

Report from Rio by Silvia Palacios

Leftists push 'proletarian monetarism'

Brazil's communists are seeking an "understanding" with the bankers, as they maneuver for power in 1994.

Like other pro-communist parties in Ibero-America which constitute the so-called São Paulo Forum, the Workers Party (PT) of Brazil is going out of its way to present itself to the Anglo-American and banking elites as the alternative to a potential nationalist outcome to the current crisis afflicting the nation, and the continent.

The PT, a product of two influences both characterized by their anti-nationalism (the Marxist Theology of Liberation and the French Enlightenment) has just been granted "observer" status in the Socialist International (SI); the ceremony was held in Paris on Dec. 1 and was attended by PT president Luiz Inacio "Lula" da Silva and by SI president Pierre Maurois.

Curiously, just prior to his entrance into the Socialist International, Lula da Silva had begun a courtship—unimaginable just a few months earlier—with none other than Brazil's most prominent media magnate and a leading agent of the Anglo-American establishment, Roberto Marinho. It appears that Marinho is being cultivated as the public relations agent for a variety of "former" communists who are now returning to the maternal bosom of liberalism. For example, when Mikhail Gorbachov was in Brazil, he stayed in Rio de Janeiro as an honored guest of the Roberto Marinho Foundation, which institution is also sponsoring the preservation of the historic memoirs of the Brazilian Communist Party.

In Paris, Lula and Marinho participated jointly in the French government's official commemoration of the

Quincentary of the Discovery of America. There, under the sponsorship of French Culture Minister Jack Lang and of Regis Debray, the *crème de la crème* of Ibero-America's so-called intelligentsia were on hand.

During his presentation at the event, Marinho boasted of having been responsible for the election of Fernando Collor de Mello, thanks to having placed his media empire at the candidate's disposal. According to the Brazilian press, Lula showed no great surprise (much less disgust) at the revelations. It appears he had already been personally so advised by Marinho during a cordial and highly publicized meeting the two had held in Rio de Janeiro back in mid-September.

The weekly newsletter *Relatorio Reservado* No. 1331 published a very coherent account of that September meeting, considered "historic" by the two personalities. It was the period in which Brazil's political parties were debating what means were available to them to impeach President Collor de Mello. According to the account, Lula promised Marinho that the PT "would not work for a radical change in the economic policy of the country," since it was only interested in getting rid of Collor.

This is, in fact, precisely the truth. The PT's economic platform is but a variation of monetarism, as is proven by a series of emergency proposals the PT is currently urging President Itamar Franco to adopt. "Proletarian monetarism" is the best word for it. First of all, the PT is careful not to mention "debt moratorium," but rath-

er makes vague allusions to a debt renegotiation. Then, it elaborates a series of measures which would warm the hearts of any bankers. For example, the PT suggests that the government purchase U.S. government bonds which would then be given as guarantees to domestic creditors who would in turn agree to lengthen the terms of their debt holdings.

Delivering the Brazilian economy over to the U.S. Federal Reserve, as the PT proposes, has already stirred the appetites of the bankers. Newspaper columnists have noted that New York bankers are of the opinion that "the most sensible Brazilian with whom one can chat is congressman Aloizio Mercadante," the head of the PT's economic team.

Following the fall of communism in eastern Europe, the PT suffered an internal convulsion which has led it to seek other forms of struggle against western civilization, one of these being a turn toward environmentalism. But other turns compatible with the bankers' belief structure are under way; one of these is the unusual interest that has been awakened within the intellectual layers of the PT by the Calvinist liberal body of thought of German sociologist Max Weber, an ardent defender of usury.

With its revamped "program," the PT hopes to garner sufficient force to become an option for government, or at least co-government, in the 1994 presidential elections. Thus, its proposal for a single candidate for all the so-called "progressive" forces, who would nonetheless be answerable for its camouflaged communist ideals. It is no accident that the PT has refused to enter the government of President Itamar Franco; it clearly views the present situation as comparable to Russia's "Kerensky" period preceding the accession to power of the Bolsheviks.