

Forced 'birth control' programs to eliminate 32 million Brazilians

by Silvia Palacios

Health Minister Alcení Guerra's denunciations of the barbarous birth control programs—especially sterilization—surprisingly imposed on Brazil by malthusian international agencies and through the unwritten conditionalities of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, and private creditor banks, have brought to light the fact that such programs have resulted in an unprecedented crippling of the population. By the year 2000, the country will have over 30 million fewer inhabitants than it would have expected had it sustained the same average annual population growth rates of 2.5% that were maintained through the mid-1970s.

No one is even hiding the fact that this catastrophe was orchestrated through the use, and perhaps *perfection*, of Chinese Communist methods of forced birth control in combination with a constant propaganda campaign designed to create a culture of absolute disrespect for human life. In July of 1989, demographer Luiz Antonio Pinto de Oliveira of the Brazilian Statistical and Geographical Institute (IBGE), reported on the abrupt decline in fertility due to widespread use of birth control methods and, above all, of sterilizations. He was forced to admit that "the rate of population decline can only be compared to that of those Asian countries which have carried out population control programs."

In fact, Brazil is shattering world records in the use of birth control. According to Brazilian gynecologist Aurelio Molina, in his masters' thesis for the University of Leeds in England, reported that at least 71% of all Brazilian women between the ages of 15 and 45 are using birth control, surpassing the world average of 51%. These figures, declared Molina, clearly indicate an "authoritarian policy of population control based on the pill and on mass sterilization."

According to several different studies, the number of women sterilized during the 1970s and 1980s grew by 600%! **Table 1** was prepared by the Family Welfare Society (Bemfam), one of the leading institutional advocates of sterilization in the country, and shows that more than 40% of married women who have chosen some form of birth control have been sterilized. This same figure was confirmed by the IBGE. The Health Ministry estimates that more than 300,000 Brazilian women each year undergo tubal ligation.

The racist and genocidal nature of these widespread sterilization programs and experiments in new birth control methods is revealed in the fact that they flourish in the pover-

ty-stricken Northeast of the country, where basic health and education services are lacking, and where the population—starved for justice and bread—constitutes Brazil's "Africanized" region. The most dramatic case is that of the state of Maranhão, where 79.8% of the women who use some birth control method have been sterilized. In the capital city of São Luís alone, Bemfam maintains 44 family planning offices.

In the state of Bahia, also in the Northeast, Nazi doctor Elsimar Coutinho implanted 3,000 women in 1986 with the experimental contraceptive Norplant, only recently approved by the Food and Drug Administration in the United States. Coutinho maintains a research center in Salvador, the capital city of Bahia, which is supported by money from the World Health Organization and the Ford and Rockefeller Foundations.

Since its founding in 1966, Bemfam has operated as the Brazilian subsidiary of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF). Its sterilization policies have been so brazen that in 1967 the Brazilian Senate convened a special parliamentary Commission of Inquiry to investigate charges against its practices. The Brazilian Catholic Church issued an alert through Goiania Archbishop Fernando Gomez: U.S. Agency for International Development "has attempted to bribe Brazilian bishops to get their approval for a program of sterilizing women."

The country is shrinking

The collapse of fertility has been so dramatic, especially since 1980, that it is not uncommon to hear the comment that "even the demographers were caught by surprise." In 30 years, from 1960 to 1990, the fertility rate fell by half, from an average six children to slightly more than three per family. And that decline is accelerating. For example, in 1980, it was 4.3 children, and already by 1984, it was 3.5 children.

The precise impact of this tendency upon Brazilian population growth over the coming decades cannot yet be known with certainty. In fact, it will only be possible to measure the extent of the demographic damage suffered when the general population census that had been planned for 1990 is finally conducted. For now, one must rely on available data from the 1980 census, when the population stood at 121 million. As can be seen in **Figure 1**, the tendency is toward zero growth.

