

Argentina's nuclear breakthrough puts new Alfonsin government to the test

by Dennis Small

Argentina's announcement on Nov. 18 that it has become the first country in Ibero-America to master the technology of enriching uranium to fuel nuclear power plants has generated a wave of optimism throughout the continent. The breakthrough means Argentina now possesses the full nuclear fuel cycle and, in the words of Atomic Energy chief Adm. Carlos Castro Madero, "We are offering Latin America the possibility of counting on a sure and dependable regional supplier" of vital nuclear fuel. "We are sure that this is a significant advance for the countries in this part of the world on their road to independence."

Ibero-America as a whole is now finally within reach of building its own nuclear plants and fueling them completely independently. This is the centerpiece of any serious plan to industrialize the continent, and turn around the devastation being wrought by the International Monetary Fund and other creditor institutions.

The Argentine announcement shocked the heirs of British colonialism—the friends of Henry Kissinger and Lord Peter Carrington who have done everything possible for years to prevent Third World countries from developing such technological independence. West German banker Jürgen Ponto was killed by the Baader-Meinhof terrorists largely because he was the architect of a nuclear deal with Brazil which intended to fully transfer technology to that country. Pakistani Prime Minister Bhutto was ordered to be executed by Henry Kissinger, for daring to develop nuclear technology in his country. The Shah of Iran was overthrown for trying to modernize Iran with an ambitious nuclear program. And the Trilateral Commission's Carter/Mondale administration went on an international "human rights" rampage in the late 1970s against Argentina itself, both to stop enriched uranium sales to Argentina for its research reactors, claiming that the uranium would be used to make nuclear bombs, and to sabotage its nuclear program as a whole. In response, Argentina began its own uranium enrichment program in 1978.

"The policy of the superpowers of not providing technology to the developing countries has failed," Castro Madero stated conclusively.

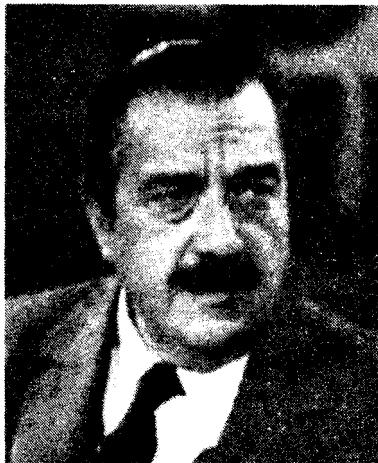
Kissinger's State Department can be expected to respond to Argentina's announcement by once again going on the warpath. Their operant plan is to use the incoming Radical Party government of Raul Alfonsin to hopelessly polarize the country, and then reduce it to Iran-style political rubble. In particular, they hope to reactivate Alfonsin's working relationship with leading lights of the Carter years, such as human rights specialist Pat Derian, and to get the Argentine president himself to strangle his country's nuclear program in its cradle.

The broader Kissinger strategy is to put the economy through the IMF wringer, and simultaneously encourage the Social Democratic Alfonsin to open the floodgates, after seven years of often brutal military dictatorship, to a wave of British libertinage: pornography, pot smoking, pacifism, ecologism, and so forth. In this way they intend to dismantle the most important anti-liberal, nationalist apparatus in the country, the Peronist Party, and in particular its strong trade-union base. Only a few months of such British liberalism will be required, in Kissinger's calculations, before Jesuit-run leftist terrorism can be brought back into existence in Argentina—and with it, equally Jesuit-controlled right-wing death squads.

Kissinger is modeling his Argentine strategy on Spain under Social Democratic Felipe González—whose government recently approved the decriminalization of marijuana consumption. The ultimate objective is to trigger violent civil wars in both countries, and thereby turn them into new "Irans."

In the three weeks since his election, and before spending a single day as president (the inauguration will be on Dec. 10), Alfonsin has already taken long strides toward leading Argentina blindly into this Kissinger trap.

He has brought Socialist International liberals into key posts in the economy, foreign relations, and labor policy, and they have already put their imprimatur on the next government's policy—much to the delight of the country's financial oligarchy. A reliable Buenos Aires source told *EIR* that he had talked to an Argentinian banker who had just met with Alfonsin's economic team: "Changes? No, there won't be



Raul Alfonsin

any fundamental changes in the new government's dealing with the banks. We're satisfied."

