

Resistance Rises in Brazil to U.S. State Department Military Policy

by Silvia Palacios and Lorenzo Carrasco

The failure of the government of President Fernando Henrique Cardoso to force the Commander of the Brazilian Army, Gen. Gleuber Viera, into retirement, marks an important defeat for the U.S. State Department's intent to subordinate, once and for all, the Brazilian Armed Forces to a system of limited sovereignty, which the Anglo-American oligarchy seeks to establish over the entire South American continent. Nothing less than that was what the United States delegation to the Fourth Defense Ministerial of the Americas, in Manaus, Brazil on Oct. 17-19, and attended by the Defense Ministers of the Western Hemisphere, intended to impose upon Brazil. The ever-arrogant Defense Secretary William Cohen led the U.S. delegation.

In reality, the Anglo-American oligarchy seeks to reduce South America, and especially the Amazon region, to a state of war like that now breaking out in the Middle East, so as to, in that way, stop the integration of South America, and keep the region's enormous natural resources under their control.

The ouster of Gen. Gleuber Viera was planned to occur before the Manaus meeting. With it, the government of President Cardoso would demonstrate that it had finally completed the subordination of the Armed Forces to so-called "civil power," under the Defense Ministry—a project to which Cardoso has been personally committed since 1982, when he became a founding member of the Inter-American Dialogue. The ouster of General Gleuber, to have occurred simultaneously with the destabilization of President Alberto Fujimori's government in Peru, and, in its wake, be overwhelmed by a tide of narco-terrorism, would bury the project to integrate the South American nations. That project had so terrorized the Anglo-American financiers, because of its potential to sweep away their plans to establish a free-trade area of the Americas and dollarize the region.

Although the Fujimori government is being fragmented, the Brazilian side of the oligarchy's game failed. Instead, General Gleuber emerged as a national military leader, something which has not happened since the end of the military governments in 1985.

What stopped the assault against the military, was the summoning of all of the Army's generals to Fort Apache, headquarters of the Army General Command in Brasilia, for a meeting on Oct. 4, two weeks before the Defense Ministerial in Manaus. The meeting of the 155 Brazilian generals, the first in Brazil's modern military history—and to which the

civilian Defense Minister, Geraldo Quintao, was not invited—sent out a clear message: "Military policy is to be made with the military, and there is a military reality to the situation on the continent which requires military planning."

Military Position Made Clear

Although the generals' deliberations were not made public, the position of the Armed Forces is clear:

First, they reject any attempt by the United States to organize a multilateral military intervention into Colombia, the which would, in their view, lead to the creation of a foreign military enclave in the Amazon.

Second, President Andrés Pastrana's State Department-instigated peace negotiations with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), contrary to the alleged objective of seeking peace, are perpetuating conflict in the region, and will, sooner or later, force Brazil to confront war on its border with Colombia, due to the growing presence of FARC narco-terrorists.

Third, there is full recognition that the FARC is organically tied to Brazil's Landless Movement (MST), and that the latter is about to launch open insurrection.

And fourth, in light of this picture, the strengthening and re-equipping of the Armed Forces is urgently necessary, including an increase in Army salaries.

Although the government ordered, as they have done in the past, that no mention of the generals' meeting be made in newspapers, *Istoe* magazine, in its Oct. 18 issue, published a story on the battle between the government and the generals. "Not pleased with the pressure from the military barracks for more resources and an immediate salary increase," *Istoe* reported, "20 days ago Fernando Henrique resolved to dismiss the Army Commander, General Gleuber Vieira. . . . The decision was not liked in the barracks, and was considered unacceptable by the generals and colonels. [The generals' meeting] was the stage chosen to defend Gleuber Vieira and explicitly demonstrate discontent with the government and the treatment given to the Armed Forces."

New Strategies Developing

The following week, *Istoe* published an explosive interview with Brig. Gen. Carlos Eduardo Jansen (ret.), former commander of the Amazon-based Jungle Infantry Brigade. Jansen charged that Plan Colombia and its supposed fight

against drugs, was a cover to achieve the real long-term objective of the United States: to set up a military enclave in the Amazon region. He located that U.S. policy in the context of the attempt to impose an Americas Free-Trade Agreement upon the continent, and pointing, in opposition to this, to the importance of some of the Asian breaks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and plans for the regional integration of South America.

