
Documentation

EIR's Carrasco Briefs Brazilian Senate

We publish below excerpts of the prepared statement presented on May 15, 2001, by EIR correspondent Lorenzo Carrasco, before the Brazilian Senate Commission of Inquiry investigating the role of non-governmental organizations. Subheads have been added.

It is a great honor for me to collaborate with this Commission, to help in understanding a matter of extreme relevance to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Brazilian nation. Ten years ago, in August 1991, also in my capacity as a correspondent for *Executive Intelligence Review* magazine, I had the opportunity to collaborate in similar fashion with another Commission of Inquiry (CPI) in the Chamber of Deputies, which was investigating the threat of internationalization of the Brazilian Amazon. At that time, I warned about the strategic plans of certain sectors of the international oligarchic establishment, especially its Anglo-American component, to use the environmentalist-indigenist movement to impose a system of limited sovereignty on certain countries rich in natural resources, particularly Brazil.

That was during the government of George Bush Sr. in the United States, renowned internationally for the call to create a "New World Order," as he christened it, built on the ruins of a bombed-out Iraq, during the Gulf War. A short time before this, coincidentally, I had just had the opportunity to speak on this topic, at a seminar sponsored by the Command School of the Army General Staff.

What we see before us today, in the midst of a far graver global crisis, is the full implementation of the strategy I denounced ten years ago. On the one hand, that is characterized by the final phase of the world financial system's disintegration and, on the other, by the attempts of U.S. President George W. Bush, the son of the aforementioned, to prop up the financial system by resorting to brute force and threats of military conflict. One ill-disguised example of these threats is the truculent pressures on Brazil to subordinate itself to the so-called Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), through which the country's sovereignty would be effectively limited.

In Brazil, *EIR's* interest in environmental issues began in 1988, when the country became a target of an intense international campaign identifying it as the planet's authentic "environmental villain number one," especially denouncing the use of fires in the Amazon, which even became the topic of cartoons in the United States. The campaign intensified at the

end of that year, after the murder of rubber workers leader Chico Mendes, the world repercussions of which, directed by an international network of environmentalist non-governmental organizations (NGOs), began to reveal the level of coordination behind the campaign, and motivated us to launch an in-depth investigation of the matter.

Our investigation revealed an extremely sophisticated operation, directly linked to the highest decision-making circles of the international oligarchy, organized around the leadership of the British and Dutch royal families. The latter, in turn, exercise direct control, both political and financial, over a vast network of NGOs belonging to the environmentalist-indigenist movement. . . .

In June 1991, *EIR* published the Portuguese-language special report *O Brasil e os Bastidores do "Ecologismo" Internacional* ("Brazil and the Interfaces of International 'Ecologism'"), which summarized our understanding of the problem at the time. Unfortunately, negotiations around the Rio-92 conference, held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992, were such that the government gave in to the demands of the foreign-run environmentalist-indigenist apparatus, making concessions such as setting the borders of the gigantic, absurd Yanomami Indian reserve on the Brazil-Venezuela border, symbolizing that apparatus's influence in defining Brazil's public policies.

As of 1994, when we launched the weekly *EIR Scientific and Environmental Alert*, we began to continuously expose the insidious actions of the environmental-indigenist apparatus against Brazilian advanced-technology initiatives, such as the nuclear program and large infrastructure projects, especially in the areas of energy and water transportation. Opposition to water projects particularly in the central-west and Amazonian regions, stems from foreign geopolitical motives, to obstruct the emergence in South America of a vigorous food production and industrial center, capable of quickly becoming the "breadbasket of the world," as described by the great scientist Norman Borlaug, "father of the Green Revolution."

In April 1997, we published the special report "*A Grande Hidrovia*" ("The Great Waterway"), in which we exposed how the Anglo-American oligarchy and its network of NGOs acted to block the potential linking of the Amazon, Orinoco, and Plata river basins, a plan already anticipated at the end of the 18th Century by Captain-General Luiz Albuquerque de Melo e Cáceres, Governor of the province of Mato Grosso, and, later, by the famous scientist Alexander von Humboldt.