Another crucial indicator is the way that the drug and pornography lobby has read Alfonsin's election as license to flood the country with brand new pornographic magazines in the three weeks since the elections—after seven years of tight military censorship. "Now that we are free again, see what you always wanted to," scream headlines over semi-clothed bodies in now-ubiquitous newspaper ads. Things have gotten out of hand so quickly that Interior Minister-designate Antonio Troccoli, one of the few nationalists in the Alfonsin administration, was forced to tell the press that "behind pornography is the mafia with its businesses," and that his party's promise to "eliminate all press censorship" did not mean that excesses will be tolerated.

Three tests

In our Nov. 9, 1983 issue, *EIR* reported that "three principal issues will determine which direction the Alfonsin government moves in": 1) debt and economic integration; 2) reorganizing the military; and 3) purging the trade unions.

In the intervening fortnight, Alfonsin has moved decisively in the wrong direction, with a speed surprising to many, in each of these three cases. In doing this, he has so far ignored the calls for programmatic collaboration coming from nationalist strata within the Peronist Party, of the kind indicated in the open letter from Peronist Juan Labake (see page 38).

1) Debt and economic integration. The notorious British agent Raul Prebisch has been named Alfonsin's "roving ambassador" on international financial matters, and has already established himself as the "éminence grise" of the administration's economic policy—displacing both the finance minister and president of the central bank. Despite some earlier fiery rhetoric, Prebisch told the press that he of course favored striking a deal with the IMF.

What angered Argentines even more is the fact that Prebisch has also attempted to publically exonerate the current

military government's economic team—Finance Minister Wehbe and central bank head Gonzalez del Solar—of all responsibility for the current crisis. Most Argentines blame these two gentlemen for the hyperinflationary deep depression currently afflicting Argentina, and would prefer to see them sent to Siberia. Some press commentators have knowingly reported that Gonzalez del Solar is the son-in-law of Prebisch, and that this might have something to do with the latter's behavior.

2) Reorganizing the military. Right after the end of the Malvinas War, British media outlets inside and outside Argentina launched a campaign to convince the country that it had been a terrible mistake to dare confront Her Majesty, and called for the "de-Malvinization" of Argentina. Alfonsin has a strong pacifist and Carterite "human rights" streak which is playing along with this British game.

He has vowed to reduce the military share of the national budget to about one third of its current size—at a time when the British are building a nuclear arsenal on the illegally seized Malvinas, and when neighboring Chile (with whom Argentina has long-standing territorial disputes) is being armed to the teeth by the British and others. And it has just been announced that the three-man military junta who ruled Argentina when the Malvinas War was launched will be court-martialed. Although it has not been stated publicly, it is probable that they will *not* be tried for fighting poorly (a charge of which they are undoubtedly guilty), but rather for the decision to fight *at all*.

Will Alfonsin go so far as to seriously cut into Argentina's unique nuclear program, on the grounds that it too is an expression of earlier "militarism" that must be expunged from national life? Particularly worrisome to many nationalist Argentines in this regard is Alfonsin's long-standing links to the Carter administration's "human rights" lobby, and in particular his working relationship with individuals like Pat Derian—the very group that was instrumental in trying to destroy Argentina's nuclear program throughout the late 1970s. Alfonsin himself recently told the *Los Angeles Times*: "When Carter was President I felt obliged to go to the U.S. Embassy for the July 4th party and pay my respects. Those were the only years I have ever gone. I did so to pay my respects because of his human-rights policy."

3) Purging the Trade Unions. This is likely to be the first political explosion that confronts Alfonsin. His labor strategy was designed by Germán López, the secretary to the presidency, who favors Socialist "co-gestion" and "co-participation" in order to break the Peronists' control of the labor movement. López managed to place one of his close allies in the post of labor minister, Antonio Mucci, who brought in as his assistant Gabriel Matzkin. Matzkin is a graduate of the Sorbonne University of Paris, where he was trained in the anti-labor doctrines of "co-gestion" and "worker co-management." The Sorbonne also produced such eminent Third World graduates as Pol Pot of Cambodia, and Bani-Sadr of Iran.