

of the Old Testament, telling us of the errors. But what are the solutions?"

So, the solutions. I am going to use the methodology of the Superior War College: political solutions, psychosocial solutions, economic solutions, and military solutions. There are solutions. In our case, the unity of all the people. . . . The strengthening of the Armed Forces is the first step, because they are the bulwark of nationality. . . .

I would like to return to my two opening points, and to make a profession of faith: that we forget all the misunderstandings of the past, the disputes and the rivalries, and that we together build a future and that we work toward the unity of all Latin America, so that we will have force. That we commit ourselves to justice and peace in our societies. A deep commitment to the Fatherland and to its greatness. . . .

Many may say, this admiral is a false prophet. It is comfortable for him, now that he is retired, to say all these things. But I spoke like this while in active service. When I had my three stars, I sent a document to my chiefs, to the ministers of the three forces, to the heads of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and I also issued a public declaration before all the Navy admirals, on Dec. 29, 1992.

Perhaps it was a coincidence that, three months later, they put on the list of promotions an admiral who was my junior and, despite the fact that I still had one year and eight months of active duty left, I was obliged by law to retire.

Therefore, I am not saying these things out of vanity, which, thank God, I do not have. It is merely to say to you that I am not a new Christian and that I have no electoral interest in this, but a love of my people and of my country. I would like to bring to you these convictions, asking almighty God to give us the power, talent, and strength to continue the good fight, fighting for the greatness of each one of our Fatherlands, and for the integration of the nations of Latin America, with respect for the characteristics of each one, with respect for national sovereignties, and seeking the peace and happiness of all our peoples.

Today, many are dying of hunger. Now, the truth cannot be hidden for much longer, and we are seeing in Brazil, which is the phenomenon which I know — although I admit that the same is happening in Argentina, in Mexico, in Peru, and elsewhere — that people are beginning to recognize the treason, the lies, and the impositions to which we are being subjected. And, God willing, I am certain that this is going to change. But it is necessary to unite all well-meaning people, the patriots, the military, the Christians, the men of good will of all religious orientations. That is why we are no longer preaching only in the desert, because people are listening. We are suffering, but we are being faithful to our greater commitments, as you are, with your grave suffering because of your commitment to your Fatherland, Argentina. And after Good Friday, with all certainty we will have Resurrection Sunday in our countries. It all depends on us.

Martínez: the basis for collective security

The following are excerpts from a presentation given by Argentine Vice Adm. Carlos Martínez (ret.), who shared the panel with Brazilian Admiral Tasso (ret.), at the Naval Center in Buenos Aires on Sept. 19.

These policies [of collective security] in our country have produced damaging effects upon the defense budget and the development of industries and technologies themselves. On the other hand, in Brazil, with much more personality, I believe, a certain distance has been kept from those kinds of policies, and none of its technological development has been abandoned. . . .

The joint strategic project to which we must aspire should include the clear necessity of protecting the vast geographic spaces which are of common interest, such as, for example, the South Atlantic, and which should be, for us, zones of peace and cooperation and are, further, the purer half of the planet, above all when we spend so much time talking about contaminated areas. . . .

We have, for example, the concern of European countries over the Amazon, just as there could be for our lands of the Pampas, which are, as I said, the purest that exist in the world. Without adequate deterrent capability and without adequate political determination, these vast areas could be greatly coveted by international interests. . . .

A strategic project is required which includes, as Admiral Tasso Vasquez stated, an adequate deterrent capability coordinated among countries, and a political will grounded in our historic, cultural, and Christian roots. . . .

Globalization is nothing more than an ideology which, with the argument of optimizing economic processes, business, finances, etc., is simply bringing about a new distribution of labor on an international scale, as occurred in the past century, and appears to be the developed countries' present means for trying to rule us. . . .

Sovereignties are trampled upon and restricted. Publicly, there has been much talk about how sovereignties and borders should disappear. Financial power subordinates nations and national economies, erases borders, and razes everything that opposes these plans. . . .

A great policy, with noble objectives and with sufficient deterrent military power, based on our roots, on our style of life, on our Christian sentiments, as I said earlier, demands

from us much daring and much strength. It is not for those with a tendency toward servility. . . .

