

## Kirchner Rallies S. America To 'Build the New Times'

by Dennis Small

"The idea of South America as the Cinderella of the world is over. We don't want to be the backyard anymore; we want to take an active part in building the new times that await us."

These words were spoken by Argentine President Néstor Kirchner on Jan. 18, 2006, during a visit to neighboring Brazil. Kirchner was addressing a joint session of Brazil's Congress, a distinction bestowed on very few visiting dignitaries.

When Kirchner speaks, friend and foe alike listen. His government succeeded in negotiating an historic 65% write-down of the country's usurious public debt in March 2005. In September 2005, Kirchner's Foreign Minister Rafael Bielsa called for a New Bretton Woods, in a speech to the UN General Assembly. And in December 2005, Argentina and Brazil coordinated a surprise move to pay off the entirety of their respective debts to the International Monetary Fund, in an effort to deflate the IMF's ability to impose asphyxiating economic conditionalities on their countries. Néstor Kirchner, in a word, is the synarchist bankers' worst nightmare in South America.

"The times are propitious," Kirchner explained in another speech on Jan. 18, after meeting with Brazilian President Lula. "It is up to us to take advantage of them, and to understand that individually it will prove much more difficult to do this. International economic circumstances are favorable."

Kirchner's trip to Brazil is part of a December-January wave of intense regional diplomatic activity by a number of South American Presidents and Presidents-elect, whose intention is to promptly put in place a viable alternative to the insanity of looting and destabilization issuing from the Cheney-Bush Administration. In fact, the entire region is embarked on a kind of anti-Nazi revolt, as most dramatically

reflected in the results of the Jan. 15 Chilean Presidential elections, where the followers of the fascist Gen. Augusto Pinochet were trounced at the polls (see article, p. 41).

The fact that Pinochet's patrons—Henry Kissinger, George Shultz, Felix Rohatyn—are also behind the current drive to entrench Carl Schmitt's Nazi doctrine of law on the U.S. Supreme Court, has scarcely been lost on South America's political elite. Lyndon LaRouche's press releases and articles documenting the case have circulated widely in Ibero-America, and LaRouche Youth Movement demonstrations in Argentina, Colombia, and Mexico against Washington's "Schmittlerians" have also received prominent media coverage. The leading Madrid daily *El País* on Jan. 25 also editorially blasted Schmitt's followers in the Bush-Cheney Administration—an indication of an Iberian component of the South American anti-Nazi revolt (see *Feature*, p. 7).

In point of fact, the "favorable international circumstances" which Kirchner took note of in his speech in Brazil, are primarily the result of the string of major political blows that Dick Cheney et al. have suffered in recent months at the hands of LaRouche and allied Democratic and other forces. Whether South America's leaders are fully aware of it or not, it is these developments in Washington which have opened up the political space in which South Americans are now moving.

### Lunar Eclipse

Recall what was happening in South America a mere six months ago. Back then, U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld were in the thick of establishing a U.S. military base in the heart of South America, at Mariscal Estigarribia in Paraguay (see *EIR*, Sept.

2, 2005). That base was designed as the staging ground to unleash regional chaos and warfare, with the aid of the Reverend Moon cult, with its huge landholdings in the area. The first nation targetted for disintegration was Bolivia.

As *EIR* wrote at the time, Bolivia is highly polarized between left and right, with the gas-rich provinces of Santa Cruz and Tarija already talking about secession. Cheney's neo-cons were pushing these provinces, *EIR* wrote, "to split from Bolivia, form an independent country, and ally with neighboring Chile," playing on the historic hostility between Bolivia and Chile dating back to the 19th Century War of the Pacific. The Cheney-Rumsfeld plan "could include supra-national troop deployments to back up a new 'Santa Cruz Republic,'" *EIR* warned.

Compare that looming disaster to what just occurred on Jan. 22, at the inauguration of the new Bolivian President, Evo Morales. The President of Chile, Ricardo Lagos, not only attended that inauguration—the first visit of a Chilean President to a Bolivian inauguration since 1955—but he accepted Morales's symbolic invitation to meet with him in his private home, a modest apartment. After the meeting, both Lagos and Morales asserted their commitment to peaceful relations.

