

Report from Rio by Lorenzo Carrasco Bazúa

Collor automatically aligns with Bush

Brazil is once again playing the role of junior partner to the colonial traditions of the Anglo-American empire.

In a phone call made June 27, Brazilian President Fernando Collor de Mello offered George Bush his absolute support for the American President's "Enterprise for the Americas" proposal, announced at a Washington, D.C. press conference that same day. Collor's telephone call marked the return to a foreign policy that places Brazil within the old mold of "automatic alignment" with U.S. foreign policy.

Bush's initiative specifically refers to the Amazon region as "a legacy whose custody was entrusted to us," proposing a schema of "limited sovereignty" over that part of the world. Thus, Brazil is losing its own political initiative and is endorsing a colonialist scheme based on the free-trade policy of Adam Smith, which was designed to enhance the British Empire through looting of its overseas colonies.

In his conversation with Bush, President Collor de Mello stressed that Bush's hemispheric initiative was revealed a mere 24 hours after the announcement of Collor's own New Industrial Policy, which is compatible with the intentions of the U.S. Establishment to create a free-trade zone in the Western Hemisphere.

This New Industrial Policy, presented by Economy Minister Zelia Cardoso de Mello as "a revolution" to remove "protectionist obstacles," promotes an "opening up of [Brazil's] ports" to imports from abroad which would endanger Brazilian industry—and especially the pharmaceutical and computer industries, which until now have enjoyed specific protectionist legislation. The reduction of customs

tariffs might briefly help to lower inflation by permitting a flood of cheap imports, but it will also have the same effect on Brazilian industry that similar policies, imposed by minister José Martínez de Hoz one decade ago, had on Argentine industry; namely, the disappearance of vital sectors of intermediate industries and the worst "brain drain" any country has yet suffered.

The simultaneous announcement of Brazil's New Industrial Policy and Bush's Enterprise for the Americas is no coincidence, but the direct result of policies formulated by the U.S. Eastern Establishment and transmitted by the Trilateral Commission and Council of the Americas of David Rockefeller and Henry Kissinger. In fact, Minister Zelia Cardoso got her orders for setting up a "free-trade" complement inside Brazil during her attendance at a Council of the Americas meeting in Washington on May 21-22.

On June 27, while Cardoso was announcing the New Industrial Policy, the Brazilian central bank announced the unfreezing of nearly \$2 billion that multinationals operating in Brazil can now send outside the country in the form of profits and dividends—precisely the demand that Council of the Americas President George Landau had made of Cardoso during the meeting.

The return of Brazilian foreign policy to "automatic alignment" with the Anglo-American Establishment and its consequent abandonment of nationalist goals, was the result of the intrigues of the "universalist" faction

of the Foreign Ministry. Included in this faction is the current ambassador to Washington, banker Marcilio Marques Moreira, who, linked to Rockefeller and to Collor's brother-in-law Marcos Coimbra, from his post as chief of the civil cabinet, commands President Collor's palace guard.

This "universalist" faction considers itself the heir to the diplomatic traditions of Baron de Rio Branco, an Anglo-American agent who promoted similar free-trade policies at the beginning of this century, in consonance with the imperial policies of Theodore Roosevelt. This faction also traces its historical roots back to 1808, when Portuguese King João VI decreed, his famous "Opening of the Ports" of Brazil. That decree granted unprecedented prerogatives to the British Navy, similar to those granted today under Collor's New Industrial Policy and "new opening of the ports."

The parallel with the policies of João VI go further. The British intelligence services at the time convinced the Portuguese king that adoption of these liberal policies would assure the nascent Brazilian nation entrance into the "club" of developed nations, and a guaranteed place in the Holy Alliance. Brazil was, in fact, seated as a junior partner in the Holy Alliance, but it was at the cost of delaying its industrial development for 100 years.

Not accidentally, the "new opening of the ports" and endorsement of Bush's hemispheric initiative, are made under the same illusion of Brazilian "integration with the developed nations" and "entrance into the modern world." The truth is that Collor's new industrial policy promises a gradual destruction of Brazil's industrial capability and a humiliating dependency on its new "partners" abroad—all in the name of "modernity."