

Sovereignty, Security, And National Dignity

From the speech by Vice Adm. Sérgio Tasso Vasquez de Aquina, former Deputy Chief of Staff of the Brazilian Armed Forces, at the seminar on Aug. 23.

. . .The aspiration for freedom is a gift of God, given to all human beings, and which is transmitted to the collective conscience of people who seek self-determination and their own means of carrying out their national mission; to be masters of their destinies, without accepting foreign servitude, limitations, and interference. . . .

The creation of the state is a political construct of nations, with the essential attributes of being one people, with one territory, and sovereignty. And from this sovereignty comes the incontestable right to exert force over their geographic jurisdiction, with due respect internationally for the principles of juridical equality among states, the right to self-determination, and non-intervention in the internal affairs

of other nations. . . .

After the fall of the Soviet Union which followed the Solidarity revolution in Poland and the fall of the Berlin Wall, the globalist neo-liberal wave surfaced, and with it, the paradox of the current world, where it is now confirmed that weaker peoples of the so-called free world had greater freedom of sovereign action under the balance of terror that had existed between the Soviet Union and the United States, than they do today, under the hegemony of a single superpower . . . dominating on a planetary scale, based on usury, on money, on submission to material appetites, and on access to power on the global scale; without fear of God and without any charity toward the poorest and weakest people and nations, as has been exposed in this book which was put together by the friends who convoked this seminar, and which is called *The Plot to Annihilate the Armed Forces and Nations of Ibero-America*. . . .

One tragic result of the neo-liberal world order has been the destruction of public services and the persecution of public servants, as a means of destroying the nation-state and facilitating the surrender of national patrimony by means of this suspicious “privatization.” For example, in Brazil, on the pretext of privatizing the energy and communications companies, many were sold to state companies of France, England, etc. at an absurd price. This constituted a real surrender of the national patrimony, achieved at such great cost by generations and generations of Brazilians. This is now occurring in all of our countries.

There are outrages committed against sovereignty, under the tutelage of the IMF: the growing indebtedness and national impoverishment, the unhappiness of my people, and the contempt for them, manifest in the systematic and planned destruction of the health, sanitation, education, housing, employment, retirement, and public security systems; the dismantling of strategic energy, transport, and communications infrastructure; the cannibalization of industry; and the scientific and technological backwardness. . . .

The imposition of the IMF as the director of national and economic policies, with the large-scale diversion of national revenues for payment of the growing brutal interest rates on foreign and internal debts; the speculative and volatile capital which in Brazil we call “motel capital”—it enters, spends the night, and is gone—earns money but does not put a cent into national development. . . .

There is pressure, as I exposed in 1992, as Deputy Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, to transform the Armed Forces of all of our countries into gendarmes, a police force to oversee “democracy,” fight the drug trade, environmental crimes, and so on. Then we are to hand over our national defense, but to whom? To a multinational force. Commanded by whom? By the United States. . . .

There is a real threat of territorial dismemberment, an international ambition toward the Amazon, in the same way that it is expressed in Argentina toward Patagonia, and also

toward our Pantanal region, which is a rich biological reserve. With the nation-state weakened, and the Armed Forces reduced, it is much easier to try such a thing, which would not succeed under any other circumstances.

‘I Am Not Against the United States’

I want to clarify one point. I am not against the United States. I have lived there twice, once as a child during the Second World War. I speak English as if it were my second language, and at that time, I found a country in solidarity against the war, some very pleasant people. Each family had a son fighting in the Pacific, or in Europe. I believe that Americans have the right to defend their interests. We must make common cause where we have shared interests, but the rights of the Americans must be respected, just as the rights of Brazilians, and all the other free people of the Americas and the world. . . .

I came here to call for the union of Latin America, to strengthen our fight for the good, and in this union, I believe Brazil, Mexico, and Argentina have a fundamental role to play. It is necessary that we join hands—both civilian and military—across Latin America, without prejudice, but with total respect for the sovereignty of each nation-state. We must emphasize that which we have in common, to allow for the construction of a more dignified and just world, with the blessings of God.