

Norberto Ceresole and the plot against Argentina's military

by Cynthia Rush

To whom does Argentine leftist geopolitician Norberto Ceresole really owe his allegiance? His proposal "Defense Policy in an Era of Profound Global Military Disorder," delivered to presidential candidate José Octavio Bordón and published in the March 17 *El Nuevo Informador*, answers that question.

His proposal for the creation of an elite Republican National Guard, a high-tech rapid deployment force to be set up while the "institutional framework" of the Armed Forces is overhauled, is an example of what *EIR* has described as the plot to destroy the military institution, as presented by the U.S. government-financed book *The Military and Democracy: The Future of Civil-Military Relations in Latin America*, published in 1990 (see *EIR*, Jan. 11, 1991). This work, which *EIR* made known as the "Bush Manual," has fueled the campaign by the alleged proponents of "democracy" against Ibero-America's armed forces over the past few years, using as their bludgeons both a monetarist economic policy and charges of human rights violations.

Ceresole's geopolitical jargon doesn't hide his basic message, also conveyed by the Bush Manual: The commitment to nation-building and defending national sovereignty must be rooted out, along with those "ethical" or philosophical principles, usually linked to western Christian values, which have historically shaped the Argentine Armed Forces' mission in the broadest sense. A new and more "pragmatic" force must be created in its place, one that can be deployed by the same international oligarchy that Ceresole claims to hate. "There is no possibility of generating defense," he argues, "from the standpoint of the still-existing institutional, doctrinal, and strategic molds."

What Ceresole leaves out

The alleged motivation for Ceresole's proposal to transform Argentina's defense structures is that the country is defenseless. True enough. But this adviser to the "revolutionary" Col. Hugo Chávez never mentions the role of the International Monetary Fund in demanding that military budgets be slashed, to the degree that the operational capacity of Argentina's three armed services is virtually nonexistent. Nor does he mention the witchhunts and slander campaigns waged against individuals such as Col. Mohamed Alí

Seineldín, the visible leader of what Ceresole calls the "National Army"—who has been sentenced to life in jail because of his principled stand in defense of the military institution.

Ceresole insists, then, that "the old schemes of interpretation" are irrelevant; don't confuse the issue, he says, by discussing whether the "Liberal Army" (in the sense of British liberalism) has attacked the "National Army." What really matters, he adds, is that the military leadership's failure to launch a national debate "on a past which includes the defeat and loss of the South Atlantic," confirms that it is in large part loyal to the national and international "oligarchic system," and therefore must be revamped. Never mentioning that the nationalist faction which built much of Argentina's basic industry and infrastructure has been deliberately smashed and its leaders imprisoned, Ceresole whines that the military leadership has been too "servile" in helping to carry out Argentina's deindustrialization.

A military for the 'new world order'

It is no coincidence that at the very moment that the international and domestic human rights lobby has specifically targeted the Navy, using former Navy Capt. Adolfo Scilingo's "confession" of alleged atrocities committed during the 1970s war against subversion (see following article), that Ceresole demands that the Navy, in particular, be completely dismantled.

He says that the Navy "has, with greater historical vehemence and in all circumstances, acted as the military gendarme of the national and international oligarchy." Alleging that it didn't fight during the 1982 Malvinas War and pointing to its "nefarious history" of repression against the population, Ceresole therefore proposes that the institution simply disappear.

But the issue isn't whether the Navy fought in 1982. *It was Navy ships that transported Argentine troops to retake the Malvinas on April 2, 1982*, and Ceresole's plan to destroy that institution is exactly what the British demand: If there is no Navy, then Britain and its Chilean allies have geopolitical control over the South Atlantic and the Malvinas Islands. Any Argentine claims to sovereignty over the islands or even its territorial waters are a dead letter.

And given Ceresole's own ties to the former East German Stasi and Soviet intelligence circles, he is hardly concerned with repression of human rights. What he really wants is a system which will insure that no more Colonel Seineldíns emerge to rally forces around concepts such as the defense of national sovereignty, nation-building, and economic development.

The members of Ceresole's proposed Republican National Guard (GNR), a "lean and mean" elite force that he says will be provided with the "most advanced technology," will be hand-picked by a "military-legal process" to select those individuals who won't question a new, foreign-directed role for the military. Conceived of as a rapid deployment force,

the GNR “will be absolutely autonomous, in terms of doctrine and intelligence as well as organically, operationally, and logistically” (emphasis added). It would have its own officer-training school, and would depend directly on the President.

