
Conference Report

Brazil, Argentina: Time for an 'About-Face'

by Silvia Palacios

On June 1, an historic binational meeting was held in the Brazilian city of São Borja, located on the border with Argentina. Convoked by the Ibero-American Solidarity Movement (MSIA), Lyndon LaRouche's movement in Ibero-America, and Argentina's Movement for National Identity and Ibero-American Integration (MINeII), which is guided by incarcerated war hero Col. Mohamed Alí Seineldín, the participants gathered to launch a process of deliberation on the future of Ibero-America, which, in globalization's grip, faces assured disintegration.

The historic responsibility of forming a Brazil-Argentina axis to reverse this process, was given particular prominence in the discussions, because without that lever of unity, the British geopolitical games in the South American Southern Cone, of feeding rivalry between the brother nations, could not be overcome. The response to the call for the meeting, was a vibrant demonstration that Ibero-American integration, far from being a dream, is a project present in the lives of the continent's citizens.

The opening ceremony, in which the participants sang the national anthems of Brazil and Argentina, was attended by 200 people from the two nations. Brazilians came from five different states, among them many serving officials, including five mayors and various city councilmen, plus former mayors, as well as businessmen, university professors and students, and agricultural producers. Support from various local bodies—among them, São Borja's Chamber of Commerce, the Rural Association Federation, and the Association of Rice Producers—made the meeting possible.

Federal Deputy Luiz Carlos Heinze, president of the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies' Agricultural Committee, gave the welcoming speech. "This meeting is a seed sown above the political parties," he said, identifying the necessity of building a movement to turn the dream of being modern and sovereign nations, into reality. His intervention reflected the spirit which is spreading throughout Brazil's interior, as neo-liberalism's (i.e., free trade's) glittering promises dissipate, and its only chance of surviving a little longer, is that Brazil be cornered into accepting the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas (FTAA).

Therefore, Deputy Heinze said, "Davos and Pôrto Alegre, which raised questions for us, worry us," a reference to the parallel meetings held in January: one, of the Anglo-American bankers in Davos, Switzerland, and the counter-gang of Jacobins from around the world who gathered in Pôrto Alegre, Brazil for a "World Social Forum" shaped by Anglo-French oligarch and eco-freak Teddy Goldsmith. Another great concern, he said, is the FTAA, which could wreak enormous damage on the growth of modern Brazilian agriculture.

Heinze also emphasized that despite the increases in agricultural productivity, "We see an impoverishment of the productive classes." This panorama worsens, because there are political groups that oppose the modernization of agriculture. We are sure, he said, that to feed Brazil and the world, "we can accept neither the programs of the Workers Party nor of the Landless Movement [MST], which promote backward agricultural methods. The so-called 'organic agriculture' which they promote, will not solve the hunger of the world." He concluded: "We need to become political, to put aside discussion of daily concerns, to discuss ideas which affect our lives. We have to think of the future, without the extreme left or the extreme right. We do not agree with financial exploitation."

LaRouche's Ideas Shaped the Discussion

U.S. Presidential pre-candidate for 2004 Lyndon LaRouche's presence at the meeting, was through a powerful message entitled "Divided Is Conquered," in which he emphasized the need to revive the spirit of unity among the nations of the continent, based on defense of the principle of the sovereign nation-state—this being Ibero-America's only guarantee of survival. The dialogue continued with a message sent from prison by Argentine Colonel Seineldín, in which he described his systematic battles on behalf of continental integration, and called on those present to continue these efforts "with great spirit and force for action." (Both messages follow this article.)

Others who sent greetings included Col. Pedro Schirmer, director of the Brazilian newspaper *Ombro a Ombro*, who stated: "With the force of ideas, the noble Brazil-Argentina axis will make its voice heard by all nations fighting for a just order against the excesses of globalization"; and, Joaquim Almeida Serra, Brazil's former Ambassador to South Korea.

