
International Intelligence

No, the Issue Is Not Bush vs. Hugo Chávez

All the hype surrounding George Bush's trip to Brazil and four other Ibero-American nations, has played the trip as a battle between the United States and Venezuela. But the real agenda was reflected in the fact that Brazil and the U.S.A. signed a memorandum of understanding March 9 to "Advance Cooperation on Biofuels."

The push on ethanol as the vehicle for creating Ibero-American jobs, income, and better living standards—as both Brazilian President da Silva Lula and Bush emphasized—is intended to pull giant Brazil away from regional integration efforts, and into the hoax that will kill millions in Central and South America and the Caribbean. The memorandum of understanding states that the two "intend to begin work in Central America and the Caribbean to encourage local production and consumption of biofuels, with a view to continue joint work in key regions across the globe." As the Brazil correspondent of Argentina's daily *Clarín* bitterly noted, the Bush plan "is to turn these small countries [such as Guatemala] to paradises of monoculture, whether it be corn or sugar cane, to provide [the U.S.] with raw materials."

Philippine Death Squads Under Senate Scrutiny

Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), head of the Asia Subcommittee of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, held the first hearing in the United States on the more than 800 extrajudicial killings of social activists, church workers, journalists, and leftist political leaders in the Philippines, by military-run death squads, since Gloria Arroyo was installed as President in 2001. *EIR* has identified the death squads as George Shultz's campaign to bring "Operation Condor" to the Philippines, via Arroyo's controller (and Shultz-asset) Fidel Ramos.

State Department Asia chief Eric John was raked over the coals by Boxer for reject-

ing any effort to put conditions on U.S. military aid, including the demand that the killing with impunity be stopped. United States Institute of Peace executive director Eugene Martin, on the other hand, frankly stated that the killing will get worse as the May election approaches, quoting Arroyo's National Security Advisor Norberto Gonzales, who stated outright that leftist candidates will not be allowed to win—a statement which Martin called a "hunting license" for the faction of the military running the death squads.

Sen. James Webb (D-Va.), a new member of the Subcommittee, asked a number of penetrating questions about the killings, promising to study the issue carefully and take action.

Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Ak.), who headed this committee under the Republican-controlled Congress, was treated respectfully by Boxer, and allowed to open the questioning—during which she repeatedly referred to President Arroyo as "he" until Boxer was able to pass her a note.

The June 27, 2006 *EIR* article on Shultz, Ramos, and the death squads was given to each of the Philippine activists and clergy who had travelled to the United States to testify in the hearing. They were told that the killing would not stop unless the actual authors and protectors of the killings, outside the country, were identified.

Kirchner Explains Integration Deals

After signing a number of integration, infrastructure, and economic cooperation agreements with the Venezuelan government, while George Bush was mucking around in Brazil, Argentina's President Néstor Kirchner said:

"This is how countries should relate to each other; this is how we have to build the new reality that our societies are expecting, with a great deal of responsibility . . . with a great sense of complementarity . . . and to put an end to the leadership disputes between the old political *caciques* who didn't understand that the issue isn't who

governs whom, but rather how you work side by side to find solutions *for the whole*. . . . This is a clear demonstration that two countries, and others such as Bolivia, Ecuador, Brazil and the countries of Latin America can work together on common and strategic goals."

Nor can these be short-term goals, Kirchner said. "We're trying here to create a strategic horizon which definitely allows us to think for the long term, to think profoundly."

Colombia's Uribe Boosts Bush in Ethanol Scams

The Bush family schemes, to make a killing off ethanol scams, got a boost in Colombia from President Alvaro Uribe March 11, during President George Bush's six-hour stopover in that country. Uribe offered to open up 6 million hectares (more than 23,000 square miles) to sugar cane and other crops, for biofuels. Colombia is already the second-largest ethanol producer on the continent (after Brazil). Uribe proposed that biofuel crops be developed in the Orinoquia region, which is the largely unpopulated eastern region, a mix of great plains and jungle.

As Lyndon LaRouche has proposed for decades, the Orinoquia, could be transformed into a food basket, because its plains are fertile, flat, easily mechanized, and only lack infrastructure and water management. Today, its economy is largely limited to oil and some cattle ranches, and drugs.

Not even sugar plantations can survive in this region, without investment in infrastructure. So, who is going to put up the money to install sugar plantations? Could this be related to reports received by *EIR*, that Jeb Bush is making large investments in ethanol in Peru and Colombia?

Ethanol production in Colombia is subsidized by the government at a rate of 91 cents a gallon. Yet Colombian business sources report that aguardiente [fire water] is still far more profitable a business for sugar producers than ethanol. So sugar pro-

ducers argue that if the government wants them to gear up for more ethanol, it must lower environmental standards and help drive down the cost of labor.

