

Report from Rio by Silvia Palacios

Malthusian lobby counterattacks

Health Minister Dr. Alceni Guerra's anti-genocide efforts have won him the enmity of the death lobby.

In March 1991, Health Minister Dr. Alceni Guerra caused a sensation when he declared, in an interview with *EIR*, that under population control programs promoted and financed by both private and official organizations of the United States, as many as 20 million Brazilian women had been sterilized, thereby significantly reducing the size of the Brazilian population. Minister Guerra named some of the organizations in his indictment, including the State Department's Agency for International Development (AID). That depopulation policy is today a critical element of George Bush's new world order, as reiterated by former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger only recently.

The effects of that policy have by no means abated. In December, the national census of the past decade was completed, and preliminary figures released by the Brazilian statistical institute IBGE indicate that the population growth rate is less than had been supposed by even the most pessimistic estimates. The population today barely reaches 150 million.

It should come as no surprise, therefore, that a campaign to discredit and force Alceni Guerra's resignation from the Health Ministry has been launched, under the pretext of alleged "administrative irregularities" said to have taken place during the minister's efforts to acquire equipment for his emergency anti-cholera program in Brazil's impoverished Northeast. For now, that program has been suspended while a specious "investigation" is pursued. If the suspension is not immediately lifted, the growing cholera

contagion could sweep that region in a matter of weeks, and from there invade such major cities as Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo.

Throughout 1991, the population issue—and specifically the execution of the population policy of the U.S. government inspired by Kissinger in his National Security Study Memorandum 200 (circulated internationally by *EIR*)—has been at the center of heated debate both in the Brazilian Congress and among civic organizations.

The Rio de Janeiro state legislative assembly only recently received the conclusions of its Investigative Commission assigned to look into the sterilization practices carried out in that state. In the introduction to the commission's final report, it states: "The declarations of Health Minister Alceni Guerra that 25 million Brazilian women were sterilized; evidence of all the obstacles to the Health System; the release of secret documents of the U.S. Security Council, delineating strategies since 1974 with the explicit purpose of controlling the birth rate in 13 countries—among them Brazil—are sufficient evidence to bring us closer to the truth about the sterilizations."

Outstanding among the activities of the commission is the fact that the directors of the Brazilian Society of Family Welfare, which champions the sterilization policy, as well as the Brazilian branch of the International Planned Parenthood Federation which has served as a private vehicle for this policy, were called to testify and were severely grilled on their illegal prac-

tices on behalf of these policies.

At the same time, federal Deputy Benedita da Silva broadened her initial petition for the creation of a congressional commission to investigate these sterilizations, incorporating members of the Chamber of Deputies and a joint commission of the Senate in her request.

In the Senate, there have been repudiations of the Kissingerian policy as well. For example, on Aug. 30, Sen. Jutahy Magalhaes issued a statement warning that "Bennis [sic] Small, one of the directors of the magazine *Executive Intelligence Review*, gave a presentation on the American document that the magazine had divulged . . . in reference to the sterilization of women in Brazil. Until that moment, the document had remained secret. In short, gentlemen, we have in our hands a copy of the polemical document, which furnishes us with new reflections and, perhaps, with a new view of the problem."

Dr. Guerra's denunciations of the mass sterilization policy created a scandal internationally as well. In May 1991, the Mexican daily *Unomásuno* dedicated its editorial to the matter, entitled "New Malthusian Order." In September, the newspaper of the Italian Bishops Conference, *Famiglia Cattolica*, covered the attacks on Kissinger's intervention in Brazil. The practices of abortion and mass sterilization are "seriously illegal," charged Pope John Paul II during his October visit to Brazil. These, he added, "are sometimes induced by political or professional entities."

Thanks to this "publicity," the genocidal face of Kissinger is so widely known—and hated—in Brazil that the former secretary of state was forced to unexpectedly cancel his planned trip to Brazil in early October. He claimed the moment was "inopportune."