jacobina, and Serra Grande (Bahía & Goiás states)	100%	gold	
Brazil	Codemin, and Morro do Niquel	100%	nickel	
Brazil	Minerão Catalão (Goiás state)	100%	columbium/ niobium	Brazil is the world's largest columbium producer.
Chile	Empresa Minera de Mantos Blancos (Antofagasta)	88%	copper	One of Chile's top four private copper companies.
Chile	Mantoverde		copper oxide	Has 101 million tons of reserves.
Chile	Collahuasi	50%	copper	Anticipated to produce 330,000 tons per year; production to start in late 1998.
Cuba			nickel	
Mexico			copper, gold	
Peru	Empresa Minera de Mantos Blancos/Quellaveco	88%	copper	
Venezuela	Loma de Níquel	85%	nickel	
Rio Tinto				
Argentina	Aguilar (Jujuy province)	30%	lead, zinc, silver	
Argentina	Tincalayú (Salta province)	100%	boron-borax	
Argentina	Sulfacid (Santa Fé province)	33%	zinc	
Bolivia	COMSUR		lead, tin, silver, zinc	Rio Tinto owns 33% of COMSUR (Cía. Minera de Sur, S.A.), which produces 80% of Bolivia's lead, 65% of its zinc, and 37% of its silver. It owns and operates a combined 12 mines, located in La Paz, Cochabamba, Oruro, and Potosí departments.
Brazil	Río Paracatú Minero/ Mondo do Ouro	51%	gold	In 1995, in association with TVX Gold, it produced 5.5 tons of gold; located in Minas Gerais state.
Brazil	Corumbá (Matto Grosso do Sul state)	49%	iron ore	
Brazil	Fortaleza (Minas Gerais state)	100%	nickel	Mine's annual output to be increased to 10,000 tons of nickel per year; deposit also has copper, cobalt, and platinum metal group.
Chile	Empresa Minera Escondida (Antofagasta)	30%	copper, gold	Chile's second-largest copper deposit, with 26 million tons of proven reserves; Chile produces 25% of the world's copper.
Colombia	Oreganal	75%	coal	By 2000, mine's annual output will be 6-7 million tons of coal.
Ecuador	Western Cordillera	100%	copper, gold	

(continued on following page)

TABLE 4 *(continued)*

Country	Local project or local company	Foreign company's percent ownership	Mineral or metal	Comment
Jamaica		100%	copper, gold	Rio Tinto owns project through its 100%-owned subsidiary Kennecott Corp. (formerly Kennecott Copper).
Peru			copper, gold, silver, zinc	Claims 1.6 million hectares in mining concessions.
Barrick Gold				
Argentina	Cambior/Veladero-Del Carmen (San Juan province)	40%	copper, gold	
Argentina	Barrick Exploraciones/ La Ortiga (San Juan)	100%	gold	
Argentina	Barrick Exploraciones/ Río Cenicero (San Juan)	100%	gold	
Argentina	Cía. Minera San José/ El Pachón (San Juan)		copper, molybdenum	
Argentina	Barrick Exploraciones & Triton/Manatial y Espejo (Santa Cruz province)	20%	gold, silver	
Bolivia				Seeking concessions.
Brazil		100%	gold	In exploration.
Chile	Cía. Minera San José/El Indio (Coquimbo)	83%	gold, silver, copper	Chile's largest silver, and second-largest gold producer. Mine's gold reserves are 5 million troy ounces; in 1995, production was 192,465 troy ounces of gold, and 35,000 tons of copper.
Chile	Cía. Minera San José/Tambo (Coquimbo)	83%	gold	
Chile	Pascua mine (Coquimbo)	80%	gold	Mine has currently identified reserves of 3.4 million ounces.
Ecuador	Cambior	100%	gold	In exploration.
Mexico	Cambior/Metates (Durango)	100%	gold	
Peru	Arequipa Resources/Pierina (Ancash)	95%	gold	Arequipa Resources has estimated reserves of 10 million troy ounces of gold, of which Pierina has 6.5 million.
Peru	Cambior/La Granja		copper	One of the ten largest copper deposits in the world, with about 14 million tons of copper.
Peru	Quicay		gold	
Peru	Cerro Corona		gold	Barrick purchased prospecting rights to Cerro Corona.
Newmont Mining				
Ecuador	Quimsacocha		copper, gold	
Haiti/ Dominican Republic	Pueblo Viejo		gold	Granted exploration rights to area covering 2,580 square miles.
Mexico	La Herradura	100%	gold	
Peru	Minera Yanacocha, S.A., (Cajamarca department)	51%	gold	Ibero-America's largest gold producer; in 1996, production was 811,400 troy ounces.

