

Report from Rio by Silvia Palacios

Narco-terrorism in Brazil, too

Startling new findings will make it harder for the foreign ministry bureaucracy of Itamarati Palace to deny the problem.

On April 7, five militants of the Brazilian Revolutionary Communist Party (PCBR), from their operations team called "fire group," assaulted an agency of the Banco do Brasil in Salvador, Bahia. The PCBR is a splinter group of the Brazilian Communist Party which got incorporated into the Workers Party (PT), which is commanded by ex-guerrillas who were quite active during the decade of the 1970s.

According to information put out by the federal police, the network of the PCBR extends to various states of the Brazilian northwest, with its main focus of action in the state of Pernambuco. The police also reported that the PCBR receives foreign financing, especially from Holland.

During the investigations to find the brains of the PCBR, the police delivered an incisive blow, by locating and destroying in Pernambuco what was considered to be the biggest marijuana plantation ever found, a field of almost 3 million marijuana plants which could produce 1,400 tons of the weed. What this raid demonstrates is that the PCBR is part of the narco-terrorist plague which has been scourging the continent.

However, the most significant fact demonstrating the narco-terrorist nature of the PCBR, is its ties to the new army of the drug traffickers, the "Americas Battalion." On May 13, the newspaper *O Estado de Sao Paulo* leaked a security report which related the following: In December 1985, a

handful of leaders of the narco-terrorists groups met in Peru: "Alvaro Lives" of Ecuador, Colombia's M-19, "Shining Path" of Peru, the "Party of Liberation" of Argentina, the MIR of Chile, the Popular Committee of Bolivia, two unidentified leaders from Guatemala, the recently reactivated National Liberation Front of Venezuela, and two members of the Brazilian PCBR. Most of the participants are either part of the drug-running guerrillas or are backed by Qaddafi of Libya—which is the same thing.

For example, to cite a new case, in early May the "Antonio Jose de Sucre" guerrilla front held up a bank. Security reports at the time stated that this commando was tied both to Libya and the Americas Battalion. As *EIR* documented (April 18, 1986, p. 33) the Americas Battalion is a continent-wide narco-terrorist army, which has taken on new life thanks to the logistical and political aid it gets from the dictator of Libya, Muammar Qaddafi.

On March 14, Qaddafi hosted an international meeting of terrorists, including leaders of the M-19 and Shining Path, along with other Ibero-American representatives, where they sealed the narco-terrorist pact and planned future actions against any nation, such as Colombia or Peru, that might resist the drug-traffickers' plans.

All these facts tend to explode the fallacy that Brazil does not share the continent's biggest security problem, narco-terrorism. The official policy set down by the Foreign Ministry of Bra-

zil, located in Itamarati Palace, is that the narco-terror problem doesn't exist here, and therefore, Brazil does not have to get involved in the continental fight against it.

It is thus no mere coincidence that when the new foreign minister, Abreu Sodre, in his first statements upon taking office, promised to aid the government of Colombia in the fight against M-19, the very next day Itamarati publicly denied this and forced him to retract the promise. It is well known that M-19 and other groups like Shining Path have made incursions into the Brazilian Amazonas to evade pursuit from Colombia and Peru respectively.

It is not the first time that Itamarati has intervened to prevent any Brazilian action against narco-terrorism. This was one of the topics which was supposed to be discussed when President José Sarney met with his Colombian counterpart, Belisario Betancur, back in February.

To highlight the problem, the Colombian President went accompanied by his military ministers, but "Itamarati" had already intervened, to make sure the meeting would have no national impact, as would have happened if the talks had occurred in Brasilia, the capital city. Instead, Itamarati set up the meeting as an unimportant encounter in a border city.

Itamarati's policy up to now has been imposed as the official policy, as is shown by an *EIR* interview with Justice Minister Paulo Brossard, on April 23, during the meeting on drug trafficking of the OAS held in Rio. Answering a question about what actions Brazil will take to combat narco-terrorism, he stated: "It is possible that in other countries it may have this connotation, and denunciations are made in this sense. In Brazil, at least for now, it does not appear as such."