

Pres. Collor Announces New Indigenous Policies

President Fernando Collor de Mello has profoundly altered the way indigenous matters will be decided in Brazil. On February 3 he signed four decrees which divided FUNAI's control of Indian policy into four separate areas to be implemented by four ministries. The Ministry of Health is now responsible for health, the Ministry of Education is responsible for education, the National Environmental Secretariat for environment, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform is now responsible for the Indians' economic "self-sufficiency" through development programs.

FUNAI (National Indian Foundation), whose staff will be reduced from 4500 to 2600 employees, will remain linked to the Ministry of Justice, and will now only be responsible for the demarcation of indigenous lands. Pres. Collor also requested a 90-day period (beginning Feb. 2) for the Ministry of Justice to present him with a preliminary outline for a new Estatuto do Índio, including all related legislation.

The Ministers of Justice, Foreign Relations, Education, and Health, as well as the National Environmental Secretariat and the Strategic Affairs

Secretariat signed a governmental decree creating a task force that includes the CNBB (Brazilian Bishops' Conference) and CCPY (Commission for the Creation of a Yanomami Reservation), and whose major objective will be the environmental recuperation of the Yanomami territory. The Environmental Secretariat will coordinate the task force

Non-governmental organizations are studying the new decrees which have been found to be illegal in certain of their aspects. Brazilian NGO's are in the process of negotiating a new Indian policy with the federal government. They consider the transfer of responsibility for Indian health care to the Ministry of Health to be a positive step. However, they have serious reservations about the decrees that transfer the education and economic self-sufficiency responsibilities to the respective Ministries.

Of particular concern is the fact that Indian leaders were not consulted nor involved in the formulation of these plans. It also appears premature for the decrees to have been signed into law in advance of the development of the Collor administrations' new comprehensive Indian policy.

At the invitation of CIMI (Indigenous Missionary Council), Indian leaders met in Brasília on February 14-16 to discuss how to respond to the decrees. A commission was formed to organize the participation of Indian leaders from across Brazil. The leaders will meet again at a later date to discuss their expectations form a new indig-

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Why the Peace Corps Left Brazil

Phil Lopes

After 18 years, Peace Corps ceased operations in Brazil in December of 1980. The closing was sad for me. I went to Brazil in 1963 on the Peace Corps staff. My wife Pam was a PCV there from 1964-66. We met and dated in Brasília. We were Co-Country Directors of the program from 1978 until its closing.

Why did Peace Corps leave? There has been considerable speculation. The Brazilian government never officially expelled Peace Corps, never asked it to leave. As far as I know, the agreement between the U.S. and Brazil under which PC operated is still in force. Sometime in late 1977 or early 1978, a group of Brazil PC trainees was stranded in Miami. Itamaraty, the Brazilian foreign office, would not issue them visas. This was the first indication of problems. After waiting what I recall was some weeks, efforts to get the group into the country ceased. After that, only one group was permitted to enter Brazil. It was

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Friends of Brasil is an alumni organization for former Peace Corps Volunteers who served in Brazil; however, membership is open to all those interested in Brazil. FOB is affiliated with the National Council of RPCVs, based in Washington, DC.

We strive to keep our members informed about current events and issues in Brazil, to maintain ties with Brazil and the Brazilian people and with relevant organizations in the US. We aim to help increase awareness and understanding of Brazil here in the US and support grassroots development projects in Brazil.

Officers:

Co-Presidents	Tom Folan Joan Ramos
Treasurer	Karen Thielke
Secretary	Norm Graham

Advisor: João Setúbal

Board of Directors:

Ed Crotty	Scott Ramos
Norm Graham	John Reeder
Lacey Gude	Elizabeth Santos
Paul Mack	John Williams
Marion Mendelsohn	

Committees:

Education	vacant
Fundraising	Elizabeth Santos & Judy Cusack
Membership	Scott Ramos
Newsletter	Joan Ramos
Social	vacant

Send correspondence to:

Friends of Brasil
P.O. Box 92
West Newton, MA 02165
(617) 899-2703

FOB holds yearly reunions in conjunction with the National RPCV conference and publishes the quarterly newsletter **Jornal da Amizade**. Annual dues, which includes a subscription to **JA** and a member directory, are \$15.

Send material for newsletter to:

Jornal da Amizade
7303 23rd Ave NE
Seattle, WA 98115
(206) 525-1270

Friends of Brasil Membership Alert!!!

Friends of Brasil needs you!!! Our current records show that our paid memberships have now dwindled to 158, down from 200 a year ago. In order to keep our group going, we need **everyone's** support, in time as well as in money. In our scant 2 1/2 years of existence, we've been off to a good start, with publication of our newsletter and directories, annual reunions at the NCRPCV Conferences, successful fund-raising which has helped us to make donations to projects in Brasil, hosting of some regional meetings, and valuable networking among ourselves and with a variety of other groups.

So far we've been able to get names and addresses of about one-fourth of the estimated 4000 Peace Corps Volunteers who served in Brazil. We're proud of these accomplishments, especially since we are so widely scattered geographically and seldom get to meet face-to-face. All of this has been accomplished by far too few people doing far too much work!

The prospects for us to become more aware of, and involved in, issues and projects both here at home and in Brasil, look bright, IF we have the sustained help of our members. This is **YOUR ORGANIZATION**, and **YOUR INVOLVEMENT** is sorely needed. While it may seem crass to talk about money, all of the things we do have a cost. While some members volunteer their time and energy and services, we must pay for printing, copying, postage, telephone, access to news services, etc. Six months ago, after much deliberation, our dues were raised to \$15.00 per household. Costs are simply increasing, and in the new year, postal rates have gone up again. Your understanding is needed (those who truly cannot afford to pay the full dues will receive special consideration).

