

Report from Rio by Lorenzo Carrasco Bazua

Fall of a Brazilian 'Rasputin'

Who is Rubens Ricupero, and why are Brazilian patriots breathing a sigh of relief at his imminent departure?

With his nomination as Brazil's ambassador to Geneva, it is widely expected among patriotic military and civilian circles that presidential adviser Rubens Ricupero will be forced to abandon control over the "palace guard" he has mounted around President José Sarney. That guard has surrounded the President with all manner of intrigues that have served to isolate and/or eliminate the best elements within the Sarney government, while bringing to the fore the advocates of a "bankers' socialism" for Brazil.

Although Ricupero's nomination was decided upon more than three months ago, the Brazilian Senate had been twice manipulated into blocking the nomination of current Geneva ambassador Pablo Nogueira Batista, as ambassador to the United Nations, which would have freed up the Geneva post for Ricupero's transfer.

What particularly stretched the patience of certain patriotic circles were the most recent manipulations by Ricupero to exclude from the President's historic announcement on Brazilian uranium enrichment any reference to the pioneering role of the Navy, by alleging that this would avoid any "suspicions" about the peaceful nature of the nuclear program.

This was the last straw, following a series of maneuvers by Ricupero to force the Brazilian democratization process into a mold designed by the U.S. State Department and the Socialist International.

It was in this context, for example, that "Rasputin" Ricupero plotted the

isolation of former Finance Minister Dilson Funaro, the architect of the Brazilian debt moratorium, both within and outside the country. It was also his intrigues within the presidential palace that won the nomination of banker Marcilio Marques Moreira as Brazilian ambassador to Washington, and later, the creation of a Debt Commission presided over by former Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro, which never met in session and whose purpose was exclusively to weaken Funaro's domain.

Driven as much by personal ambition as by loyalty to his nation's enemies, Ricupero has also worked to undermine Foreign Minister Roberto Abreu Sodre, whom Ricupero considers an unwelcome "outsider" to the intrigues of the aristocracy that traditionally runs Itamaraty Palace. Ricupero had hoped for the foreign ministry post for himself.

Considered one of the great specialists in U.S. domestic politics, Ricupero launched his political career within Itamaraty thanks to the electoral victory of Jimmy Carter and the Trilateral Commission in 1976, for whom his preferences were clear. His readiness to adapt to the plans of the international oligarchy, led Ricupero to be strongly influenced by the Council on Foreign Relations's "Project 1980s," and by its successor under the Carter government, the malthusian "Global 2000" doctrine.

Since then, his political ascent has been marked by an increasingly intimate relationship with the circles of

the European and U.S. social democracy; with the Club of Rome, especially with Helio Jaguaribe (today, the *éminence grise* of the government of Rio de Janeiro); with the theology of liberation; and with the "nuclear appeasement" policies of the Pugwash Conferences, which have sought to violate Brazilian sovereignty by subjecting the nation's scientific and technological development to "supervision."

It was during this past decade, that the oligarchic circles of Ricupero and Jaguaribe planned out a form of "democratic transition" for Brazil, within the framework of "Project 1980s" and "Global 2000." This "transition" plan was joined and endorsed by the ambitious and unstable former governor of São Paulo, André Franco Montoro, and with him, a large group of malthusian environmentalists headed by the current dean of the University of São Paulo, José Goldemberg.

In his article "World Debt and the Social Democracy," (*EIR*, Vol. 14 No. 17), Lyndon H. LaRouche describes the ideology of this group:

"Not only do social-democrats function as covert arms and legs of certain financier interests in the developing sector; social-democratic ideology is fairly described as 'bankers' socialism. . . . The ideology of the leading social-democrats is explicitly pro-feudalist. That is, they are anti-industrialists . . . whose stock-in-trade is the argument that 'technological progress takes away jobs.' . . . Those among wealthy aristocratic circles, and American 'patricians,' who yearn for a return to feudal-like class society, find the social-democratic ideologues very useful."

Ricupero's fall could well mean the defeat of the Social Democrat's "transition plan," a defeat which would pave the way for genuine democracy.