

Kissinger offers Brazil a hemispheric condominium

by Silvia Palacios and Lorenzo Carrasco

Immediately after his March 29 speech at Chatham House in London, where he flaunted his disagreement with President Bill Clinton's determination to end the special relationship with Great Britain, Henry Kissinger betook himself to South America in early April, to visit Argentina and Brazil. His purpose was to placate the jitters aroused by the Mexican crisis, to keep up the illusions of both countries' rulers that things would be different for them, and to beat the drums for a hemisphere-wide free trade agreement to run the region's economies. This Kissingerian agenda was what then dominated the state visit of Brazilian President Fernando Henrique Cardoso to the United States on April 17.

For the well-connected private "consultant" and his British owners, one key to maintaining Anglo-American world power in the midst of the financial system's breakdown, is to make sure that Ibero-American nations don't attempt any solution of their own outside the British geopolitical scenario. Indeed, in both Argentina and Brazil, the president of Kissinger Associates sold himself and the pro-British machine he works for, as running a veritable shadow government to Clinton. In Brazil's case, Kissinger offered to relaunch the old "special link" with the United States which he himself had set up in 1975 when he was Gerry Ford's secretary of state, an arrangement broken up by Brazil's nationalists in 1977 in a revolt against submitting militarily and strategically to British geopolitics.

Back in the United States, Kissinger spelled out his plan in his monthly column, which appeared on April 23 in the *Washington Post*, in the German weekly *Welt am Sonntag*, and other places: "There is a need for closer cooperation between the United States and the Southern Cone countries, and particularly Brazil as an emerging giant. In 1975 Brazil and the United States signed an agreement to consult before undertaking major initiatives in the Western Hemisphere. The time is right to implement these provisions."

Kissinger's policies, which do have some backers inside the present U.S. government, do not represent the official Clinton administration line. Rather, they speak for the Anglophile political groups tied to ex-President George Bush, orbiting in the United States around House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) and other "Conservative Revolution" honchos. They orient to the so-called Enterprise for the Americas initiative, which Bush proposed during his December 1990

visit to Brazil. Speaking in the name of the British and their American stooges, Kissinger had the gall to suggest that Brazil take continental leadership and force Clinton's government into this kind of accord. "The United States is seen as scared to lose the leadership in the hemisphere to Brazil," he stated on April 8 in São Paulo, Brazil's business capital. Then he denounced Clinton's supposed "failure of foreign policy," due to his "intellectual crisis."

In an interview with the daily *Estado de São Paulo* on April 9, Kissinger made it clear that he backs every leftover policy Clinton has kept from the Bush era, but opposes whatever the President has done to free himself from that nefarious legacy: "I have criticized the Clinton government, but I emphasize that I support the NAFTA [North American Free Trade Agreement] accord, the emergency measures to support Mexico, and the policy of relations with China. I have some philosophical differences with [Clinton] on Europe, on relations with Russia."

British geopolitics

The geopolitical idea of a U.S.-Brazilian power-sharing arrangement as the axis of hemispheric control, is not without historical precedent. Early in this century under President Rodriguez Alves, who pushed an extreme monetarist policy very close to the Real Plan now ruining Brazil's economy, the Brazilian Foreign Ministry at Itamaraty Palace was set up and controlled by the Baron of Rio Branco, a fan of British "balance of power" politics, for which Kissinger is the modern apologist. Rio Branco, together with his close friend Theodore Roosevelt, proposed to split the continent into two zones of influence—North America, Central America, and the Caribbean for the United States; and South America for Brazil, as the basis for Anglo-American policy in the region.

Kissinger's policies fit hand-in-glove with the pretensions of the current denizens of Itamaraty Palace, dominated by Rio Branco epigones, who dream of winning Brazil a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council—even if it be only to keep the seat warm without the slightest overall decision-making power. We remind our readers that when he was foreign minister in the last government, President Cardoso, during a visit to London, openly mooted reviving the special link to Britain which prevailed a century ago, a proposal British Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd called "adorable."



David Rockefeller and Henry Kissinger at a Council of the Americas Conference in April 1992 in Washington. Kissinger is working to revive the U.S. "special link" with Brazil.

