

# Pope in Brazil attacks debt burden, new order

by Cynthia Rush

Pope John Paul II traveled to 10 cities in Brazil during a 10-day tour which began Oct. 12. During that time, he repeatedly attacked the "free market" and population control policies which are the centerpiece of the Anglo-American political establishment's new world order. Site of the United Nations' Earth Summit, or Eco-92, in June 1992, Brazil is high on the list of countries targeted for destruction because its large population, wealth of natural resources, and enormous potential for industrial development are perceived as a danger to the Anglo-Americans' strategic goals.

The Pope's pointed remarks during his 10-city tour constituted a direct challenge to the government of Fernando Collor de Mello. Not only is the 41-year-old President prepared to sacrifice national industry and future development potential by complying with the International Monetary Fund's austerity demands and paying off the country's large foreign debt, but he has offered no resistance to the international ecology movement's malthusian agenda for Brazil.

## Don't sacrifice population

On arriving in the northern city of Natal Oct. 12, the Pope told the closing session of the 12th National Eucharistic Congress that "the logic of economic domination, and the imposition of models without respecting the legitimate self-determination of each nation . . . have created perverse mechanisms which are preventing nations like Brazil from having access to the levels of the most developed nations." It is necessary to state "vehemently," he continued, "so the whole world can hear, that a country's foreign debt can never be paid at the cost of the hunger and misery of its people."

Addressing Collor directly on Oct. 14 during a meeting in the nation's capital, Brasilia, the Pope recognized that "at this moment in its history Brazil is going through a phase everyone knows is delicate, faced with enormous social and economic problems whose solution does not allow any further delay." But, he told Collor, "Brazil's people are looking to the decisions you make, hoping for a brighter and happier future for their children." The "contrasts between the two Brazils" are great, the Pope warned. "One is highly developed, strong, and launched on the path of progress and riches; the other is seen in untold zones of poverty, suffering, illiteracy and marginalization."

The Oct. 14 *New York Times* didn't miss the point of

the Pontiff's statements. "Without naming them," the paper noted, the Pope seemed "to assail such institutions as the International Monetary Fund that demand harsh austerity measures in return for economic help."

## No to genocide

More than once, Pope John Paul II addressed the policy of genocide against Brazil, designed by Henry Kissinger and the U.S. National Security Council in the mid-1970s. In a 1974 memorandum known as National Security Study Memorandum 200, Kissinger warned that Brazil's population growth—along with that of a dozen other Third World nations—threatened "U.S. national security," and recommended population control be imposed on Brazil under the guise of "family planning." Over 25 million women of child-bearing age were sterilized as a result.

Speaking in Campo Grande Oct. 17, the Pope denounced birth control, abortion, and sterilization as "gravely illicit" practices which have reached "alarming rates" in the country. Sterilization, he said, is often "induced by society's political or professional [agencies] which are supposed to protect the dignity and integrity of the person and the social corpus." Abortion, he said, is "a criminal attack against the first and most fundamental human right, the right to life from [the moment of] conception." In one of his final speeches condemning the murder and mistreatment of abandoned children, the Pope warned that "in their initiatives in favor of a normal and balanced population growth, public authorities do not have the right to promote abortion or mass sterilization."

In several speeches, the Pope urged the governments of the industrialized nations to take responsibility for the fate of the Third World. Speaking to foreign diplomats in Brasilia on Oct. 14, John Paul emphasized that advanced nations "could not shirk their responsibilities to help those countries which alone would never be able to reach a just level of development."

However, the Pontiff's remarks dealing with the issues of the environment and rights of Indians bordered on dangerous concessions to the ecology movement, which is using the Eco-92 conference to bludgeon Brazil into submitting to their malthusian policies. Saying he had watched "with interest" the plans for the U.N.'s 1992 conference, the Pope described man as "consuming Earth's resources in an excessive and disordered fashion," and emphasized the need to preserve Indian culture and their "identity as a human group." In a speech in the northern city of Cuiaba, he called on mankind "not to betray the earth" by over-development. The Pope's meetings with Indian leaders provided a forum for those who blamed "development" for the poverty and suffering of the Indian populations. An Oct. 17 Reuters wire interpreted the Pope's remarks as "a dramatic stand in defense of Brazil's threatened Indian population and rapidly disappearing Amazon rain forest."