

Report from Rio by Geraldo Lino

Environmental policy solidified

The kooky Environment Secretary José Lutzenberger is out, but his replacement is even worse.

Brazilians who love their country and defend the rational conservation of nature which grants man the right to intelligently exploit resources and transform them with his technology, didn't have time to celebrate the March 21 firing of Environment Secretary José Lutzenberger. Relief over the removal of the radical secretary, who once compared humanity to a bacteria colony, was quickly replaced with concern over the fact that Lutzenberger's replacement will be Education Secretary José Goldemberg, who will now occupy both cabinet posts up through the end of the June Eco-92 conference.

Goldemberg's elevation to official control over environmental policy, which he had already controlled *de facto* from behind the scenes, places the country in the orbit of the two most sophisticated sectors of the Anglo-American establishment, grouped around the Washington, D.C.-based World Resources Institute (WRI).

Lutzenberger's removal, just two months before the Eco-92 conference, was due to his embarrassing public remarks countering the government's official environmental policy. The latter has been formulated on the basis of an alleged consensus around the concept of sustainable development and the need for industrialized countries to contribute "new and additional resources" for environmental protection of the developing countries.

On March 12 in New York, during the fourth session of the preparatory meeting for Eco-92 called PrepComm IV, Lutzenberger questioned both

concepts. He stated that granting more money for the Third World is not the solution to environmental problems, adding that if money went to Brazil, "it might end up in corrupt hands." Lutzenberger then criticized the notion of sustainable development, describing it as "contradictory."

He went on to lock horns with the Brazilian Institute for Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (IBAMA), accusing the agency of a number of irregularities favoring lumber companies operating in the Amazon region. IBAMA President Eduardo Martins immediately demanded Lutzenberger's removal.

This was the last straw for President Fernando Collor de Mello, who decided to dump the troublesome secretary. In any case, Lutzenberger's demise had already been mooted by members of the government's inner circle, including Goldemberg, who were worried about the effects of his public tantrum on the government's "green" image, particularly as seen from abroad. Undoubtedly, Lutzenberger's removal was one of the matters Collor discussed with Norwegian Prime Minister Gro-Harlem Brundtland and Prince Philip of Britain, both of whom visited the country in early March.

With Lutzenberger's exit, Goldemberg now assumes virtual control over three sectors of vital importance for the new world order's strategy vis-à-vis Brazil: science and technology, environment, and education. In the area of environment, Goldemberg has already invited in a group of friends,

who share in common intimate ties to the international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) directly involved in formulating and executing the new order's policies, among them WRI, to help him.

WRI, whose vice president Jessica Tuchman Matthews was a member of the U.S. National Security Council, is one of the NGOs most closely linked to Anglo-American intelligence networks. On its board of directors sit some of the new world order's most prominent spokesmen, such as former World Bank President Robert S. McNamara, UNCED's Eco-92 Secretary General Maurice Strong, and the director of the U.N. Environment Program, Mostafa Tolba. Joining them are two Brazilians: Goldemberg and Paulo Nogueira Neto.

In October 1991, the WRI published "Compact for a New World," in which, among other things, it considered as a top priority the protection of the Western Hemisphere's environment, including "population stabilization by the turn of the century," reduction in "consumption of resources by the rich," and cutting the use of fossil fuels and the region's military budgets. Among the signers of the Compact were Deputy Fabio Feldmann and Maria Tereza Padua, president of the Brazilian NGO, Funatura.

Maria Tereza Padua has already been invited by Goldemberg to occupy the presidency of IBAMA, and could be in line for the post of environment secretary after Eco-92. Fabio Feldmann was the first person Goldemberg met with after replacing Lutzenberger. The March 23 *Tribuna da Imprensa* reported that Collor is studying Feldmann's proposal to merge the Secretariat of Science and Technology with the Secretariat of Environment, which would consolidate Goldemberg's control over the group.