

IMF, Transparency Int'l celebrate De la Rúa victory in Argentina

by Gerardo Terán Canal and Gonzalo Huertas

On Oct. 24, Presidential elections were held in Argentina, and the big loser was current President Carlos Saúl Menem. Disenchanted and disgusted with the deep recession the country is experiencing, the Argentine people chose by an absolute majority the Presidential slate known as "The Alliance," made up of Buenos Aires Mayor Fernando de la Rúa (for President), from the Radical Civic Union (UCR), one of Argentina's two traditional parties, and Carlos "Chacho" Alvarez (for Vice President), a leading figure of the Frente País Solidario (Frepasso), a "new" leftist grouping that has grown during the 1990s under the aegis of the São Paulo Forum and the Inter-American Dialogue. While the De la Rúa slate won with 48.5% of the vote, Eduardo Duhalde, candidate of the country's other leading party, the ruling Justicialist, or Peronist, Party (PJ), only took 38%. Placing third in the Presidential contest was the favorite son of narco-speculator George Soros, the Action for the Republic (AR) party candidate and former Argentine Economics Minister Domingo Cavallo, with 10.5% of the vote.

De la Rúa's victory was anxiously awaited by the international financial oligarchy. Its chief lackey, International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Michel Camdessus, was already celebrating De la Rúa's election victory, based on polls a week earlier. In a statement published in the Oct. 17 Buenos Aires daily *Página 12*, Camdessus not only welcomed De la Rúa, but unabashedly revealed the dirty role played by the international speculators in the pre-election period. "I think," said Camdessus, "that all those fears born in the marketplace that a macroeconomic imbalance was going to show up [in Argentina] were unfounded. There were very strong speculative wars against Argentina during the past few months, coinciding with the election period. . . . That the Alliance is from the left or right matters very little to me. What is important to me is that the country continue with its fiscal and financial discipline to permit the economy to grow."

One day after the elections, the Bloomberg news agency (dedicated to targetting countries for speculation) warned that the new President should "quickly send the markets signals" that it is going to adopt the tax and labor reforms demanded by the IMF. De la Rúa will oblige, by travelling

to New York and Washington on Nov. 15, to meet with IMF and World Bank officials.

The oligarchy also seeks to combine De la Rúa's victory in Argentina with similar results in upcoming Presidential elections in Chile and Uruguay, where they are promoting the socialist Ricardo Lagos and leftist Tabaré Vázquez, respectively. London thereby hopes to achieve a common front in the Southern Cone that will bring about its looked-for "final solution," the plot to annihilate the armed forces and nation-states of Ibero-America. Toward this end, they have put Transparency International, their non-governmental organization (NGO), on a war-footing, with an aggressive campaign for the globalization of law, as in the case of Chile's former President Pinochet, using lying, hypocritical accusations of human rights violations and corruption.

For whom, and against whom?

For several weeks before the Oct. 24 Presidential election, various regional elections were held, including for the governorships of six provinces and/or states in Argentina, and for 130 national Congressional seats. Confirming that the punishing vote was directed against the policy of the Menem government, and not against the Justicialist Party, the latter paradoxically won in the provinces of Buenos Aires, Santa Fé, Córdoba (which together make up more than 70% of the national electorate), and Jujuy, while the Alliance only won in the provinces of Mendoza and Entre Ríos. The Alliance's euphoria was dampened considerably by the unexpected defeat in Buenos Aires province (representing 50% of the national electorate) of that British creation preferred by the media and the pollsters, the pro-narco-terrorist Graciela Fernández Meijide of Frepasso.

The new governor of Buenos Aires province will be the current Vice President of the nation, Carlos Ruckauf, who won 48.28% of the vote, while Frepasso's Fernández garnered 41.42%. Ruckauf has differentiated himself openly from Menem, and has campaigned alongside the Justicialist Presidential candidate Duhalde, who, in addition to having criticized the IMF, has also distanced himself from President Menem. When Great Britain's Prince Charles was visiting Argentina last March, Ruckauf refused to attend the official

reception. According to the comments of one of the country's most important pollsters, Julio Aurelio, the victory of the Justicialist candidate in Buenos Aires was due to the fact that the province's voters, including supporters of both the Radical and Peronist parties, are very conservative and nationalist.

A communiqué issued by the Argentine Bishops Conference recommended that Catholics vote for the candidates who rejected abortion, who promoted "comprehensive health care for the population, especially the most needy, and the fight against the drug plague," and who would "defend the state of law in terms of guaranteeing the security of the population and the efficient administration of justice, while absolutely rejecting—in form and deed—corruption in all strata of society." Fernández clearly felt singled out by the bishops' statement.