For those of you whose memberships have expired, **PLEASE RENEW NOW!!** For those of you who have not

as yet joined, **PLEASE JOIN FOB NOW!!** We can send one complimentary issue of the newsletter to each new name that we receive, but cannot afford to extend that privilege. If you have enjoyed reading this newsletter, please take action now to support our group, or this may be your last issue!

Your **WRITTEN CONTRIBUTIONS** to the newsletter are also urgently needed! Currently, we tend to report on a fair amount of current events in Brasil because this was an interest expressed by the founding members back in 1988. Perhaps you'd like to see more human interest stories, or reports on what former Brazil RPCVs are doing now, or more space given to the Peace Corps alumni movement, or Brazilian arts, or whatever. But we'll never know if we don't hear from you!! And if you have ideas or contacts about other people and projects in Brasil that we should know about, pass them on!

Several of our Board positions are currently unfilled, among them Chairs for Education and Social Committees. Now is your chance to get involved. FOB could do a lot more to promote celebrations at our annual reunion as well as to coordinate gatherings across the U.S., if someone would take charge. Everyone likes to attend parties, but it takes organizers, too! And we could take the first steps to develop an education project about Brazil if some of you would step forward now! What is your vision for the future of Friends of Brasil? By sharing our ideas and energy, we can grow stronger as a group, and begin to help to make a bit of a difference in the world!

Contributors to this issue:

Gloria Guimarães Brown, Rosemary Pedro Carvalho, Camy Condon, Ed Crotty, Lacey Gude, Phil Lopes, John Reeder, et. al.

Friends of Brasil 1991 Reunion — Peace Corps 30th Anniversary

Plans are now underway for the 1991 Friends of Brasil Reunion, to be held in conjunction with the National Council of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers Conference and celebration of 30 years of Peace Corps, to be held August 1-4, 1991, in Washington, D.C. FOB is trying to plan a reception with the Brazilian Ambassador, a festive meal, and social gatherings. Special activities may also be scheduled before the main Conference, and some training groups are planning their own mini-reunions.

Travel bookings for the Conference are being handled for the National Council by Shelley Cruz, RPCV-Colombia, through WorldTek Travel. Reservations at reduced rates can be made on five airlines. For complete travel (air and rail) information call directly:

Shelley Cruz
800/243-1723

Discounted room rates will also be available. A flyer with details on hotel reservations and a complete Conference schedule will be mailed in late March. FOB folks who would like to stay in the same place should try to book rooms in the Grand Hyatt or Ramada Tech World hotels.

FOB's events are being organized by Lacey Gude and John Reeder. Please contact them right away to let them know if you will be coming, and to offer your help. Call or write:

Lacey Gude (DF, '64-'66)
1316 New Hampshire Ave., NW
Apt. 501
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 833-3614 (home)
(202) 223-7000 (work)

or:

John Reeder (PE, '69-'72)
909 N. Madison St.
Arlington, VA 22205
(703) 536-7834

Activities scheduled for the 30th Anniversary include a Congressional Reception on the evening of Thursday, August 1, an in-service Volunteer Day to benefit projects in D.C. itself, and special meetings for country-of-service groups on Saturday afternoon, with socials that night. Special events will be held on the Mall.

We will also need to set aside some time for a business meeting, and hope to have a group table. In the past few years, the group-sponsored information table was important to our outreach efforts to new members, as well as a fundraiser through the sales of Brazilian crafts and music and our famous FOB T-shirts. Please contact Lacey Gude or John Reeder right away if you can help with the FOB Reunion. Many members have expressed an interest in having a special Brazilian meal. A lot of planning needs to be done to make this a reality! Let's work to make this Reunion our best yet!

Brazil 13 Reunion (October 1964-October 1966)

Are you looking for your group? Chances are we are trying to locate you, too! If you were in Brazil #13 (10/64-10/66) and trained at the Experiment in International Living, Brattleboro, Vermont (Oct.-Dec. 1964) and the Virgin Island (Jan. 1965) and went to Mato Grosso, Bahia, Espirito Santo, Minas Gerais, or possibly other states, in Community Health Projects, chances are you were in our group.

We are trying to contact everyone that trained with us (whether or not you went on to Brazil) to see if you are interested in holding a reunion the day prior (July 31, 1991) to the 30th NCRPCV Conference in Washington, D.C.

If you are interested, please contact:

Betty (Reeves) Shackelford
P.O. Box 749
Marysville, CA 95901
(916) 742-4500

Brazil 21 Reunion

Calling all 1965-1967 PCVs who trained at the University of Florida, beginning June 1965, for Urban Community Development projects in Bahia, Paraiba, Distrito Federal and possibly other states. If you would like to have a training group reunion in D.C. at the 30th Anniversary Conference, please contact:

Elizabeth Scheffey Santos (BA, '65-'67)
P.O. Box 994
Pottstown, PA 19464
(215) 326-9156

Reunion For Brazil RPCVs of June 1966-1968

Were you part of the group that trained at Georgetown University in the Summer of 1966? Three groups: Electrical Engineering (Group 512-66-07-06); School Lunch (Group 512-66-08-06) and University Education (Group 512-66-09-06) took their Portuguese training together at Georgetown; some stayed at the National 4-H Center. The University Ed. group may have been called "Brazil 31."

Some of your training mates would like to have a group reunion at the FOB/NCRPCV Conference in August. If you were part of one of these training groups, please contact:

Barbara Pugh (RN, '66-'68)
8123 SW 57th Avenue
Portland, OR 97219
(503) 244-9081

Dom Helder Câmara Visits US

Dom Helder Câmara, the 82-year old Archbishop Emeritus of Recife and Olinda, arrived in Albuquerque, NM on the evening of January 15 to begin a week-long visit that focused on social justice issues in the U.S. and in Brazil. Ironically, Dom Helder arrived at precisely the same time that the Persian Gulf War was beginning, a fact which caused him great consternation about being a guest in a country with whose foreign policies he so strongly disagrees. Organizers of the visit said that Dom Helder, the recipient of peace prizes from nine nations and thirty-one honorary degrees worldwide, appeared frail and visibly saddened by the specter of the war. He used the opportunity of his visit in Albuquerque, and the previous week in Texas, to speak out on the need for world peace and a solution to the plight of the homeless.

