

Brazilian military slams 'new world order' imperialism

by Valerie Rush

Commander-in-Chief of the Brazilian Air Force Lt. Brig. Ivan Moacyr da Frota, reflected the nationalist sentiments of a broad section of that country's Armed Forces when he issued a manifesto on May 12 accusing the world's superpowers of using demilitarization stratagems, separatist movements, and technological apartheid to condemn developing-sector nations like Brazil to the "humiliating status" of permanent underdevelopment.

His 11-page manifesto was published in both the March and April issues of the Air Force Ministry's magazine *Revista Aeronautica*, and in full in the leading daily *O Estado de São Paulo*. It was also the subject of innumerable editorial commentaries in newspapers across Brazil and, significantly, in Argentina, whose Armed Forces are also facing the threat of dismemberment.

Brigadier da Frota blames the major industrialized nations for embracing this "new world order" imperialist strategy, and identifies the existence of "international interests" which are manipulating these developed nations for their own insidious purposes.

Although he does not mention it, the architects of the new world order are also intent on dismembering developed nations. For example, a recent book by George Kennan, a top Anglo-American mouthpiece, names Brazil, among others, as a country which is too big and (racially) diverse to rule as a single nation. Kennan *also* urges that the United States, which he characterizes as another ungovernable "monster country," be broken up into separate self-governing units ("New England," "the Old South," etc.). These are the same arguments used by the British-sponsored Confederacy in the last century to try to destroy the unity of the American republic.

'The final bulwark'

Entitled "The Armed Forces: the Final Bulwark," da Frota's manifesto warns of an imperialist plot to replace the old East-West confrontation with one between North and South, where "the main strategic aim" of the "principal" countries is to weaken and ultimately destroy the armed forces of so-called "secondary" countries like his own, which he insists are "the final bulwark" in defending national sovereignty.

This destabilization, says da Frota, is to be accomplished through deployment of internationally manipulated separatist movements, the deliberate strangulation of strategic industries, and repeated political and economic challenges to the role of the military today.

Da Frota specifically charges that the spreading separatist tendencies in southern Brazil are a "highly serious threat" because they are "directed from abroad." The Brazilian press reports that on May 23, separatist activist Irton Marx will declare the creation of the "Pampa Gaucho Republic" in southern Brazil. Marx said that declaring the new republic's existence does not mean immediate secession; that will occur after a plebiscite to be carried out by the assemblies in three southern states.

Although no date has yet been set for any such plebiscite, reports of separatist movements in southern Brazil are provoking strong concern, especially from the Catholic Church in Brazil. Dom Luciano Mendes de Almeida, president of the Catholic Bishops Conference, condemned the propagation of separatist ideas as racist, and said they could cause Brazil to disintegrate. Dom Aloisio Sinesio Bohn, bishop of Santa Cruz del Sul in the southern state of Rio Grande do Sul, warned that "there is a risk of civil war if we don't deal with this." He charged that international interests are behind the separatism, which he too called a reflection of racism.

In another indication of unrest within the Brazilian military, on May 11, the daily *Jornal do Commercio* reported that Navy Reserve Cmdr. Dario Giordano was ordered jailed for 10 days for "insulting the President." In an open letter, Giordano denounced President Itamar Franco for telling the Mexican daily *Excelsior* during a recent visit there that Brazil's vast foreign debt was due to the "excesses" of previous military regimes.

Knowing full well that his decision to "break discipline" would prompt disciplinary measures against himself, Giordano nonetheless wrote: "Your Excellency, you could only have the guts to tell that lie in Mexico. Here, people know perfectly well that it is the corrupt political class that is destroying Brazil." Giordano's letter is being distributed throughout military circles inside Brazil.

Documentation

The following are excerpts from a manifesto by Air Force Commander-in-Chief Lt. Brig. Ivan Moacyr da Frota, published in the Air Force Ministry magazine Aeronautica.

