

## Kirchner Rallies S. America To 'Build the New Times'

by Dennis Small

"The idea of South America as the Cinderella of the world is over. We don't want to be the backyard anymore; we want to take an active part in building the new times that await us."

These words were spoken by Argentine President Néstor Kirchner on Jan. 18, 2006, during a visit to neighboring Brazil. Kirchner was addressing a joint session of Brazil's Congress, a distinction bestowed on very few visiting dignitaries.

When Kirchner speaks, friend and foe alike listen. His government succeeded in negotiating an historic 65% write-down of the country's usurious public debt in March 2005. In September 2005, Kirchner's Foreign Minister Rafael Bielsa called for a New Bretton Woods, in a speech to the UN General Assembly. And in December 2005, Argentina and Brazil coordinated a surprise move to pay off the entirety of their respective debts to the International Monetary Fund, in an effort to deflate the IMF's ability to impose asphyxiating economic conditionalities on their countries. Néstor Kirchner, in a word, is the synarchist bankers' worst nightmare in South America.

"The times are propitious," Kirchner explained in another speech on Jan. 18, after meeting with Brazilian President Lula. "It is up to us to take advantage of them, and to understand that individually it will prove much more difficult to do this. International economic circumstances are favorable."

Kirchner's trip to Brazil is part of a December-January wave of intense regional diplomatic activity by a number of South American Presidents and Presidents-elect, whose intention is to promptly put in place a viable alternative to the insanity of looting and destabilization issuing from the Cheney-Bush Administration. In fact, the entire region is embarked on a kind of anti-Nazi revolt, as most dramatically

reflected in the results of the Jan. 15 Chilean Presidential elections, where the followers of the fascist Gen. Augusto Pinochet were trounced at the polls (see article, p. 41).

The fact that Pinochet's patrons—Henry Kissinger, George Shultz, Felix Rohatyn—are also behind the current drive to entrench Carl Schmitt's Nazi doctrine of law on the U.S. Supreme Court, has scarcely been lost on South America's political elite. Lyndon LaRouche's press releases and articles documenting the case have circulated widely in Ibero-America, and LaRouche Youth Movement demonstrations in Argentina, Colombia, and Mexico against Washington's "Schmittlerians" have also received prominent media coverage. The leading Madrid daily *El País* on Jan. 25 also editorially blasted Schmitt's followers in the Bush-Cheney Administration—an indication of an Iberian component of the South American anti-Nazi revolt (see *Feature*, p. 7).

In point of fact, the "favorable international circumstances" which Kirchner took note of in his speech in Brazil, are primarily the result of the string of major political blows that Dick Cheney et al. have suffered in recent months at the hands of LaRouche and allied Democratic and other forces. Whether South America's leaders are fully aware of it or not, it is these developments in Washington which have opened up the political space in which South Americans are now moving.

### Lunar Eclipse

Recall what was happening in South America a mere six months ago. Back then, U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld were in the thick of establishing a U.S. military base in the heart of South America, at Mariscal Estigarribia in Paraguay (see *EIR*, Sept.

2, 2005). That base was designed as the staging ground to unleash regional chaos and warfare, with the aid of the Reverend Moon cult, with its huge landholdings in the area. The first nation targeted for disintegration was Bolivia.

As *EIR* wrote at the time, Bolivia is highly polarized between left and right, with the gas-rich provinces of Santa Cruz and Tarija already talking about secession. Cheney’s neocons were pushing these provinces, *EIR* wrote, “to split from Bolivia, form an independent country, and ally with neighboring Chile,” playing on the historic hostility between Bolivia and Chile dating back to the 19th Century War of the Pacific. The Cheney-Rumsfeld plan “could include supra-national troop deployments to back up a new ‘Santa Cruz Republic,’” *EIR* warned.

Compare that looming disaster to what just occurred on Jan. 22, at the inauguration of the new Bolivian President, Evo Morales. The President of Chile, Ricardo Lagos, not only attended that inauguration—the first visit of a Chilean President to a Bolivian inauguration since 1955—but he accepted Morales’s symbolic invitation to meet with him in his private home, a modest apartment. After the meeting, both Lagos and Morales asserted their commitment to peaceful relations.

What brought about the change? A curious Ibero-American institution which Lyndon LaRouche once insightfully called *the Presidents’ Club*.

### Presidents or Parliaments?

Ibero-America has historically had a tradition of nation-states built on republican Presidential systems modelled on that of the United States, as opposed to Anglo-Dutch liberal imperialism’s parliamentary systems, such as those prevalent in Europe today, under which synarchist central bankers have de facto control. In Ibero-America, given the relative weakness of individual countries, the Presidents have tended to band together in a fraternity of sorts which—notwithstanding the other political and ideological differences among them—has given the Presidents a certain strength in unity.