Similarly, in several articles, conferences, and public debates, we exposed the pseudo-scientific nature of the vast majority of the arguments manipulated to support the environmentalist movement, such as the distorted presentation of certain atmospheric phenomena, such as the "hole" in the ozone layer, global warming, etc. In this endeavor, we worked with real scientists, who hadn't been swayed by the sophisms of "political correctness," and never lost sight of science's



EIR's and LaRouche's Brazil representative Lorenzo Carrasco has stirred nationalist forces in the country with his new book and his explosive testimony to the Congressional Investigative Committee on the NGOs.

final goal, which is the permanent search for truth, and placing knowledge at the service of human happiness.

Environmentalism at the Service of World Government

This effort resulted more recently in the publication of the book *Green Mafia: Environmentalism at the Service of "World Government,"* (*Máfia Verde: o Ambientalismo a Serviço do "Governo Mundial"*), whose release happily coincided, almost simultaneously, with the launching of this Commission of Inquiry. . . .

Thirty years ago, *EIR's* founder, American economist Lyndon LaRouche, organized his political movement, and shortly afterward founded the magazine, as an international political force to combat the oligarchical project to plunge the world into a new Dark Age. The latter was to be achieved primarily by dismantling the post-World War II financial system, and reviving the utopia of a "world government," based on the old proposals of H.G. Wells and Bertrand Russell, ideologues of a rebirth of the British Empire, and on the geopolitical theories of Halford Mackinder, among others.

Later, LaRouche and his movement fought the premises presented at the First World Conference on Population, held in Bucharest, Romania in 1974, and planned by the international oligarchy as a platform from which to promote Malthusianism on a world scale. During the same period, in which the Club of Rome's fallacious "limits to growth" theses ran rampant, [LaRouche's movement] exposed the real character and the intentions of the nascent environmentalist movement. These efforts coincided at that time with the vigorous Brazil-

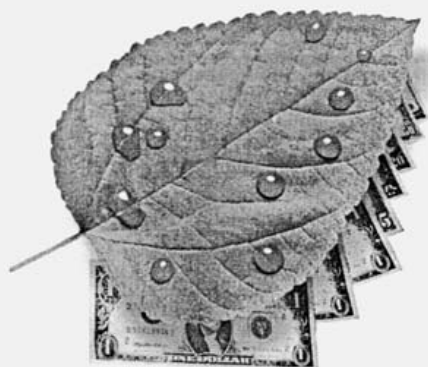
ian diplomatic opposition to this hegemonic agenda, led by individuals of the stature of Araújo Castro, Miguel Ozório de Almeida, Josué de Castro, and others. These leaders correctly insisted that the majority of environmental problems were due to a lack of development, and that the attempts to impose restrictions on underdeveloped countries, masked the intention of "freezing" world power.

Malthusian Plots

At that time, there was a generalized understanding among the most cognizant of the political elites, of the real intent of the rapidly expanding international environmentalist-indigenist operation. An example of this was the forceful exposé presented to the Brazilian Congress on Feb. 12, 1968 by then-MDB party leader, and now eminent Sen. Bernardo Cabral, when he denounced the Malthusian character of such initiatives as the Hudson Institute's "Great Amazon Lakes" project, and the sterilization of Amazonian women. He said at that time that "the purpose is to create a gap, distancing that area from the country's south. The area's growth would be for foreign interests—for northern Latin America and North America, thereby separating it from the south. And that region cannot develop economically without looking toward the southern part of the country; otherwise it must submit itself to a political and economic process, directed entirely beyond Brazil. Consequently, accepting that internationalization, which is a long-held and seductive dream of foreign groups which now want, at any cost, to use the excuse of a lake for that purpose."

This entire offensive must be seen in the context of the

Cuidado com os falsos ambientalistas! Leia:



MÁFIA VERDE

O ambientalismo a serviço do Governo Mundial



Máfia Verde foi elaborado para demonstrar que o movimento ambientalista internacional, apoiado em sua vasta rede de organizações não-governamentais (ONG's), nada tem a ver com a proteção do meio ambiente. Ao contrário, ele serve a uma hábil estratégia da oligarquia anglo-americana para obstaculizar os esforços de desenvolvimento socioeconômico em escala global, em especial dos grandes projetos de infra-estrutura no Brasil.

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"Protect yourself against the false environmentalists!" This is an ad for the Portuguese-language book published in Brazil by EIR, titled Green Mafia: Environmentalism in the Service of World Government.

document produced in 1974 by the U.S. National Security Council, under the leadership of Henry Kissinger, the so-called National Security Study Memorandum No. 200, better known as NSSM-200. It established the guidelines for consolidating Malthusianism as a political doctrine of the U.S. government, particularly the use of financial resources to promote population control in countries rich in natural resources, to preserve those resources for the use of U.S. interests. The memorandum names 13 key developing-sector countries as specific targets of this strategy, among them Brazil.