In recent years, the Brazilian Armed Forces has been the victim of constant assaults on its moral capacities, unleashed through a professionally run campaign by specific factions of the national and international news media. The strategic goal is that of systematic demoralization, to significantly weaken or totally destroy the national military institution.

Noteworthy is the fact that these pressures come both from internal entities and from certain interests of the international community, both pursuing the same end but for different purposes.

In the international sphere, the rich countries (Group of Seven) continue to implement their "new world order," a philosophy that divides nations into two groups—principals and secondaries—where the latter are condemned to permanent underdevelopment without any possibility whatsoever of competing on the international market.

This philosophy assigns priority to resumption of the old North-South conflict (in place of the extinct East-West conflict), where the basic strategic aim of the "principal" countries is the weakening of the armed forces of the "secondary" nations for the purpose of making them easier prey for their discriminatory goals. The basic policy of this project is to impose an attitude of subservience on the "secondary" countries, so that they resign themselves to the humiliating status of social, economic, political, and military underdevelopment, meekly resigned to their roles as sources of strategic reserves for the "principal" countries, and of mere consumer markets and furnishers of raw materials and less qualified services.

To facilitate achieving this Machiavellian objective, one of their most important strategic objectives is the destruction of national will and pride, since it is known that the Armed Forces are one of the few groups with the knowledge and strategic vision to identify and denounce, as well as to oppose these maneuvers . . . of the international colonialist power. It is therefore obvious that the ultimate aim is the total destruction of the national military institutions of these countries.

Thus, the media campaign to cut the budgets and question the future of the Armed Forces, as well as to strangle military industries and to stop the technological projects of these countries, among others, has been systematically unleashed.

Regarding the Brazilian military industry, this was completely turned into junk because international pressures, backed by sectors of the national communications media, prevented us from continuing to export simple quantities of that material minimally necessary to keeping that strategic capaci-

ty, so essential to guaranteeing the sovereignty of any country, alive. Meanwhile, the rich countries continue to produce and to perfect their weapons industry, thereby distancing themselves irrevocably from the less developed countries.

Backed by international entities, which manipulate them for their own purposes with casuistic philosophies such as the recently proclaimed right of interference, the "principal" countries arbitrarily continue to intervene with their overwhelming military power against the defenseless governments and populations of the "secondary" countries, whose only fault is to struggle for their irrevocable right to be able to determine the future of their own nations. . . .

Internal separatist movements constitute another highly serious threat that must be faced with determination and constancy. These movements, run from abroad through special projects, use the ambition and indifference of false Brazilians who lend themselves as spokesmen to these treasonous initiatives.

It is important to understand that Brazil finds itself at the top of the target list of the managers of the "new world order," keeping in mind that it is a country which is marvelously well endowed with immense natural resources and one of the only nations with real possibilities of becoming an international economic power in the 21st century. These exceptional conditions have simultaneously awakened both the greed and the concern of the "principal" countries, a fact that today is made more serious because this immense nation is today sick and disorganized, making this a propitious moment for an attack by circling vultures who await the ideal moment for their fatal assault.

On the domestic front, the terrible economic and financial crisis, associated with lack of understanding by the political sectors of the nation, has caused the disenchantment of the "silent majority" of society which, disorganized, allows itself to be led by the egoistic and individualist interests of a well-organized and active minority. It is from this analysis, and within this context, that I stress the urgent need for the Brazilian nation to realize that its Armed Forces are being literally asphyxiated, which could lead to the annihilation of one of the few organized institutions that provide real protection for our beloved fatherland.

To those who question the priorities of the Armed Forces in today's world, or who allege that international political détente . . . does not justify greater military allocations, I offer the indestructible argument that the armed forces practically sustain the sovereignty of any nation, such that it is "the greatest social service that a government can provide its people, keeping it alive and free." . . .

Instead of plebiscites and casuistic movements which only seek to increase even further the power of certain political groups, the people must directly and firmly make themselves heard to urge the men and organizations governing this country to come to reason.

The nation that is not proud of its Armed Forces does not deserve to be free.