

cines to the Brazilian National Health Program, and the presence in Brazil of information technology 'joint ventures' with India. . . . The adoption of the program of mixing ethanol with gasoline, adopted by India and similar to the 'Proálcool' [program of Brazil], contributed to increase the possibilities of bilateral cooperation regarding goods and services."

These advances in cooperation will increase more rapidly with the preferential trade accords soon to be signed between India and Mercosur.

### South Africa-Brazil Defense Pact

No less dramatic, however, is the defense pact signed in Cape Town between South African Defense Minister Mosiuoa Lekota and Brazilian Defense Minister José Viegas Filho, according to South African news agency BuaNews, and reported in Brazil by Defensanet. Lekota stated, "The Gulf War brought new challenges and additional responsibilities to make multilateralism the foundation of world stability."

The dispatches further report that the pact would facilitate cooperation between the military organizations and defense industries of the two countries, in research and development, acquisition and logistical support, purchase of military equipment, and exchange of peace-keeping experiences. "As a developing nation, we seek associations with friendly nations, to facilitate access to advanced technologies," declared Minister Lekota.

Viegas Filho emphasized that the two countries share a great deal. "Brazil is the largest country in Latin America, while South Africa is the largest, in economy if not in territory, and the leading force on the African continent." As stressed by Defensanet, the pact "revives the old project of creating a military, operational and industrial area in the South Atlantic," and could serve as the lever for a revival of programs for aeronautic development and smart missiles.

### Africa's 'Thirst for Brazil'

The agreements with South Africa are part of a broader Brazilian diplomatic strategy in Africa, typified by Foreign Minister Celso Amorim's statement in a June 4 interview in the Brazilian magazine *IstoE*. "I recently visited various African countries, preparing for the August visit of President Lula to the continent. . . . I saw in all of those countries [Angola, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, São Tomé and Príncipe, Ghana] a thirst for Brazil. Some see Brazil as a big brother. . . . We haven't the resources of the developed countries, but we have a lot of experience, business acuity, a language much closer to the Africans. Combine this with a very strong awareness by this government of our black, African ancestry, and we have a new impulse in the direction of Africa."

In a May 25 article in *Folha de São Paulo*, Amorim explained, that with "76 million of Afro-descendants, we are the second largest black nation in the world . . . and the gov-

ernment is determined to reflect that circumstance in its foreign policy."

In the same issue of *Folha*, Brazilian Ambassador Rubens Ricupero, Secretary General to the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), emotionally recalled the social debt that Brazil owes Africa, and especially Angola, from which "perhaps 68% of the Africans who built Brazil came. . . . We have a debt with Angola that is incommensurable and impossible to pay. Blood debts, generated in the heart of families, are not paid with money; they are met with unconditional solidarity and help. But Brazil will only begin to make this kind of payment to Angola and to Africa, when it is able to pay the debt which it contracted with its own marginalized people, many of them descendants of Africans. Today, as the President of Brazil prepares to visit Angola, we would do well to understand that solidarity with the Angolans and solidarity with the poor of our land, is one and indivisible."

## MST Uprising Part of Soros Plan for Brazil

by Silvia Palacios

Throughout the month of May, Brazil's proto-terrorist Landless Movement (MST) launched a wave of unusually violent land invasions, which, though apparently blind, are in reality part of the low-intensity warfare unleashed successively in three states: Pernambuco, Paraná, and São Paulo. In one land invasion in the northeastern state of Pernambuco, a well-organized group of 2,000 invaded a sugar mill, and set fire to houses and agricultural machinery. In statements to the daily *Folha de São Paulo* on May 24, National Agrarian Auditor Gercino José de Silva, who has held the post since 1999, warned, "This is a powderkeg. In terms of radicalization and violence, I've never seen anything like it."

In Paraná, another group destroyed and burned an experimental agricultural station working on genetically-modified plants, charging that these types of crops are illegal in Brazil. The attack was led by Roberto Baggio, the MST's Paraná coordinator, who also serves on the Economic and Social Development Council created by President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. "We're going to destroy the large farms and transform these areas into camps" for the MST, Baggio threatened.

