

Brazil opts for social agenda of the 'new world order'

by Silvia Palacios

In the two months he has been in office, Brazilian President Itamar Franco has failed to break with the policies of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) implemented by his predecessor, the impeached President Fernando Collor de Mello. Moreover, in early February, he announced his decision to adopt a Brazilian version of Mexican President Carlos Salinas's much ballyhooed National Solidarity Program (Pronasol), a move that further aligns Franco with Anglo-American banking plans for Brazil.

Pronasol and its variants which are cropping up around Ibero-America are a form of anesthesia which banking interests are using to numb the painful consequences of their looting policies. Recognizing that the poverty caused by their draconian "adjustment" programs could spark massive and uncontrollable upheaval, they are prepared to hand out a few crumbs under the guise of "alleviating poverty" while keeping the same austerity policies in place. The essence of Pronasol is minimally financed—with the emphasis on minimally—programs of self-help and fascist local control. Big projects and major investments in infrastructure are out the window.

To promote Pronasol as an international model, the World Bank, the World Conservation Union, and the United Nations have scheduled a major conference to be held next September in Oaxaca, Mexico. Carlos Salinas and his "Solidarity committees" will be on hand to co-sponsor the event, and to sell what should best be called the "social programs of the new world order."

During the first week of February, a delegation of seven Brazilian governors, including four from the impoverished Northeast, spent a week in Mexico to study Pronasol. Deputy Planning Minister Antonio de Rocha Magalhães euphorically declared that President Itamar Franco was extremely pleased with the governors' positive evaluation of the program. He proudly admitted that the World Bank has strongly recommended this type of social program. In fact, in statements published in the Feb. 14 *Jornal do Brasil* reporting on Pronasol's benefits, De Rocha explained that the World Bank financed the governors' trip to Mexico. Since last November, he added, he has worked closely with World Bank Agricul-

ture Division chief Krezentia Duer to study the social programs the Franco government was considering.

Augusto Marzagao, an adviser to Franco and for 12 years an executive of Mexico's powerful Televisa television network, has been chosen to run the publicity campaign for the Brazilian version of Pronasol. Marzagao just returned from Mexico where he met with ubiquitous José Córdoba Montoya, a French-born social democrat known as the *éminence grise* of the Salinas government, to discuss the massive and costly propaganda which promoted Pronasol.

Following the Mexican example, the Brazilian government is counting on the help of communists—in the form of the pro-Cuban Workers' Party (PT)—to give a radical cover to the same old IMF austerity. Taking advantage of the Armed Forces' concern over the potential for social upheaval created by mass poverty, it is also trying to rope the military into the plan.

The PT in bed with Boutros-Ghali

More surprising than the speed with which Itamar Franco gave in to World Bank demands, is the power he has bestowed on the PT to carry out these supposed "social programs." A member of the Cuban-inspired São Paulo Forum, a continent-wide organization which brings together the pro-terrorist Marxist left, the PT is closely linked to pagan "Theology of Liberation" factions. Its political strategy is Leninist: Participate in the National Congress, and at the same time take advantage of popular rage over the severe economic crisis to build its own base of support to eventually seize power.

On Feb. 9, President Franco and PT president, Ignacio "Lula" da Silva, held one of the year's most highly publicized meetings, in which the government agreed to adopt the PT's "National Food Security Policy" as part of its anti-poverty program. Also attending the meeting was Foreign Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso, a member, like Lula, of the Washington-based Anglo-American policymaking agency the Inter-American Dialogue, as well as an intimate of the Clinton administration.

Another key objective of the Brazilian anti-poverty pro-

gram is to open the door to major involvement of numerous non-governmental organizations (NGOs)—the Anglo-Americans' vehicle for undermining national sovereignty, which have been particularly avidly promoted by the United Nations. This is seen in the fact that PT member and sociologist Herbert de Souza was named by Lula to serve with government experts on the commission charged with implementing the program. De Souza, known as "Betinho," is the president of the Brazilian Economic and Social Analysis Institute (IBASE), an NGO financed by the Ford Foundation. Personally linked to Marxist "theo-lib" factions through his family, Betinho has shaped the IBASE into one of the best private intelligence centers for the country's leftist movement, and especially for the PT, although it is not officially affiliated to it.

