

Report from Rio by Silvia Palacios

Fragile PMDB victory in Brazil

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In the elections of Nov. 15, the heterogeneous PMDB (Brazilian Democratic Movement Party) party—principal support of the José Sarney government—took 23 out of 24 gubernatorial races, the majority of federal congressional seats, and nearly the totality of the Senate. It was the first time in the history of the country that a single party had won such a sweeping victory.

All eyes had focused on the important state of Rio de Janeiro. The outgoing governor of Rio is Leonel Brizola, whose Democratic Workers Party (PDT) is linked to the Socialist International of Willy Brandt. Brizola put up as his replacement candidate, the Gnostic anthropologist Darcy Ribeiro, who was defeated by a wide margin. Despite their electoral rout, the Brizola-Ribeiro duo is far from political retirement. With the Rio elections, Brizola succeeded in setting himself up in direct confrontation to President Sarney, a maneuver which has served to project him as the sole national opposition to the Cruzado Plan, the economic program whose purpose from its inception was to win the elections for the ruling PMDB party.

The government may have managed to artificially contain consumer prices under the Cruzado Plan, but the crisis is only postponed. While prices have remained frozen, the real interest rates for production have exceeded 100%. At the same time, the policy of paying interest on the foreign debt has served to decapitalize the funds for investment in infrastructure, especial-

ly in the energy sector and for industrial expansion.

If this situation is not corrected through a radical reduction in interest payments sent abroad, the economic crisis will worsen the conditions of starvation and epidemic that already imperil the country, and the electoral triumph of the PMDB will vanish, making way for the creation of a fascist movement like that being formed by the Brizola-Ribeiro pair. Despite their electoral defeat, they did manage to garner more than 2 million votes from the desperately poor population that inhabits the innumerable slums surrounding Rio.

The threat they represent was made evident during the closing event of the Ribeiro campaign, attended by 500,000 persons blindly mobilized by a political machine whose nucleus is a 50,000-strong army of employees of the group that controls the illegal game of *Bicho* (lottery), and which has been closely allied to the Brizola governorship from the outset.

The *Bicho*-Brizola alliance was firmed up with the building of the "Sambódromo" boondoggle, the Samba Stadium whose only parallel is the Roman Colosseum, and which was built under Darcy Ribeiro's direction. The Sambódromo was planned by the Nazi-communist architect Oscar Niemeyer, with the objective of institutionalizing the obscene samba schools, which year after year parade in the Carnival bachanalias, into a fascist mass movement under the pressures of an aggravated economic crisis.

The criminal roots of Darcy Ri-

beiro are more than proven by the fact that he is the Bulgarian connection in Brazil, an essential part of the Bulgarian network of arms and drugs trafficking that supplies terrorist movements worldwide and was accused of involvement in the plot to kill Pope John Paul II. In this context, it is perhaps no surprise that the support rally held for Ribeiro's candidacy by the *bicheros* flaunted the presence of the Syrian consul in Rio de Janeiro—at the very moment when international condemnation was raining upon the Assad regime in Syria for providing a base of support for international terrorism.

Another of the insidious forces that backed Ribeiro's candidacy was the American Institute for Free Labor Development (AIFLD), through its agent in the Brazilian trade union movement, Valdir Vicente, a Rio metalworkers trade union official. AIFLD has been charged by trade union leaders in Colombia, Peru, and other Ibero-American countries with links both to the cocaine-marijuana trafficking networks and also to the gnostic networks which created the narco-terrorist M-19 in Colombia.

With such allies, it should come as no surprise to anyone that Ribeiro is an open advocate of drug consumption, of homosexuality, of euthanasia . . . even of cannibalism! In a 1981 interview, republished two days before the Nov. 15 elections by the daily *O Globo*, Ribeiro noted that old age imposes a limit on life at age 60, and proposed a timely "endo-cannibalistic death . . . so that, with each person that dies, we do what the Indians did, extracting the water, reducing the body to powder . . . then mixing the powder with flour and eating it."

Of course, inconsistent with his own ideas, Ribeiro campaigned despite having personally exceeded that "age limit."