The sell-off of CVRD

This set the stage in May for Brazil's President Fernando Henrique Cardoso to package off 30% of CVRD. Both former President José Sarney, now president of the Brazilian Senate, and former President Itamar Franco, opposed the sale. Cardoso's action followed a series of destructive mining and tax reform measures in 1995, that included making possible foreign ownership of 100% of equity in Brazilian mining concerns. On May 6, the Brazilian government sold 45% of the common shares of CVRD; since the common shares control two-thirds of the voting power of the company, and the preferred shares control one-third of the voting power, the government in effect sold 30% of the voting control of the company (i.e., 45%×67%=30%). The wealth of the CVRD is concentrated in two regions of Brazil: the Carajas region and the area surrounding Minas Gerais (see p. 44, Figure 1). The

CVRD owns in these regions enormous deposits: 3.3 billion tons of proven and probable iron ore reserves, with an additional 38 billion tons of possible reserves; bauxite deposits that equal 14% of the world's bauxite reserves; potentially 500 tons of gold, etc.

The Brazilian government will sell another 26% of the common shares of CVRD, through investment banks such as Merrill Lynch, in January 1998. For his slavish application of British policy, Brazilian President Cardoso will be knighted by Queen Elizabeth II this coming December.

The purchaser of the shares is the Brazil Consortium. Members of the CVRD reported that they did not know who all the members of the Brazil Consortium were, since it was put together only days before the scheduled sale. It includes the private Brazilian steel company, CSN, and George Soros's Sweet River Investments, as well as Citibank and NationsBank, two of the high-rollers in the international financial derivatives casino.

This is far from Soros's only venture on the continent. He has a significant position in Newmont; the Soros family's investments, through George Soros's brother Paul, are represented on the board of TVX Gold of Canada, which is active in Peru and Ecuador; and Soros is also a heavy funder of the "human rights" intelligence front, America's Watch. While America's Watch attacks the military and national sovereignty of governments on the continent, Soros's mining ventures pick up the pieces cheap from the destabilized governments.

The reader now has enough information to see through a common myth: that American companies own the raw materials of Ibero-America. Take the case of Brazil, where 30 foreign mining companies own projects of significance: Of these, three are American (and one of these only nominally); more than half are British Commonwealth, 11 of which are listed in Figure 1. Indeed, the oligarchy is drooling over the huge amount of untapped and unexplored resources in Brazil.

The future of Ibero-America

In many countries, raw materials very much influence the economic life of that country. In Bolivia, in 1995, minerals and fuels accounted for 54% of Bolivia's total export earnings. As indicated above, Rio Tinto also has exercised a very tight influence over the Presidency of Bolivia, through its 33% ownership of Comsur, the mining company of the family of former President Gonzalo Sánchez de Lozada. In Peru, in 1995, mining, including petroleum, accounted for 52% of total export earnings. In Mexico, if one excludes the exports of the *maquiladoras* (sweat-shops near the U.S. border), mining and petroleum account for a very large share of export earnings. While in other countries, mining and fuel might not comprise half of their exports, the proportion remains significant.

The amount of money pouring into Ibero-American mining is very large. In 1995, in Chile, foreign direct investment into mining totalled $1.81 billion, while foreign direct investment into industry totalled $321 million, and into services, $314 million. That is, the foreign direct investment into mining was nearly three times the investment into industry and services combined. As of 1996, the cumulative outstanding amount of foreign direct investment of all kinds into Chile stood at $15.5 billion; of that, more than half was in mining. Much of this foreign investment financed takeovers. In Mexico, as foreign investment into mining streams in, the number of mining claims issued has doubled from 2,000 annually to 4,200, and the land area covered by mining concessions has risen from 2.8 to 7.1 million hectares.

The World Bank has issued a report forecasting that by the year 2000, over one-third of all world mining investment will be in Ibero-America (it places the level of that investment at a low of $11.6 billion and a high of $24 billion).

These figures leave no doubt as to what the oligarchy's intent is: the theft of the raw materials patrimony of Ibero-America. It intends to achieve this objective well before the World Bank's target date of the year 2000. But once in control of the raw materials, the British Commonwealth cartel hopes to unfold the full policy of Africanization of the continent: squeezing off the supply of minerals and metals, to collapse production, cut population by genocide, and overthrow national sovereignty, along the lines that it is effecting via the break-up of Brazil's Companhia Vale do Rio Doce.