Highlights of Dom Helder's stay in Albuquerque were an interfaith service people; a dinner at which he read some of his poetry; and a celebration in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s

Attention FOB Members in Southern Illinois

The World Affairs Forum of Mt. Vernon, IL, has selected Brazil as the country of focus for its annual international cultural program to take place in October of 1991. The WAF program, now in its ninth year, includes activities and events for all sectors of the community. Organizers would especially like to contact former Brazil RPCVs living in the area, who might like to become involved.

For further information, contact:
 Carl L. Schweinfurth, Activities Co-Chair
 World Affairs Forum of Mt. Vernon
 P.O. Box 907
 Mt. Vernon, IL 62864
 (618) 244-5871

birthday, which was attended by 1000 people, at which he gave the invocation. Dom Helder spoke at the University of New Mexico on "The Poorest of the Poor: Ending World Misery by the Year 2000," and met with students and faculty. While in Albuquerque, Dom Helder stayed at a shelter for the homeless run by the Brothers of the Good Shepherd, at whose clinic he also received medical care.

In Houston, Dom Helder attended an international conference on "Christianity and Churches on the Eve of Vatican II." There he received a substantial donation that made it possible for the organizers of his Albuquerque visit to purchase computer equipment for him to take to Brazil to facilitate his work.

His visit in Albuquerque was arranged by the New Mexico Council of Churches, coordinated by two local residents, Ruth Lackey and FOB member Camy Condon, who had worked with Dom Helder in Brazil in the 1960's.

Post-30th Trip to Brazil?

How long has it been since you last visited Brazil? Not since you left Peace Corps? Interested in a post-30th Anniversary trip back to Brazil? Washington, D.C. is close to the "gateways" to Brazil via New York or Miami, and August is the off-season, a good time to make the trip. For those who might be interested in a planning a group (e.g. training group, site group, regional, etc.) trip to Brazil, Lacey Gude can help with the technical travel details necessary. Please let her know right away if you or your group are interested.

Help Wanted: Hiroshi to Visit US

Edson Hiroshi Seo, the alternative agriculture advocate whose training program for small farmers is receiving donations from Friends of Brasil, is planning to visit the U.S. for a month during our summer, sometime after mid-June. Hiroshi is asking for help now in making contacts with alternative agriculture or alternative technology groups or projects in the U.S. that he can visit, in order to best plan his itinerary. If you are part of, or know about, such groups please contact Ed Crotty right away.

Help may also be needed in providing housing and/or ground transportation for Hiroshi during his stay. He would also like information about contacts with potential funding sources for such programs; Hiroshi's Ashoka Fellowship will expire in September '91. Also needed are donations of basic household and carpentry tools for his project. Inflation of close to 2000% in 1990 has made tools, like just about everything else, prohibitively expensive in Brazil. If you can donate tools now, or carry them with you on a trip to Brazil, please let us know.

Ed Crotty (617) 524-6130

New Indigenous Policy

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enous policy and to present their proposals to Congress.

CCPY believes that a division of powers between ministries requires a special secretariat directly linked to the President. Such a secretariat would have the authority to coordinate the work of other ministries and have the autonomy to direct effective policy.

*CCPY Yanomami Update No.
30, 25/2/1991*

Why Peace Corps Left Brazil

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composed of people recruited to fill assignments that had been previously approved.

No new requests were approved after that time, despite many solicitations by host country agencies forwarded to the Itamaraty. The Brazilian government could stop Peace Corps simply by not approving requests for volunteers. Never did they say “we do not want Peace Corps.” They could stop the program without doing so.

Why did they want to stop the program? There are two frequently mentioned reasons. Brazil was touting itself as a major power different from other so-called underdeveloped countries. How could it portray itself as “developed” if it admitted needing the “assistance” typified by the Peace Corps? Second, the Carter administration was applying pressure on several fronts, not the least of which dealt with human rights. Brazil felt the pressure. The easiest way they could concretely express their displeasure was by making things impossible for the Peace Corps. PC was the only U.S. program in Brazil at that time. Military, AID, etc., has long since departed.

Peace Corps Washington was not helpful at this juncture. A long-shot program with the social services department of São Paulo was developed. We thought it might have the political clout necessary for Itamaraty approval. Washington sat on the

program, took no action, gave no reason for not doing so. The U.S. ambassador and his staff did what they could. They had little influence, again because of what the Brazilians perceived as being “beaten up on” by the Carter administration.

In my view, the culprit in all this, the root cause, is traceable to the early 1970’s. I am sure of the exact period. It would be fun to blame Richard Nixon, but I am not certain. At that time, many of the bilateral agreements between the U.S. and host countries regarding Peace Corps were rewritten. Unlike the previous agreements, many of which were the original ones signed in the sixties when Peace Corps began, these new ones tied Peace Corps much more closely to the U.S. government, the State Department. “Jr. AID” is a term I recall hearing to describe the Peace Corps philosophy at the time. In the earlier agreements the foreign ministry did not have to approve every request. They did not approve programs, nor did they concern themselves with matching an approved request with the biographical data required to accompany the visa application. Peace Corps program and development operations were left to the host country agency and Peace Corps. Under those original agreements, Peace Corps was not perceived as part of the official U.S. government policy. Sargent Shriver insisted on autonomy from the State Department. Itamaraty

may not have seen beating up on Peace Corps as a way to punish the U.S.

Brazil was a good Peace Corps country. Someone once speculated that more Volunteers stayed on in Brazil after their service than had remained in any other country. I met many. Peace Corps had an excellent reputation with the Brazilians with whom we worked. In the late ‘70s I met someone involved with the expulsion of volunteers from Rio Grande do Sul in the early ‘60s. He said that the ejection had nothing to do with the PCVs and their work and everything to do with Leonel Brizola’s political aspirations.