Thus, whenever a new President is inaugurated in one Ibero-American country, it has been commonplace for most of the other Presidents to attend the ceremony, and welcome him into the fold. When one country’s institutional stability is threatened, others rally to its support.

This informal Ibero-American Presidents’ Club was greatly weakened over the last 10-15 years, as bone-crunching IMF austerity induced an every-man-for-himself outlook. On



top of that, synarchist agencies such as the National Endowment for Democracy (aka Project Democracy) and the World Bank, launched concerted warfare on the very *idea* of a Presidential system, on the grounds that it ipso facto fostered corruption, authoritarianism, and dictatorship. Taking a page from the Nazi jurist Carl Schmitt, they demanded that “Constituent Assemblies” be convoked to rip up the existing Constitutions, and that “more democratic” parliamentary systems be put in place. More often than not, the “anti-authoritarian” bilge of Nazi Martin Heidegger and his fascist sympathizers Hannah Arendt and Theodor Adorno was cited in support of such measures.

But by late 2005, the nearly defunct Ibero-American Presidents’ Club sprang back into action. The turning point was the Oct. 23 landslide victory of Argentine President Kirchner’s slate of candidates, in that country’s mid-term election, which gave Kirchner the political backing to escalate his leadership role regionally. Consider the following chronology:

## A Chronology of Recent Diplomacy

**Oct. 23, 2005:** President Kirchner's Victory Front electoral coalition sweeps Argentina's midterm congressional elections, in a contest widely viewed as a plebiscite on his hard-line policy against IMF conditionalities and bankers' looting. Kirchner and his candidates also win undisputed control over the Peronist party, by defeating the candidates of his Peronist rival Eduardo Duhalde. Brazilian President Lula, who had been supporting Duhalde from the sidelines, and giving Kirchner only lukewarm support internationally, is quick to read the import of the election results.

**Nov. 4-5, 2005:** The Summit of the Americas in Mar del Plata ends in a stunning defeat for Washington's policy of free trade and globalization, which is rejected by a coalition of nations led by Argentine host Kirchner, despite massive U.S. pressure. Brazilian President Lula not only shares Argentina's intransigent opposition to the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas, but sends an unmistakable signal by leaving the summit before the final resolution is hammered out, and instructing his Foreign Minister to vote on the final document *whatever way the Argentines voted*—i.e., effectively giving Kirchner his proxy.

**Nov. 30, 2005:** Kirchner and Lula meet in Puerto Iguazú, Argentina, on the 20th anniversary of the 1985 integration agreement between the two nations, out of which came Mercosur, the Common Market of the South which today includes Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, and Paraguay, with Bolivia and Chile as associate members. The final communiqué from this meeting says that the two governments will take a joint position in talks with the IMF, and that the two countries will move forward in cooperation in space and nuclear technologies.

**Dec. 9, 2005:** At a meeting in Uruguay of the Mercosur council, Venezuela is admitted as a new member. The member states sign a Memorandum of Understanding endorsing Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez's proposal that a 5,000-mile natural gas pipeline be constructed from Venezuela's rich gas fields, down through Brazil and into Argentina and other South American nations.

**Dec. 13, 2005:** President Lula announces that Brazil will immediately pay off its entire debt to the IMF, some \$15.5 billion.

**Dec. 15, 2005:** President Kirchner announces that Argentina will immediately pay off its entire debt to the IMF, of about \$10 billion. "We are burying a good portion of the ominous past of infinite indebtedness and eternal adjustment," he explains, adding: "We have been instructed in impotence and told that we can't do anything." But now, he warns, the Argentine President will use his "popular mandate" to act as a protagonist, in the best interests of Argentina's people.

**Dec. 18, 2005:** Evo Morales is elected President of Bolivia, with a strong 54% majority.

**Jan. 13, 2006:** Bolivian President-elect Morales meets

with President Lula in Brasilia, Brasil.

**Jan. 15, 2006:** Michelle Bachelet is elected President of Chile, with over 53% of the vote.

**Jan. 17, 2006:** Bolivian President-elect Morales meets with President Kirchner in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

**Jan. 18, 2006:** Argentine President Kirchner visits Brazil, where he meets with President Lula, the head of the Supreme Court, and speaks before a joint session of Congress. The final communiqué of the Presidential meeting strongly reaffirms the Argentine-Brazilian "strategic alliance" as the "touchstone of South American integration," and their joint commitment to "solving situations that could affect regional peace and stability"—a clear reference to the Bolivia hot spot.

Both Lula's and Kirchner's speeches also announce their intention to help stabilize Bolivia, as well their ongoing cooperation on nuclear energy and aerospace. (See *Documentation*.)