Ceresole is unabashed in making the point which the Bush Manual crowd deems most crucial for the new and “pragmatic” forces they require. The GNR will have “a different ethos,” he emphasizes. It will also have to “create the ‘foundation’ on which the New Armed Forces will be based. . . . It will be conceived of as the founding nucleus for a new land Army . . . but on the basis of a new strategic conception.”

New assault targets Argentine Armed Forces

by Cynthia Rush

During his March 30 talk-show “Hora Clave,” host Mariano Grondona told his listeners that the best way for Argentina to deal with atrocities allegedly committed by its Armed Forces during the 1970s war against terrorism (what the human rights lobby calls the “dirty war”) was “to do what Germany did after World War II”—ask forgiveness, and then try and punish those guilty of the atrocities. The implication of Grondona’s recommendation is that the Argentine Armed Forces *institutionally* are Nazis—precisely the image created by the international Project Democracy apparatus—and therefore must be punished and purged, just as the Nazis were.

This “collective guilt” campaign can only hope to succeed because of years of Goebbels-style lies, which have suppressed the truth of what actually happened in Argentina during the 1970s. Before Argentina’s military ever entered into action, terrorists were carrying out dozens of assassinations a month, more than 10 bombings a day in the capital, and had attempted to seize control of a province. In the face of this sustained irregular warfare, nationalist military officers urged the civilian government to declare war against the enemy. Instead, the subsequent military junta capitulated to the British-led pressure of the human rights mafia, refused to declare open war, and was thus forced into running a secret war, which succeeded in saving Argentina from the terrorist insurgency, but which set up the Armed Forces for the attempt to destroy it, which is now under way.

Grondona was referring to the public “confession” made in early March by former Navy captain Adolfo Scilingo, who claimed to have participated in dumping the bodies of drugged terrorist prisoners out of Navy airplanes into the Atlantic Ocean during the early 1980s. Claiming to be over-

come with guilt and remorse, Scilingo went public to none other than Horacio Verbitsky, a former bomb-thrower of the Montonero terrorists who has made a name for himself as the editor of the leftist *Página 12* daily. The confession was trumpeted all over the international press, and Scilingo, a defrauder, extortionist and convicted felon who served time in prison and was thrown out of the Navy because of his crimes, became an instant media star.

Mariano Grondona is the voice of British geopolitics in Argentina and is close to former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. That the debate he has helped whip up on Scilingo’s accusations centers around demands for trial and punishment of military officers, and recognition of “collective guilt,” makes clear that the only purpose of this campaign is to deliver a final blow to the Armed Forces, just as factions in London and Washington have demanded. The *New York Times* editorialized on March 21 that President Carlos Menem could no longer hope to maintain harmony between military and civilian authorities by “suppressing public discussion of a traumatic past. Others should follow Mr. Scilingo in breaking the silence.”

In the wake of Scilingo’s confession, the entire pro-terrorist “human rights” apparatus swung into action. Verbitsky published Scilingo’s accusations in a widely circulated book. Activists accused the government of hiding lists of thousands of disappeared people and demanded to have the names, while Scilingo accused the military high command of covering up the truth of the “dirty war.” The Menem government finally succumbed to the pressure and announced on March 24 that it would make available a list of 1,000 names. But this was not good enough. Martin Abregu, head of the Center for Legal and Social Studies, demanded “the military lists, detailing who kidnapped which person, at what date and for what reason, where that person was taken, where he was killed, and where he is buried.”

The international media revelled in the gory details provided by Scilingo on bodies being thrown out of planes, and showed pictures of little girls and other family members of the “disappeared” throwing flowers into the Río de la Plata or sending messages in bottles to the remains of their loved ones, presumably in the river.

Mike Wallace, of CBS’s “60 Minutes,” traveled to Buenos Aires with a team to look into the story and, aside from President Menem, he chose to interview Scilingo, Verbitsky, Hebe de Bonafine of the pro-terrorist Mothers of Plaza de Mayo group, and “ex”-Hollinger Corp. employee Andrew Graham-Yool, who now runs the British community’s newspaper, the *Buenos Aires Herald*. Wallace praised Scilingo’s “courage,” and told Verbitsky that the scandal implied by these accusations was actually “much bigger than Watergate.”

Those who heeded the *New York Times*’s call to speak out included Gen. Albano Harguindeguy, the military junta’s interior minister from 1976 to 1981. In an interview with