The forum known as the Inter-American Dialogue, with headquarters in the United States and made up of known leftist figures from Ibero-America, has proposed since 1982, these kinds of policies . . . of indiscriminate reduction of the Armed Forces of Ibero-America, and drastic reductions of defense budgets. . . .

To conclude, I believe it is necessary to emphasize that this integration of Ibero-America should not be interpreted as a confrontation with the United States, but as an instrument for defending our legitimate interests under the best conditions, just as the European Community does, for example.

Seineldín: Repudiate the New World Order

We excerpt here the open letter which imprisoned former colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldín addressed to Lt. Gen. Martín Antonio Balza, Chief of Staff of the Argentine Army. The letter is dated Sept. 17, 1997.

Sir:

In compliance with my unrenounceable duty as an Argentine, a former colonel in the Army, and former combatant of the Malvinas War—the latter title one which no court can take away from me—I write to express my concerns regarding the current status of our, and Ibero-America's, Armed Forces, as it relates to our national situation, and their future role in building sovereign nations.



Take note of the following:

1. Recently an Argentine Army publication reported on a military restructuring plan, whose purported goal is to increase efficiency. As its priority, the plan indicated “rewarding quality, excellence and new technology, *support for national policy*, ethical values and the Constitution.”

In the absence of any clarification as to the meaning of “support for national policy,” I can only interpret this as total support for the socio-economic policy implemented by President Menem, dictated from abroad, in the context of which a [specific] role was assigned to the Armed Forces. . . .

2. To facilitate an accurate understanding of what I intend to develop, I find it useful to refer to, as something which has enriched my convictions, the statement made by General Juan E. Gugliamelli on December 11, 1964: “. . . socio-economic development is not only an essential element of solidarity in creating jobs and well-being. It is an unpostponable requirement of National Security.” And let me add General Charles de Gaulle’s warning: “. . . a State which, sooner or later, fails to base its legitimacy on the defense of the nation, is condemned to disappear. . . .”

3. You are aware of the fact that Henry Kissinger’s and Oliver North’s “Project Democracy” was one of the points of departure for the dismantling of the continent’s Armed Forces. Its ultimate goal was to remove [the Armed Forces] from any central role in national decision-making, and to thus subordinate them to transnational forces. [Project Democracy] knows perfectly well, and therefore fears, the Armed Forces as a pillar of the self-determination of nations.

The trap was to skillfully use the terms “democracy” and “human rights” to undermine the [military’s] prestige, and compromise the institution as such, because of the mistakes or illegal actions of some of its members. In this operation, all objectivity was tossed aside, in measuring the degrees of disintegration and chaos which threatened society. Even today, we continue to witness the permanent and calculated attempts to provoke confrontation between civilians and the military carried out by various media, to the grave detriment of our national integration. . . .

Without further delay, the Armed Forces should proceed to undo the damage done to the nation by neo-liberalism, imposed by the de facto military government of 1976, after its resounding victory over subversion. This is why we are now in the “first world” of misery, unemployment, dependence, defenselessness, and with the growth of a foreign debt which is today close to \$150 billion. Recall that when I was on active duty, I opposed the [1976] military coup. . . .

4. The campaign to destroy Ibero-America’s Armed Forces was denounced with the greatest clarity by Brazilian General Jones Correa Neto, when he resigned from his post as Chief of Staff. He blamed then-President Fernando Collor de Mello, whose ignominious fate is well known, for launching the plot against his country’s Army. We should also take note of the exemplary action of Colombian General Harold Bedoya Pizarro, commander of the Armed Forces recently fired by President Samper, [the latter] suspect because of his close ties to the drug trade. General Bedoya refused to obey orders from the United Nations, the British Empire, and the U.S. State Department, intended to de facto eliminate the military’s legal jurisdiction over its own members.

5. The Inter-American Dialogue (IAD), a non-governmental organization to which [former President] Raúl Alfonsín and [former governor of Mendoza, José] Octavio Bordón, still belong, also demands elimination of military