**Jan. 19, 2006:** Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez joins Kirchner and Lula in Brazil, for a tripartite summit, whose final communiqué also stresses their joint commitment to support "Bolivia's political, economic, and social stabilization," as well as the South American gas pipeline project.

**Jan. 21, 2006:** Brazilian President Lula tells the Bolivian daily *La Razón* that the heads of state of Ibero-America have the obligation to help the new President of Bolivia, Evo Morales, govern. This includes opening the markets of Mercosur nations to alternative Bolivian exports, to replace the country's coca leaf exports. Lula also reports that he had asked Morales to draw up a plan of economic and other proposals to be given to Brazil, and that he had already spoken with the Presidents of Venezuela, Argentina, Peru, and Chile, about the proposal.

**Jan. 22, 2006:** Evo Morales is inaugurated as President of Bolivia, with 11 heads of state attending—including Kirchner, Lula, Chávez, and Chile's Ricardo Lagos. The presence of the Chilean President, in particular, punches a major hole in Cheney's gameplan of unleashing chaos and warfare across the Americas.

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## Documentation

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### Argentina-Brazil Accord Moves Toward Integration

#### Brazil-Argentina Joint Declaration

*On Jan. 18, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and Argentine President Néstor Kirchner met in Brasilia, Brazil, and issued a Joint Declaration, which is translated and excerpted here.*

[The Presidents] reiterated the current validity, the solidity, and the indispensable nature of the Strategic Alliance between Brazil and Argentina, the touchstone of South American integration and a factor of progress, development, and regional stability, and reaffirmed their willingness to continue to reinforce the basis for building a common future.

To this end, they decided to establish a new system of bilateral consultation and coordination, with Presidential meetings every six months, preceded by meetings of the Foreign Ministers, and they determined that the Deputy Foreign Ministers would meet every three months.

They reviewed the regional situation, marked by a broad convergence of values that open exceptional perspectives for the deepening of integration. In this sense, they stressed the essential role that Mercosur plays in this process, and the need to continue working for its consolidation and expansion, guaranteeing adequate benefits to all of its members. Similarly, they reiterated their full agreement with the goal of advancing in the direction of the consolidation of a South American Community of Nations. . . .

The two Presidents viewed with satisfaction the advances achieved by the Health Ministers of Brazil and Argentina since the signing of the Protocol of Intent regarding joint work on research, development, and production of medicines and vaccines, especially of retrovirals and reagents for HIV-AIDS, as well as the decision to install a bi-national factory for their production. The joint production of medicines and advanced technology reaffirms the spirit of greater health autonomy of the two Nations.

They committed themselves to always keeping open the channels of consultation and cooperation on these questions, and renewed their permanent readiness to actively and jointly contribute to solving situations that could affect regional peace and stability. . . .

### **Kirchner Speech Before Brazilian Congress**

*On Jan. 18, Argentine President Kirchner addressed a joint session of the Brazilian Congress. Excerpts follow.*

. . . We are going through a change of era, which involves a strong paradigm shift, both in the region and in the world. Both of our governments have fully understood this reality. In our bilateral relations, we are absolutely aware of how much we have done but also of how much remains to be done. . . .



PR/Richardo Stuckert

*The Ibero-American "Presidents' Club" is thwarting neo-con plans to loot the continent. Here, Venezuelan President Chávez, Argentine President Kirchner, and Brazilian President Lula at their summit meeting in Brazil on Jan. 19.*

Similarly, our countries have decided to break with a past that has imprisoned us. Not only have we ended the debt with the IMF, but—and this is the most important—we have recovered our total autonomy to decide what to do with our resources and our autonomy.

We transmitted this same message of sovereignty and defense of our interests during the Summit of the Americas in Mar del Plata, where we firmly stated that the only free trade we accept is that which brings with it benefits for all participants, and not one that conceals one-sided agreements.

We were also a solid, serious, and forceful voice at the Hong Kong meeting of the World Trade Organization's Doha Round, where we unreservedly exposed the hypocrisy of a world trade which proclaims free trade for those products in which the developed countries are competitive, and protectionism for those in which they are not. Argentina and Brazil were the protagonists of a group of countries which offered creative, intelligent, and constructive ideas and proposals.

In October 2003, when President Lula conducted a state visit to my country, we issued the Buenos Aires Consensus . . . [in which] we stated that regional integration constituted a strategic option for strengthening the insertion of our countries into the world, increasing their negotiating power. We declared that greater autonomy in decision-making would allow us to more effectively confront the destabilizing movements of speculative financial capital and the opposing interests of the most developed blocs, amplifying our voice in various forums and multilateral organizations. We stated that management of the public debt had to have as its objective the creation of wealth and of jobs, protection of savings, reduction of poverty, fostering of education and of health, and the possibility of maintaining sustainable policies of socio-economic development. . . .