The most relevant example here was Africa, where "protection of wildlife" became the ideal pretext for ensuring protection of the British Empire's colonial interests, disguised as the British Commonwealth of Nations, after many African nations became independent in the 1960s. The key organization in this process was the World Wildlife Fund [WWF, later renamed the World Wide Fund for Nature], created in 1961 by a group of European oligarchs led by Prince Philip of England and Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, the latter a notorious militant of the Nazi Party prior to World War II. Even today, both hold prominent positions in the WWF's

hierarchy, the former as its president emeritus, and the latter as head of the so-called "1001 Club," in charge of bringing in financial support from the top layers of the international oligarchy.

As to the WWF's real intentions, I place at the Commission's disposal a report published in the Dutch environmental journal *De Groene Amsterdammer*, describing an investigation of the WWF's activities in South Africa, ordered by former President Nelson Mandela. . . . Such militancy on the part of the WWF's founders is no accident, since the environmentalist movement is nothing more than a metamorphosis of the eugenics movement, openly promoted by the highest levels of the Anglo-American oligarchy prior to World War II. In the postwar period, with the discrediting of eugenics, as a result of the Nazi atrocities committed on its behalf, oligarchic strategists directed their efforts and financial resources toward transforming the eugenics apparatus into the population control and environmentalist movements. Crucial in this process was the creation in 1948 of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which might be considered the WWF's "older brother," since both had practically the same mentors and creators. Today, these make up what could be called the "General Staff" of the international environmentalist movement, which issues the policies determining the actions of the movement's principal NGOs, or "shock troops," such as Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth, Conservation International, the Environmental Defense Fund, etc.

As seen in the composition of its board of directors, the WWF is not just an organization of dilettantes. It includes members of the European and Anglo-American aristocracy, as well as top executives of some of the major multinational energy, food, raw materials, industrial, and communications companies. Of particular interest to Brazil, for example, is the fact that the founder and president of the AES energy company, Roger W. Sant, also runs the WWF's U.S. branch. Other company directors, such as Robert H. Waterman, Jr. and former U.S. Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary, are also WWF officials. As we know, AES is actively trying to control an important portion of Brazil's energy market, hoping to take advantage of the scarcity, caused in large part by its environmentalist-indigenist partners, together with companies such as Brascan, Enron, and others. Thus, environmentalism and big business are intimately linked.

Foreign Financing

It is worth emphasizing that the primary sources of financing for the environmentalist-indigenist NGOs are contributions from those multinational companies and oligarchic family foundations in the Northern Hemisphere (Ford, Rockefeller, MacArthur, W. Alton Jones, etc.), as well as official or semi-official financing agencies from the major powers of the Group of Seven (G-7). The most important in

the latter group are the U.S. Agency for International Development (U.S. AID), DFID (England), and CIDA (Canada).

This being the case, it's not surprising that the "agenda" of the environmentalist-indigenist apparatus is dictated by such hegemonic power centers, rather than the real interests of the Brazilian nation. This fact is admitted by leaders of the Brazilian environmentalist movement, such as former IBAMA [Brazilian Institute for Environment and Renewable Natural Resources] Eduardo Martins, who also served as a WWF director in Brazil. In an interview published in *Veja* magazine on July 2, 1998, he admitted: "Close to 85% of the funds for NGOs in Brazil come from abroad. Along with that money, comes the outline of priorities defined for each country. This causes problems. The environmental discussion sponsored by NGOs ends up dictating slogans with symbols like the lemur, the elephant, and now mahogany. Imagine if a group of European environmentalists were to meet and decide that the NGOs should support the Landless Movement (MST), because it is the new symbol in the fight for conservation. The next day, the rainforest is forgotten, and no one talks about it any more."

In a report published on Feb. 9, 1994, the same magazine confirmed the NGOs' tremendous dependence on foreigners, noting that 80% of the \$700 million moved annually by them at that time, came from foreign contributions. . . .

