

Spectre of LaRouche haunts Britain's anti-military plot

by Gerardo Terán and Dennis Small

"Unprecedented" and "unbelievable" were the adjectives used by members of the Argentine audience, to characterize the presentation given by Brazilian Admiral Sérgio Tasso Vasquez de Aquino (ret.), on Sept. 19 at a well-attended conference in Buenos Aires. Admiral Tasso was officially invited by the Argentine Naval Center to speak on the subject "Mercosur and the Armed Forces," and he shared the podium with Argentine Admiral Juan Carlos Martínez (ret.).

Before a select audience of 120 people, including active duty and retired officers of all the branches of the Argentine Armed Forces, diplomats, congressmen, university professors, students, and others, Admiral Tasso began his speech by warning: "We are experiencing in Brazil, in Latin America, and in many other parts of the world, a situation which is a threat to the nation-state and to the Armed Forces." He urged his audience to "forget any prejudice or preconception or disputes of the past and, with an open heart and with all possible loyalty, Brazil and Argentina—and all the peoples of Latin America—must join forces so that we can be strong in God's world, because the unity of the countries of Ibero-America will give us exceptional strength in the international arena" (see text below).

Tasso's remarks struck a responsive chord in his Argentine audience. The British have historically played manipulative geopolitical games to keep neighboring Argentina and Brazil at each others' throats, and this open call for unity of the two nations—coming, as it did, from a high-ranking Brazilian officer—cut through the British manipulation.

Just a few weeks before Tasso's visit to Argentina, the September 1997 edition of *Ombro a Ombro*, the most prominent military publication in Brazil, had similarly called for an end to the 19th-century "intrigues and divisions [sown] by British geopolitics" among the nations of Ibero-America, and it urged patriots of all nations to ally to instead bring about a "continental integration which respects the peculiarities of each nation-state, and offers true perspectives for common development, including with the participation of the Armed Forces." *Ombro a Ombro* specified that the strengthening of Argentina's Armed Forces was in the na-

tional interest of *Brazil*, which must support "the reconstruction of the valued Argentine Armed Forces, whose strengthening, as understood by Brazilian patriots, offers a greater guarantee of collective security, than its current deplorable state."

The ongoing dismantling of the Argentine Armed Forces referenced by the *Ombro a Ombro* editorial, is a continental scandal. Under British policy guidance, the once-proud Argentine military has been transformed into a shadow of their former selves, and is constantly cited by the British and their Anglophile followers in Washington as the model they wish to impose on all of Ibero-America.

Tasso: You must read LaRouche's 'Complot'

Admiral Tasso blamed the current crisis, including the dismantling of the Argentine military, on "international interests" which promote "financial speculation" under the rubric of "globalization." This force, he asserted, "does not have a nation; indeed, it often imposes itself upon the interests of the most powerful nations. Many times, it works against the United States itself." He explained that this "globalizing, neo-liberal threat" is as dangerous, or more so, than "the Nazi-Fascist threat and the communist threat" of earlier decades.

The Brazilian admiral said that "it is necessary to unite all well-meaning people," noting that he himself was travelling throughout Brazil and now other countries of Ibero-America, to present the book *The Plot to Annihilate the Armed Forces and the Nations of Ibero-America*, which he urged all present to read carefully.

The book Tasso was referring to was published by EIR in 1993, with an introduction by U.S. statesman Lyndon LaRouche, and a preface by former Argentine Colonel Mohamed Alí Seineldín, the hero of the Malvinas War and today a political prisoner in Argentina, because of his staunch resistance to the British demilitarization policies noted above. In 1994, the Mexican Defense Ministry published its own edition of the same book, as part of its series "Library of the Mexican Officer," which is handed out to 5,000 top



Speakers at a conference in Buenos Aires, sponsored by the Argentine Naval Center. Left to right: Capt. Miguel García, Adm. Sérgio Tasso Vasquez de Aquino (ret.), Vice Adm. Carlos Carlos Martínez (ret.). Leading military figures in Ibero-America are conducting a dialogue with Lyndon LaRouche, on the issue of defending national sovereignty against the British.

military officers in that country.

In 1994, *EIR* published the English-language version of the same book, for circulation in the United States, Europe, Asia, and Africa. In 1997, a Portuguese-language edition, *O Complot*, was issued in Brazil, and has been received enthusiastically in that country, in part due to Admiral Tasso's national tours. And, a new, Colombian edition of *El Complot* is about to be published in Bogotá, containing an essay recently written especially for that edition by Lyndon LaRouche, entitled "Why the Military Is Being Destroyed" (see text in this package).

The backdrop to this publishing activity, is an intense process of dialogue and deliberation—albeit indirect—between LaRouche and nationalist layers within the armed forces and other institutions of Ibero-America, on the nature of the current global crisis, and what has to be done to solve it. There is unusual ferment in these layers, which a nervous oligarchy has not been able to stamp out, around LaRouche's ideas.

For example, in an open letter dated Sept. 17, Seineldín warned that there is "a profound debate in the heart of Ibero-America's armed forces, to define a nationally authentic role to play." In that same letter (see text in this package), Seineldín underscored the importance of the statements of Admiral Tasso in Brazil, as well as those of the nationalist general, and current Presidential candidate, Harold Bedoya, in Colombia—where the new edition of the *Complot* is about to appear.

LaRouche has meanwhile been emphasizing, as he does in his new essay for the Colombian edition of *El Complot*, that the *facts* of the plot to annihilate the armed forces are clear and irrefutable, but that it is indispensable that the continent's patriots further recognize that "the forces behind these moves are chiefly British, but also include some U.S. figures, such as Sir George Bush and Sir Henry Kissinger." LaRouche also emphasizes that it is necessary to fully understand the strategic motives behind the plot, which is a subject that he addresses historically at some length in the essay.

The reception given to Admiral Tasso in Argentina reflects the lively interest that these ideas are provoking across the continent. For example, Argentine Admiral Martínez, who spoke after Tasso, agreed that "sovereignties are trampled upon and restricted . . . [and] financial power subordinates nations and national economies, erases borders, and razes everything that opposes these plans." Successful resistance to these plans, he asserted, "demands from us much daring and much strength. It is not for those with a tendency toward servility."

After nearly an hour of questions and answers, Admiral Tasso concluded the conference stating that, today, we are being persecuted and are suffering. But "after Good Friday, with all certainty we will have Resurrection Sunday in our countries. It all depends on us."

The entire auditorium gave him a lengthy, rousing, standing ovation.