

Report from Rio by Silvia Palacios

'Lula,' another Collor in '94?

With their man Collor gone, the Anglo-Americans are promoting a Marxist to get Brazil back under control.

Luiz Inacio "Lula" da Silva, head of the Marxist Workers Party (PT), is receiving increasingly public backing from the Anglo-American Establishment as its indicated favorite for the 1994 presidential elections in Brazil. If former President Collor hatched his deal in secret with Washington's "Project Democracy" crowd to bring about Brazil's submission to the "new world order," the same pact is now being openly clinched through the offices of the Inter-American Dialogue, the Western Hemisphere's version of a Trilateral Commission.

Now that the April 21 plebiscite confirming the presidential system of government is over, it is expected that the presidential campaigns for 1994 will be launched in earnest. The Wall Street banking firm Salomon Brothers has already begun to distribute a report to its clients giving Lula favored status for 1994.

In a recent trip that he made to the United States, Lula received the red carpet treatment. He had been invited by Princeton University along with other leftist presidential hopefuls from Ibero-America—each of them linked to the Project Democracy apparatus controlled by the U.S. State Department. In return, Lula clearly demonstrated that his program is nothing less than a program of submission to the new world order.

On April 19, Lula was received in Washington by various Clinton administration officials, all members of the Inter-American Dialogue, to which Lula himself belongs. He also met with leaders of the AFL-CIO, and even Enrique Iglesias, head of the Inter-American Development Bank,

threw a dinner in his honor.

Most striking was Lula's meeting with Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Bernard Aronson, who pushed "technological apartheid" on Brazil by pressuring for the signing of a tripartite nuclear agreement with Argentina and the International Agency for Atomic Energy. Lula blessed Aronson's effort, saying that the PT has always favored controls on nuclear energy.

Though managing to avoid any reference to the International Monetary Fund or to the foreign debt so as not to discomfit his hosts, Lula nonetheless compared the levels of misery in Brazil to that of Somalia. Rather than demonstrating real concern, Lula was just reflecting his fascination with the powerful role that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have played in that devastated African country, in taking over distribution of the food that arrives by intervention of "humanitarian imperialism."

In Brazil, the NGOs, the supranational offspring of U.N. Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, are receiving on-the-job training because President Itamar Franco has put the PT and its political satellites in control of various state social programs.

With such backing, for example, sociologist Herbert de Souza, the brains behind Brazil's "program against hunger," has a project for creating so-called "citizen action committees" throughout Brazil. Within a brief span, these will of course become support committees for Lula's presidential campaign, comparable to the support committees for the Sandinista revolution which surfaced across Nic-

aragua and which were built around the so-called "base communities" set up by the Theology of Liberation. It comes as no surprise that one of Lula's leading advisers, theo-libber Father Betto, played a central role in Nicaragua's support committees.

According to press reports, De Souza, who is also director of the Brazilian Institute of Economic Analysis (IBASE), a PT think-tank, hopes to include among his committees a number of NGOs, base communities, spiritualist centers, community organizations, and even the Catholic Church. The first experiments in these "citizens committees" have already been launched in São Paulo, Brasília, and Rio de Janeiro.

At the same time, the PT's labor organization CUT has just become part of the executive body of Brazil Forum, the coordinator of NGO activities in Brazil. The CUT also hopes to buy one of Brazil's most important television networks, TV Manchete, with an eye toward the 1994 elections. To raise the funds for the purchase, the CUT is trying to garner resources from such entities as Amnesty International and the International Labor Organization.

The CUT also proposes to enter into a business deal with Brazilian television magnate Roberto Marinho, owner of the satanic O Globo network who played a key role in the election of Collor de Mello to the presidency. According to the CUT leadership, the aim is to make the Roberto Marinho Foundation a partner in preparing "educational programs."

PT-Marinho dealings are nothing new, however. They first surfaced in the period just prior to Collor's impeachment, when Lula swore to Marinho that he was solely interested in dumping Collor, but in no way sought to change the administration's neo-liberal economic direction.