This dependence on foreign funds has also contaminated official agencies, such as the Ministry of Environment and the Legal Amazon. According to the Institute of Socioeconomic Studies (INESC), a Brazilian NGO linked to the international environmentalist machine, specializing in relations with Congress, 51% of the ministry's budget for this year comes from international "donations"—close to 520 million reals [more than \$230 million]. Perhaps it is no coincidence that approximately the same amount of the ministry's budget is allocated to "other services, third parties, or legal entities." This being the case, we're not surprised at how rapidly the ministry contracts the services of innumerable NGOs to perform studies and evaluations which inevitably conclude that various of the country's infrastructure projects are "environmentally unviable." If confirmed, it would be no exaggeration to affirm that the ministry is becoming a mere official conduit for funds "donated" from abroad for the NGOs linked to the international environmental apparatus . . . in practice, they function as an official obstacle to any undertaking which seeks to open new areas for development.

Thus, the investigation and registration of the funds controlled by the NGOs, and even by certain official agencies, is fundamental to the institutional alignment of entities involved with the environment, and correction of the distortions which have characterized them.

Evident in all the maneuvers is the irrational ideology underlying the actions of the environmentalist-indigenist apparatus. This is so-called biocentrism, or the notion that the

human being is only one among millions of animal species existing on the planet, without differentiated rights compared to all the others. This is outright repudiation of one of the fundamental pillars of Western Christian civilization—the notion that man is created in the image and likeness of the Creator and, therefore, can be considered His "helper" in the job of transforming nature, for the progress and Common Good of all humanity. . . .

This is the mental distortion by which the ideologues of indigenism consider the indigenous people to be inhabitants of an immense human zoo, unqualified for the ordered integration into the civilizing effort which characterizes the history of humanity.

Attack on Energy Projects, Waterways

The second area in which I wish to emphasize the destructive activities of the NGOs regards infrastructure projects, where virtually all of the projects necessary for the development of the large empty spaces of national territory are being obstructed. Here, I want to show how the environmentalist-indigenist movement, which claims to defend human rights, in fact does just the opposite; that is, it destroys such fundamental human rights as progress and access to quality jobs, by aborting crucial projects to increase productivity and economic activity. Specifically, I want to discuss two areas: energy and waterways.

In terms of energy, the same network of international NGOs behind turning Chico Mendes into an international *cause célèbre*, was key in carrying out an event which launched a vast environmentalist offensive against the large projects to build hydroelectric plants in Brazil, especially in the Amazon region. This was the so-called Altamira Encounter in Pará held in February 1989, organized and financed by such NGOs as the U.S.'s National Wildlife Federation, the National Resources Defense Council, and the Environmental Defense Fund, and Brazil's Ecumenical Center for Documentation and Information (CEDI, the main arm of the World Council of Churches in Brazil), in addition to financial support from Canadian government agencies, such as CIDA. The gathering was memorialized in a picture, published around the world, of a Caiapó Indian woman waving a hunting knife in the face of a Eletronorte official. After that, all projects for building hydroelectric plants in the Amazon were practically halted, not only because of the withdrawal of financial support from agencies including the World Bank, but also because of the tightening of criteria by which the environment and interests of Indian communities were protected.

Today, the tragic consequences of abandoning hydroelectric projects in the Xingu, Araguaia, Tocantins, and Trombetas river basins, in large part on environmentalist pretexts, are there for all to see, at a time when energy scarcity will seriously limit the country's economic growth in coming years. If the 12,000 megawatts from the Belo Monte plant alone, on

the Xingu River, were available through a transmission line to the central-south region, the worst effects of the current energy crisis could be avoided.

We see here the intrinsically fascist nature of environmentalist “protection” and utopian indigenism promoted by international NGOs, and their distorted ideology which preaches “thinking globally but acting locally.” On the pretext of defending supposed local and ephemeral interests, they destroy the conditions of well-being and even survival of entire societies. Today . . . more than 260 electricity projects in the whole country are paralyzed by environmental demands. This picture could be described as truly criminal, at a time when the country is on the brink of an energy collapse.

Another display of the same absurd and insane thinking was the threat by Rio de Janeiro’s federal authorities to paralyze the operations of the Angra 2 nuclear industry, which was apparently rejected.

The sabotage of energy projects due to environmentalist criteria largely involved the collusion between the environmentalist-indigenist apparatus and multilateral lending agencies, such as the World Bank. This collusion emerged openly in the mid-1980s, through the propaganda campaign to transform Chico Mendes and the Caiapó chieftain Paulinho Paikan into international celebrities. The noisy appearances by both in Washington and other capitals, efficiently organized by NGOs such as the Environmental Defense Fund and the National Wildlife Federation, in large part provided the pretext for the World Bank to include mandatory and draconian criteria for environmental and indigenous community protection as conditions for infrastructure, and particularly energy, projects. With this, developing countries such as Brazil became hostage to the NGOs. . . .

