

## Report from Rio by Silvia Palacios

### A non-military military

*Brazil's intelligence chief is in the forefront of a campaign to "redefine" the Armed Forces.*

As part of the restructuring of the country's intelligence services, after former President Fernando Collor attempted to eliminate them altogether, a dirty war has been unleashed to redefine the role the Armed Forces will play in Brazil's future.

Adm. Mario Cesar Flores, the former Navy minister who now heads Brazil's intelligence service, known as the Secretariat of Strategic Affairs (SAE), has just been denounced as the author of a plan to destroy Brazil's national sovereignty. Flores's proposal seeks to "modernize" the intelligence sector, linking it to the Anglo-Americans' global new world order, exactly as Collor's patrons had intended.

In its Sept. 22 issue, the magazine *Istoe* stated: "The SAE wants, according to Admiral Flores, to become an agency of the First World. This explains why agents of the Mossad, Israel's secret service, and of the CIA, the U.S. intelligence agency, assiduously frequent its offices in Brasilia."

The magazine added that in order to achieve his objectives, the admiral has created a lobby within the national congress, which includes Deputy José Genoino of the Workers Party (PT), which in turn is affiliated with the so-called São Paulo Forum, which serves as an umbrella group for various pro-terrorist Ibero-American organizations allied with Washington in its plans to demilitarize the continent.

Flores received a special note of appreciation in the preface to the

Spanish edition of the book *The Military and Democracy*, a State Department-sponsored text promoting demilitarization of Ibero-America.

*Istoe's* accusations, which under normal circumstances would have triggered a major scandal, received not the slightest comment, at least in public. Undoubtedly, this is due to the fact that Flores belongs to the intimate circle of power surrounding President Itamar Franco. According to *Jornal do Brasil* of Sept. 26, Flores, the only military minister to survive the Collor "era," provided great service to Franco during the impeachment of his predecessor, serving as an interlocutor with the Armed Forces.

The fact is that Minister Flores, along with Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso and Amazon Minister Rubens Ricupero, makes up a "troika" at the service of the so-called new world order. This can be seen, for example, in the pressure that the SAE chief is bringing to bear to get the Chamber of Deputies to approve the three-party nuclear pact with Argentina and the International Atomic Energy Agency, which would reinforce the "technological apartheid" the superpowers seek to impose on Brazil.

Flores's reorientation of the intelligence services is part of a project to inject the Armed Forces with a social democratic orientation and, thereby, a non-military aspect. According to *Istoe*, the reorientation is causing a war with the Army to the point that the SAE no longer has access to informa-

tion gathered by military intelligence.

Apart from Flores himself, this project also includes (at least as a sponsor) the media magnate Roberto Marinho, owner of the *O Globo* newspaper chain and ready servant of the U.S. State Department.

The other ally of Flores, Deputy Genoino, is the author of a project to alter the role of the Armed Forces themselves. The Workers Party with which he is affiliated is the only political party which in past elections urged a reduced role for the Armed Forces as part of its electoral program. It is well known that in 1990, Flores would have been named Navy minister under either a Collor or Lula da Silva presidency. Today, his collaboration with the PT, and vice versa, is apparently so close that there are rumors circulating in Brasilia that Flores might even be a candidate on the electoral slate of PT presidential candidate Lula.

Taking advantage of a constitutional review slated for early October, Genoino launched his proposal to "substitute the expression *military minister* with *minister in charge of the national defense*," which would pave the way for creating a Defense Ministry. He also proposes an end to obligatory military service, and the elimination of military justice, as is being pushed by Americas Watch, one of the most active non-governmental organizations in Brazil.

Flores has also entered into the debate on revising the Constitution. In a speech to the Armando Alvares Penteado Foundation and published Sept. 30, Flores defined three priorities, including eliminating protectionist articles from the Constitution, to bring it more into line with an "opening of the economy" and "reducing the universe of state monopoly," meaning doing away with the state oil company Petrobras and with the state telecommunications monopoly.