I feel badly that this unique opportunity for cultural, technical and personal interchange between Brazilians and Americans has disappeared. Both countries lose.

[Editor’s note: Phil Lopes has a long history of involvement with the Peace Corps. As a Volunteer, he served with Colombia I, 1961-63; was Associate Director in Brazil from 1963-65; Country Director in Ecuador from 1976-78; and Co-Country Director with his wife Pam in Brazil from 1978-80. Portuguese is his first language, as both of his parents were children of Portuguese immigrants to the U.S. Phil is currently Assistant Director of the Rural Health Office of the University of Arizona College of Medicine.]

The National Council of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers has a new address:

NCRPCV
2119 “S” Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20008-4011
(202) 462-5938

Olodum: Afro-Brazilian Pride and Political Message in Bahia

Olodum, a *bloco Afro* from Salvador, Bahia, is a percussion group which has become famous not only at home in Bahia, but around the world. The *blocos Afros*, characteristically formed of drum-playing young men, were developed in the 1970's to deliberately infuse racial identity and pride into Salvador's street Carnaval. In 1974, the first major *bloco Afro* to form was Ilê-Aiyê, who became well-known throughout Brazil when Caetano Veloso recorded a song about the group.

The members of Olodum don traditional Carnaval *mortalhas*, in this case full-length dashiki-like tunics with African-inspired prints. Like the other *blocos*, both their dress and the type of music they play focuses on the African roots of the members. These groups have used music to proudly acknowledge the African heritage of most Bahians, a factor that had been downplayed in Carnaval celebrations of earlier decades, despite the distinctly African origins of the samba.

Although some of the theme songs and attire of these groups may not be quite anthropologically-accurate, the message of Black pride is strong. Olodum is known for songs which have a strong social message, speaking openly about poverty and discrimination in Brazil. The group also runs a community center and a children's drum group in Pelourinho, the historical center of slave trading in Bahia and today one of the city's most impoverished neighborhoods, where centuries-old buildings are in a state of disrepair. They promote Black history education at the center, and arranged for a visit by Desmond Tutu when he was in Brazil last year.

The number of *blocos Afros* greatly increased in the decade of the '80's, and some international pop music stars, among them David Byrne, Paul Simon, and Jimmy Cliff who traveled to Brazil at that time "discovered" these groups, increasing their visibility on the global market. Simon himself was involved in a major fundraising campaign to save the Pelourinho district, a UNESCO-designated historical monument.

Olodum, in particular, soon gained an international following after the band appeared on Paul Simon's 1990 album called "The Rhythm of the Saints." The group also appeared in a promotional video clip for the album, and played for one of Simon's singles. While Olodum organizers recognize that the band's popularity increased because of this linkage, they also fear that their unique cultural style might be co-opted for the mass market. Also at stake are financial considerations: while Paul Simon gained from the enterprise, Olodum has never received any royalties for their performance on the single "The Obvious Child."

Other *bloco Afro* groups, as well as other Bahian artists who feature Afro-Brazilian themes and music, also voice concerns over loss of identity or dilution of their art, which has not always been well accepted by Brazilian opinion makers. Recently Olodum's leaders were visited by Spike Lee, who expressed an interest in their participation in a possible film about Bahian culture.

The New York Times, 28/1/1991, *Veja*, 5/12/1990, and *The Brazilians*, 8/1988

Milton Nascimento Coming to North America to Benefit Amazônia

In the month of April, Milton Nascimento will perform in 25 U.S. and Canadian cities, where he will sing selections from a new album—"Rhythm of the Saints"—which was recorded to alert the public to the situation of Amazonian people. The album was produced in conjunction with the Aliança dos Povos da Floresta (APF) which is an umbrella organization for the Union of Indian Nations (UNI), the National Council of Rubber Tappers (CNS), and other groups of forest dwellers. APF representatives will appear at eight of Nascimento's performances where local rainforest groups will also coordinate public education events. Cities on the tour schedule include: New York, Boston, Washington, D.C., Santa Cruz, and San Francisco, as well as Montreal, Quebec, and Toronto, among others.

Fascinating Fauna Facts

Did you know that Brazil has:

- 3000 species of fresh-water fish, triple the number of any other nation?
- 487 types of frogs and toads, the world record?
- 70 species of parrots and macaws?
- 1567 different species of birds, ranking third behind Colombia with 1695 species, and Peru with 1642 varieties?

Veja, 5/12/1990



Rock in Rio Fizzles

Rock in Rio II, billed by promoters as the largest rock festival in the world, was beset by problems when it closed in Rio during the last week in January. Held at Maracanã Stadium, the festival attracted only 670,000 people, less than half the anticipated crowd. Sanitation and technical problems were rampant, and one person died in a fall during a concert. Several newspapers carried reports that a woman was raped by four military policemen during the event.

Festival promoter Roberto Medina reported a net income of \$700,000, far short of the \$20 million in expenses. The Rio newspaper *Jornal do Brasil* reported that while several foreign stars were paid \$500,000 each, many Brazilian bands that performed were not paid at all. Gilberto Gil cancelled his scheduled performance. In answer to these complaints, Medina was reported to have said that "these Brazilian artists didn't add one cent to the festival." Rock in Rio III is planned for January 1993.

