

EIR Conference Report

Columbus quincentenary is celebrated in Brazil

by Silvia Palacios

America, "rise and shine, because your light has arrived and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you," are the words with which Pope John Paul II, bearing the message of the prophet Isaiah, called on Ibero-America to take on the role which universal history has conferred upon it, during the recent Santo Domingo meeting celebrating the Fifth Centenary of the Evangelization of America. These words also characterize the spirit that reigned during the Nov. 9-13 seminar, held in the Brazilian city of Anapolis, entitled "The Fifth Centenary of the Evangelization and Ibero-American Integration."

Cosponsored by the Saint Michael the Archangel Foundation of the diocese of Anapolis, and by the Movement of Ibero-American Solidarity (MSIA), the event featured in its closing session a special invited guest, German political leader Helga Zepp-LaRouche, the initiator of the Schiller Institute internationally and president of the Schiller Institute in Germany. Mrs. Zepp-LaRouche devoted some of her time in Brazil to holding a series of public and private meetings on the infamous political jailing of her husband, U.S. economist Lyndon H. LaRouche, by outgoing U.S. President George Bush.

She also took various opportunities to warn of the devastating effects produced by the imposition of neo-liberal economics and International Monetary Fund (IMF) conditionalities upon eastern Europe, while noting at the same time that these same conditionalities have awakened innumerable social and political forces, for which reason she has decided to take the initiative of creating an international coalition for peace and development.

On Nov. 13, Zepp-LaRouche was presented by Bishop Dom Manoel Pestana Filho of Anapolis with the following introduction: "This is a great moment for our city which the future will undoubtedly know how to value. It is a moment

of hope, because we have the internal courage to be able to change the world." Portions of Mrs. Zepp-LaRouche's remarks follow this report.

Without any doubt, it can be stated that the Anapolis seminar was the only such gathering held in Brazil which truly celebrated the historic occasion for which it was convoked, and thus the week passed with great moments of joy. To the insistent question raised by various media regarding why the event was held in a city as small as Anapolis, one of the seminar organizers responded, "because the initiative to unmask the lies of the Black Legend, which only seek to perpetuate colonial relations between North and South, had to be taken from some place in Brazil." The Black Legend is the propaganda campaign portraying Spain and the Catholic Church as murderous oppressors of indigenous Americans.

The opening session began with a presentation of the leading protagonists of the Evangelization: a caravelle, then Christopher Columbus, and then a missionary. In combination with a display of flags from numerous Ibero-American nations, the second theme of the seminar was registered: continental integration.

'America, rise and shine'

Lorenzo Carrasco, *EIR's* correspondent in Brazil, opened the session with a discourse on the collapse of the Versailles system—the corrupt world order of the Anglo-American elites. "We are not offering a false optimism regarding the role of Ibero-America in the current world crisis," he said. "We are simply following the indications that Pope John Paul laid out in his Sunday homily of Oct. 9, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic: 'The words of the prophet have been made true in the life of this continent of hope; therefore, with uncontained joy, we can proclaim anew:

America, rise and shine' (Is. 60,1). I sincerely hope that the efforts of this seminar, which will end with the founding of the Center for Ibero-American Studies and Solidarity, the happy initiative of Dean Francisco de Araujo, will help with the grace of God to enable Ibero-America to rise and shine, and to transmit its light of hope to all of humanity."

This writer presented the subject "The Genocidal New World Order," making the point that "thanks to voracious usury, the population of our continent is passing through a moment of economic, cultural, and moral ruin, worse than that which prompted Pope Leo XIII's encyclical *Rerum Novarum*." The presentation reviewed the history of malthusian thought as incorporated into the Anglo-American strategy of power.

A select group of speakers from Argentina and Brazil analyzed various aspects of the Black Legend, from its origins to its modern forms. Dr. Mario Caponnetto, an Argentine writer for the magazines *Gladius* and *Cabildo*, presented a work entitled "The Concept of Man in Hispanic Thought." Rafael Breide, director of *Gladius*, enchanted the audience with a speech dissecting the characteristics of pagan society, and arguing the superiority of Christianity. Said Breide, Christianity "is not the Church, it is a social, political, economic, cultural, and familial order: The Black Legend is intended to undermine the capacity of the Church to define the natural world."

Msgr. Emilio Silva, dean of the law faculty at the Gama Filho University, dismantled the arguments upon which the Black Legend is premised, one at a time, while inviting the audience to choose between the Aztec Indians' satanic world of enslavement, and the world, however imperfect and with all the abuses committed, brought us by the evangelizers. Dr. Henry Marques Dip addressed the theme "The Black Legend and Liberationist Eco-Communism," unleashing a heated polemic on the Theology of Liberation.

Finally, the second major theme of the seminar, an economic program for integration published in the book *Ibero-American Integration*, which has been sold continent-wide in thousands of copies, including a Portuguese edition, was presented by the MSIA's Victor Grunenwaldt and Nilder da Costa. The former president of the Brazilian Association of Nuclear Energy, Guilherme Camargo, presented the crucial challenge this continent faces in achieving sovereign control over its own scientific and technological development. Still another theme, that of the historic role played by Christopher Columbus and the Portuguese navigators of the Sagres School, was addressed by Geraldo Lino, who presented research that *EIR* has done on the subject.

The seed of continental solidarity

The seminar concluded on Nov. 14 with the inauguration of the Center for Ibero-American Studies and Solidarity, created for the purpose of spreading the concept of genuine Ibero-American integration. The event was attended, among



Dr. Humberto Rorir de Amorim and Helga Zepp-LaRouche at the inauguration of the Center for Ibero-American Studies and Solidarity in Anapolis, Brazil on Nov. 14. Dr. Amorim is the president of the new center.

others, by Anapolis' mayor-elect and by representatives of the business community, and was opened with the national anthem presented by the police band.

It fell to Anapolis Bishop **Dom Manoel Pestana Filho** to open the event with a presentation on the instructive theme "The Christian Concept of Solidarity" (see box).

Helga Zepp-LaRouche invited the newly founded center and all those present to join the World Coalition for Development and Peace. The inspiration of the coalition, said Mrs. Zepp-LaRouche, will be the unity between Beethoven and Schiller: "All men are brothers."

Messages from all over the world arrived on Nov. 14, welcoming the initiative of the center, whose birth was described by some participants as "the seed of continental solidarity."

Professor Izelde, a founding member of the center who has conducted extensive pedagogical work throughout the region, posed the necessity of Brazil taking up the challenge of economic development and justice alongside her sister nations. University dean and professor Francisco de Araujo, who was the inspiration behind the founding of the center, delivered an emotional message. The ceremony concluded with the words of Humberto Rorir de Amorim, who assumed the presidency of the center.