

EIR Feature

Will Brazil fire its kooky New Age environment czar?

by Silvia Palacios

The special commission of the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies which is investigating the threat to “internationalize the Amazon,” has resolved to request the resignation of national Environment Secretary José Lutzenberger, according to the Sept. 19 issue of the daily *Folha de São Paulo*. Commission president Congressman Atila Lins accused Lutzenberger of opposing the development of the Amazon region, by being “against the connection of Acre with the Pacific, through highway BR-364.” Congressman Lins also noted that Lutzenberger has opposed the project to “protect our borders,” by dubbing the Armed Forces hydroelectric project *Calha Norte* “militaristic.”

Toward these ends, said Congressman Lins, the environment secretary receives funds from the Gaia Foundation in London. The foundation was created by the British royal family to spread pagan ideas regarding the worship of Mother Earth, against economic development based on continuous scientific and technological development.

On Sept. 18, the congressional commission was witness to the unbalanced and despotic remarks of Lutzenberger, who not only lied that he received no funds from foreign entities, but also characterized as a “joke” the warnings that nationalist sectors of the country—prominently including the Armed Forces and the Congress itself—have made about the manifest interest of the superpowers in using ecology as a pretext for internationalizing the immensely resource-rich Amazon region. Using the universalist demagoguery characteristic of his oligarchic British friends, Lutzenberger defied the nationalists in the commission with the assertion that “everything good that there is on the planet belongs to the entire world.”

According to press reports, the commission’s charges against the environment secretary are based primarily upon testimony given before it on Aug. 20 by *EIR* correspondent in Brazil Lorenzo Carrasco. One month later, during a press conference in Washington, D.C. on Sept. 20, Carrasco emphasized that the nomination of José Lutzenberger and former Science and Technology Secretary José



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From left, Brazil's Aeronautics Minister Gen. Socrates Monteiro, Congressman Atila Lins, head of the special investigative commission of the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies which is demanding Lutzenberger's ouster, and an unidentified commission member, at the Aug. 20 hearings in Brasilia on the threat to the Amazon.

Goldemberg to the presidential cabinet were part of a political deal struck with the Anglo-American powers, which seek to limit Brazilian sovereignty over the Amazon region through various pretexts, ranging from indigenous or territorial conflicts to the supposed preservation of the natural environment.

The *EIR* correspondent also sent to commission president Atila Lins documents which confirm the financing received by Lutzenberger from the London-based Gaia Foundation, and which refer to the Brazilian secretary as "Lutz" (see below).

Just prior to the commission's call for his resignation, Lutzenberger issued various statements on Sept. 3 during a preparatory meeting in Geneva for the so-called Earth Summit, or Eco-92 conference, in which he insulted the Brazilian Armed Forces for the defense they have undertaken of Brazil's territorial sovereignty. The institutional position of the Armed Forces is that its defense will be total, even down to a declaration of war over the region, if that should prove necessary. This position was recently reiterated by Army Minister Gen. Carlos Tinoco, and by Aeronautics Minister Gen. Socrates Monteiro, during their presentations before two congressional commissions, one on defense and the other on the internationalization of the Amazon. This position was also reiterated by the head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Amazonas military region, Gen. Taumaturgo Sotero Vaz.

These challenges to Lutzenberger go beyond the effort to force his resignation, and seek to prevent the June 1992 Earth Summit, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, from becoming an arena

in which Brazilian national sovereignty will be sacrificed on the "green" altar. This danger is confirmed by the fact that the secretary general of Eco-92, Canadian oil magnate Maurice Strong, is, along with Lutzenberger, a member of the inner circle of the British royal family, and shares with them the fantasy of imposing a malthusian new world order—hidden behind the mantle of "sustainable development"—such as that proposed by George Bush.

President Fernando Collor de Mello's determination to keep Lutzenberger in his post, despite immense pressure to the contrary, already constitutes an institutional crisis. This was clearly revealed in his decision to limit the delegation that accompanied him to the opening of the U.N. General Assembly Sept. 23, to cabinet members Lutzenberger and Goldemberg. The latter is another key figure in the Anglo-American agreement to impose the strictures of a new world order on Brazil, especially in the area of scientific development.

As if that weren't enough, President Collor de Mello used his speech to the U.N. General Assembly to reiterate that the main priority of his foreign policy—indeed, the only initiative that remains to him now that his domestic policies are in shambles—is the so-called Earth Summit. The Brazilian President said: "In this period, which culminates with the 50th anniversary of the United Nations, we should establish the guidelines that must orient international coexistence in the twenty-first century. The [U.N.] Conference on Environment and Development, Rio-92, is the first of the great universal meetings that will be held in the coming years."