

Brazil's justice minister seeks to legalize marijuana, gambling

by Silvia Palacios

While drug-linked corruption inside the U.S. judicial system threatens to destroy the credibility of the Reagan administration's war on drugs, Brazil—the United States' most important trading partner in Ibero-America—is facing a similar situation. Brazilian Justice Minister Fernando Lyra heads up a group inside the government which is promoting the legalization of both drugs and gambling.

Serious accusations have already been made against the justice minister and his closest collaborators; at the same time that he seeks to legalize marijuana consumption, he has been deliberately negligent in fighting production of drugs and related trafficking.

The arguments the minister uses in both cases are nothing new. They were used by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, the U.S. State Department, and the Trilateral Commission, to sponsor and protect the most powerful multinational in the world, Dope, Inc., and to seek, as the Carter-Trilateral administration did, to legalize marijuana as a first step toward legalizing the mafia.

Out of the 'counter-culture'

Justice Minister Lyra purged the Federal Council on Narcotics in August of all members he considered "conservative." He considered them "conservative" because they opposed legalizing the consumption of marijuana, according to the accusations of pharmacologist José Elias Murad.

The new head of the Council is lawyer Tecio Lins e Silva, co-author of a book which advocates a "liberal" approach to the marijuana question. The book came out of a seminar held in Rio de Janeiro in 1983, organized by the Maria Sabina Center and attended by a flock of "intellectuals" from the drug-rock counterculture.

Maria Sabina is a famous Mexican gnostic priestess who cultivated the hallucinogenic mushrooms that became the symbol of the British-created hippy movement.

Putting Lins e Silva in charge of a council on narcotics will make that body into a council to spread narcotics.

With the liberal arguments so characteristic of Brazil's "cultural" strata, Lins e Silva absolves drug traffickers of responsibility for their actions. On Oct. 26, when a young American sentenced to six years in jail for marijuana posses-

sion was released, Lins e Silva declared that the growth in marijuana consumption was due to "the taboo that exists around the subject." Under his presidency, Lins e Silva has already turned the Narcotics Council into a sewer of argumentation for the "positive law" theory that holds that what the majority thinks is law, i.e., a thinly disguised form of fascist "triumph of the will" over natural law.

The degeneration has reached such an extreme that, during an Oct. 27 juridical debate over the question of legalizing drug consumption, the Council's vice-president, Antonio Carlos de Moraes, asserted: "It is customs which determine laws, and not the other way around."

In the beginning of October, the Federal Narcotics Council invited French physician Claude Olivienstein, to visit Brazil. Olivienstein is a luminary of the above-ground, legalize-marijuana branch of Dope, Inc., and, incidentally, director of the Marmottan medical center in Paris; he remained in Brazil to join up with the official delegation of French President François Mitterrand when Mitterrand toured Brazil later that month.

In several conferences dedicated to refuting the scientific evidence of the dangerous effects of marijuana consumption to the health of the user, the French doctor reported that "its use has had no repercussions on fertility in Jamaica or Morocco, where it is culturally accepted."

There are many things these liberal-fascists know but consciously hide. With respect to Jamaica, in particular, the generalized consumption of "ganja" (marijuana) is the deliberate result of a plan to turn this country into a primary exporter of the drug, under the auspices of Trilateral Commission-member David Rockefeller's "free enterprise" project for the region. Rockefeller went so far as to grant Jamaica the "free enterprise" award earlier this year.

Communists and dope

With the approval of the Federal Narcotics Council, the debate on marijuana consumption has reached new heights, and has actually entered into the ongoing mayoral election debates in such important cities as Rio de Janeiro, Belo Horizonte, and Sao Paulo. In Rio, for example, the radical Trotskyist group, MR-8, which backs the candidate of the PMDB,

Lyra's party and the principal opposition party, advocates drugs, rock music, and homosexuality. "We were the only communist party to participate in the Rock Festival in Rio with leaflets asserting that rock is a revolutionary art," declared one MR-8 leader on Oct. 22.

