

Report from Rio by Silvia Palacios

The Landless Movement surfaces

Terrorists are grabbing up productive lands, furthering the cause of "Lula" da Silva's presidential campaign.

With the presidential election coming up in October, Luís Inácio "Lula" da Silva continues to lead the polls. Lula is a member of the bankers' Inter-American Dialogue; a member of the Cuban-spawned São Paulo Forum. He has Wall Street's blessing to boot. A neo-communist with strong backing from the Theology of Liberation wing of the Catholic Church, Lula has (lyingly) presented himself as the alternative to years of corrupt administrations and economic depression.

An important component of Lula's electoral strategy is the threat of violent social explosions and unrest if he isn't allowed to win, and the club that he is now wielding is the Landless Movement (MST), a creation of the Theology of Liberation which is rapidly making headway and threatening to repeat on a far larger scale a terrorist uprising like the one launched on New Year's Day in Chiapas, Mexico by the Zapatista National Liberation Army.

The MST's preferred tactic is to invade and occupy productive lands, and they have concentrated their operations primarily in the south of Brazil, the wealthiest region of the country. The states of Rio Grande do Sul and Paraná have suffered repeated land invasions; not accidentally, these violent takeovers have targeted properties bordering or near infrastructural zones, that is, areas of strategic-economic importance.

The MST, like Pol Pot's genocidal gang in Cambodia, targets anything reflecting western Christian and industrial civilization. Theirs is similar

to the *modus operandi* of the Shining Path in Peru, which has always targeted the nerve centers of that country with its dynamite attacks. A review of the land invasions in Rio Grande do Sul since 1990 confirms this: In 1990, a property close to a hydroelectric center was invaded; that same year, another was hit which was adjacent to a petrochemical center; in 1991, a property near a hydroelectric dam was seized; this year, a farm was invaded at the site where two high-tension transmission lines cross, one from the Itaipu Dam which supplies 60% of the state capital's energy needs, and the other from a hydroelectric plant supplying the north of the state.

The MST is one of the most important mass experiments that the Theology of Liberation has launched in Brazil, and perhaps in all of the continent. Both high-level and middle-level leaders have been thoroughly indoctrinated, or better said brainwashed, through the deschooling methods of "pedagogue" Paulo Freire, a prominent member of the pro-terrorist São Paulo Forum to which presidential candidate Lula also belongs.

These MST cadre, inculcated with the anti-Christian teachings of the Theology of Liberation, reinterpret the Bible as if it were the history of the class struggle, mixing it with such New Age demands as radical feminism. They recite poems that sanctify violence, which they claim is justified in the Gospel, and they illustrate their pamphlets with weapons designs, in classic terrorist style.

One of the MST's leading ideologues is the Basque bishop of São Felix de Araguaia, Pedro Casaldaliga, a close friend of Mexico's Zapatista bishop Samuel Ruiz. Casaldaliga attempted at the last annual meeting of the Brazilian Bishops to win approval of a resolution endorsing "Comandante" Ruiz.

The MST is one of the four key organizations deployed by Lula's Workers Party (PT) on behalf of his presidential bid. These include: the Landless Movement, the Pastoral Movement of the Land, the Unified Workers Confederation (CUT), and the Indigenist Missionary Council. The threat they pose is so serious that even Brazil's State Security Chief Adm. Mario Cesar Flores—the secretary of strategic affairs who has always had a soft spot in his heart for the PT and who until recently argued that since the Cold War was over, sovereign nations no longer need concern themselves with communist subversion—has had to admit, through clenched teeth, that the MST does indeed pose a national security threat, "more serious than had been imagined."

According to the June 1 *Estado de São Paulo*, there are unconfirmed reports that MST militants are receiving weapons which enter the country illegally from Paraguay. "We are facing a movement with paramilitary characteristics," the daily warned, underscoring that the MST has an unknown source of funding and a cadre of "professional militants."

In a report prepared for President Itamar Franco, Admiral Flores's office claimed that the MST could mobilize up to 12 million people in violent actions, and was being investigated for arms trafficking. Flores is now rushing to recreate the state intelligence service which was dismantled under the corrupt Fernando Collor de Mello government.