Involving NGOs in working up anti-poverty programs is not just reflected in Betinho's inclusion in the committee. "Stimulating the contribution of NGOs with competence in this area" is actually part of the PT's food security program. The PT intends to use hunger as one of its agitational banners and is organizing a Caravan for Solidarity and Hope to be held in April.

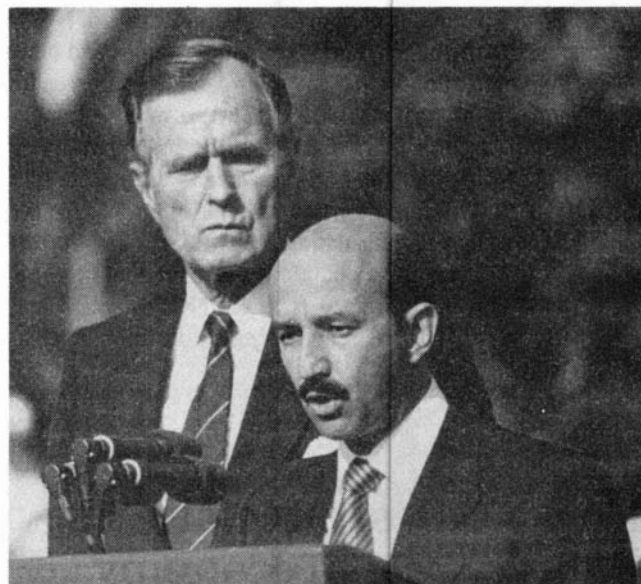
The PT's evolution as a fifth column for the new world order doesn't derive only from its backing for the United Nations' supranational agenda. Through Lula, it is linked to the Inter-American Dialogue, a kind of hemispheric Trilateral Commission which dictated George Bush's policy for Ibero-America, and is doing the same with the Clinton administration.

In its most recent document, *Convergence and Community: the Americas in 1993*, the IAD unabashedly proposed an agenda for limiting the sovereignty of Ibero-American nations, dismantling their armed forces, and broadening the powers of the Organization of American States to guarantee a "collective defense of democracy" through the use of multinational military forces. The report also emphasized the importance of expanding the role of NGOs in these nations. In commenting on the document, Lula limited his disagreements to rejecting the economic neo-liberalism which the IAD recommends. But, he added, "I completely agree with the section about the collective defense of Latin American democracy."

Involving the armed forces

President Franco's proposal to involve the armed forces in anti-poverty programs reflects Anglo-American pressure that the military, an institution whose *raison d'être* is the defense of economic and territorial sovereignty, be weakened or eliminated.

That viewpoint was recently expressed by U.S. Army counterinsurgency expert Russell Ramsey in an article in the Fall 1992 issue of *Strategic Review* on "The Role of Latin American Armed Forces in the 1990s." Couched as a rejection of the more radical demands for the disappearance of



Pronasol's promoter Carlos Salinas, backed by the promoter of the new world order, George Bush.

the Ibero-American militaries, Ramsey argues that it will be more effective to try to rope a downsized military institution into "sustaining the current wave of democratization and the shift to free markets" in the region. "Constitutionally obedient militaries" should be deployed to "plug yawning gaps in the drive to free enterprise development," he suggests, including carrying out "environmental policing programs," guarding tourists, and providing health, education, and transport services in remote regions.

Brazil's military leaders aren't buying into this scheme. In an unusual Feb. 15 meeting of the Army High Command in Rio de Janeiro, spokesman Gen. Gleuber Vieira explained that the Armed Forces would help combat poverty as long as the necessary funds were provided, and as long as the institution is not sidetracked from its primary goal, national defense—for which current funding levels are in any case inadequate. "If they give us more money," Gleuber Vieira said, "we are ready to act," but he added that volunteer work already under way "can be broadened but without damaging the Army's constitutional activities."

The strategy included in the April 1991 document prepared by the Superior War College, entitled *Vital Decade*, counters these kinds of Anglo-American plans by emphasizing that poverty can only be fought in the context of an overall economic development plan. Only then will efforts to eradicate it cease to be mere charity or the object of cheap demagoguery, to become a question of national security. Admiral Goulart Fortuna, commander of the Superior War College put it this way: Either the country again takes up the industrial development policy abandoned 12 years ago, or Brazil's future will be that of sub-Saharan Africa. No middle road or Pronasols can change that reality.