Argentina's election was atypical, but explicable: Despite the fact that the Convertibility Plan, or currency board, imposed by President Menem eliminated what was left of Argentine industry, tripled the foreign debt, left a real unemployment rate (that is, official unemployment plus underemployment) of 30% of the economically active population, left the financial system in the hands of the international speculators, and resulted in real wages representing a 50% collapse in purchasing power over ten years, and a farm sector mortgaged to the hilt, De la Rúa campaigned in favor of maintaining that plan in full. Further, his closest advisers, such as the likely next Finance Minister, the pro-IMF José Luis Machinea, have openly insisted that "the main objective [of the Alliance] will be fiscal balance; according to the agreement with the IMF, the fiscal deficit next year must not exceed \$4.5 billion. That will require an enormous savings effort. According to Alliance calculations, should things continue as they are, the figure will reach \$9.8 billion. . . . Even the ministers will travel by motorcycle."

IMF brainwashing

There is a two-part explanation for such schizophrenic behavior. First of all, since the end of the 1980s, the average Argentine has been terrified of returning to the so-called "economic horror" that was caused by the hyperinflation of that period. So far, the media and IMF agents have managed to keep in place the brainwashing, that the Convertibility Plan is insurance against returning to that "horror," despite the deepening recession the Argentine economy is experiencing. De la Rúa manipulated Argentines with the story that the real cause of the current economic disaster is not the Convertibility Plan, but rather the corruption and waste in public expenditure of the outgoing Menem government. De la Rúa's oft-repeated campaign promises, which contributed to the brainwashing of the voters, was that, as President of Argentina, he would do away with the corrupt politicians and thus would bring about the social development that the Convertibility model lacked.

The most striking proof that there still exists "confidence" in the Convertibility Plan, more out of fear than anything else, is the votes that turned the political movement of its architect and implementer, Domingo Cavallo, into the third political force in the country. Cavallo himself secured his victory when he told the newspaper *La Nación* that Action for the Republic "is going to be the key to success in a future Alliance government. And the support will be there only if the new government is prepared to make courageous reforms. I hope that the signs of cowardice on De la Rúa's part are only [an aspect of] the campaign, and that, when he becomes President, instead of yielding to the backward elements in his party" (referring to those inside the UCR who might oppose deepening the reforms), he will impose the necessary reforms.

Transparency International on the move

But with his election victory, De la Rúa has promised not only to continue with the IMF's destructive policy, but also to open the doors to a new phase of destruction of the sovereign nation-state, led by the defenders of globalization. As *EIR* has demonstrated for years, the intent is not to improve the institutions, but, on the contrary, to destroy the political parties and other national organizations under the guise of "combatting corruption." The most dramatic example is the Italian case, where parties like the Christian Democracy have been destroyed. Years later, it turned out that all the accusations against the party's main leader, Giulio Andreotti, had absolutely no legal merit, much less truth. But, the damage has been done, because the Christian Democracy no longer exists.

As in the case of the Italian "Clean Hands" campaign against "corruption," in Argentina too, it is the British Empire which is behind this scenario. Ever since he became the Mayor of Buenos Aires, De la Rúa made an *ad honorem* agreement with Transparency International (TI), which is headed at the Ibero-American and Caribbean (TI-LAC) level by the anti-military former Argentine prosecutor Luis Moreno Ocampo. TI functions today as an appendage of the IMF and the World Bank, but first and foremost it is a creature of Prince Philip, whose mission, as shown in the case of Indonesia, is to destroy nation-states.

For TI, as its vice president, Frank Vogl, stated to *Clarín*, "The fact that the new President-elect Fernando de la Rúa has stressed during his campaign the importance of the fight against corruption, is very encouraging for Argentina." Now, it only remains to be seen "if De la Rúa follows through in the long term." Vogl said that in the fight against corruption, one finds "the new leader of Indonesia, the new Economics Minister of Pakistan, who has been a great defender of Transparency International's work, the new Prime Minister of Nigeria, and, of course, also Fernando de la Rúa in Argentina."

Two days before the elections, TI had put out an interna-

tional press release on its new corruption "index," which ranked Argentina 71st, out of a total of 99 countries. Immediately, President Menem accused TI of being a "mercenary organization, far from the principle of telling the truth, and closer to the perverse task of distorting reality, without measuring the damage it causes to nations." TI-LAC president Moreno Ocampo threatened Menem, saying that he was like "the fat man who complains about the scale."