The New York Times, 6/2/1991

Brazil on Display around the US

Tropical Rainforest Exhibit Continues

The Smithsonian Institution's exhibit "Tropical Rainforests: A Disappearing Treasure" will continue its travels around the U.S. through the end of 1993. The multi-media exhibit graphically examines the natural history and contemporary issues affecting the tropical rainforests of the world. An introduction to problems and possible solutions is included. Educational materials to accompany the exhibit are available for teachers. Sites for the exhibit include:

1991

Feb. 24-May 19:

American Museum of Natural History, New York City

Sept. 14-Dec. 8:

Denver Museum of Natural History, Denver, CO

1992

Jan. 11-April 5

Louisiana Science Center, New Orleans, LA

May 9-Aug. 2

Houston Museum of Natural History, Houston, TX

Sept. 5-Nov. 29

Fernbank Science Center, Atlanta, GA

1993

Jan. 2-March 28

Chicago Botanic Garden, Chicago, IL

May 1-Sept. 6

Science Museum of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN

Oct. 12-Jan. 4 (1994)

Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Cleveland, OH

Índios e Caboclos: Charles Wagley's Amazon Portrait

An exhibition of 50 black & white photographs taken by anthropologist Charles Wagley during his research (1939-1948) in the Brazilian Amazon, was recently shown in the Grinter Galleries of the University of Florida. The photos highlighted the life of the Tenetehara and Tapirapé Indians at that time, as well as that of *caboclo* residents in the area. Accompanying the exhibit was a videotaped interview with Wagley and his wife Cecilia Roxo Wagley. Both the photo exhibit and the video have bilingual, Portuguese-English captioning, in preparation for its travel to key institutions in Brazil, including the Amazon, beginning in 1991. Following its Brazilian tour, the exhibit will travel to museums across the U.S., then become a permanent exhibit at Florida.

Charles Wagley, Professor Emeritus of the University of Florida, is known for his extensive work in the Amazon, and concern about contemporary issues impacting the region. He was a prime motivator for the creation of UF's Center for Latin American Studies in the 1970's, and the establishment of its Amazon Training and Research Program in the 1980's. He is the author of several books about Brazil, including the 1963 classic **An Introduction to Brazil**. For more information about the photo exhibit, contact:

Center for Latin American Studies
319 Grinter Hall
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611
(904) 392-0375

Brazil Inflation Nearly 1800% in 1990

John Reeder

The latest economic plan in Brazil attempting to halt the exponential inflation over the past five years has apparently succumbed to failure as monthly inflation returned to the 20% level in January, and reached 1795% during 1990, according to the *New York Times*.

In March of 1990, newly-elected President Fernando Collor de Mello seized all bank deposits in Brazil in an effort to halt the spiraling inflation, which was then exceeding 50 percent monthly. Collor said he "had only one bullet to kill inflation" and this harsh economic plan was it. Collor's plan initially met success in reducing inflation, but at the expense of sharply

higher unemployment and reduced industrial output. Collor promised to privatize a number of state enterprises, fire a number of federal employees in an effort to reduce government spending, and raise tax revenues.

By the fall of 1990, Collor's plan (the fifth plan in five years) to stop inflation had failed, as had his predecessor's (Sarney) "plano verão" (called "plano ladrão" by critics.) With annual inflation rate at 1795 %, industrial activity in the state of São Paulo fell 11% in 1990 as both recession and inflation hit the Brazilian economy. Collor's "bullet" plan has failed, with critics calling his bullet "a cork in a popgun."

Critics of Collor's plan charged that it failed since it did nothing to stop the alarming rise in government spending, nor to raise tax revenues. In December 1990, the Brazilian money supply rose 58% in that one month, as the federal Government continued to simply print and borrow money. Most new foreign investment has ceased as Brazil has failed to pay principal on its \$100 billion foreign debt, and owes about \$8 billion in unpaid interest.

Following the Carnaval break, the Brazilian Congress is expected to consider another economic reform package proposed by Collor in February.

Novidades em Leitura

The report recently issued by Americas Watch entitled **Rural Violence in Brazil**, details the trends of violence and murder of rural land reform and labor activists, with virtually no prosecution of the perpetrators, as well as evidence of the brutal indentured servitude of peasants recruited to work on large farms, particularly in northern Brazil. The report may be ordered for \$9 from:

Human Rights Watch
Publications Department
485 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10017
(212) 972-0905

Viva Alternativa is a magazine about environmental issues in Brazil published by the Esquadrão da Vida, a group that unites non-governmental environmental organizations. A major focus is preparation for the 1992 UN Conference on the Environment to be held in Rio; the Brazilian NGOs are organizing their own, concurrent "Forum dos ONGs" to address the lack of inclusion of their groups in the

government-sponsored representation from Brazil. Recent articles in the magazine included a report on the current plight of the Cesium-137 victims in Goiás, toxics in the Amazon, tips on household recycling and biodegradable products, and news from all over Brazil on current issues. For more information about the group and its magazine, write to:

Esquadrão da Vida Produções
Culturais
SIG/SUL
Quadra 3, Bloco C, No. 86
Sala 201
70.610 Brasília, DF
BRASIL

The University of Florida offers a **Traveling Suitcase on Brazil** full of Brazilian artifacts, books, toys, games, music and musical instruments, posters, and more, that can be borrowed by teachers around the country for the cost of return postage. Their Center for Latin American Studies also has suitcases on other nations, a lending library, a newsletter, subject bibliogra-

phies, and teacher-training programs about the region or on specific countries. For complete information, contact:

Kerri Nolan, Acting Director
Outreach and Special Programs
Center for Latin American Studies
319 Grinter Hall
Gainesville, FL 32611
(904) 392-0375

The **Camões Center Quarterly** is a new publication about issues and events in Portuguese-speaking countries. The Spring/Summer 1990 issue featured articles about trends in the Brazilian elections, and a study of Brazil's *literatura do cordel*. For ordering information, contact:

Camões Center for the Study of the
Portuguese-Speaking World
Research Institute on International
Change
Columbia University
420 West 118th Street
New York, NY 10027
(212) 854-4672

A Cozinha da FOB

Pernil com Abacaxi/Leg of Pork with Pineapple

Submitted by FOB member Glória Guimarães Brown, with the following comments. "Many of my friends ask me for Brazilian recipes. Later they tell me that when they prepare the dish, it does not taste the same as mine. Often I find out that they substitute or subtract some ingredients, which negatively affects the taste. The most common changes are using garlic powder instead of fresh garlic, and eliminating the salt. Salt is a very important ingredient because it will bring out all the flavor of the dish you have prepared."