On the multilateral plane, as we indicated earlier, one can clearly see the new way we relate to the international financial world, and the hard-fought defense of just trade, beneficial to our people, as we demonstrated by coordinating our actions in Mar del Plata and in Hong Kong. . . .

We must consolidate the unity of the countries of South America, but we must also raise one voice, one plan, and one sense of identity, to give us the necessary potential to dialogue with other world blocs. The idea of South America as the Cinderella of the world is over. We don't want to be the backyard anymore; we want to take an active part in building the new times that await us. . . .

We must be at the forefront, in the vanguard of the battles, making clear to the whole world that South America wants to be a part of the world, and no longer in the rear. And we definitely want our leaders, we ourselves, those of us to whom it has fallen to be Presidents and legislators, to achieve the summit of history, so that that history begins to become the history that our brothers and sisters, that our citizens deserve.

### **Kirchner Speech Following Meeting with Lula**

*On Jan. 18, Argentine President Néstor Kirchner delivered remarks, excerpted below, after meeting with Brazilian President Lula da Silva.*

. . . Argentina and Brazil are partners in Mercosur, in the South American Community of Nations, in the Americas, and in the world. We are partners for democracy, we are partners for peace, and we should be partners in obtaining our development. The times are propitious. It is up to us to take advantage of them, and to understand that individually, it will be much more difficult to do this. International economic circumstances are favorable, the world is marching toward a new multilateralism marked by greater consumption by giants like China and India, who are embarked on a path of development. Immense sectors of their populations are rapidly improving their quality of life, and they demand a class of products and services that we can provide, some of which—like soy and steel—we are already providing. . . .

Mercosur should transform itself into the key policy for job creation and for successfully resolving the enormous challenges that we face from a world that puts a premium on producing and exporting goods with high value added, and on obtaining raw materials. Our strategy should be to complement each other in Mercosur to be able to negotiate and compete more strongly with the rest of the world, producing high technology goods and raising salaries that reflect the development of the region. . . .

In Paraguay and in Uruguay, criticisms of Mercosur grow stronger with regard to what is considered a lack of attention to those asymmetries. It is necessary for us to meet in a joint exercise to address these complaints, preserving our solidarity. . . .

I cannot fail to emphasize the satisfaction we all feel in

affirming that our beloved Bolivia has been able to resolve a difficult situation, adhering to democratic institutions and to its Constitution. This is, doubtless, the Bolivian people's achievement.

We also want to send our congratulations to, and to deepen integration with, the sister Republic of Chile. . . .

Mercosur was the proud and hopeful witness to a clean and peaceful election, and now awaits the full incorporation of Bolivia into an increasingly more powerful and promising bloc. . . .

I would like to say to brother Brazilians, and to all the members of Mercosur, but in this special case to all the brothers and sisters of Brazil, that they can take pride in the President they have. We Argentines have valued him as a Latin American brother who has accompanied us, in Brazil's name, during a tremendously difficult situation. You all know what we went through. . . . It is something that we Argentines will never forget and that the brothers and sisters of Brazil can feel proud of, because they have a President who reacts the way he did in the face of a brother nation such as Argentina, which faced a particular problem. . . .

### **Lula Speech Following Meeting with Kirchner**

*On Jan. 18, Brazilian President Lula delivered remarks, excerpted below, after his meeting with Argentine President Kirchner.*

. . . Argentina and Brazil are committed to the consolidation of an area of peace and prosperity in South America.

In the series of visits which Bolivia's President-elect, Evo Morales, just made to Brasilia and Buenos Aires, Argentina and Brazil are examining ways to help this brother country, contributing to its full integration with the region, and above all to the well-being of the Bolivian people. . . .

The decision of our governments to pay off our debts to the IMF, in particular, reinforces the determination of Argentina and Brazil to redefine, in a coordinated way, their place in the world. . . .

We are perfecting our nuclear collaboration in the framework of the Brazilian-Argentine Control and Accounting Agency [for Nuclear Material]. We want to broaden our cooperation in the area of nuclear power and aerospace. . . .

My friends, I want to pay special homage to the leadership of President Kirchner. Under his direction, Argentina left behind years of skepticism and submission, to finally find its destiny.

His government overcame the worst economic crisis in the history of Argentina, recovering income and employment levels. He restructured an asphyxiating foreign debt and wrote down the country's financial obligations, restoring Argentina to its traditional outstanding place in the international community. More than that, he restored pride and hope to a nation rich in history and potential. . . .

We both won elections, and we, politically, exist precisely to solve the challenges which others don't dare solve. . . .