For the first time, a general aired publicly, in the media, the various strategic components which are in play in the Amazon region. As was vehemently stated by General Jansen, "This is a critical moment for Brazilian sovereignty over the region." Jansen's statements are not merely personal opinions, but represent, in reality, the Brazilian military establishment's point of view, in the context of the great international crisis (see box).

This strategic perspective was reaffirmed by Gen. Alberto Cardoso, head of the Security Cabinet in the Presidency, in an article headlined "Plan Colombia and Brazil," in *O Estado de São Paulo* on Oct. 16, one day before the Manaus meeting. Cardoso wrote: "There has always been a Bolivarian dream, or an impetus for integration in South America. Viewed by many, in the past, as merely a romantic idea, integration today is a vital economic necessity in an increasingly globalized world. No country in the region has a domestic market capable of guaranteeing a process of self-sustainable development. Therefore, either we integrate ourselves, or we will all be condemned to underdevelopment. This new impetus for continental union was especially evident at the Summit of the

South American Presidents, in Brasilia on Aug. 31-Sept. 1. Nonetheless, obstacles to the integration project remain, which will be impossible to overcome if there is not a peaceful environment in the region. In other words, [Plan Colombia's] 'war in the south' has the potential—for the moment, small—of generating political storms capable of delaying the common project of integration. In conclusion, although without being alarmist, the public and the government have reasons for concern."

The Commander of the Brazilian Air Force, Brig. Carlos Baptista, also criticized the United States' veiled opposition to the Brazilian attempt to enact a law permitting the Air Force to shoot down unidentified airplanes, which transport drugs or arms through Brazilian air space. "Nobody enters Peru. They have already downed more than 50 clandestine airplanes with our Tucanos, which they fly. If this law has not yet been signed, it is because there must be some plausible reason, but it escapes me," he stated.

Questioned by the press on the matter, U.S. Defense Secretary Cohen stated that the United States concluded in the 1980s, that any law to down hostile or clandestine airplanes "was inappropriate . . . because of the danger of injuries, or deaths of innocent persons."

Soros and the New Opium War

As *EIR* has documented, the policy of the U.S. State Department toward Colombia is not to win the war on drugs, but to launch a modern version of the Opium War throughout the whole region, extending conflict into Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia,

A Vietnam in the Amazon?

The following are excerpts from an article that appeared in Brazilian weekly magazine Istoe on Oct. 25, which is its report based on an interview with Gen. Carlos Eduardo Jansen.

Plan Colombia "poses risks for Brazilian sovereignty," and the United States has two very different objectives: the tactical one of fighting the drug trade, and the strategic objective, which is the fundamental one, which aims to establish a military base and a physical presence in the Amazon. "It will be an unprecedented presence of a power in the region."

Behind all the humanitarian talk of the leading countries about the environment, Indians, and drug-trafficking in the Amazon, there are deeper concerns. Among these is control of strategic minerals markets. Jansen states that "the interest of the Americans and Europeans in the resources of the Amazon drives their defense of the thesis of

relative sovereignty."

Jansen states that "the submission to theories emanating from the centers of foreign power into our territory has caused disillusionment." He offered the example of the Asian Tigers, who recovered after abandoning International Monetary Fund guidelines. "Brazil is adopting a responsible policy with regard to the United States, with the priority being Mercosur [the Southern Cone economic grouping], and not the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas."

In analyzing the Amazon as the setting for a conflict, Jansen concludes that there could be a "Vietnamization. If Brazil faces an unquestionably superior adverse power in the Amazon, we are going to have to appeal to what the Chinese in the 1940s called 'people's war.' In that case, the Army would be the backbone of that defense, in an irregular war, but with a well-mounted logistical chain, and denying the opponent access by large-capacity airplanes in the main airports. It is possible, in the Amazon, to have a well-armed enemy, and confront it with a well-sharpened knife, drawing it into the kind of conflict they had in Vietnam."

and the Brazilian Amazon. Faced with their own terminal crisis, and with nothing to offer to solve the economic crises of the South American nations, the U.S. foreign policy dictated by Wall Street interests, is solely to drive these nations into chaos, which threatens to sink the region in a “Thirty Years’ War” such as that which ravaged Europe during the 17th Century.