Ingredients:

- 1 12-16 lb. fresh leg of pork (order in advance & ask the butcher to remove the skin and trim the visible fat).
- 2 cups dry white wine
- 1 cup burgundy wine
- 1/2 cup fresh lemon or lime juice (remove seeds)
- 8 large cloves garlic, crushed into a paste with
- 2 tablespoons salt
- 1 lb. large yellow onions, cut into 1/4" slices
- 1/8 tsp. ground cloves
- 1 pineapple sliced (or 1 large can sliced pineapple, in its own juice)
- 1 tablespoon ground black pepper
- 2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- 3 Tablespoons mustard (paste)
- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 3 cups water
- 2 tablespoons butter, at room temperature
- 1/4 cup chopped parsley
- 1/2 cup chopped green onions
- 1 teaspoon marjoram

Preparation:

Pierce the meat well. Make a marinade with all the ingredients EXCEPT the garlic, mustard, butter, burgundy wine and pineapple.

Mix well into a paste: the garlic paste and mustard. Rub this mixture well all over the meat. Place the meat and the marinade into a large, deep baking pan, and cover with plastic wrap or aluminum foil and refrigerate for at least 16 hours.

Before baking: remove some of the marinade, cover the meat with butter and burgundy wine. Cover the meat in the baking pan with aluminum foil (to prevent it drying out) and bake in a 375 degree oven for 2 to 4 hours. During this time, turn the meat several times, and baste it with the remaining marinade at each turn. All the marinade should be used. It is also important to use a meat thermometer to ensure that the meat does not become overcooked. When the meat is almost done, remove the aluminum foil cover and let meat brown during the remaining cooking time in the oven. This will take about one hour.

Half an hour before serving, decorate the meat with pineapple slices and baste it all over with 1/2 cup of burgundy.

This recipe can also be used to prepare a delicious pork roast.

Chicken with Cashew Nuts

- 2 whole chickens, cut into pieces
- 1 1/2 cups chopped cashew nuts
- 2 eggs
- 3 tablespoons milk
- 1/2 cup bread crumbs
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 2 teaspoons paprika or *colorau* (*urucum*); also known as achiote
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 1/2 cups flour

Heat the oven to 375° F. Mix the flour, salt, paprika and pepper and toss the chicken pieces in this mixture. Mix the milk and the beaten eggs and dredge the chicken pieces. Mix the cashew nuts and bread crumbs and add to the chicken pieces. Place the melted butter and all of the chicken pieces in a baking dish. Bake in the oven for 30 minutes. Turn the pieces over and bake for another half hour.

*Las Américas, Vol. 42, No. 3,
1990*

Convictions in the Slaying of Chico Mendes

Following yet another delay in scheduling, the trial of the assassins of Chico Mendes opened in Xapurí, Acre on December 12, 1990. Darcy Pereira Alves, one of the accused, shocked the courtroom crowd by confessing to the murder. He claimed that he had acted alone, but later testimony by a witness showed that Darcy's father, Darly Alves da Silva had planned the murder, while Darcy had fired the fatal shots. Darly Alves, age 54, and his 23-year old son Darcy, were convicted and each sentenced to 19 years in prison. The prosecution had sought the maximum 30-year sentence for both. There is no capital punishment in Brazil.

The trial attracted considerable international attention, and it is thought that the global spotlight on the murder of Chico Mendes was a key factor in bringing the case to trial at all. Most of the murders occurring in rural land disputes in Brazil are never prosecuted. More than 2000 people came to Xapurí for the Mendes murder trial, among them reporters from *The New York Times*, *The Times of London*, CNN (which broadcast live on location), and the BBC, as well as representatives of major Brazilian and European newspapers, and a number of independent reporters. Lula attended on behalf of the Partido dos Trabalhadores, and Romeu Tuma, executive director of the Federal Police, represented the Collor Administration at the trial.

Alternex, Contato, 15/1/1991, The New York Times, 17/12/1990, and Veja, 12/12/1990.

Union Leader Murdered in Pará

Expédito Ribeiro de Souza, 43-year old president of the 1300-member Sindicato dos Trabalhadores Rurais (STR) of Rio Maria, Pará, was murdered on February 4. Ribeiro had been receiving death threats for more than a year, because of his union's work in defending the rights of small homesteaders in land conflicts. In April of 1990, four members of the union, all members of the Partido Comunista do Brasil, were murdered. In 1985, the then-president of STR and father of one man slain in the 1990 massacre, was killed.

After the 1990 slayings, Fr. Ricardo Rezende of the Comissão Pastoral da Terra (CPT) asked Bernardo Cabral, then federal Justice Minister, to provide federal protection for Ribeiro. Apparently no action was taken, despite pressure by Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International. Americas Watch, an affiliate of Human Rights Watch, sent a delegation to Rio Maria, located some 440 miles south of Belém, to investigate.

Americas Watch had left Rio Maria on Feb. 3, and released its report entitled **Rural Violence In Brazil**, the day after Ribeiro was assassinated. According to CPT data included in the report, 1,566 people have been killed in land disputes in Brazil between 1964 and 1989. For these killings, there have been a total of 17 trials and 8 convictions, including that of the murderers of Chico Mendes. The report cited a

pattern of murders in retaliation for efforts of rural activists to gain an equitable distribution of land in local areas. Another pattern, of negligent investigation of these murders, facilitated by lack of interest or action on the part of the Brazilian federal and local governments is also evident, according to the report.

The New York Times, 5/2/1991, Alternex, Contato, 1/3/1991, and The Times of the Americas, 20/2/1991

A Luta Continua

On March 10, labor and religious leaders active in the land reform struggle were attacked in Tailândia, Pará. Sebastião Ribeiro da Silva, a labor leader, was shot to death at his home. Maria Trindade Gomes Ferreira, a local CPT official was shot three times in a separate attack. Ms. Ferreira reported to authorities that José Alves de Souza, an STR union member, was also wounded in an assassination attempt on March 7.

