

Brazilian nationalists tell British oligarchy: Enough is enough!

by Silvia Palacios and Lorenzo Carrasco

Every government in every nation of the Western Hemisphere stood up and took notice in late October, when the Brazilian Armed Forces carried out surprise, giant military maneuvers on the border with Colombia. Curiously, so did the Brazilian government of Fernando Henrique Cardoso.

Bypassing diplomatic channels, the military took advantage of previously planned joint maneuvers among the three forces to make an impressive show of force along the jungle border with Colombia, in response to growing real military threats to Brazil coming from the narco-terrorist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). The operation was executed even as the FARC's "diplomatic representative" in Brasilia was parading around with the full acquiescence of the Cardoso government. The maneuvers along the border with Colombia were not merely war games, but real warfare, because the continuation of Colombia's so-called "peace process," and the FARC's consolidation in Colombia of "liberated territory," have led to the narco-terrorist threat spilling over into the Amazon region.

The border operation was launched after Army intelligence services obtained information that the Colombian narco-terrorists were intending to seize the Colombian city of Mitú, located 75 kilometers from the border with Brazil. To achieve their objective, the narco-terrorists would need to occupy a military airstrip on the Brazilian side of the border; the FARC was also planning to steal weapons, ammunition, and medicine from several military border posts there. The Brazilian Armed Forces moved 5,000 troops, airplanes, and missiles, managing in just a few hours to "seal" part of the 1,644 kilometers of the border with Colombia. At the conclusion of the operation, according to media reports, the evaluation of Brazil's military leadership was that "the Brazilian forces have shown their capability in a most convincing manner." The magazine *Veja* reported, "The majority of Brazilians are accustomed to seeing the Armed Forces in parades, with outdated weapons. To see them in action, with modern weaponry, with effective combat tactics, and backed by high technology, is something new."

What has sent London, and associated policymakers

in Washington, reeling, is that the military operations coincided with explicit charges against the British for plotting to shatter Brazil's sovereignty, and attempting to steal the country's natural riches, especially in the coveted Amazon region.

For example, in mid-October, the then head of the Amazon Military Command, Gen. Luis Gonzaga Lessa, pointed to the foreign enemy threatening the region. At a conference organized by the Rio de Janeiro Military Club on Oct. 13, he detailed the pressures, especially those from the environmentalist-indigenist apparatus controlled by the British monarchy, whose non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have managed to dictate Brazilian government policy toward the Amazon. His political message was that no member of the Armed Forces would obey any order from those foreign forces regarding "preservation" of the region—in sum, an open confrontation with the Cardoso government which, in its own words, seeks to turn the non-governmental organizations into "neo-governmental" organizations.

General Lessa's statements have had major repercussions, both domestically and abroad. On Nov. 3, *Diario de las Americas* of Miami reported Lessa's remarks to the effect that the Cardoso government preferred to put the Amazon region into the hands of foreign NGOs. The three threats described by the general are: intervention of foreign governments, the presence of Colombian guerrillas on the border, and the risk of foreign invasion through the Yanomami Indian reservation. His charges also reached the National Congress, and in a Senate plenary session on Nov. 8, Sens. Bernardo Cabral and Gilberto Mestrinho spoke about the importance for the country of military maneuvers in the Amazon, and underscored General Lessa's warnings.

Senator Mestrinho gave the names of the British puppetmasters behind the world eco-fascist apparatus. "That plot against the nation," he said, "has its official headquarters in Grandson, Switzerland, but the intellectual author is in London, with Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, royal consort, ally of the ex-Nazi Prince Bernhard of Holland, of the 1001 Club."

Further, said the Senator, “new strategies are developing in the Amazon, beginning with the NGOs’ battles against the waterways, followed by the ecological reserves, and then the Indian reserves.”

‘Sir’ Cardoso and eco-fascism

The increase in these expressions of civil-military patriotism stems from the growing understanding that the Cardoso government is committed to carrying out the British oligarchy’s orders to impose a system of limited sovereignty on the Amazon, while at the same time using the “Indian card” to block any and all attempts to bring infrastructure to key areas of the country. These fears are not unfounded. During President Cardoso’s state visit to England in December 1997, where at Cambridge University he was compared to Emperor Julius Caesar, and was granted the title of “Sir,” he committed himself before Prince Philip, the “Doge” of the British oligarchy, to allocating 10% of Brazilian territory to areas of environmental preservation, following the model imposed by Philip’s World Wildlife Fund in Africa.

