

Lyndon LaRouche slandered in Brazil by terrorists' agent

by Valerie Rush

Growing nationalist resistance, within both civilian and military circles, to the International Monetary Fund's austerity dictates in Brazil, combined with the impact of a recent visit by Colombia's former Armed Forces Commander and former Presidential candidate Gen. Harold Bedoya (ret.), is raising fears among certain oligarchical ruling layers and their hangers-on about the spreading influence of the ideas of U.S. Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche in that country. It is in this context that a vile slander was just planted in the Brazilian press, in an effort to contain that influence.

On Oct. 19, an article appeared in the widely read *Jornal do Brasil* newspaper, ostensibly dealing with a Federal Police investigation into the murder of a state judge, but which was turned into a wild and totally unrelated attack against both LaRouche and his associates in Brazil, including *EIR* correspondents Lorenzo Carrasco and Silvia Palacios de Carrasco. Under a subhead, "Neo-Nazis," the article suddenly quotes Justice Minister José Carlos Dias saying that the Federal Police will shortly be deciding "whether to open an investigation of the denunciation made by Jair Krischke . . . of the existence of a neo-Nazi and anti-Semitic group in Brazil, linked to the LaRouche organization in the United States." Specifically named are Executive Intelligence Review News Service, and the Ibero-American Solidarity Movement (MSIA), founded by LaRouche supporters.

Who is Krischke?

Krischke, president of the pro-terrorist Movement for Justice and Human Rights of Rio Grande do Sul, is also a longtime asset of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, with close ties to Israeli intelligence, who began slandering LaRouche and his wife, Helga Zepp-LaRouche, as far back as 1989. In May of that year, Krischke had denounced LaRouche "as a danger to Latin America: using the pretext of uniting left and right in a nationalist project, he seeks to impose fascist, Nazi, and anti-Semitic ideas." In August 1989, speaking on a Brazilian television program, he issued a violent personal attack on Zepp-LaRouche, who had just visited Brazil to press the case of her husband,

then a political prisoner of the George Bush administration. Krischke has also appeared on Brazilian TV together with the ADL's Rabbi Morton Rosenthal, a rabid LaRouche-hater.

Equally revealing is Krischke's relationship to Argentine terrorist Mario Firmenich, a leader of the Montoneros guerrillas, whose first act upon being released from a Buenos Aires prison in January 1991, was to travel to Pôrto Alegre, Brazil, where he came under Krischke's protection. An intimate friend of the family of Firmenich's wife, Maria Elpidia, Krischke was instrumental in orchestrating her escape from Argentina, where she had been jailed on charges of subversion. Krischke has also protected members of an Argentine terrorist group, the All for the Fatherland Movement, which assaulted the La Tablada army base in Buenos Aires, in January 1989.

The *Jornal do Brasil* article quotes extensively from the "dossier" which Krischke prepared for Minister Dias, which specifically targets Lorenzo and Silvia Carrasco as the leaders of the LaRouche organization in Brazil, and asserts that "the LaRouche organization's industry of fanaticism and conspiracy theories gives support to Brazil's most unrepentant neo-Nazi groups." The dossier also identifies by name several of the Brazilian leaders of LaRouche's movement.

Krischke's dossier states that the "neo-Nazi" Carrascos use "aggressive tactics and delirious and slanderous accusations," an example of which is supposedly Mrs. Carrasco's denunciation of Brazilian President "Fernando Henrique [Cardoso], his wife Ruth, and his Human Rights Secretary José Gregori, [for] developing programs whose intention is to dismantle and demobilize national institutions, primarily the Armed Forces, answering to the interests of globalization, drug trafficking, and speculative capital."

In a letter to the editor, published in full by *Jornal do Brasil* on Oct. 22, the *EIR* correspondents respond to the slander: "As for the charges of anti-Semitism and neo-Nazism, any superficial reading of our publications clearly demonstrates how slanderous and unfounded these charges are. . . . *EIR* has systematically denounced the political actions of avowed Nazis and anti-Semites in several governments." LaRouche has dedicated his life to "the unending

fight to rebuild the world economy, to put it on the road to real development and production, in contrast to the financial casino which has increasingly prevailed over the last three decades,” the letter continues.

The Carrascos’ letter noted Krischke’s known connections to terrorist organizations “and other entities grouped under the umbrella organization, the São Paulo Forum. Among the Forum’s members are the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the narco-guerrilla group, one of whose representatives in Brazil, Mr. Hernán Ramírez, was in Pôrto Alegre meeting with Gov. Olivio Dutra only days before Mr. Krischke issued his warmed-over diatribe against LaRouche and the MSIA.”

