

Landsbergis fights back

Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis, in a letter to Bronfman on Sept. 6, denied that Lithuania was pardoning Nazi war criminals, but said that it did want to rehabilitate people the KGB had framed for war crimes. He denied that certificates of exoneration were being issued to thousands of people condemned as Nazi war criminals by Soviet courts, without a review of case records.

"Claims that Lithuania is rehabilitating criminals from the years of the Nazi occupation—people who committed crimes against humanity, who were the executors of the Nazi Holocaust—are particularly provoking," Landsbergis said. Lithuania, he said, had stated many times that there was no statute of limitations for those who committed Nazi or Bolshevik crimes and that even if they had served their sentences, they would not be rehabilitated. He said that the Lithuanian prosecutor was investigating each case instigated by the KGB "during the years of Soviet occupation," and that when the evidence was found to be insufficient, the sentences are declared null and void.

"To act otherwise, to leave standing a Stalinist sentence without having it backed up by reliable accusatory material, would be completely unjustified," he said. Landsbergis said the two cases mentioned in the *New York Times* article would be investigated to see if any mistakes had been made.

'Stop trying to revive Soviet empire'

The Bronfman-ADL campaign comes as eastern European leaders are realizing that the Anglo-Americans do not support their independence. President Landsbergis addressed the more fundamental point at issue in an interview with the German daily *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* on Sept. 6, demanding that western countries stop trying to revitalize the dying Soviet empire.

"The objectives of the Soviet government," he warned, "to secure Lithuania as a property of the Soviet empire, have failed, but it would be too bold to declare already now that the Soviet Union has ceased to pursue its objectives." The sympathy in certain western governments for the Moscow view that the Soviet Army needs bases in the Baltic states in the future, will meet the strongest opposition, said Landsbergis. He likened the Soviet campaign for the preservation of these bases to a "Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact in new clothes."

Certain Western tendencies to revitalize the U.S.S.R. while all the peoples of the former union tried to dissolve it and build democratic and sovereign republics, were the more despicable, Landsbergis said. The existence of the two super-powers led to the partition of the world, which was especially dangerous for the enslaved nations like the Balts. Only "those forces that have imperial objectives," he said, could miss the usefulness of the present changes in world politics which have reached a "turning point." One of the main results of the process of changes is that Europe no longer has to fear the Soviet Union, the Lithuanian President declared.

Argentine resistance worries Anglo-Americans

by Cynthia R. Rush

A Buenos Aires federal appeals court ruled Sept. 1 to uphold a sentence of life imprisonment for Malvinas War hero Col. Mohamed Alí Seineldín, charged along with 14 other officers with "mutiny with the shedding of blood." The officers were on trial for their participation in the Dec. 3, 1990 military uprising through which they had attempted to force President Carlos Menem to halt the destruction of Argentina's most vital institutions, including the Armed Forces, under the aegis of George Bush's "new world order." Menem has aligned his government completely with the policies of the Bush administration, in domestic as well as foreign policy, allegedly to permit Argentina to "enter the First World."

Last February, a military court had imposed life sentences on Seineldín and six officers associated with him. Eight other officers received sentences of 12-20 years amidst government claims that the uprising had intended to overthrow Menem and even assassinate him. In the immediate aftermath of the Dec. 3 uprising, Menem had demanded that the rebellion's leaders be executed.

The appeals court threw out the government's contention that Dec. 3 was a coup attempt; it reduced the jail terms of most officers, converting the life sentences of all officers *except* Seineldín to terms of between 10-20 years. Just hours before the court announced its decision, Menem ranted that the nationalist leader should be locked up for life, and that this "would be to Argentina's benefit." Interior Minister José Luis Manzano later complained that the sentences were "too light," and announced that the government would take the case to the Supreme Court to seek stiffer ones.

Why Seineldín?

The Argentine military leader may be locked up, but this hasn't calmed the nerves of the Anglo-American political establishment which is intent on destroying all resistance in pursuit of its usurious policies. The institution of the Armed Forces, traditionally a defender of national and territorial sovereignty, is clearly an obstacle to implementation of this policy.

Menem has authorized the slashing of Argentina's defense budget, to the point that the Army is now in virtual "hibernation" until February 1992, in the words of the Bue-



Col. Mohamed Ali Seineldín, third from left, with fellow defendants in the recent trial in Buenos Aires. He chose obedience to the Constitution over obedience to his superiors and the U.S. "State Department communists," and this has earned him a life sentence in prison.

Carlos Pérez Galindo

nos Aires daily *Clarín*. Army captains have been sent home because there are no funds to pay for the specialized courses they normally take once they reach this rank. The budget crunch is so severe that it is uncertain whether the Army will be able to incorporate the next class of recruits. While neighboring Chile is permitted to develop its military industries and arm itself with the backing of Great Britain and the United States, Menem is disarming the nation, selling off its defense industries for a song under the supervision of the World Bank.

The Sept. 7 *New York Times* acknowledged that Argentina's Armed Forces, "through budget cuts, have been significantly reduced and are now poorly equipped." It expressed pleasure that Menem complied with U.S. demands to scrap the Air Force's Condor II missile, and quotes one analyst pointing to the lack of discipline and advancing disintegration among the Armed Forces. Nonetheless, the *Times* laments, even despite past military uprisings, "Colonel Seineldín has become a kind of folk hero among militant nationalist sectors of Argentine society, with graffiti appearing on many walls and kiosks around town saying 'Seineldín is the people.' "

In his Aug. 8 testimony before the appeals court, Seineldín identified the international campaign centered in Great Britain, designed to finish off what remains of Argentina's sovereignty and open it up to wholesale looting by foreign financial interests. In view of attempts to subject Argentina to this new world order, Seineldín told the court, he was

forced to choose between obedience to his military superiors and obedience to the Constitution which establishes the Armed Forces' primary mission as "defense of the highest interests of the nation . . . its honor, [its] territory." Because of bankers' policies, the colonel explained, the Armed Forces today are in no condition to carry out that mission.

What really frightens the *New York Times*, a mouthpiece for the banking community, is the fact that Seineldín's principled defense of national sovereignty, and willingness to identify Washington's rotten policies, is quietly catalyzing resistance to Bush's new world order throughout Ibero-America. Increasingly, military leaders in several countries recognize that the Anglo-Americans prefer to hand their nations over to drug-traffickers and communist guerrillas rather than permit patriotic forces opposed to bankers' usury to take power. Colombia, Guatemala, and El Salvador are examples of how U.S. policy is encouraging communist takeover in the Americas even as revolutions overturn communism in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

Perhaps this is why the *New York Times* worriedly reported in the same Sept. 7 edition that the philosophy of the Argentine Army nationalists, known as *carapintadas* or "painted faces," is that the "Argentine civilian government has compromised its traditions by aligning itself with the United States, which it considers has supported communism in the Soviet Union. Colonel Seineldín has asserted that the State Department is 'filled with communists.' "