

# Counter-Suit Filed Against Lying WWF

by Gretchen Small

On Jan. 29, lawyers representing the Ibero-American Solidarity Movement (MSIA) in Brazil filed a 23-page brief before the Rio de Janeiro state appeals court, in which they charge the Brazilian branch of Prince Philip's World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) with "disguising and willfully concealing the truthfulness of the facts," and making "baseless allegations without any legal or factual backing" against the MSIA, in order to silence the MSIA, an organization of Lyndon LaRouche's co-thinkers in Ibero-America. The WWF had obtained a court order on Jan. 17, prohibiting the MSIA in Brazil from doing or saying anything affecting "the good name and honor" of the WWF, until such time as a slander suit *yet to be filed* against the MSIA by the WWF should be tried in court.

That court order, stripping the MSIA and three of its leaders of their freedom of speech, violates the Brazilian Constitution's guarantee of freedom of expression, its express prohibition of censorship, and its guarantee of the right to answer charges made against one, the MSIA brief argued. The first judge who heard the WWF case back in October, threw it out of court. But the WWF appealed that decision, and found a judge who gave them their way, issuing a court order to search the MSIA offices for all copies of any materials attacking the WWF, and to seize all material found. On Jan. 19, marshals searched the MSIA's office in Rio, and seized the one archive copy remaining of the pamphlet, "The Green Mafia Attacks the Waterways," 5,000 of which had been printed in 1998, and 246 copies remaining from a 15,000-copy run of the pamphlet, "Roraima at the Center of the Internationalization of the Amazon," printed in November 1999.

On Jan. 25, the case became national news, when Brazil's leading financial daily, *Gazeta Mercantil*, gave it straightforward coverage. *Gazeta* reported that "WWF's Brazilian branch, led by businessman Jose Roberto Marinho"—vice president of *Globo*, the country's largest media conglomerate—"accuses the MSIA of damaging its good name and credibility," and, "according to MSIA literature, the WWF is conspiring against the country's development 'for the purpose of rendering the Brazilian State technologically and economically inferior.'" *Gazeta* describes the MSIA as "inspired by the ideas of American economist Lyndon LaRouche, defender of sovereign nation-states, of rebuilding the international financial and monetary system, and of large infrastructure projects as a factor in the development of Third World countries."

"The battle between these two organizations went on quietly," the daily comments, "but it became intolerable after Transportation Minister Eliseu Padilha announced the suspension of the Paraná-Paraguay Waterway project, a transportation canal for central South America's agricultural production. The WWF has campaigned against the Waterway. . . . The MSIA considers completion of the project to be fundamental to the country's economic development."

The MSIA, which has published much of *EIR*'s material on how the British monarchy concocted "environmentalism" and "indigenism" as new instruments for old imperial methods of geopolitical and social control, has become famous among Brazilian nationalists as "the source" for the ammunition needed to defend the country's existence as a sovereign nation.

## Imperial Interests Identified

The MSIA'S legal brief comes back with guns blazing against the WWF. For example, the filing documents that there is nothing slanderous in reporting that the President of the WWF was a member of the Nazi Party, as "it is a public fact that Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, who was the first International President of the WWF, and played a key role in the expansion of the group through the creation of the 1001 Nature Trust Fund . . . was recruited by the Nazis to work for I.G. Farben in 1934, when he studied in Berlin, having also joined the party." Various exhibits document this point.

Likewise, the brief refutes the charge that it is slanderous to say that the WWF shows "contempt for human beings," by including WWF's International President Emeritus Prince Philip's most notorious statements as to how "human population growth" is the greatest threat to the world, and therefore, he desires to be reincarnated as a deadly virus. Such statements "obviously provide the basis for that criticism of total contempt for the human race," the brief argues.

The concluding section of the MSIA brief, prepared by lawyer Hermann Assis Baeta, is titled "The Teachings of Rui Barbosa," and it places the WWF-MSIA fight in its appropriate historic framework. Barbosa was an avowed advocate of Hamiltonian economics, serving as Finance Minister in Brazil's first Republic at the end of the 19th Century. Noting that the WWF brief had quoted Barbosa to the effect that justice, to be justice, must run swiftly, the MSIA brief remarks that it is a pity that the WWF had not paid attention to the rest of the speech from which they extracted the quote, his famous "Speech to the Youth" before São Paulo's Law Faculty in 1920. Barbosa there warned us, the brief writes at its conclusion:

"Let us not seek the path of a return to a colonial situation. Let us protect ourselves from international protectorates. Let us be on the watch for economic invasions. Let us be on guard for absorbing powers and expansionist races. Let us fear not so much the already wasted great empires, as those anxious to make themselves one."