

Efforts to incite left-right warfare and panic conservative military officers into smashing the *abertura* are ongoing. The oligarchic Tradition, Family and Property (TFP) and its allies in Brazil's security forces have orchestrated a series of incidents—ranging from fake newspapers to terrorist bombings—against the radical clergy and their followers, designed to trigger responses. Well-informed sources have told *EIR* that U.S. Special Ambassador General Vernon Walters, the Averell Harriman protégé who helped coordinate the 1964 Brazilian coup, is involved in furthering these destabilizations. Walters is reportedly taking advantage of his close personal ties to leading hard-line Brazilian generals, as well as his position as director of the TFP-linked Christendom College in Front Royal, Virginia.

What's at stake in the elections

Brazil's governors control powerful political and economic forces, including state development banks, state utilities, and so on. Until now, they have been hand-picked by the President. The state of Rio de Janeiro was given to a corrupt machine nominally associated with the opposition, but all the other state governors are currently members of the regime's own Social Democratic Party (PDS).

With direct election of the 23 governors this year, the

opposition expects to seize control over 16 or 17 states; the government, however, asserts they will hold on to 14 or 15. What is certain is that the key industrial state of São Paulo will go to Franco Montoro, a moderate senator in the opposition PMDB party, while the PDS will sweep at least half a dozen states of the impoverished Northeast. The "solid North" goes with the conservative incumbent party for much the same reasons of patronage that once made "the solid South" go for the Democratic Party in the United States.

Throughout the country, there are hot rivalries for federal and state deputy and for local offices.

Foreseeing that free elections could serve as a plebiscite for voting out "the system" which ruled Brazil since 1964 and open the door to irresponsible opposition parties, General Golbery arranged a "political reform" over the last three years. This reform has succeeded in dividing the single opposition party into four fiercely competing opposition parties. While ostensibly increasing the level of freedom in Brazil, this move is widely understood as a divide-and-conquer operation to permit the unified government party to win many races with only a quarter to a third of the total vote. The only opposition party with a good chance to win many governorships, the PMDB, is accusing the other smaller parties of being Trojan horses of the regime, which is not wholly untrue.

Brazil's political parties: lack of policy direction

PDS (Social Democratic Party): Despite the name, the PDS is a conservative party of Brazil's military regime and has no connection with the international social democracy. The party now holds large majorities in both houses of congress and holds the governorships of 22 of Brazil's 23 states. It has more money and leverage than the other parties, but will do fair to poorly in the upcoming elections. The widely-used IBOPE poll gives the PDS 33 percent of the national vote. Many of its politicians would like the government to reverse the depression policies which will harm the party in November.

PMDB (Brazilian Democratic Movement Party): The vestige of the old single opposition party is by far the strongest opposition force, and will win many states. It is an extremely heterogeneous party, including in its ranks everyone from conservatives to members of the outlawed Communist Party. Its party program is a laundry list of desirable things the government could do, were it to have lots of money. But the PMDB, like the other parties, has yet to provide a serious program for getting Brazil out of

the crisis. Its main focus is on the formal side of restoring democratic participation. It is predominately a party of younger middle-class and of skilled workers. Polls place the PMDB at 31 percent of the vote.

PT (Workers' Party): This party advocates class struggle. It is recruiting cadre from the Church's grass-roots communities, from the labor movement, and from the universities. The PT's chairman, a trade union leader, known by his nickname, "Lulu", poses as the Lech Walesa of Brazil and is run by the same intentional solidarist networks. The PT's current political base is mainly among the liberal professionals earning 5 to 25 times the minimum wage, while its support among the mass of workers is minimal. Ascribed 4 percent of the national vote.

PTB (Brazilian Workers' Party): An artificial construct to divide opposition votes. Ex-president Janio Quadros is running for governor of São Paulo on the PTB line. Polls give the PTB 4 percent of the vote.

PDT (Democratic Workers Party): The PDT is the personal machine of Leonel Brizola, the fire-eating populist who incited armed resistance to the 1964 coup. In exile, Brizola became the pet Brazilian of the Socialist International and Willy Brandt's conference circuit. His current opposition pose is so militant and so contentless that many believe he is just trying to steal votes from potential PMDB winners. However, the latest polls give him a slight edge.