

## Globalization's Footsoldiers Meet at 'Anti-Davos' Fest

by Silvia Palacios and Cynthia Rush

While the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland took place Jan. 25-30, with the usual representation of members of the international financial and political elites, the world's attention was focussed at the same time on another international gathering in Pôrto Alegre, Brazil, billed as the World Social Forum (WSF), or "anti-Davos." Its purpose, as described by an enormous international publicity campaign, was supposedly to devise a more "human" alternative to neo-liberalism and globalization, and help the poor and dispossessed achieve a dignified existence. In four days of meetings, conference attendees heard debate on such issues as the foreign debt, poverty, world hunger, unemployment, and the terrible effects of neo-liberalism, particularly on developing-sector economies.

But none of this had anything to do with the conference's real purpose. The incredible swamp of narco-terrorists, environmentalists, indigenous groups, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) present in Pôrto Alegre, was, as one Brazilian political analyst commented to *EIR*, "a virus and a retrovirus." In a Jan. 28 teleconference from Davos, global speculator and drug legalizer George Soros inadvertently, but truthfully, admitted that Davos and "anti-Davos" are "the two faces of globalization."

Not intended to provide real solutions to the current accelerating disintegration of the world economy, the conference was, rather, the world financial oligarchy's answer to Lyndon LaRouche, and the growing forces internationally which have adopted his proposals for global bankruptcy reorganization of the world financial system. Desperate over the fact that that the global financial crash jeopardizes their own existence, the financial oligarchs used the "anti-Davos" conference to launch an international Jacobin countergang, specifically directed against LaRouche's proposals to put the world financial system through bankruptcy proceedings, and build a New

Bretton Woods system on behalf of world industrial development.

### An Anglo-American Deployment

That the Anglo-French oligarch Teddy Goldsmith, brother of the late Sir James Goldsmith, is the conceptual architect of the Pôrto Alegre agenda, tells all (see accompanying profile). Founder of *The Ecologist* magazine, which supported Pol Pot's Cambodian genocide in the 1970s, Goldsmith puts out analyses of the world financial crisis and free trade, which, at times, sound rational, and even draw some well-meaning people into his circles. But the true political content of his proposed solutions is fascist and Malthusian. Not only is it *not* an obstacle to globalization — it is intended to further that genocidal process, much as British Lord Palmerston's 19th-Century "zoo" of Jacobin mobs were deployed against sovereign nation-states of that era in the furtherance of free trade and British colonial doctrine.

An article in the Autumn 2000 issue of the French-language edition, *L'Ecologiste*, by René Reisel, top aide to the buffoonish French Jacobin "farm activist" José Bové, makes that point: Reisel states openly that he and his collaborators today model their actions on Ned Ludd and his "Luddites," who launched an "insurrectional movement" based on destroying machines in the early 19th Century.

It's no accident that the Pôrto Alegre bash voted to hold huge demonstrations at several upcoming international conferences, most notably at the Summit of the Americas in Quebec, on April 17, modelled on the violent demonstrations held outside the Seattle World Trade Organization summit in December 1999, of which Goldsmith was the leading organizer. The WSF has now established itself as a *permanent* international institution, headquartered in Pôrto Alegre, whose footsoldiers will be deployed both against Brazilian

sovereignty, and around the globe on behalf of the oligarchy's anti-human, bestial agenda.

The fact that leaders of the narco-terrorist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), and Brazil's own terrorist Landless Movement (MST), were featured prominently at the conference, also reveals the content of the WSF agenda. Danielle Mitterrand, whose France Liberté Foundation openly backs terrorist and separatist groups in Ibero-America, was also treated as a celebrity, while Fidel Castro's narco-terrorist São Paulo Forum, and the affiliated Workers' Party (PT) and MST of Brazil, ran the conference on the ground.

In fact, a key purpose of the conference was to put an international spotlight on the PT, and its honorary president Inacio "Lula" da Silva, who will likely run for President of Brazil in the 2002 elections. This is consistent with the remarks by a Paris-based source close to WSF networks, who said that current President Fernando Henrique Cardoso has "outlived his usefulness," and that the Pôrto Alegre event was, in part, organized to help the PT and Lula into power in the coming period.