The previous week, on March 5, Carlos Cabral, successor to murdered STR leader Expédito Ribeiro de Souza of Rio Maria, PA (some 200 km south of Tailândia) was shot and wounded after leaving a union meeting. The Legislative Assembly of Rio de Janeiro forwarded to Pres. Collor, a declaration of protest, signed by over 200 prominent Cariocas and Paulistas, about this attack and the continuing violence.

The New York Times, 11/3/1991 and Alternex, 8/3/1991

Noticiário—News From the International Press

Blacks and Women Make Gains in Brazilian Elections

Significant changes in the makeup of elected representatives in Brazil were evident in the outcome of the December 1990 elections. For the first time ever in Brazil, three Blacks were elected governor, and 29 women, 5 more than in 1986, were elected as federal deputies. In 7 states, female candidates received the highest proportion of votes cast. The 3 Black governors are: Alceu Colares of Rio Grande do Sul, Albuíno Azeredo in Espírito Santo, and João Alves in Sergipe.

Both Colares and Azeredo belong to the left-of-center Partido Democrático Trabalhista (PDT), and their elections were considered a significant break with tradition in states that have a high percentage of voters of European descent (85% in Rio Grande do Sul and 50% in Espírito Santo), historically political conservatives. Alves belongs to the right-wing Partido da Frente Liberal (PFL). Colares and Azeredo were supported by Black groups throughout Brazil, while Alves, a former governor of Sergipe, did not mention the racial factor in his campaign. All the candidates, however, did share with the press, numerous incidents of racial discrimination that they have experienced both in the past and recently.

It is also significant that of the 29 female federal deputies elected, 21 belong to left-leaning parties. Particularly notable were the victories of Socorro Gomes, of the Partido Comunista do Brasil (PCB) in Pará; and of Luci Choinaksi, a former farmworker, of the Partido dos Trabalhadores (PT) in Santa Catarina. The PT's Benedita da Silva, a favela resident of Rio de Janeiro was re-elected; she was the first Black woman elected to Congress in 1986.

The total composition of Congress was also changed by the elections: representatives of left-of-center parties now account for 246 of the 503 seats. The PDT controls 3 state governments, and the PT made significant inroads in both state and national elections. Together, the representatives of opposition groups will constitute a significant challenge to President Collor's policies.

Veja, 5/12/1990 and Latinamerica Press, 27/12/1990.

The Brazilians, 2/1991

Bogus Environmental Group Formed in Rondônia

Non-governmental environmental organizations in Brazil have issued an alert about a newly-formed group in Rondônia that calls itself "Instituto do Ecodesenvolvimento da Amazônia" or IEDAM, whose directors are from the ranks of government and big business that previously facilitated the environmental devastation of their state by allowing large-scale mining, logging, ranching and settlements. IEDAM representatives are reportedly now soliciting funds in France and Canada. The NGO groups feel that IEDAM was started in retaliation for their recent successes in blocking World Bank funding of the Planofloro project in Rondônia.

Alternex 8/3/1991



Noticiário

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International Amazon Border Conflict

Brazilian soldiers killed three Colombian guerrillas on March 5 during a fire fight near the Colombia-Brazil border, according to an Army spokesman. The previous week, the Colombians attacked a Brazilian garrison in the area, where they reportedly killed three Brazilian soldiers and two Colombian gold miners, wounded 12 more, and took all the munitions in the garrison. The military action by Brazil marked the first time since 1974 that counterinsurgency operations have been conducted.

The current conflict arises from the discovery of Colombians mining gold within Brazil's boundaries. An army outpost was established on the Rio Traíra, part of the boundary between the two nations, located 300 miles north of Tabatinga, AM, last May. In November of 1990, 92 Colombian gold miners were arrested in the region. Pres. Collor stopped in Tabatinga on December 1, to investigate the situation. Brazilian Army officers reported that the Revolutionary Armed Forces (FRA) of Colombia provide protection and control for the Colombian miners.

The New York Times, 8/3/1991

Brazil-Iraq Military Connection

Although Pres. Collor officially severed Brazil's ties to Iraq when the latter nation invaded Kuwait in August 1990, reports indicate that a private arms consulting firm was involved in the development of the Piranha missile, an air-to-air missile copied from the U.S.-made Sidewinder. The consulting firm, HOP Consultaria e Representações, headed by the former president of the Brazilian government's Centro Técnico Aeroespacial (CTA) in São Paulo, may have been involved in the modification of Iraq's Scud missiles, based on Piranha technology, to increase their range. Retired Air Force General Hugo de Oliveira Pivo, the former head of CTA, had founded HOP in the mid-'80's when Iraqi first expressed an interest in purchasing Brazilian weapons. Approximately 2 dozen Brazilians were working for HOP in Iraq, at the time of the invasion. Previous arms deals between Brazil and Iraq during the Iran-Iraq war went sour when the Iraqis defaulted on payments of \$100 million. Brazil's arms dealings with Iraq were said to be the incentive of some U.S. legislative opposition to the sale of certain computers to Brazil last fall; the sale was eventually authorized after Pres. Collor provided assurances that high technology from Brazil would not end up in Iraqi hands. Pres. Collor later submitted a bill to Congress that would forbid former government officials to make any type of secret information they have had access to available to foreign governments or manufacturers.

Times of the Americas, 23/1/1991

The Understory (Seattle Rainforest Action Group), Winter, 1991



Wage and Price Freeze

On January 31, Pres. Fernando Collor declared a halt to all wage and price increases throughout Brazil, in an attempt to halt inflation, now estimated at 20% per month. The freeze came after his series of proposals to revise salary policies were rejected by representatives of both unions and employers' groups. Prices had risen sharply across the country in the days preceding the anticipated freeze.