Culminating this fascist offensive, the MST defiantly announced that it is organizing throughout the country, and that it will set up a gigantic camp in the Pontal del Paranapema region with 5,000 families prepared to resist, until they are settled on land. Launching the mobilization on May

25, MST leader José Rainha said the camp would be a “new Canudos,” referring to a rural rebellion in the early 20th Century, which put up fierce armed resistance against the Army of the newly-created Brazilian Republic. The region chosen for the “new Canudos” continues the strategy the MST has followed since 1996, to create a kind of independent republic in the Pontal del Paranapanema, a region in southern Brazil, where infrastructure vital to the national economy—a great density of electricity transmission lines from the giant Itaipú hydroelectric complex, and the Tiete-Paraná waterway—are located.

With the MST’s new, destabilizing insurgency, the Lula government is reaping what it had sown, in two ways.

First, it has stubbornly kept the country under the dictatorship of the International Monetary Fund’s usurious policies. Just as the very powerful cabinet Chief of Staff José Dirceu admitted, the new government put “an abrupt brake on the economy,” without considering the social consequences, such as historic unemployment rates, industrial paralysis, and urban violence, which Brasilia says is its chief concern. The incredibly high interest rates and draconian budget cuts, including in social expenditures, have won the government effusive praise from the IMF and World Bank.

Second, the MST’s insurgent actions are, in part, the offspring of the government, which put national agricultural policy in the hands of MST representatives and their fellow

travelers in the Pastoral Land Commission (CPT), controlled by Theology of Liberation radicals. Take Agricultural Development Minister Miguel Rossetto, a Jacobin rabble-rouser and opponent of modern agriculture, who justifies official inaction in the face of MST aggression, arguing, as he did on Jan. 3, “It is not the government’s task, within a democratic state of law, to suppress social movements’ ability to mobilize.” Another MST ally is Marcelo Resende, president of the National Colonization and Agrarian Reform Institute, recommended for that post by the CPT, of which he is also a member.

Although Brasilia says the MST isn’t acting in the government’s name, and even denounced the recent wave of violence, the truth is that the MST is treated as a privileged protagonist of the government’s social agenda. For example, in the midst of the current violence, the Education Ministry announced it had signed an agreement to run literacy programs at MST rural camps.

The maneuvering of these Jacobins inside the Lula government has unleashed a fierce battle inside the ruling Workers’ Party (PT) as well, which threatens to fragment the nation. It could also damage its foreign policy, and destroy the historic diplomatic initiatives to forge South American unity and South-South cooperation, toward a more just international order.

### The Other Face of George Soros

This policy bears the trademark of international financier and speculator George Soros, typified by “economic conservatism and social radicalism,” so ably expressed by one of his Brazilian interlocutors, Education Minister Cristovam Buarque. Thus, the Central Bank’s policy of financial speculation is reconciled with the social policy defined in the many gatherings of the World Social Forum in Pôrto Alegre, backed by Soros and his allies in the Anglo-French Goldsmith family, and including the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) committed to destroying the sovereign nation-state.

Soros and his NGO network also advocate weakening the Armed Forces and other security forces, and back the “decriminalization” of drugs, their euphemism for legalization. National Secretary for Public Safety Luiz Eduardo Soares, formerly of the Viva Rio NGO financed by oligarchical families, firmly supports these policies. Soares is now involved in a “sociological” restructuring of security forces, which, if implemented, will so undermine them, as to make them unable to combat the drug cartels that sow terror in Brazil’s urban centers.


Moreover, Soares is part of the powerful international drug legalization lobby, in which several foundations tied directly to Soros work. What this lobby seeks in the Lula government, can be seen in the April 3 edition of the internet magazine *Narco News Bulletin*, which pointed to the existence inside Brazil’s government of a current favoring drug decriminalization.

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