Figure 2 shows the effect of the fertility rate decline on the rate of population growth. Proceeding from the 1980

TABLE 1

Sterilization is the most common form of birth control in Brazil

States and regions	% of currently married women using birth control	Birth control method used (% of total)		
		Sterilization	Pill	Others
BRAZIL	64.5	42.2	38.8	19.0
Rio de Janeiro	70.4	47.7	35.8	16.5
São Paulo	70.7	44.6	34.9	20.5
South	72.1	25.4	54.9	19.7
Northeast	52.8	47.9	33.0	19.1
North and Center-west	61.9	67.9	21.8	10.3

Source: BEMFAM (1986)

census, had the historic growth tendency of 2.5% been sustained, the Brazilian population would have reached 155 million inhabitants by 1990. Taking into account initial results of the family planning programs and the assumption that the population growth rate will have been reduced to 1.1% a year by the year 2015, IBGE claims 150 million inhabitants in 1990. But reality is most certainly worse than that, for according to the Economic Ministry's Institute of Economic and Social Planning (IPEA), which projects a 0.7% annual growth rate by 2015, the population in 1990 only reached 146 million.

By the year 2000, the discrepancy between these two demographic trajectories is even more dramatic. Had the growth rate of 2.5% been maintained, it is calculated that the population by the year 2000 would have been 202 million. IBGE's projection for that year places the population at 179 million, while the more realistic projection of IPEA is for a population of only 170 million—32 million fewer Brazilians than if the malthusian birth control policies had not been imposed.

As a result of the consolidation of this reduced-births strategy, a relative aging of the population as a whole will become evident. It is projected, for example, that the demographic group between the ages of 5 and 14 will increase 17.2% in this decade, but only by 10.6% in the next, and a mere 2.4% in the following decade. It is thus clear that the percentage of children in the population will fall dramatically.

Brazil is underpopulated

It is absurd to propose killing people in a country as underpopulated as Brazil, which has a dynamic economy, and which can quite easily sustain more than the 200 million inhabitants projected for the year 2000. Brazil currently has an extremely low population density of 16.1 persons per square kilometer, which is less than the already low Ibero-American average of 19.7, not to mention European countries like France, which has a population density of more than 100 persons per square kilometer. To have the division of labor that a modern economy

requires, a population density of at least 50 inhabitants per square kilometer is needed, which would mean a population of at least 400 million for Brazil.

Studies pointing in that direction do exist. The respected Dr. Mario Victor de Assis Campos, in his book *Explosão demográfica e crescimento do Brasil (Population Explosion and Growth in Brazil)*, commented that "a series of studies from the Superior War College in Brazil, in a work published in 1967 on the Amazon, admitted that Brazil could comfortably support a population of 600 million. The authors thus decry as 'anti-patriotic' the population limitation campaigns that are beginning in Brazil."

Who hid the sterilizations

Apart from the international organizations that have been exposed, there are their accomplices inside Brazil who have tolerated the imposition of these genocidal population policies. With the debt crisis that exploded in 1981 under the government of Gen. João Figueiredo, it is clear that the international monetary institutions such as the IMF and World Bank, succeeded in "informally" imposing their population conditionalities on the country. The powerful finance minister at the time, arch-monetarist Antônio Delfim Netto, signed deals with the IMF which, up to the present, have never been fully revealed. Whether he tacitly accepted the conditionality of population reduction, as the IMF and banks demanded, has never been clarified. But from that moment onward, the Brazilian government's position on the question—which had been markedly pro-growth—considerably softened, and private population control agencies were enabled to receive thousands of dollars from abroad, which gave them greater influence and freedom to act inside the country.

By 1986, Brazil had definitively yielded to the pressure, and the government of President José Sarney adopted an official birth control plan for the first time. From then onward, sterilizations were carried out in the public health hospitals. Again, the unwritten population conditionalities of

the banks were publicly denounced. Congressman Carlos Sant Ana, who opposed the official birth control policy and had just left the Health Ministry, declared in January 1987: "It is no secret that certain foreign banks impose population reduction as a basic condition for giving credits or investing in Third World countries." Perhaps President Sarney's near-sightedness prevented him from perceiving that by yielding to the international malthusian lobby, he was permitting enemy organizations inside the country to consolidate and strengthen. Two years later, in 1989, a furious onslaught against Brazilian sovereignty over the Amazon was launched, under the pretext of preserving the environment.

