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## BRAZIL

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# Mossad's cold coup against Golbery: undercutting pragmatic nationalists

by Mark Sonnenblick

The success of Brazil's hardline military in forcing the Aug. 6 retirement of the man who since 1974 had tried to turn Brazil into a stable, developing nation-state, means that a dangerous period of instability is in store for Brazil and her neighbors in Latin America and in Southern Africa. Retired General Golbery de Couto e Silva was unceremoniously forced to resign his post as presidential minister for civilian affairs, from which he had master-minded not only the current "political opening" toward civilian rule, but also Brazil's geopolitical shift toward becoming an independent power in world affairs.

Golbery was known as the *éminence grise* of President João Baptista Figueiredo, who will remain in place; but in order to survive the remainder of his 1979-85 presidential term, Figueiredo will have to make ever-increasing compromises with the hardline right-wing officers, and the people who manipulate them. The departure of the only man in Brazil with a relatively coherent concept of how to hold the country together amidst a mounting debt crisis leaves a dangerous vacuum which neither the weakened President Figueiredo nor his brash enemies will be able to fill. With the rejection of Golbery and of the Machiavellian safety valve provided by his social-engineering scheme for *abertura* (political opening), the Iranization of Brazil has become a distinct possibility for the medium term.

Golbery's overthrow was orchestrated by the Kissinger-Rockefeller-Haig group with Israel's Mossad intelligence agency. Their objectives are threefold:

- As enunciated by David Rockefeller during his November 1980 visit to Brazil, democratic processes are not conducive to the deep cuts in both living standards and employment required to avoid default on Brazil's \$64 billion foreign debt.

- The Mossad had targeted Golbery because he saw himself as "the father of the Brazilian-West German nuclear agreement" of 1975. Golbery had kept that model technology-transfer process alive—despite increasingly shrill outcries from London bankers and international Zionists—because he viewed it as a big step toward building Brazil into a major world industrial

power by the end of the century. Such rapid industrial and nuclear development bothers the Israelis because "pragmatic" oil-importing Brazil has forged a partnership with Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

- Golbery consistently rebuffed Haig's demands that Brazil provide colonial troops for his "flight forward" policy of global military confrontation with the Soviets.

Haig was probably surprised as well as enraged that Golbery scuttled the February efforts of his special emissary, Vernon Walters, to enlist Brazilian and other South American armies in the Central American mess. Walters has for years acted as Pentagon liaison with the moderate "Sorbonne" faction of the Brazilian army, since serving with it in Italy during World War II. Walters reinforced those ties during what he calls "the seven best years of my life" as U.S. military attaché in Brazil (1945-48; 1962-67). Walters in fact sponsored Golbery's diligent plotting, organization, and execution of the military's 1964 takeover.

The "Sorbonne" faction, now headed by Golbery, Figueiredo, and ex-president Ernesto Geisel, has characteristically been much friendlier to perceived American interests than opposing "hardline nationalist" tendencies have been. Golbery, for example, worked as president of Dow Chemical's Brazil subsidiary when he was out of grace with the hardliners when they ran wild during the 1969-74 presidency of Gen. Emilio Médici.

Golbery's replacement as minister of civilian affairs, jurist João Leitão de Abreu, is in fact a representative of the opposing Médici faction, having served in the same post in the 1969-74 period.

### How Brazil's Machiavelli was toppled

The writing on the wall in the Golbery case was already visible in February 1981. At that time, one of the hundreds of political prisoners amnestied by Figueiredo nearly slammed the *abertura* shut, when she made a stink in the press by naming the officers who had supposedly tortured her in 1971, and by demanding in court that they be punished. São Paulo Cardinal Arns and other leftists joined the revanchist chorus.

It surprised nobody that the hardliners in the military exploded against the Figueiredo-Golbery political détente process which had allowed such insults to their honor. They called for closing down the press, Congress, the mouths of everybody, for canceling the November 1982 elections, and so on. "For 72 hours," the chief of the regime's party in the Senate later reported, "we thought everything was lost." Figueiredo managed to contain the hardliners only at the expense of ceding them more positions within the military.