Speaking from the Argentine side, MINeII president Jorge Cabrera painted a picture of the dismantling of the Argentine government during previous administrations, and the climax of destruction brought about by the so-called ultra-radical monetarist, financial czar Domingo Cavallo. This picture was complemented by the presentation of Ernesto de Simoni, president of the cooperatives of the Argentine province of Corrientes, who addressed the ways in which neo-liberalism has destroyed Argentina's rich agricultural capa-

bilities; and by Carlos María Vallejo, a specialist on the subject of integration and agriculture.

'We Need Our Own Land-Bridge'

Lorenzo Carrasco, a member of the MSIA executive committee in Brazil, addressed the world strategic situation, and laid out the world reconstruction programs put forward by LaRouche and his movement. He gave a brief description of the background which gave rise to this meeting, as captured by an MSIA statement entitled "Brazil, Argentina, the Hour of Truth." In discussing the importance of the Eurasian Land-Bridge, and its demographic impact over the next 25 years, when the population of that region will grow from 3.5 billion to 4.5 billion, Carrasco stated: "The Eurasian nations are taking concrete measures to construct a bridge that will unite the Atlantic with the Pacific. Population growth at conservative rates, and the development of the interior of China and other nations, will create an enormous demand for food. We in South America have the greatest potential of arable land in the world; we have the culture to develop by ourselves this enormous agricultural frontier, but we need infrastructure, waterways, railways, energy plants, new cities.

"We also need to build our own land-bridge," Carrasco added, "our own infrastructure corridors to unite the Atlantic and Pacific, and this is absolutely complementary to the Eurasian Land-Bridge. The hegemonic powers centered around the Anglo-American oligarchy know this, and have launched irregular warfare against us to sabotage this potential, through a network of non-governmental organizations. Today, we have the responsibility to forge a movement whose mission is to turn our nations into the breadbasket of the world, that will put an end to the manipulations of the great grain cartels. And this mission is what will reestablish hope in the people; through employment in the construction of necessary infrastructure, we can reestablish the principle of general welfare, of the common good, in public policies."

Other panels discussed the offensive against the sovereign nation-state in Ibero-America, the need for physical integration programs for the continent through great infrastructure projects, and Brazilian-Argentine cooperation in the scientific arena. Adrian Romero Mundani of MINEII proposed that the defense of Brazil's Amazon should be made common cause with the defense of the sovereignty of Argentina's Patagonia. "We need to 'Malvinize' the Amazon," he said, referring to Argentina's fight against the United Kingdom for sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands. "We need to 'Malvinize' Patagonia, and this should become a common cause in defense of the sovereignty of the continent, and of sovereign control over its natural resources."

This reporter, as *EIR* correspondent in Brazil, presented a panorama of Ibero-America's loss of sovereignty over the past 20 years, brought about by various supranational inter-

ventions, from the financial, carried out by the International Monetary Fund and Anglo-American interests which entered through the door of the privatization of companies, to the environmentalist and indigenous agenda. She specifically exposed the oligarchical interests which are the string-pullers of the so-called World Social Forum, such as Anglo-French magnate Teddy Goldsmith, and his French puppet José Bové, and the separatist geopolitical drive for control of territory and natural resources being carried out through the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) of Mexico and the MST of Brazil, key pawns of the World Social Forum in Ibero-America.

In the second panel, editor of *EIR's Scientific Environmental Alert*, Nilder Costa, detailed the need for projects, such as the Brazilian waterways, that could drastically increase the production of real wealth in Brazil, and the sabotage run by the eco-fascist world lobby. Geraldo Lina of the MSIA presented an account of the damage that entrance into the FTAA would cause to Brazilian industry.

Throughout the deliberations, a true dialogue was carried on among the participants, leading to a hoped-for convergence of interests to save the nations, and above all, to an agreement that the future of Ibero-America must never be, as LaRouche had said, "Divided Is Conquered."

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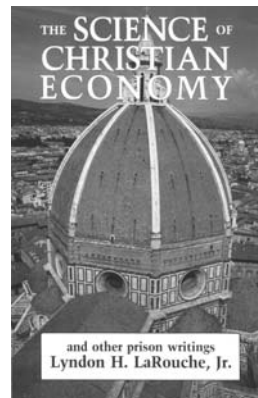
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