

## Report from Rio by Silvia Palacios

### Collor pays tribute to Bush

*Lacking support at home, Brazil's President hopes his U.S. visit will give him access to the new world order.*

To the same extent that President Fernando Collor de Mello's government is crumbling domestically, so too has his stubborn clinging to neo-liberal economic policies forced him to increase the tribute he is paying to the Bush administration, in the illusion that an alignment with George Bush's new world order will make up for the support he lacks at home.

It started back in December 1990, when Bush toured South America to announce his one-worldist "New Dawn." Then, the governments of Brazil and Argentina presented Bush with a Christmas gift, by agreeing to foreign inspection of their nuclear industries, which both nations had previously rejected as an assault on their sovereignty. Under the bilateral accord signed at that time, they will inspect each other's nuclear programs to see if they meet international safety standards.

Since then, American technological and economic demands have not ceased, and especially since the U.S. militarily crushed Iraq, Brazil's concessions have kept pace. Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek announced on March 3 in an interview with *O Estado de São Paulo*, that "if the North American government, whose good will toward Brazilian projects is important if we are to develop high technology, is bothered, let us say, by the nuclear submarine project, then we should negotiate, and perhaps even discard it."

On April 23, Rezek bent over further, declaring that the Collor government believed negotiating a new military pact with the United States to be

"inevitable." According to Rezek, the United States has "shown interest" in including this matter on the agenda of President Collor's June visit to Washington. The previous accord, in force since 1954, was unilaterally broken in 1976 by then President Ernesto Geisel, in defiance of the political pressures and boycott imposed by the Carter administration against the Brazil-German nuclear agreement, which would have allowed this South American giant to continue on the path toward becoming a world power in its own right.

As the June visit draws near, U.S. bullying of the Brazilian aerospace program is also intensifying. The daily *Gazeta Mercantil* of May 2 commented that "the United States is applying political pressure" to try to force Brazil into deciding who will be its partner in the launching of the first Brazilian-made remote-sensing satellite. The U.S. wants it to be the U.S.-French consortium Orbital Science Corp.-Arianespace, which would provide the launcher, its Pegasus missile, but *without* transferring any of the technology that Brazil seeks.

The outrage of the Brazilian Armed Forces and scientific community over Collor's obeisance to the new world order has not been sufficient to stem the flow of concessions. Collor has just sent the Brazilian Congress a bill which would recognize, as of this year, the patents of the pharmaceutical multinationals. That bill, if approved, would give the multinational pharmaceutical companies ex-

clusive rights on drugs for at least 20 years, forcing Brazilians to pay huge royalties to produce even the most common medicines, which amounts to wrecking the domestic pharmaceuticals industry. Even the pro-government newspaper *O Globo* had to admit that the bill "fully meets the interests of the foreign laboratories" and would give Collor "a victory to present to his colleague George Bush come next June."

The capitulations to Anglo-American blackmail have sparked resistance not only among the military institutions, traditionally jealous of Brazil's sovereignty, but even among influential political circles. The late April visit to Brazil of Britain's Prince Charles to promote the "internationalization of the Amazon" prompted a number of protests, including an official communiqué from Jader Barbosa, governor of the Amazon state of Para. President Collor came under so much heat that he canceled his plans to spend the night on the royal yacht Britannia.

Another straw in the wind of growing popular disgust over Collor's surrender of Brazilian sovereignty was a May 2 article by respected journalist Heraclio Salles, which blasted Henry Kissinger and George Bush for their role in promoting racist depopulation and sterilization policies in Brazil, starting in the mid-1970s. Writing in *Jornal do Brasil*—the *New York Times* of this country—Salles cited an *EIR* memorandum as his source of information on declassified National Security Council documents which confirm that the U.S. demanded the imposition of population-control programs on Third World nations as a matter of national security—"U.S. national security, of course," Salles adds. Salles denounced the "continued submission to foreign interests" in Brazil today.