

Report from Rio by Lorenzo Carrasco Bazúa

Brazil and the 'German Question'

After nearly 15 years of sabotage, the fruitful collaboration embodied in the Nuclear Accord could be revived.

The extraordinary events of Berlin and the proposals afoot for German economic unification may reactivate economic relations between Brazil and Germany, which have deteriorated under the especially active Anglo-American pressures since the Nuclear Accord of 1975.

At least that is what may be inferred, however tentatively, from the editorial of *Jornal do Brasil* in its Nov. 20 issue. Under the title, "Interesting Relations," the Brazilian daily refers to the so-called German Question in the following terms:

"For this side of the world, the resurgence of a German nation means, very simply, a possibility of dialogue and interchange. It is not a reality which is beginning now. Brazil and Germany have a very old and fruitful relationship—suffice it to examine the presence of German colonization in our southern states. . . . São Paulo has the largest concentration of German industries outside Germany, 600 productive firms. . . . The Germans have been able to demonstrate an interest in Brazil which has not always been the case for the other European countries. There exists a complementarity between the productive profiles of the two countries. . . . No need to underline what German technology in its full development could offer to a country where science and technology are still not moving at the desired pace. . . . Germany, with respect to current events, is in the condition of acting internationally, with an interest and dynamism that other rich countries no longer show. This is the typical case of 'interesting relations,' "

concludes the *Jornal do Brasil* editorial.

In reality, German economic reunification around the task of rebuilding Poland, by improving the Paris-Bonn-Berlin-Warsaw railway link, as Lyndon LaRouche has proposed, and also the ideas of West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and French President François Mitterrand to reactivate the European Monetary System, which were brought up during the Paris summit of European heads of government on Nov. 18, are the greatest opportunity which has presented itself to Brazil to break the economic and technical witch's circle to which it has been subjected by the U.S. State Department and the Anglo-American financial oligarchs.

The contribution of, and benefits to, Brazil in the proposed scheme for rebuilding the countries of Eastern Europe could be immediate. Brazil has abundant natural resources and a semi-finished goods industry, a certain grain surplus, and above all, abundant and fertile lands for rapidly producing food.

In exchange, Brazil needs capital goods and state-of-the-art technology to modernize and develop its economic infrastructure, mainly in the energy domain, goods which could come from France and Germany, in long-term accords.

Despite the obvious potential for such relations, the economic and technical alliance, especially with Germany, has been consistently sabotaged from inside and outside the two countries. Since 1946, when the U.S. Congress approved the McMahon Act,

and Bernard Baruch proposed to the U.N. Atomic Energy Commission the control of the spread of information considered strategic and the control of ownership of world reserves of uranium and thorium, Brazil's struggle to achieve its technological independence, to a great extent associated with relations with Germany, has been systematically sabotaged.

In 1953-54, the efforts led by the German patriot Alvaro Alberto to build centrifuges for enriching uranium were brutally attacked by the U.S. government, which seized the centrifuges built in Cottingen in the West German ports, alleging U.S. national security considerations.

Finally, in 1975, despite huge pressure, the Nuclear Accord was signed between Brazil and the Federal Republic of Germany, providing for the construction, in the first phase, of four "Biblis"-type nuclear plants and the associated technologies in Brazil. The accord, considered the "deal of the century," was immediately shot down by President Jimmy Carter, starting with his presidential campaign. Carter even threatened later to withdraw U.S. troops stationed in West Germany, if the accord went ahead.

The July 1977 terrorist assassination of German banker Jürgen Ponto, the architect of the accord, and the emergence of Green anti-nuclear political movements fostered by the Anglo-Dutch-American oligarchy, on top of financial pressures and the world economic crisis itself, shattered the Nuclear Accord to pieces, and it barely survives in a limited version of its original scope.

The wave of optimism that is sweeping over the two Germanys in recent weeks is without a doubt the golden opportunity for Brazil and Germany to get back to "thinking big" about their economic relations.