A few months later, two members of the army red squad, often accused of systematic torture, accidentally blew themselves up while planting a bomb in a leftist May Day songfest. Dozens of unsolved terrorist incidents against the left and liberals had undermined President Figueiredo's authority; this time he had to promise that those responsible would be punished. As the weeks passed, it became clear that army investigations were just coverups and that Figueiredo and Golbery had lost control over their own military.

### **Medeiros: a special background**

General Otávio Medeiros, the head of Brazil's powerful national intelligence service, SNI, is the man who has thrust himself forward as the champion of the fearful and disgruntled right-wing generals. Golbery-linked sources confirmed to *EIR* that Medeiros led this week's military rebellion against Golbery. Medeiros is *not*, however, a right-wing hardliner. Since the late 1960s, Figueiredo has kept him as his protégé and most reliable military aide—with one critical exception. While he was serving as military attaché in Israel (1973-75), Medeiros was picked up by the Israeli Mossad.

From the Mossad, Medeiros learned the fine arts of political terrorism and manipulation of countergangs. As Figueiredo remarked with amazement in an interview shortly before assuming the presidency in 1979, Medeiros had explained to him during a visit to Israel how the Israeli intelligence services employ Arab provocateurs.

There is room to suspect Medeiros's hand in the series of incidents which spurred the right wing to dump Golbery. Medeiros was in a position not only to sponsor the leftists who called for vengeance, but also the press which made the threat palpable to the military. In April, for example, Medeiros saw to it that the militantly Zionist *Manchete* magazine beat out Golbery's favored liberal papers for television franchises. In June, his favored press conduits launched a series of wild exposés to the effect that Brazil was not only running a secret "parallel" nuclear program to build an atom bomb, but was even supplying Iraq with the materials needed to make a bomb. These stories were put out to discredit Golbery's cherished nuclear projects.

Also contributing to Golbery's downfall is an 800-

page book rushed into a production featuring newly discovered documents that depict Golbery as a puppet of U.S. multinationals in conducting the 1964 coup. The leftist author, René Dreifus, studied at Haifa University and did the book as his doctoral thesis at the Scottish intelligence center at Glasgow. Some invisible hand gave him mountains of secret Brazilian documents and smaller quantities of classified U.S. government correspondence. While the scheming Golbery is all over the book, his co-conspirator Vernon Walters is conveniently covered up.

One more detail pulls together a whole left-right conspiracy circle together. Della Cava, a Queens College leftwing "Brazilianist" professor with extensive links to radical Church networks via Italy, had the foresight to fly down to Brazil—at considerable personal sacrifice—just in time for the demise of Golbery.

Della Cava, it seems, is the prime international protector and adviser of those Brazilian radicals who have proved so useful to the cause of dictatorship in that country. He wrote an important paper right after Figueiredo's 1979 declaration of political amnesty, in which he explained convincingly that any call for revenge or exposure of the former military torturers would necessarily tumble the liberalization process. He wrote that paper for the U.S. National Security Council, and for São Paulo Cardinal Paulo Evaristo Arns, who appears to be carrying it out with precision. Arns recently declared that armed struggle is legitimate for persons denied other paths to justice.

### **False hopes on the economy**

The big unanswered question for the "post-Golbery" era is how Brazil will get past the crisis caused by its inability to service its \$64 billion foreign debt at high interest rates in depressed international markets.

David Rockefeller and his London associates are pleased that, since November, Planning Minister Delfim Netto has yielded to their blackmail. Without provoking the nationalist military by going to the IMF, Delfim has increasingly applied IMF-style economic policies.

Even that may not satisfy the voraciousness of Brazil's creditors. They may use Golbery's removal to demand further belt-tightening from Delfim.

"Delfim aims to stick to strong no-growth policies of which were a threat to the PDS [the regime's civilian party], to the government, and to the military. Very restrictive economic policies could hamper the *abertura*," commented a Wall Street banker.

But knowledgeable observers concur that bullets alone cannot keep the lid on Brazil today. There are abundant signs in the Brazilian press that the newly strengthened hardline military may turn out to be even *more* reluctant than Golbery to permit Delfim to squeeze the population into riot and rebellion.