The other infrastructure area hurt tremendously by the environmentalist-indigenist apparatus is waterway construction, crucial to the development of the interior of Brazil and South America as a whole, which provides a low-cost transportation route for the potential expansion of productive activities in the region. As I mentioned earlier, the direct goal is to stop the full development of the Cerrado region, which in coming decades could become the area of greatest agro-industrial expansion in the world. The Araguaia-Tocantins waterway in particular is a vital artery for the integration of the Amazon region with the rest of the country. From the standpoint of national security, without the development of the Cerrado region, there can be no serious defense of the Amazon.

The operation against the waterways began to take off in 1992, when the WWF led the creation of the so-called Rivers Alive Coalition, a collection of more than 200 NGOs from various countries, whose initial target was the Paraná-Paraguay waterway, then expanding to the Araguaia-Tocantins, the Teles Pires-Tapajós, and related projects. As in other cases, the campaign received direct financing from such Anglo-American foundations as W. Alton Jones and others, as

well as official agencies such as U.S. AID.

In addition to the WWF, an organization playing a crucial role in this campaign is ISA, created in 1994 by the coalition of entities which previously promoted the Altamira Encounter. Today, the ISA serves as a “consultant” for all the legal actions which have obstructed continuation of the waterway projects. . . .

Supranational ‘Eco-Dictatorship’

One fundamental instrument the NGOs found to carry out their anti-development offensive is the manipulation, using environmentalist issues, of certain sectors of the state and federal agencies responsible for upholding the law. Unfortunately, this alliance has been very successful in paralyzing projects vital to national development, and which even threatens the construction of military installations, as recently occurred in Roraima.

The NGO-law enforcement alliance was described in an ISA press release, dated March 19, 2001, from which I quote: “Authorities suspend grain transport by the Araguaia-Tocantins waterway. Federal authorities in the states of Mato Grosso and Goiás, in coordination with the ISA, obtained a legal ruling embargoing the illegal transport of cargo planned for the beginning of this week in Barra do Carças. On the afternoon of Friday, March 16, Federal Judge Paulo César Alves Sodré ruled on behalf of the immediate suspension of the shipment, unloading, or transport of grains by the so-called Cargo Transfer Station in Barra do Garças, Mato Grosso. He thus halted the illegal start of grain transport activities via the Araguaia-Tocantins waterway, given that there is not yet an Environmental Impact Study approved by IBAMA. . . . The ruling was the result of coordination between representatives of law enforcement authorities in the states of Mato Grosso and Goiás and the Socio-Environmental Institute, which petitioned law enforcement authorities in Mato Grosso, related to the activities of the Xavante Indian community against the waterway.”

The ISA has a Coordination of Legal Activities division, whose purpose, according to the NGOs’ own documents, is to offer, among other services, “ISA’s legal capability to other public organizations and organized sectors of society.” This coordination is supported through foreign contributors, specifically the Ford and MacArthur Foundations, the Dutch ICCO (Inter-Ecclesiastical Organization for Cooperation and Development), and the FAFO (Norwegian Program for Indigenous Peoples).

The campaign against the new Forestry Code, proposed by Deputy Moacir Micheletto (PMDB-PR), was led by the WWF and seconded by Greenpeace and the ISA and other NGOs subordinate to it. Parenthetically, the campaign only had such huge repercussions due to the direct involvement of the media. This comes as no surprise, given that José Roberto Marinho and Pedro Sirotsky, representatives of the country’s two major communications groups, sit on the exec-

utive council of WWF-Brazil.

In this context, we face an extremely serious situation, in which a real NGO “eco-dictatorship” is being established over the country’s development potential. In this case, we see law enforcement, which was conceived of as a necessary, independent instrument to defend society’s “diffuse interests”—it was not to submit to any national political hierarchy—being manipulated by the hierarchical structure of a supranational power, which is the environmentalist-indigenist movement. It is therefore imperative to investigate how these NGOs directly interface with law enforcement sectors: to see if this is being done through seminars and courses promoted by NGOs both inside and outside the country, and how they are financed.