Resistance is broken

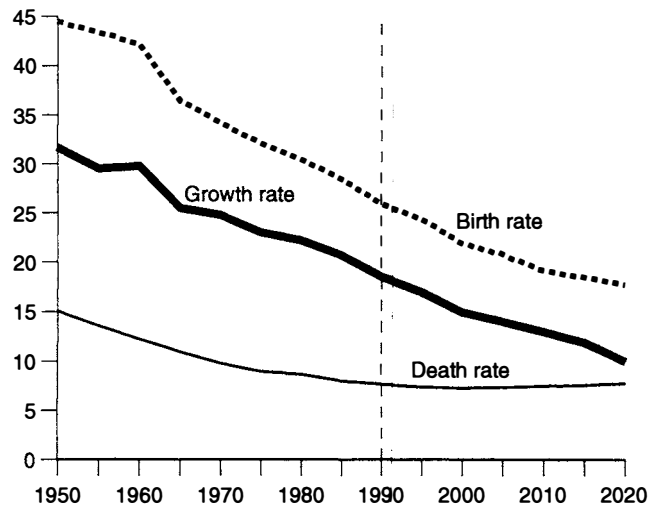
For a long time Brazil had managed to resist imposition of official population control programs, opposing the malthusian thesis of the Club of Rome. During the U.N.-sponsored World Population Conference held in Bucharest, Romania in 1974, Brazilian Ambassador Miguel Ozorio de Almeida confirmed that Brazil's policy was that of opposing restrictions on population growth. He further asserted that "Brazil does not accept foreign interference in regions such as the Amazon, presented to the world as the lungs required to counter contamination. Our national position is that the worst contamination is poverty. Brazil will not accept any kind of foreign interference and will view with distrust certain international documents, such as a recent U.N. one, which indicates that 'Irresponsibilities hidden beneath the mantle of sovereignty cannot continue to be tolerated.' "

Further evidence that Brazilian diplomacy in the 1970s did not accept the population conditionalities of the financial institutions can be found in the words of then-Brazilian ambassador to Washington Araujo Castro, who answered the veiled pressures of World Bank President Robert McNamara in February 1972: "With 95 million inhabitants, Brazil requires a population growth in accordance with the complete use of its natural resources and effective occupation of its territory. The attempt to address this problem statistically is destined to total failure."

Nonetheless, by 1974, Brazil observed several of the diplomatic rules imposed by the United Nations in Bucharest, such as permitting the communications media to "report" on family planning programs.

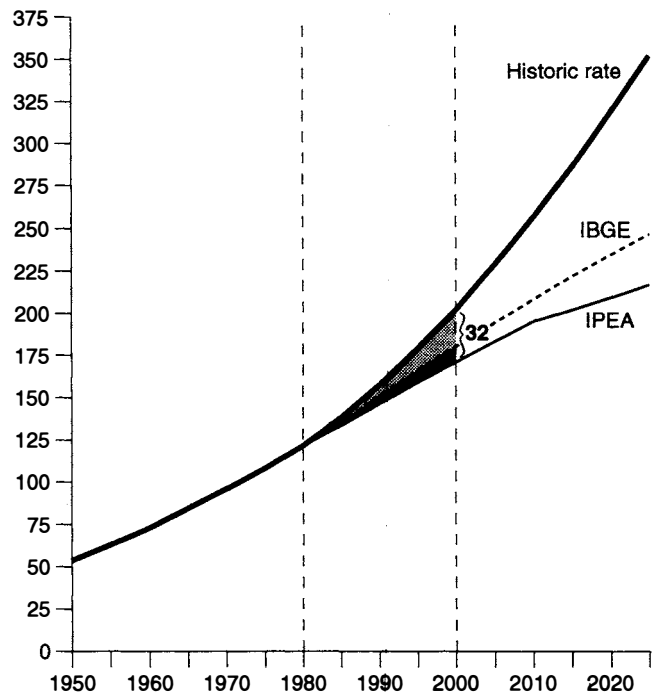
The Brazilian newspaper *O Globo*, property of television magnate Roberto Marinho, and the magazine *Veja* of the Civita family, made their move, launching a broad assault on the traditional cultural parameters of the population and turning them increasingly toward malthusianism and a "New Age" belief structure. Both Marinho and Roberto Civita are members of the World Wildlife Fund, headed by Prince Philip of England. Civita is, further, a member of the so-called Inter-American Dialogue, a kind of hemispheric "Trilateral Commission" dedicated to imposing George Bush's fascist "new world order" on the Ibero-American continent.

FIGURE 1
Brazil's historic and projected demographic rates are in steep decline, 1950-2025
(per thousand)



Source: IBGE and CELADE (1984)

FIGURE 2
Brazil's total population, three projections, 1950-2025
(millions of people)



Source: IBGE and IPEA