

Report from Rio by Silvia Palacios

An electoral 'white coup'

"New Age" cultists are pulling a scam on the Brazilian electorate, with dangerous destabilization the result.

Less than 15 days before its first direct presidential election in 29 years, Brazil has suffered a "white coup," with the launching of the candidacy of synthetic television entertainer Silvio Santos, whose true name is Senhor Abravanel. Worse than the announcement of the candidacy itself—which thrusts upon the country an absolute neophyte committed to a monetarist economic program—is the fact that it was sponsored by a group of politicians linked to Brazilian President José Sarney.

Santos, a glitzy television personality who is popular among the poorest and most ignorant Brazilians, made an immense fortune—including through his own television chain SBT—by manipulating and selling illusions and false hopes to that miserable and semi-literate majority who constitute more than half the country's 82 million voters.

The visible coordinators of the Santos scam were the three senators, Marcondes Gadelha, Hugo Napoleão and Edson Lobão, known in this country as "the three little pigs." To launch Silvio Santos, these three used the name of the on-paper-only Brazilian Municipal Party (PMB), whose leaders are members of an evangelical sect, and several of whose principal leaders—according to *Jornal do Brasil* of Nov. 5 and 6—face multiple criminal charges.

For example, on Nov. 5, *Jornal* revealed that the PMB's Múcio Athayde, political mentor of Armando Correia who had been the party presidential candidate before Silvio

Santos's entrance on the scene, has been charged with land invasion, racketeering, and fraudulent bankruptcy. In 1986, Athayde's candidacy for the federal Senate was prohibited due to accusations of abuse of economic power. Another PMB leader, state deputy from Paraná José Felinto, has been indicted for allegedly issuing false checks and participating in the trafficking of children to Israel.

This destabilization of the electoral process represents yet another skirmish in the long-standing battle for power inside Brazil.

As far as is currently known, the real brain behind the outrageous maneuver is Augusto Marzagão, who until last June headed the multimillion-dollar Televisa enterprise in London, in his capacity as international vice president of that powerful Mexican television network. He abandoned that post to come to Brazil and take on the apparently secondary role of press adviser to President Sarney, in the pathetic final phase of his administration. *Jornal do Brasil* on Nov. 7 emphasized: "Alongside the dozens of journalists who are following the progress of Silvio Santos was an unexpected presence: two Televisa representatives."

Marzagão and Culture Minister José Aparecido are prominent members of a powerful group of Gnostic intriguers of the "New Age" variety. Both men are confidants of the equally Gnostic former President of Brazil Janio Quadros, who resigned from his post in 1961, provoking a constitutional crisis which brought on the

1964 military takeover.

Until recently, Aparecido used his position as governor of the Federal District to decree the construction of a mystical city inside Brasília, which would house dozens of esoteric and secret societies. At the same time, he sponsored a major international conference on "holism," the cult philosophy which directly attacks Socratic reason and is attempting to create a New Age sect within scientific circles in the country, as part of the Satanic mass movement promoted by UNESCO and the Cini Foundation of Venice, among others. Not accidentally, Marzagão through Televisa, and Silvio Santos through SBT, have played a pivotal role in the spread of New Age ideas.

This faction of "magicians," whose monetarist economic proposals carry a threat of fascist genocide against the Brazilian population, first attempted to regroup around ex-President Quadros, whom Marzagão unsuccessfully attempted to talk into a new presidential bid while in London. After that failed effort, the group tried to use false polls to inflate the weak candidacy of deputy Afif Domingues, the candidate of the Liberal Party linked to the circles of the U.S. secret government known as "Project Democracy."

It is rumored in the Brazilian press that if national pressures force Silvio Santos to withdraw his candidacy, he and the circles promoting him will reconstitute themselves as supporters of the Afif Domingues candidacy.

Whatever the outcome of the Santos candidacy, his sponsors have already succeeded in destabilizing the electoral process, which could lead to a dangerous political radicalization in the country. On the other hand, the country could finally decide to purge itself of these "New Age" networks once and for all.