At the same time that they proclaim themselves the champions of the fight against drugs, no one touches the hundreds of billions of dollars in drug monies which sustains the liquidity of the Anglo-American financial centers. Their dependence on ever-increasing flows of drug monies from South America became even more savage after September 1998, when the bankruptcy of the Long Term Capital Management hedge fund and the succession of economic crises of Asia, Russia, and Brazil demonstrated that globalization had exhausted itself. At that point, as speculator George Soros made public with his talk of a “wall of money,” a hyperinflationary policy was adopted to postpone the bursting of the global financial bubble at all costs.

Brazil had a place in this scheme, as was seen when Soros’s right-hand man, Arminio Fraga, was named president of Brazil’s Central Bank, to administer just the right amount of capital to cover the country’s financial bankruptcy between January and February 1999. From that moment on, the country has been in a kind of financial intensive care unit, prostrate, dependent on the infusion of doses of capital to keep an appearance of stability.

This is what determines President Cardoso’s policies, and which puts his government in ever greater conflict with the enormous domestic political-military storm which is building. His persistent clinging to the commitments of the international financial system, and to the anti-national and demilitarization agenda of the Inter-American Dialogue, will lead over the short term to an institutional crisis which will tend to reverse the current domestic disintegration.

For Brazil to survive as a nation, it is essential that a new strategy based on military considerations be formulated, a “military diplomacy” commensurate with the requirements of the moment. This military diplomacy requires the establishment, in the context of the South American Presidential summits, of a South American military agreement whose number-one priority would be to establish a *cordon sanitaire* around the FARC narco-terrorists—which emphatically includes a defense of Peru and its Armed Forces from Wall Street’s onslaught. Simultaneously, the regional infrastructure projects proposed at the South American Presidents’ summit must be built as a military, as well as a political priority, to integrate the nations of the Mercosur (Southern Cone economic pact) with the Andean countries, and to seek alliances with the Asian nations on alternatives to the narco-financial system of Wall Street and the IMF, as General Jansen proposed. This line of action would have the immediate benefit of offering employment and hope to populations made increasingly miserable by globalization.

New ETA Terror Wave Is Out To Weaken Europe

by Elisabeth Hellenbroich

On Oct. 30, a car-bomb with 30 kilograms of dynamite exploded in the residential area of Madrid, the Spanish capital, killing three people and wounding 68, six seriously. Blamed on the Basque separatist group ETA, the attack is one of the bloodiest ETA assaults in the last decade. Among the victims of ETA’s latest attack were Supreme Court Justice José Francisco Querol, 69, who held the rank of general and was responsible for military hearings at the Supreme Court, his driver, Armando Medina Sánchez, 57, and his bodyguard, Jesús Escudero García, 53. The three were killed when the bomb exploded as the General’s vehicle passed Badajoz Avenue in the center of Madrid during the morning rush hour. The blast was so massive, that it destroyed a bus and wrecked 30 cars, ripped away the facades of buildings, and damaged 500 apartments.

Supreme Court Justice Querol, who reportedly was a good friend and former teacher of Spanish Defense Minister Federico Trillo, is ETA’s 19th victim since it announced the end of a 14-month cease-fire in December 1999. This extensive terrorist assault clearly marks an escalation in the ETA terrorist strategy, which is primarily aimed at judges and military personnel.

- The escalation started on Oct. 9, when Andalusian Senior Prosecutor Luis Portero was assassinated in Granada; the ETA shot him three times in the entrance to his home. Preceding that assassination, Spanish police had defused several car-bombs in Seville at the last minute. The bombs were located beneath the driver’s seats of military vehicles.

- The next assault followed on Oct. 16, when well-known military physician Col. Antonio Muniz Carinanos was killed by the ETA. Spanish police arrested two of the ETA members involved in the killing—26-year-old Juan Igor Solana from Bilbao, and 23-year-old Harriet Iragi, both of them suspects in the July attack against Malaga City Councilman José Asenjo, of the Socialist Party (PSOE).

- On Oct. 22, ETA killed a prison guard in the Basque province of Vitoria.

Protecting the Bankrupt IMF System

The series of bloody ETA attacks must be seen in the context of the escalating international financial and political crisis: the heating up crisis in the Middle East and the attempt by the London-centered financial oligarchy to weaken Europe, in particular NATO’s southern flank, with a strategy of tension, chaos, and civil war. The attacks are escalating just