The WWF Suit Against the MSIA

I wish to conclude this testimony with an account of . . . the suit which WWF-Brazil has initiated against the Ibero-American Solidarity Movement (MSIA), whose fortnightly newspaper, *Solidariedade Ibero-Americana*, has repeatedly exposed the NGO apparatus in Brazil and abroad. The president of the advisory board of WWF-Brazil is José Roberto Marinho. In addition, sitting on the WWF board are: Pedro Sirotsky, whose family owns one of the media networks in the south of the country; Roberto Paulo César de Andrade, of the Brascan group; Joseph Safra, of the Banco Safra; and others.

Last Jan. 19, with a restraining order issued by an appeals court in hand, WWF-Brazil succeeded in obtaining the seizure and custody of MSIA publications, supposedly “defamatory” of their activities in the leadership of environmentalist campaigns in Brazil, without the MSIA even having been notified of any court action. In the body of its complaint, WWF-Brazil asserts that “the MSIA, seeking support and recognition from Brazilian civil society, proceeded in a totally irresponsible manner to spread a series of information regarding the Plaintiff which are untrue, slanderous, and even insane.”

It should be emphasized that the request for a search and seizure order which accompanied the demand for a restraining order presented by WWF-Brazil, was initially denied by Judge Paulo Maurício Pereira, of the 24th Civil Court of Rio de Janeiro. In his ruling, the judge emphasized that “no concrete evidence is presented that the information issued by the first defendant is false or distorted, and it is also the case that they are not the only ones issuing such opinions, which summarize an entire discussion involving what nationalists call the ‘imperialist policy of the great world powers’ and ‘the policy of internationalizing the Amazon,’ matters which have for a long time been discussed in the press, including by members of the Brazilian government and military, the latter because of the duty they have to safeguard our borders and sovereignty.”

Unsatisfied with the result, WWF-Brazil filed an appeal before the 14th Civil Court of Rio de Janeiro, requesting

the decision of the first court be overturned, the which was granted by appeals court Judge Edson Scisínio, on the terms requested. The injunction also prohibits, on pain of heavy fines, the MSIA from making any critical observation about the WWF, until the merits of the slander suit are judged, the which has not happened yet. In other words, we are facing a transparent effort to limit freedom of expression and criticism, intolerable in a society which claims to be democratic.

In its Jan. 25, 2001 issue, the daily *Gazeta Mercantil* summarized the matter: “Two representatives of international civic institutions are bringing their political, ideological, and methodological differences before the Rio de Janeiro Court of Justice. . . . WWF-Brazil, led by businessman José Roberto Marinho, accuses the MSIA of damaging its good name and credibility. According to MSIA literature, the WWF is conspiring against the country’s development ‘for the purpose of rendering the Brazilian state technologically and economically inferior.’ The MSIA, formed by liberal professionals, military men, and nationalist businessmen, is inspired by the ideas of American economist Lyndon LaRouche, defender of sovereign nation-states, of rebuilding the international financial and monetary system, and of large infrastructure projects as a factor in the development of Third World countries. . . . The battle between these two organizations went on quietly, but it became intolerable after Transportation Minister Eliseu Padilha announced the suspension of the Paraná-Paraguay Waterway project, a transportation canal for the agricultural production of the center of South America. The WWF has campaigned against the waterway, alleging that it would have an unfavorable impact upon the fauna, vegetation, and population of the Mato Grosso Pantanal [one of the world’s largest swamps]. They have monitored every stage of the process. The MSIA considers completion of the project to be fundamental to the country’s economic development.”

As the newspaper suggests, what is at stake, not only in the case of the WWF versus the MSIA, but in the whole offensive of the NGOs, are two irreconcilable conceptions of development and of the responsibility of a sovereign nation-state for that development. On the one side, is the nightmarish world offered by the ideologues of environmentalism-indigenism, a world in which the human being and his or her legitimate aspirations for progress and well-being must be subjected to the dictates of an idyllic “protection of nature.” On the other, is the possibility that Brazil comes to fully assume its responsibilities in the building of a new, just economic world order upon the rubble of the present international financial system, a new order in which great infrastructure projects and the expansion of its agricultural frontiers play a fundamental role. This could hardly be done, if the NGOs and similar bodies continue to command the enormous power which they currently wield. Therefore, I believe that the work of this Commission could have crucial relevance for the immediate future of this great country.