

## Kissinger Watch by M.T. Upharsin

### Declared *persona non grata*

Kissinger thought he had it made.

Although large and raucous demonstrations had prevented him from leaving the presidential palace after a meeting with the Argentine head of state, and caused the cancellation of his appearance at the Argentine Council on Foreign Relations, Kissinger had accomplished a good deal of what he had come for. Thanks to his threats, the Argentine President did cower to him, agreeing to have Kissinger mediate with the bankers when he comes to New York City on Sept. 27.

Above all, he avoided the embarrassment of having the Chamber of Deputies act on a motion by the Peronist Party to have him declared *persona non grata*.

But just as he was leaving Argentina for Brazil on Sept. 15, it happened. The governor of the Argentine state of Rio Negro called in the press corps to say, "In the feelings of the Argentine people and the Latin American people, he [Kissinger] is *persona non grata*."

The governor, Osvaldo Alvarez Guerrero, is not an insignificant person. He is secretary of the national council of President Alfonsín's Radical Party.

### His bill was expensive

Clearly, Kissinger's trip was considered of prime strategic importance by his principal backers in the Eastern Establishment. Up front in their minds

was the fact that President Alfonsín had met with Independent Democrat Lyndon LaRouche in July.

We have it on good authority that the Argentine nationalists who had met LaRouche were thinking that way. "LaRouche's number one enemy is here," went the word around town.

But Kissinger, who put out an article on "solving the debt crisis" in *Newsweek* in 1983, as part of his "credentials" to mediate the crisis, had a point to prove. Marcelo Capurro of the Argentine daily *La Razon* put it this way:

"[Kissinger came] to prove to the financial circles in the United States, that he could, if he so wished, get a meeting with President Alfonsín, and his two principal ministers, Dante Caputo and Bernardo Grinspun."

"It may seem surprising that Kissinger could have such humble aspirations . . . [but] Reagan had not shown any interest in the former Secretary of State; his star was on the wane. . . ."

"[Now] Kissinger has returned triumphant. Kissinger, the good cop, accepted in Buenos Aires the thesis that the debt problems should be seen from a political viewpoint, but he insisted that we must sign [with the International Monetary Fund]. . . ."

"Now, he can enjoy his triumph in New York. Point out to the bankers that he is the only valid mediator accepted by the Peronists, the Radicals, and the government—the only one who knows how far the Argentinians can be squeezed without exploding. He shall offer his measured and wise counsels to the American bankers, overwhelming them with information and proofs of his connections. But indeed, his bill, as usual, is expensive."

Just how expensive will be shown in the degree of austerity Alfonsín tries to implement in pursuit of a deal with the IMF—a deal which Kissinger's bosses will probably never deliver. It

is Argentina's lot to be the "lesson" to the rest of the Ibero-American nations—and Henry Kissinger is part of the administration of that lesson.

### The soft cop

On then, to Brazil. Kissinger arrived over the weekend, and immediately began to make pronouncements about the debt crisis. As usual, he lied through his teeth.

Speaking in the Brazilian tourist center of Foz do Iguazu, Kissinger declared that "prolonged economic austerity imposed on the debtor nations of Latin America threatens the political democratization process in the region." He then urged a "more political and less technical" solution to the debt crisis and declared that he fully supported the conclusion of the recent Mar del Plata debtors' conference—which called for negotiations between the Ibero-American debtors and the advanced sector nations.

Kissinger further lied that the "intransigence" of the Reagan administration toward the Ibero-American debtors, which had led the U.S. government to decline joint discussions before the ink was dry on the Mar del Plata resolution, "would change after the November elections."

Kissinger's visit appears to have been organized by the Sao Paulo businessmen, who gave him 17,000 scarce U.S. dollars to address the leaders of Villares Industry, in hopes that he would get them a "deal" with the IMF and U.S. banks. He also met with leaders of the Industrialists Federation of Sao Paulo.

But all was not rosy for Henry on the Brazil leg of his trip. Despite the fact that he met with four of his military ministers that day, Brazilian President João Figueiredo canceled his scheduled meeting with Kissinger, for reason of "ill health."