'China Could Get to Moon Before U.S. Return'

Testifying March 15 before the U.S. House Committee which authorizes its budget, on the Administration's FY08 request, NASA Administrator Michael Griffin was asked by Rep. Ken Calvert (R-Calif.), how far along China is in its space program, and whether or not, as some Chinese space officials have proposed, they could beat the United States back to the Moon.

Griffin, who visited China in September, said that Chinese engineers and scientists are "second to none," and "they graduate many more than we do." He said that the Chinese "say what they intend to do, and do it." They have 200,000 people working in their space programs, compared to NASA's 75,000 equivalent in NASA and in industry. In human space flight, Griffin said, the Chinese program is equivalent to our Gemini program in the 1960s, but lest one become complacent that they are "far behind," Griffin reminded the Committee that Gemini was only a few years before American Apollo flights to the Moon. "Within a decade, it would be easily possible for them to do a lunar mission," Griffin said. And, "yes, it is possible they could be there before we return."

Bankers Define Policies For Main French Parties

The weekly *Nouvel Observateur*, in its March 12 issue, confirms what the campaign of LaRouche ally Jacques Cheminade has been saying for months: an article by Thierry Philippon notes the strong similarities in the economic programs of the three Presidential front runners' campaigns and summarizes them as follows: 1) France is "too indebted," and the public deficit must therefore be reduced; 2) austerity must be

imposed on the state; 3) state aid to large companies for employment programs must be redirected to small and medium companies considered as the main job creators; 4) strong increase in funding for R&D and higher-level universities to ensure competition; and 5) the "flexi-security" Danish model, in which the unemployed get almost a full wage but are offered immediate training for a new job.

Philippon says that this is the consensus established at the Economic Analysis Council, a type of national security council on economics, created by Lionel Jospin in 1997, comprised of 100 economists from mainstream political parties. Beyond these influences, a "business exec carries more weight than the entire business association (MEDEF) since the beginning of the election campaign: Michel Pebereau, president of [bank] BNP Paribas has become the image of the punishing father" in the election. Since he put out his report on public debt a year ago, "no serious candidate dares to propose an increase in debt and deficits."

Russia: Cheney Seen Behind Attack on Iran

Zavtra, the influential Russian weekly newspaper with ties to the intelligence community, had a March 7 article by Vladimir Ovchinsky called "Manipulators: Who Is Pushing the U.S.A. Into Aggression Against Iran, and How." The highlight of the article is a precis of the Nov. 4, 2005 *Executive Intelligence Review* package titled "The Very Ugly Truth About Michael Ledeen: The 'Universal Fascism' Behind the Cheney Cabal." The *Zavtra* article is being reproduced and circulated in Russian-language Internet forums and blogs. Ovchinsky lists a large number of international press reports on U.S. military preparations for a strike against Iran. Like several other Russian sources, including Foreign Minister Lavrov on three occasions in the past two weeks, the author especially highlights Cheney's "all options are on the table" remark.

Briefly

BANK OF THE SOUTH. Brazil will join it, with caveats, showing its deadly pragmatism. Finance Minister Guido Mantega announced at a March 9 press conference with his Argentine counterpart Felisa Miceli, that the Lula da Silva government has accepted Argentina's invitation to join the technical commission that will work out the mechanics of setting up a new regional development bank. But Mantega was quick to point out that his "preference" was to strengthen and "transform" existing regional financing entities, rather than create a new one.

MAYAN PRIESTS announced they would perform a special cleansing ceremony after President Bush visited ancient Mayan ruins in Guatemala on March 12, "to clear bad energy" left by his visit. Bush pushed free trade and bio-fuels, as the panacea for poverty, during a trip through five Ibero-American nations.

BRITS' OWN WALTER REED. The *Sunday Observer* reported March 11 on the appalling conditions suffered by British soldiers wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan. The complaints, contained in family letters obtained by the paper, are even worse than what has been reported about U.S. soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Overflowing colostomy bags, poor hygiene practices, and underqualified and uncaring staff are only a few of the complaints coming from families of wounded British soldiers.

HEDGE FUNDS are drooling over a potential "El Dorado" in Ibero-America, with Brazil the juiciest target. Brazil now has 90% of fund managers in the region. "It's the flagship market for the whole region," one analyst told a hedge-fund newsletter. A Constellation Asset Management employee in São Paulo bragged that "we are in a sweet spot," as one of the largest offshore hedge funds in the country. The more volatile, the better.