### **A Mob Solution to Global Crisis**

The "anti-Davos" event's treatment of foreign debt and economic policy, underscores its countergang nature. Key here is Bernard Cassen, whose Association for the Taxation of Financial Transactions and for the Aid of the Citizenry (Attac), is credited with organizing the Pôrto Alegre meeting, and also ran its website. An editor at the French weekly, *Le Monde Diplomatique*, Cassen has no proposals for rebuilding the global economy. Rather, he calls for debt moratoria and application of a tax on financial transactions — the well-publicized Tobin Tax, named for Nobel Prize laureate James Tobin — which he argues should be applied through a new international organization of governments, parliamentarians, and NGOs. Revenues would then be used to meet people's "basic needs" of food, education, and housing.

Cassen's intent is to draw more people into impotent, violent protest actions against a legitimate issue, without ever addressing the nature of the global financial crisis or offering solutions. To lend credibility to this initiative, Cassen hopes to involve the Vatican's Jubilee 2000 debt relief campaign, and has announced he is launching an "International Week for the Non-Payment of the Foreign Debt," to be held in July, and culminating in mass protests at the Group of Eight summit in Geneva.

The WSF has a similar strategy toward the Anglo-American project for a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), the hemispheric free-trade agreement which will be discussed when 34 heads of state meet in Quebec on April 16-20. A "Continental Social Alliance" of social and trade union organizations, coming out of Pôrto Alegre, announced it will mobilize 300,000 people to protest for policies of "social inclusion" and "participation."

More telling were the remarks by FARC leader Javier

Cifuentes, who told a well-attended Pôrto Alegre press conference that the U.S.'s Plan Colombia to combat drug-trafficking, is nothing more than "the takeoff point for the U.S. to impose" the FTAA. Playing on the real threat of Anglo-American designs on Brazil's Amazon, this narco-terrorist warned that the FTAA is just the prelude to the U.S. seizing the Amazon, with its wealth of natural resources. "Every Latin American country must find its own way of combatting the FTAA and U.S. intervention," he said.

Then there was the much-publicized Jan. 28 teleconference between top WSF organizers and participants at the World Economic Forum at Davos: Transmitted live to the WSF audience, the staged debate was between Cassen, Argentine pro-terrorist Hebe de Bonafini, and a gaggle of leaders from Brazil's MST and PT, on the one hand, and George Soros, and officials of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and United Nations on the other. Subjected to insults and screaming accusations, Soros finally admitted that a Tobin tax might be workable, and that it were necessary to "control" world speculative flows. The Pôrto Alegre audience went wild, proclaiming the debate a resounding "victory" for their side.

### **A Peasant Battering Ram**

Teddy Goldsmith's pawprints were everywhere in the WSF debate on the issue of world hunger and agriculture, in which Brazil's terrorist MST and the international Via Campesina (Peasant Way) countergang play a leading role, along with Bernard Cassen's Attac. Here, the enemy is "industrial agriculture" responsible for "destruction of the environment." As an alternative, this eco-terrorist apparatus calls for "communitarian" programs, based on subsistence agriculture and local control or "auto-gestion," guaranteed to keep people enslaved by globalization, while convincing them they are "participating" in decisions about their own future.

The MST — which *EIR* has documented, is backed explicitly by the British monarchy through the Anglican Church's Christian Aid organization — used the occasion of the conference to pull off a stunt to publicize its Malthusian solutions. Joined by José Bové, the MST led 1,300 peasants in an invasion of the Monsanto Corp.'s property, destroying fields of genetically modified soy plants, as well as an experimental laboratory.

While mentioning some real issues, such as the fact that cheap food imports hurt domestic farmers, this group has labelled genetically modified organisms (GMOs) as the enemy of mankind — hardly the primary issue in today's crisis-racked world. The MST declared "war" against international food cartels, and announced it will join with peasants from India, Thailand, Indonesia, France, and Spain in demonstrations against the multinationals on April 17, dubbing it an "International Day of Peasant Struggle." This "peasant international," according to one of its spokesmen, will dedicate itself to seizing land, destroying seeds and crops, while posing family, subsistence farming as the alternative.