On Oct. 30, it was learned that several Menem government officials have been subpoenaed to testify in corruption cases, as soon as De la Rúa takes power on Dec. 10. The list of those subpoenaed is headed by General Secretary of the Presidency Alberto Kohan, to testify in the case of money laundering by Bank of Credit and Commerce International's Argentine branch. Kohan must appear in court on Dec. 16.

TI counts on the fact that there is corruption to be found. But its fight against corruption is intentionally selective. It will only investigate those cases which prove useful to the cause of destroying Argentina institutionally, and which satisfy the immediate discontent of the population. In this, it can count on the media, today controlled by the main communication multinationals. TI will avoid, as it has already done, any investigation that might reveal that the policy of the Convertibility Plan, from top to bottom, is an act of despicable corruption, and that, as in the case of Russia, the IMF and World Bank are just as involved as the financial oligarchy is.

The narco-terrorist foot of the Alliance

The third foot of the Alliance, of which the IMF should also be proud, is ready to finish the destruction of the Armed Forces that President Menem started. The Frepaso leadership, in particular, has a well-known narco-terrorist militancy. On the one side, the Montonero past of "Chacho" Alvarez and his antagonism to the military is well known. It was Alvarez, together with the so-called "group of eight" (all congressmen and members of Frepaso), serving as spokesmen for the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, who officially demanded the expulsion from Argentina of *EIR* correspondent Gerardo Terán Canal, accusing him of being a friend of, and visitor to, former Col. Mohamed Alí Seineldín, currently serving a life sentence for opposing the destruction of the Armed Forces.

At the same time, Graciela Fernández Meijide is a member of that great defender and promoter of narco-terrorism, the Inter-American Dialogue, as well as an advocate of drug legalization and abortion. She is a militant in the cause of "human rights" for narco-terrorists. To add to her qualifications, her initial run for the Presidency was blessed by the British Foreign Office.

The spokesman in Argentina for Colombia's narco-terrorist FARC, one Javier Calderón, boasts of his contacts with political figures in the Alliance. On Oct. 4, Alliance member Sen. Leopoldo Moreau (UCR), travelled to Colom-

bia to back the "peace negotiations" between the Colombian government and the FARC. "I am going to express my solidarity, together with all the other Latin American parties that make up the Socialist International, and to offer our active support for the peace effort," declared Senator Moreau.

A new anti-military offensive

Two days after the elections, it was announced that Spanish Judge Baltasar Garzón had issued indictments against 98 Argentine military officers for human rights violations against Spanish nationals. On Nov. 3, the list was published of those whom Garzón intends to submit to the same treatment that has been dealt Chile's Pinochet, with the help of the British Empire and its lackeys. At the same time, British intelligence's Amnesty International and other human rights NGOs issued an open letter demanding the annulment of the "end point" and "due obedience" laws, which were put into effect under the Alfonsín regime (1983-89), in the interests of national reconciliation, to halt prosecutions of military personnel accused of human rights violations.

Amnesty further demanded that "security forces and all those policemen responsible [for torture or killings] be brought to justice" and "fired from their jobs while they are under investigation." Amnesty is also calling for "security" for "witnesses in human rights cases," and for defenders of human rights, journalists, and relatives of victims.

However, on the Radical Civic Union side of the Alliance, they are not convinced that such extraterritorial trials should proceed. President-elect De la Rúa himself, who had backed the British decision to extradite Pinochet from Britain to Spain, changed his mind after meeting with the Chilean Presidential candidate for the Concertación umbrella, Ricardo Lagos, in the city of Las Cuevas, Mendoza, bordering Chile. De la Rúa stated that he hoped that "the international jurisdictions will be clarified, so that the torturers will be punished. But for now, it appears [Pinochet] should be tried in Chile."

The Nov. 3 *La Nación* reports that "the Alliance is committed to respecting the terms of [Argentina's] extradition treaty [with Spain], which doesn't necessarily mean it will allow extradition." Further, one of the candidates for the cabinet, UCR legal expert Ricardo Gil Lavedra, said that "at first glance," one of the former military junta presidents indicted by Garzón is not extraditable because his case "doesn't meet the necessary formal requirements." Nonetheless, individuals close to Transparency, such as legal expert Eugenio Raúl Zaffaroni and former President Raúl Alfonsín, say that "there is no territoriality worth a damn." On Nov. 2, seven national Frepaso Congressmen presented a resolution to the Congress, demanding that the Executive "enforce the international arrest warrant for the extradition of all Argentine citizens indicted in Spain for terrorism and genocide."