Next, it was the turn of Brazil's ambassador to London, Rubens Antonio Barbosa, to be the bearer of tidings of total submission to the financial power of the City of London and its Wall Street partners, via two signed articles in the newspaper *Folha de São Paulo*. On April 4, his article, entitled "Brazil and the City of London," conveyed to the Brazilian Congress the City's demands that they urgently pass the series of constitutional amendments projected by the Cardoso administration in order to liberalize the economy and allow the richest state enterprises, such as telecommunications, to be privatized, opening the country up as a looting ground for London. "The market experts in London clearly distinguish Brazil in the Latin American context," he wrote. "They know our structural advantages. They are capable of comprehending calmly decisions like those recently adopted to temporarily contain imports of certain products, measures which did not produce negative effects in the City in terms of investment decisions."

In an earlier article on Feb. 2, Barbosa gave unlimited backing to the policy of putting the Amazon under international control, capitulating shamelessly to the demands which the House of Windsor has made for the region. In "Brazil and the NGOs: A View from London," Barbosa claimed that the British Intelligence-steered "private" organizations recognized by the U.N. deserve the right to make decisions in this strategic region. "I have verified that the non-governmental organizations based in Britain, such as Amnesty International, Survival International, Anti-Slavery International, and the World Wide Fund for Nature, are following with interest the orientation taken by President Fernando Henrique Cardoso in his government's actions." Given that the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) is personally run by Prince Philip, the queen's consort, the will to cede

Brazil's sovereignty to the degenerate British monarchy could hardly have been more clearly expressed.

The Washington visit

It was this Kissingerian, or Rio Branco-style, outlook which defined the main outlines of Cardoso's recent visit to the United States, which looked more like a pilgrimage to Wall Street than a state visit to Washington. Cardoso had his bags packed full of problems at home, especially, a political standoff with the Congress in Brasilia, which is balking at approving the sellout of Brazilian economic sovereignty demanded by the international banking fraternity. With power rapidly slipping through his fingers, Cardoso needed to quickly build up an image as a world statesman, an internationally recognized academic figure, to try and gain time for getting his domestic "reforms" through.

Before getting to Washington, Cardoso stopped in New York with his entourage to meet with U.N. Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, with the Wall Street bankers—to whom he practically pledged the Southern Cross, in exchange for their rapid return with their investments—and with Henry Kissinger, who reiterated, "Brazil is going to progress and will be the leader of the hemisphere. Brazil is successful. It is on the right path based on democracy."

Wined and dined by the Anglo-American financial elite, President Fernando Henrique Cardoso left New York as the heir to the position Mexico held until its economic crisis blew up last December—a questionable success. "I like stability, and Brazil today is this program of stabilization, with strong political support," commented Paul Volcker, the former chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, whose high interest rate policies, beginning in 1979, sent the world economy into a tailspin and set the fuse burning on the Ibero-American

debt bomb. The bankers were so euphoric over Cardoso's promises, that the president of Citibank in Brazil gushed, "The President in his trip to the United States definitively committed himself to the internationalization of Brazil."

From the Executive branch in Washington, it was Defense Secretary William Perry who fed the Cardoso administration's fantasies, stating that Brazil is not seen by the United States as a regional but as a "world power."

Speaking with Clinton, Cardoso pushed the Kissingerian notion that "it is time for a new partnership." He agreed that Brazil would "go ahead with programs on peacekeeping," he promised quick congressional action to reform Brazil's constitution as per Wall Street's demands, and he called for "giving more leverage to the IMF [International Monetary Fund] to act more promptly to solve problems." The United States and Brazil also agreed to take concrete steps to unify NAFTA and Mercosur, the free-trade accord of the Southern Cone countries, also as per Kissinger's policy line.