The same document slammed the proposed role of NGOs in limiting Brazilian sovereignty over the Amazon and other areas, by establishing Indian enclaves: "Self-government in Indian areas is a constant foreign effort to internationalize parts of the Amazon, beginning with the Indian enclaves, and which are used by the non-governmental organizations (NGOs). . . . There is a certain amount of support in the national press and among national artistic and intellectual layers, as in sectors of the church and multinational companies, to the demands directed by these NGOs, which are, minimally, very useful to strengthening the destructive obstacles to Brazilian interests."

How a U.S. strategist sees military role in economy

In a Fall 1992 article in *Strategic Review* magazine, Dr. Russell W. Ramsey sketches a plan for "The Role of Latin American Armed Forces in the 1990s." Dr. Ramsey, a visiting professor at the U.S. Army School of the Americas, is deemed an expert on counterinsurgency and the Latin American military.

Ramsey writes, " 'Gold, glory and God' are the famous (or infamous) 'three Gs' taught by many historians as the motivation for the Spanish conquest and colonization in the Western Hemisphere in the early 1500s. . . . For the 1990s and beyond, the 'three Gs' remain an easily memorized code for the roles that Latin America's much maligned armed forces need to play in the development of the region. The 'three Gs' will, however, have different meanings than in the past.

"If Latin America's current great wave of democratization is to endure, the region's booming shift to free market economics will have to pay off in jobs and decent living standards. There are urgent tasks that only the armed forces can accomplish to ensure such economic development. The armed forces will have to perform their altered task in a spirit of constitutional obedience, with total awareness on the part of their leaders that each thing they do, or fail to do, has an economic impact. And, U.S. policy in Latin America will have to support the concept of the Latin American military forces as nation builders and developers."

"Nation builders and developers" are redefined by Ramsey to mean the opposite of what any self-respecting nationalist might think. Thus, "gold" will mean to "plug yawning gaps in the drive to free enterprise development"; "glory" will be achieved when armed forces "assist their governments toward self-perpetuating electoral democracy" (the corrupt kind of democracy congenial to Wall Street); "God" will mean to "protect vital civil liberties such as religious freedom

under a constitutional framework," i.e., open the doors wide to sects and pagan cults.

According to Ramsey, "In the era of the *caudillos* (circa 1830-90), small numbers of entrepreneurs learned how to do business with Europe and the United States, often in ways which worked against Latin America's people. Entrepreneurship never became an important civic value, and Adam Smith's free enterprise philosophy never fully penetrated Latin America." The latter view, credited in a footnote to the neo-liberal ideologue Michael Novak, is a warped way of saying that many Ibero-American leaders in the past adopted the Christian outlook of the American System of economics, against the British System (Adam Smith) worship of the Invisible Hand, which has now driven even the memory of the American System out of the United States.

Ramsey relates, "Latin America's own military officers picked up the idea of using the armed forces to develop the national economy for both better and worse. As an example of the latter, the Army of Juan Perón's Argentina established its own set of national factories, a trend further advanced by Brazil under the military regime of the late 1960s. This form of military-dominated economic development had three goals: to establish a tightly controlled domestic arms industry; to wave the national flag against foreign economic domination; and to provide a source of revenue for the armed forces independent of taxation." For Ramsey, this was not "nation builders and developers"—no, "This approach was similar to Mussolini's fascist state paradigm," he lies.

Ramsey describes existing "positive, non-combat roles of the armed forces which have economic development functions," such as "the protection and assistance of tourists," which is, of course "vital because so many Latin American countries depend upon tourism as a source of revenue." Plus, "The maintenance of stability is also an economic role for the armed forces. Educated and disciplined armed forces acting under legitimate authority can prevent debilitating *coups d'état* which are costly in terms of public damage, loss of life, broken trade treaties, and altered policies that disrupt production and discourage investment. The key here is, of course, that armed forces must not take advantage of an armed challenge to their governments." In short, the armed forces can be turned into gendarmes for foreign debt collection, putting down strikes and demonstrations, protecting the jet set on vacation, and for crushing any behavior by governments that might annoy rich foreigners.

Laments Ramsey, "Several of the region's armed forces do have a history of 'saving the nation' via *coup d'état* when things go wrong politically." Therefore, the United States should act to put the military in their place: "For example, returning to office the legally elected Haitian President, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, should be a high U.S. priority, even if it means disarming and jailing segments of Haiti's armed forces by Organization of American States or United Nations forces."