

# Brazilian military questions relations with United States

by Silvia Palacios and Lorenzo Carrasco

The firm response of Brazil's Armed Forces to the Anglo-American strategy of tension, reflected in the U.S. military exercises and maneuvers on the country's borders and in the renewed international pressures over the alleged massacre of 73 Yanomami Indians on the border with Venezuela, is leading to an open diplomatic confrontation with the United States. This, despite intense efforts by the one-worldist establishment at Itamaraty, Brazil's Foreign Ministry, to downplay it.

Brazil's military leaders gave their strongest response to the Clinton administration during a secret meeting of the National Defense Committee of the Chamber of Deputies on Aug. 12 in Brasilia. According to several deputies who were there, Generals Sylvio Lucas de Gama Imbuzeiro and Carlos Uchoa of the Army General Staff charged that the United States is building military bases on territory bordering Brazil. This news caused a national uproar after it was published on the front pages of the country's major dailies.

In the meeting, the generals used maps and explained in great detail that the United States hasn't limited its military exercises to Guyana, but is also holding them in other countries, such as the recent ones in Misiones, Argentina. At the same time, radar stations and long landing strips are being built in Colombia, Venezuela, and Bolivia. General Imbuzeiro affirmed that two large radar observation posts have been set up on the continent, one in Santo Andrés in Venezuela and the other in Barranquilla, Colombia. "The existing installations will be transformed into bases, given that the [U.S.] presence in Panama isn't sufficient to defend its economic interests in the southern hemisphere," said one deputy who asked not to be identified.

EIR has learned from high-level military sources that the real aim of the United States is to use these pressures and tensions to force Brazil's Armed Forces to accept the U.S. Southern Command in Panama as the interlocutor of its relations with the United States. This would pave the way for a regionalization in which South America's armies would be subjected to this colonial jurisdiction, something Brazil's military leadership has unequivocally rejected.

The secret meeting in the Chamber of Deputies occurred one day after the extraordinary meeting of the National De-

fense Council, convened for the first time by President Itamar Franco. The presidential document reporting on the results of the meeting states that "the council understands that control of the Amazon is Brazil's sovereign responsibility," thus making a frontal attack on the Anglo-American thesis that this wealthy region should be internationalized. One concrete result of the council meeting was the creation of the Amazon Surveillance System (Sivam), which allows for the purchase of security equipment to protect the area. For that purpose a presidential decree allocated \$600 million, but its specific application will remain secret.

It is assumed that the Yanomami Indian reserve, created in 1992 under the Collor de Mello government, will be redefined away from the Venezuelan border in order to prevent any future conflict from becoming a pretext for a U.N. or other foreign intervention. The fear that this might occur increased after the U.N. attempted to author a Bill of Indian Rights—as if the Declaration of the Rights of Man weren't sufficient. The government is expected shortly to send a bill to the National Congress which redefines the size and location of security regions on all national borders.

## Washington 'perplexed'

The accusations made by Brazil's military leaders and the National Defense Council's decisions forced U.S. Ambassador Richard Melton to quickly issue a diplomatic note in which he said, "We are perplexed. This information is incorrect. The United States maintains friendly relations with all the countries of the region. We are engaged in cooperative actions with all countries, both on a unilateral and multilateral basis. This cooperation also includes the Armed Forces of those friendly countries, including efforts to combat drug trafficking."

But what left several political observers really perplexed was the fact that just prior to releasing his statement, Melton consulted not only with the foreign minister, but also directly with Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso. This makes clear that Washington sees Cardoso as the real head of state, due largely to his intimate relationship with the Anglo-American establishment through his longtime membership in the Inter-American Dialogue (IAD), the poli-

cymaking think-tank which has the greatest influence on the Clinton administration's policy for Ibero-America.

Following Melton's statements, veteran State Department operative Luigi Einaudi, known as the "Henry Kissinger for Ibero-America," arrived for a whirlwind visit to Brazil straight from Peru. Einaudi, who brought a U.S. delegation with him to discuss points of contention with Brazil, is considered an expert on the country's Armed Forces, not to mention his longtime expertise in manipulation of border conflicts. Almost as soon as Einaudi's presence in the country became public, journalist José Casado of *Gazeta Mercantil* exposed him as "a specialist who in George Bush's government headed up a team responsible for elaborating a project to dismantle Latin America's armed forces, reduce their size and transform them into a type of national police force; as well as to change the role of such regional agencies as the OAS and the Inter-American Defense Board." Casado was referring to Einaudi's role in producing *The Military and Democracy: the Future of Civil-Military Relations in Latin America*, which *EIR* has made notorious, nicknaming it the "Bush Manual."