As per this agreement, since the beginning of Cardoso’s second term in office, the Brazilian arm of the environmentalist-indigenist apparatus of the BAC power bloc has increasingly taken control of the areas of government critical to this policy. The President and First Lady, also a militant of world government causes, have made all nominations personally, thereby increasing the “family cabinet.”

Included in this group are Jose Gregori from the Justice Ministry’s National Secretariat of Human Rights, Justice Minister Jose Carlos Dias, and lawyer Elizabeth Sussekind, the Justice Ministry’s secretary of justice and founder of the Viva Rio Movement. The latter is an NGO linked to the World Council of Churches, and to the main Anglo-American foundations, such as the MacArthur Foundation and the networks of George Soros. She is also one of the coordinators of the campaign for civil disarmament. Also among this group is anthropologist Mary Allegretti, the current secretary general of Amazonia Legal, closely linked to the Anglo-Canadian NGO apparatus, and the new president of the National Indian Foundation, Carlos Frederico Mares, formerly president of the Socio-Environmental Institute, one of the most active NGOs in the campaign against the development of Brazil’s waterways. In his inaugural speech, Mares said that the foundation’s actions will be shaped by use of the “Indian card” to promote enclaves against national sovereignty, in the same way that Bishop Samuel Ruiz and his Zapatistas intend in Chiapas, Mexico.

Cohen to the rescue

It was in this context that U.S. Defense Secretary William Cohen visited Brazil in mid-November, in a clear effort to give international backing to the beleaguered President Cardoso. Cohen’s trip was also intended to endorse the

creation of a Defense Ministry, imposed last January against the opposition of the Brazilian Armed Forces, supposedly to show that the military’s submission to civilian power is the only real guarantee of “democracy.” In reality, this is only a euphemism for the continuation of neo-liberal economic looting.

Cohen’s visit, despite its low profile, served to emphasize concern by London’s friends in Washington over military discontent in Brazil. In a press conference, Cohen recognized that Brazil “is a key country, not only for regional stability, but also because of the role it plays in the world.” Cohen’s deployment, actually part of the campaign on the part of the British-American-Commonwealth (BAC) intelligence faction to dismantle Ibero-America’s armed forces, implies an effort in some way to thrust Brazil into the role of “junior partner” of Anglo-American power, in the plan for supranational dominion over the Western Hemisphere.

This is the context in which to assess the public offer for Brazil to participate in the activities of the Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies, a supposedly academic institution formed under the aegis of the Inter-American Dialogue. Its real purpose is to oversee implementation of the policy to annihilate Ibero-America’s armed forces, a policy begun during the George Bush administration. Specifically, the intent is for the center to reduce the importance of the Inter-American Defense Board, and to gradually place its operations under the full control of the Organization of American States. This policy was first elaborated by State Department honcho Luigi Einaudi, mentor of the project to establish a supranational military force for hemispheric intervention.

This project, which has the personal backing of President Cardoso, who was a founding member of the Inter-American Dialogue, can only work if the principle of limited sovereignty is legally consolidated. This has already been done de facto through the operations of the non-governmental organization (NGO) Transparency International and its operatives, such as Spanish judge Baltazar Garzón, who, with the backing of the British oligarchy, is handling the extradition case of Chilean Gen. Augusto Pinochet, as a precedent-setter for such a new legal doctrine.

At a meeting of the Ibero-American heads of state in Cuba on Nov. 19, President Cardoso publicly endorsed the concept of world government. Although the meeting nominally rejected the supranational treatment being given the Pinochet case as a threat to national sovereignty, President Cardoso, in an interview with the German magazine *Der Spiegel* on Nov. 15, unabashedly advocated the creation of an “international court for the punishment of universal crimes, such as those practiced against human rights and the environment.” He admitted that such a position represents a “break with the tradition we have held until now of non-interference in the internal affairs of sovereign countries.”