1990 also marked a 7.9% drop in industrial production. In São Paulo state, an estimated 265,000 workers lost their jobs in 1990, while another 45,714 were laid off in the first 3 weeks of January 1991.

The deepening economic crisis is directly linked to victories by candidates of opposition in last December's gubernatorial, legislative, and congressional races.

In addition to the clamps on wage and price increases, utility rates were raised an average of 50%, affecting electric, postal, and telephone service as well as gasoline prices.

*The New York Times, 1/2/1991
and Contato, 1/3/1991*

Noticiário

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População do Brasil aumentou cinco milhões

Foram reveladas recentemente previsões pelo Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística após um levantamento realizado nos 4491 municípios da nação. Segundo as previsões, em Julho deste ano o Brasil poderá atingir os 155 milhões e 600 mil habitantes, o que dará um acréscimo de cinco milhões de pessoas em relação ao ano passado. A maior cidade do Brasil e uma das maiores do mundo, São Paulo tem uma população de 9,7 milhões. São Paulo é também a cidade de maior poder económico, produzindo no estado de São Paulo 50 por cento do produto interno bruto brasileiro. A segunda maior cidade é o Rio de Janeiro com 5,2 milhões de habitantes.

Diário de Notícias, Lisboa, 29/1/1991

Sete Países de Acordo para Uniformizar Português

The Orthographic Agreement, signed in Lisboa on December 16, 1990, will take effect in January, 1994 according to the group of responsible government officials from the seven Portuguese-speaking countries: Portugal, Brazil, Angola, Mozambique, São Tomé e Príncipe, Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde. Alberto Chiarelli, minister of Education in Brazil, represented the largest of the seven Portuguese-speaking countries. Chiarelli was perhaps the most out-spoken, emphasizing a greater expansion of the Portuguese language based on a uniform use of the language in books, newspapers, and international documents.

Approval of the agreement was not without its opponents in Portugal, however. Some members of the journalistic, literary, and publishing professions expressed concern that the more phonetic Brazilian spelling was not authentic, that too many "foreign" words of African and Indian origin are contained in Brazilian Portuguese, and that the accord represents a power play by the aggressive Brazilian publishing trade, seeking ever-expanding markets. Brazilian Portuguese is already a significant factor in the media of Portugal: five Brazilian novelas (soap operas) are currently broadcast daily on TV and their influence on the popular culture is quite visible.

There are also economic factors underscoring the perspectives on the Orthographic Accord: in a reversal of historical trends, many well-off Brazilians are seeking to immigrate to Portugal to escape the dire economic situation in Brazil. There are distinct cultural differences between the two groups, and many in Portugal view the Brazilians as opportunists, particularly in light of Portugal's participation in the European Community. As a result, Brazilian professional degrees may not be recognized, and the government is slow to issue residence permits to Brazilians who can become Portuguese citizens upon the establishment of residency.

Diário de Notícias (Lisboa), 17/12/1990 and The New York Times, 15/2/1991

Nossa Gente

RAYMOND McPEEK (RJ '64-'66) is now a physician in Ada, MI.

FRANCI LENNARTZ FRYBERGER (MT '68-'70) writes for a newspaper in Golden, CO.

KARA LYNN RANKIN (MG '63-'65) handles claims for the Social Security Administration in Vancouver, WA.

CINDY LOCKHART (RN '71-'74) is a nurse in Menlo Park, CA.

MELISSA FOWLER JAMES (PI '73-'75) works as a nurse educator in Tulare, CA.

CYNTHIA S. HUSE (MT '69-'71) is a seminary student in St. Paul, MN.

JOEL RUBIN (MS '68-'70) is manager of a legal publishing firm in Bala Cynwyd, PA.

RON FAAS (Staff '70-'72) was a PC Program & Training Officer in Northeast Brazil and representative of the National 4-H Foundation in RJ, MG, GO, and the Amazon & Northeast from '67-'72. He now is an economist with the Cooperative Extension Service in Pullman, WA.

JOHN & PATRICIA BRADLEY (RS '73-'75) live in Hemet, CA, where they are teachers of creative healing.

STEVE & CHERYL PORTEUS (CE '74-'76) make their home in Earl Park, IN where Steve is a farmer and Cheryl is a student.

CAROLYN & BILL ALISKI (RJ '69-'70) are health care administrators in Falmouth, MA.

JOHN COSGRAVE (MT '64-'66) is an attorney in Portland, OR.

JIM & JUDY RIESS (SP '70-'74) reside in Brooklyn Park, MN, where they are, respectively, an electrical engineer and an elementary school teacher.

LINDA LAGHETTO (MT '64-'66) now works as a medical technologist in Dover, OH.

MIKE MILLER (MT '74-'75) has a veterinary practice in Chariton, IA.

CHRIS MANNERS (MG '76-'78) is a teacher in Pasadena, CA.

CHARLES GORGES (BA '62-'64) is a middle school teacher in Wichita, KS.

JOHN BRADY (AL '66-'68) lived in São Paulo, Recife, Salvador, and Brasília from '71-'87, working in banking, farming, and ranching. He is now a pharmacist in Glendale, AZ.

In Memoriam

John Reeder has sadly informed us of the deaths of two former PC people in Brazil, **Todd Brem** and **Mirtes do Vale**. Todd was a volunteer in Recife ('68-'72) who worked with Dom Helder Câmara, both in Peace Corps and afterward, in a *favela* where he married as well. Todd remained in the Northeast after leaving Peace Corps, and lived with his family in Fortaleza until he met his untimely death by drowning at a beach in early 1989.

Mirtes do Vale was a vibrant, popular Cearense well-remembered as a Portuguese instructor for many Peace Corps trainees from 1967-1975. She died in Fortaleza from cancer in 1988. Mirtes' sister **Rita do Vale Malueg**, also a PC language instructor ('69-'74), now lives in Waukesha, WI, with her husband **Jim Malueg**, who was a volunteer in Recife from '72-'74.

Directory Information/Membership Form

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