

Report from Rio by Silvia Palacios

'Enclave' in the Amazon

In the wake of the Gulf war, the Anglo-Americans have a strategy to carve up Brazil's mineral-rich region.

During recent U.N. Security Council sessions which debated British Prime Minister John Major's colonialist proposal to create a Kurdish "enclave" in northern Iraq, Soviet delegate Yuli Voronstov raised the likelihood of having to face similar such problems in other regions and, according to the April 10 London *Financial Times*, "unaccountably picked Brazil" as an example.

Following the Anglo-American massacre in Iraq and the U.N. Security Council's plan to balkanize that nation through imposition of "limited sovereignty," the campaign to subject Brazil to the same treatment under George Bush's new world order is advancing rapidly. And what better pretext for imposing the British one-world concept than to escalate the international environmentalist uproar about the alleged abuse of certain minority Indian groups that live, not accidentally, in the most mineral-rich regions of the Brazilian Amazon. What the eco-fascist lobby is demanding is the establishment of an Indian "enclave," for example, in the area bordering Venezuela inhabited by the Yanomani Indians.

This scenario was voiced by a representative of the Inter-Action Council, an international policy advisory group of former government leaders, who detailed the Anglo-Americans' plan for Brazil. "The Kurdish affair is not important in and of itself, but is rather an entry point for the strengthening of supranational institutions to deal with questions like refugees and

population migrations. . . . Say, for example, that somebody would want to recommend an enclave protection idea for the threatened Indians of the Amazon. It's a good idea, no? But those who are promoting the Kurdish idea should strictly refrain from bringing up the Amazon idea, and, similarly, those concerned about Amazonia should absolutely shut up for the time being, and wait for the adoption of the Kurdish enclave idea. Once we have that adopted, we can move to other things. But if we start it all at once, it will create confusion and opposition."

In the case of Brazil, French President François Mitterrand and his wife Danièle have come out clearly on the side of those proposing limited sovereignty. In March 1989, at the conclusion of an international conference at The Hague on the environment, Mitterrand expressed his frustration at the gathering's failure to approve a French proposal to create a supranational authority empowered to control environmental policy and punish ecological offenders.

Mitterrand admitted that such an authority would run into problems of national sovereignty but, as the daily *Jornal do Brasil* of March 12, 1989 reported it, the French President also confessed, "This would translate into a renunciation of some sovereignty by some countries, but it is necessary."

Danièle Mitterrand is linked to various human rights organizations and to groups of anthropologists which have purportedly taken up the cause of the Yanomani from the British standpoint

of preserving "the noble savage." Mme. Mitterrand participated in July 1990 sessions of the Permanent People's Court (a U.N. non-governmental organization), where Brazil was charged with unsubstantiated accusations of mistreating the Indians. Its "crime" was having constructed major hydroelectric projects on its own sovereign territory, but in the areas inhabited by Indian tribes.

Ever since, the international mobilization around the Indian question has not ceased. For example, in March, Survival International gathered thousands of signatures on petitions to pressure the Brazilian government into setting aside specific regions of the country as Yanomani land. Survival International has a long history of being militant on the question of limited sovereignty. In August 1984, the Venezuelan government accused Survival International and a dozen like groups of anthropologists which are today fully absorbed into the ecology lobby, of being part of an international conspiracy which sought to impose "limited sovereignty" over certain Venezuelan lands bordering Brazil and inhabited by the Yanomani.

The intensification of this Anglo-American strategy of using 200,000 Indians to wrest the rich Amazon from Brazil, combined with other provocations such as the explosion of narco-terrorist activities on the border with Colombia, has led the Brazilian Armed Forces to blame the CIA, for the first time in the postwar era, of orchestrating these provocations. An April 4 commentary in *Tribuna de Imprensa* declared that "this border" between Brazil and Colombia "has always existed, but never an incident of such serious proportions. [The Armed Forces] are convinced that behind all of this is the CIA, just as it was in other countries."