Hernán Ramírez has dubbed himself the FARC’s “ambassador,” and is touring the continent to drum up support among the governments of the region for granting “belligerent status” to the FARC. Such status, under international law, would not only constitute recognition of the FARC as a government unto itself, but would give this murderous narco-terrorist gang diplomatic entry to any government in the world, and even the right to purchase weapons!

Not a coincidence

It is not a coincidence that the narco-terrorist FARC is finding such a warm welcome among the same pro-terrorist circles with which Krischke is associated, nor is it a coincidence that these same circles planted the slander against LaRouche when they did. It was *EIR* which helped to facilitate the Oct. 5-9 visit to Brazil of General Bedoya, a former Defense Minister, who is currently organizing a political-military alliance for the region, both for economic development and to defeat narco-terrorists, such as the FARC.

In an address to the prestigious Military Club of Rio de Janeiro, the leading forum for policy debate among the Brazilian Armed Forces, Bedoya emphasized, “A civil war in Colombia would unleash a civil war in the region, and the Amazon would be handed over to the drug trade. If Colombia falls, Brazil falls. There is much you can do for Colombia.”

In addition to his numerous meetings, including with high-level officials at the Brazilian Foreign Ministry, General Bedoya also gave presentations before the Foreign Relations and Defense committees of the Brazilian National Congress, and testified before a Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry (CPI) charged with investigating the drug trade. His testimony to the CPI was especially stunning; he gave details of the *modus operandi* of the drug cartels that operate in Colombia, and of the operations of the “Third Cartel,” as the FARC is now known, including the forced recruitment of children as combatants into their ranks.

Two prominent reports on General Bedoya’s visit were published in *Jornal do Brasil*, one an eight-column article on its international page whose headline ran, “A World War in Colombia: Former Defense Minister Criticizes Countries

that Support Negotiations with the Guerrillas; Proposes International Alliance.” Bedoya’s remarks to the CPI garnered television evening news coverage.

Coverage of Bedoya’s visit also appeared in *IstoE* magazine, Brazil’s second-largest weekly, with a circulation of 800,000. For two weeks running, *IstoE* has featured General Bedoya’s warning that the FARC is a threat to Brazil itself. The first article, appearing in its Oct. 20 issue, was a page-and-a-half interview with General Bedoya. The magazine illustrated the interview with a photograph of New York Stock Exchange President Richard Grasso embracing FARC leader Raúl Reyes, during his visit to the narco-terrorists’ stronghold in June. The article reports that Bedoya carries this photograph around with him, “to show it off at every international meeting on his agenda.”

In particular, the article focussed on Bedoya’s warning that “the Brazilian Amazon runs the risk of suffering the same fate as the Colombian Amazon,” if other countries recognize FARC domination over the demilitarized zone in Colombia. The author pointed to Bedoya’s evidence that the FARC is already using the rivers which run through both countries, to traffic both weapons and drugs. Reflecting the degree of debate inside the country over this issue, the *IstoE* article reports that Brazil’s Army and Foreign Ministry insist that they have no evidence of direct FARC intervention into Brazil. In fact, Foreign Ministry spokesman Antonio Lisboa Gonçalves, the director-general of the Ministry’s Americas division, heatedly charged, “It was the Colombian Army which invaded Brazil almost a year ago, in an attempt to repel a guerrilla attack on the city of Mitu,” on the border between Colombia and Brazil. Lisboa added, “Itamaraty [the Foreign Ministry] believes that, over the long term, the FARC and ELN will become political institutions” in Colombia.

One week later, in its Oct. 27 issue, *IstoE* jumped back into the debate: “Gen. Harold Bedoya’s warnings that the FARC is already using Brazil and Colombia’s common rivers to increase their territories and to protect drug-trafficking and arms contraband in the region, just as *IstoE* published in its last issue, have reverberated in Brazil, and received important back-up.” The evidence the magazine offers includes Sept. 21 testimony before the U.S. Congress by an Assistant Secretary of State, and an interview with Brazil’s National Anti-Drug Secretary Walter Maierovith, who states bluntly, “The cooperation between the guerrillas and the drug-traffickers is clear-cut”; and Brazilian Federal Police seizures of arms-for-drugs planes linked to the FARC.

In the name of “media objectivity,” *IstoE* interviews a FARC representative in Brazil, one Oliverio Medina, who responded to General Bedoya’s charges with attacks on the United States for allegedly wanting the peace process in Colombia to fail, and with a denunciation of how “the Colombian people” rejected Bedoya’s Presidential candidacy in the 1998 elections.