The Brazilian press did not fail to notice that Cardoso met with World Jewish Congress leader Edgar Bronfman at his private residence in New York, behind closed doors. This tête-à-tête with the chief of North American Zionism brought back to mind what Brazilian President Fernando Collor de Mello, later ousted for corruption, did on his first U.S. official visit—he gave Bronfman the privilege of being the only private personage to meet with him. The deference to Bronfman, the Seagrams liquor tycoon, so flagrant that even the Brazilian press found it odd, can only mean that Cardoso plans to continue Collor de Mello's overall project, particularly when it comes to implementing the plan for foreign bankers to grab the Amazon's resources under "environmentalist" cover, and the continuation of the process of dismantling Brazil's Armed Forces and their intelligence services.

NAFTA and SAFTA

The groundwork for all of this had been laid by Kissinger's early April visit to Brazil. During his stay, the traditional dinner given always by his old friend Israel Klabin, took place as usual. Klabin's interests have been linked to the British-American intelligence networks built up since World War II under William Stephenson and Nelson Rockefeller. A select group of businessmen and politicians was at the dinner, among them former Foreign Minister Celso Lafer, Klabin's partner and the biggest propagandist for Frankfurt School brainwasher Hannah Arendt in Brazil; businessman Eliezer Batista; sociologist Helio Jaguaribe, who is in the Club of Rome, the oligarchist outfit which sold the "limits to growth" hoax; Gov. Tasso Jereissati; banker Walter Moreira Salles; and others.

The high point of the dinner was the intervention of Eliezer Batista, who, after declaring himself a full-time environmentalist and proclaiming a struggle for a "borderless world," laid out to Kissinger the form in which the new version of the Anglo-American-Brazilian condominium could be set up in

the hemisphere. According to a report in *Jornal do Brasil* on April 13, Batista proposed creating a huge free trade zone among the Amazon countries, establishing the Merconorte, which would integrate Brazil with the countries of the defunct Andean Pact. Then, this would tie up with Mercosur and the result would be SAFTA, the South American Free Trade Agreement, with Brazil as the mediator.

Batista, as usual, presented this Kissingerian scheme in seductive garb. He mentioned that it would be a matter of interlinking transportation, telecommunications, and energy infrastructure, using concepts of "physical economy" which are dear to the Brazilian nationalists. Yet at the same he played the part of defender of infrastructure, Batista attacked nuclear energy and other alleged "pyramid-building projects" which have been at the heart of the Brazilian nation-building effort.

This was typical of Batista's game in the 1980s with the famous Carajas mine project in the Amazon jungle, which he initiated. Carajas ended up being reduced to a big open-air, high-trade iron-ore mine, exploited efficiently for exporting the ore at low prices to the benefit of the transnational companies and Brazil's creditors, but producing constant losses for the Brazilian Companhia Vale de Rio Doce, which runs it.

Batista is joined in his militant ecogism by Kissinger's friend Israel Klabin. The two have formed the dynamic duo of the House of Windsor's causes in Brazil since at least 1991. When Prince Charles came to Brazil, an elite group of national and international businessmen—some of them members of the "1001 Club" of Prince Bernhard of Holland—met on the royal yacht *Britannia*, which was anchored at the port of Belem in the Amazon state of Para, to talk about "sustainable development" in two successive seminars.

The first seminar was sponsored by the Forum of Business Leaders of the Prince of Wales, instigated by Business in the Community, a British philanthropic group, created in 1981 by British Petroleum and other major companies. The second was organized by the Business Council for Sustainable Development (BCSD). These events were attended by the Batista-Klabin duo, plus banker Jose Safra, another chap "wired in" to Anglo-American power circles.

Later, in 1992, the Brazilian chapter of BCSD was founded, called the Brazilian Foundation for Self-Sustainable Development (FBDS), for the purpose of managing the international financial resources which foreign oligarchs were making available to environmentalist causes. Within Brazil this group is made up mainly of representatives of big Anglo-American interests like Shell, British Tobacco, British Petroleum, Brascan of Edgar Brofmann, and Metal Leve (Brazil) of Mindlin-Lafer-Klabin. It is particularly serious that the secretary of strategic affairs in the Brazilian cabinet is turning over to FBDS the task of coordinating the plan for the ecological-economic zoning of Amazonia, thus allowing the Batista-Klabin pair and their friends abroad a free hand in determining the economic development planning of the strategic Amazon region.