U.S. State Department officials are attempting to pass off the diplomatic crisis as "the Brazilian military's intention of creating a hypothetical situation of foreign threats in order to obtain an increase in its budget," *Jornal do Brasil* reported Aug. 16. Responding to this charge, Gen. Onofre Bezerra Leonel, the head of the Army General Staff, stated, "It is an irresponsible minority which questions our political and geographical unity. They accuse us of having an existential crisis, when the crisis is really theirs [the superpowers]. They are the ones who think the Army existed only because eastern Europe existed, and now [think] it is no longer necessary. . . . Subliminally they spread the idea that we invented the Amazon [issue] just to justify our existence."

### **A strategy of tension**

In addition to the U.S. military exercises and pressures on the Amazon, the suspicious and strange "massacre" of a group of Yanomami Indians on the border with Venezuela — whose scope, occurrence, and authorship remain to be clarified — has become the pretext for an overwhelming international campaign intended to prove that Brazilian institutions are incapable of protecting the nation's Indians.

Just as occurred with the murder of rural trade union leader Chico Mendes in 1989, the alleged massacre of the Yanomamis unleashed the immediate deployment of the world's eco-fascist lobby, made up of innumerable non-governmental organizations (NGOs) which were waiting for any incident to occur to escalate pressures on Brazil. Among the most prominent of these are the Environmental Defense Fund (which built the myth of Chico Mendes), Survival International, Amnesty International, and Brazil Network. The latter, with offices in London and Washington, coordinates all NGO efforts regarding Brazil.

The incident has also served as a pretext for Socialist International networks linked to French President François Mitterrand to revive the proposal to create a supranational agency under U.N. jurisdiction to protect the Amazon's environment and its Indians. Representatives of both the U.S. and Canadian embassies, together with NGO representatives, immediately attempted to enter the area of the alleged massacre as "observers" but were prevented from doing so by Brazilian authorities.

### **The internal front**

Despite the resistance to foreign pressures, the country is vulnerable because of Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso's prominent role. This fact was reaffirmed Aug. 23 when President Franco named ambassador to Washington Rubens Ricupero as Special Ambassador for the Amazon, a post created in response to Washington's pressures to create an executive power above the Armed Forces and the Amazon region's state governments.

The naming of Ricupero to this strategic post strengthens Cardoso's power within the government, not only because of the two men's longstanding friendship, but also because it strengthens the diplomatic strategy of linking all disagreements with the United States to the foreign debt accords which have been under Ricupero's supervision in Washington. From this standpoint, pressure over the Amazon might be ameliorated in exchange for Brazil's acceptance of economic liberalization, approval of the Patent Law in the Congress, privatization of strategic state-run industries, and submission to technological apartheid, including signing the nuclear safeguard agreement, as demanded by Itamaraty and Secretary for Strategic Affairs Adm. Mario Flores.

It is ironic, if not tragic, that in naming Ricupero to his new post, President Franco referenced the fact that the ambassador "is a man of international prestige, close to the [Catholic] Church." In the first place, Ricupero is obviously a defender of the globalist theses of the new world order. Second, like Fernando Henrique Cardoso he is close to Cardinal Pablo Evaristo Arns who, aside from his toleration of voodoo, embraces the Theology of Liberation networks which gave rise to the Marxist Workers Party of Luis Inacio "Lula" da Silva and to such figures as Frei Betto and Leonardo Boff, all of whom have capitalized on the devastating results of the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) neo-liberal policies. Both Cardoso and Lula are members of the Inter-American Dialogue, so admired by Ricupero. These are the groupings which have made the Armed Forces and other national institutions their target in their alleged defense of Indian rights.

It is obvious that the Armed Forces and other institutions cannot limit their actions exclusively to foreign threats, nor can they effectively defend national sovereignty as long as they tolerate the IMF's monetarist policies, which will lead the nation to social upheaval.