Not accidentally, this same characterization of rock music as part of the "new revolution" could be heard at the Maria Sabina Center seminar in which Lins e Silva participated. In Sao Paulo, the PMDB mayoral candidate, Fernando Henrique Cardoso, admitted that, although he could not recommend marijuana as good, he had himself smoked a marijuana cigarette during a trip to the United States. Such an admission could cost him the election, since his rival, former President Janio Quadros, has undertaken to spread the story widely among the more conservative Sao Paulo population.

No to herbicides, yes to gambling

Lyra's principal accomplice in this insidious campaign is the secretary general of the justice ministry, José Paulo Cavalcanti, a political heavyweight who hopes to play the gambling-casino "card." On Oct. 7, President Reagan's adviser on narcotics affairs, Carlton Turner, passed through Brazil. After a frigid discussion with Turner, Cavalcanti insisted that the government "is not considering the possible use of herbicides in the fight [against marijuana], primarily because Brazil's major problem is *epadu* [Brazilian cocaine], which grows in the Amazon." Turner responded that Peru has had tremendous success in the use of herbicides, as have Mexico, Colombia, and Belize. He added, "It is ironic that herbicides are readily used in agriculture, but the protests begin when one speaks of using them in the fight against drugs."

It is well known that, today, marijuana cultivation in Brazil has become prolific, concentrated over the past few years in Pernambuco, the home state of minister Fernando Lyra. Lyra was also governor of Pernambuco. Within social circles, it is an open secret that the region's large landowners not only cultivate agricultural products, but also own vast extensions of land cultivated with nothing but marijuana.

As Cavalcanti pointed out, however, cocaine is rapidly becoming a booming industry in Brazil in its own right. And Cavalcanti doesn't hesitate to give it free advertising, either. In an interview with the daily *O Globo* last August, the justice ministry official declared, "The Amazon region is so favorable to the growth of *epadu*, that while in the Andes it usually measures two meters in height, in Brazil it is reaching eight meters."

A foot in the door

In Brazil, Dope, Inc. operates on the cultivating, processing, and smuggling end as well, so that if but one aspect of the trade—consumption—were to be legalized, the country would rapidly become a paradise of organized crime. Brazil not only grows drugs, but is used as a bridge country in the cocaine trafficking route, and federal police recently

discovered that it is also the bridge for Thai heroin on its way to the United States.

There is a strong lobby inside the congress which hopes to legalize gambling casinos, first prohibited by the government in 1946. In the Chamber of Deputies, there are 31 different bills dealing with the question of gambling and casinos. Among the gambling games being promoted is electronic poker, whose producers are the companies Prodle and Intergame, both properties of the French mafia's Union Corsa, and also the Chinese-Japanese owners of Playway. The Chinese mafia, in particular, is expert in the laundering of dirty money and all the "arts" utilized in the British-controlled opium trade.

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Of course, there is also the related industry of precious gem smuggling, which is estimated to reach the order of \$1.3 million a year. Not to mention the game of craps, whose promoters are part of the drug trafficking network which owns the samba schools in Brazil. Last May 8, Justice Minister Lyra personally pledged that legalization of crap games was assured.

Justice Minister Lyra, who has stocked the ministry with pro-terrorist radicals, has deliberately overlooked a number of key judicial cases involving the laundering of dirty money and contraband of precious stones. The most notorious case is that of businessman Mario Garnero, who in partnership with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, created the Brasilinvest financial empire whose origins are suspect and against which a suit has been lodged—and effectively ignored—by the justice ministry.

Neither has any effective action been taken in the investigation of former Justice Minister Ibraim Abi-Ackel for his role in the contraband of precious gems to the United States. Abi-Ackel, among his other achievements, granted Brazilian citizenship to the notorious banker of the P-2 lodge, Umberto Ortoloni. Ortoloni is now a resident of Sao Paulo.

There can be little doubt that Justice Minister Fernando Lyra is a worthy successor to Abi-Ackel.