What brought about the change? A curious Ibero-American institution which Lyndon LaRouche once insightfully called *the Presidents' Club*.

## Presidents or Parliaments?

Ibero-America has historically had a tradition of nation-states built on republican Presidential systems modelled on that of the United States, as opposed to Anglo-Dutch liberal imperialism's parliamentary systems, such as those prevalent in Europe today, under which synarchist central bankers have de facto control. In Ibero-America, given the relative weakness of individual countries, the Presidents have tended to band together in a fraternity of sorts which—notwithstanding the other political and ideological differences among them—has given the Presidents a certain strength in unity.

Thus, whenever a new President is inaugurated in one Ibero-American country, it has been commonplace for most of the other Presidents to attend the ceremony, and welcome him into the fold. When one country's institutional stability is threatened, others rally to its support.

This informal Ibero-American Presidents' Club was greatly weakened over the last 10-15 years, as bone-crunching IMF austerity induced an every-man-for-himself outlook. On



top of that, synarchist agencies such as the National Endowment for Democracy (aka Project Democracy) and the World Bank, launched concerted warfare on the very *idea* of a Presidential system, on the grounds that it ipso facto fostered corruption, authoritarianism, and dictatorship. Taking a page from the Nazi jurist Carl Schmitt, they demanded that "Constituent Assemblies" be convoked to rip up the existing Constitutions, and that "more democratic" parliamentary systems be put in place. More often than not, the "anti-authoritarian" bilge of Nazi Martin Heidegger and his fascist sympathizers Hannah Arendt and Theodor Adorno was cited in support of such measures.

But by late 2005, the nearly defunct Ibero-American Presidents' Club sprang back into action. The turning point was the Oct. 23 landslide victory of Argentine President Kirchner's slate of candidates, in that country's mid-term election, which gave Kirchner the political backing to escalate his leadership role regionally. Consider the following chronology:

## A Chronology of Recent Diplomacy

**Oct. 23, 2005:** President Kirchner's Victory Front electoral coalition sweeps Argentina's midterm congressional elections, in a contest widely viewed as a plebiscite on his hard-line policy against IMF conditionalities and bankers' looting. Kirchner and his candidates also win undisputed control over the Peronist party, by defeating the candidates of his Peronist rival Eduardo Duhalde. Brazilian President Lula, who had been supporting Duhalde from the sidelines, and giving Kirchner only lukewarm support internationally, is quick to read the import of the election results.

**Nov. 4-5, 2005:** The Summit of the Americas in Mar del Plata ends in a stunning defeat for Washington's policy of free trade and globalization, which is rejected by a coalition of nations led by Argentine host Kirchner, despite massive U.S. pressure. Brazilian President Lula not only shares Argentina's intransigent opposition to the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas, but sends an unmistakable signal by leaving the summit before the final resolution is hammered out, and instructing his Foreign Minister to vote on the final document *whatever way the Argentines voted*—i.e., effectively giving Kirchner his proxy.

**Nov. 30, 2005:** Kirchner and Lula meet in Puerto Iguazú, Argentina, on the 20th anniversary of the 1985 integration agreement between the two nations, out of which came Mercosur, the Common Market of the South which today includes Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, and Paraguay, with Bolivia and Chile as associate members. The final communiqué from this meeting says that the two governments will take a joint position in talks with the IMF, and that the two countries will move forward in cooperation in space and nuclear technologies.

**Dec. 9, 2005:** At a meeting in Uruguay of the Mercosur council, Venezuela is admitted as a new member. The member states sign a Memorandum of Understanding endorsing Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez's proposal that a 5,000-mile natural gas pipeline be constructed from Venezuela's rich gas fields, down through Brazil and into Argentina and other South American nations.

**Dec. 13, 2005:** President Lula announces that Brazil will immediately pay off its entire debt to the IMF, some \$15.5 billion.

**Dec. 15, 2005:** President Kirchner announces that Argentina will immediately pay off its entire debt to the IMF, of about \$10 billion. "We are burying a good portion of the ominous past of infinite indebtedness and eternal adjustment," he explains, adding: "We have been instructed in impotence and told that we can't do anything." But now, he warns, the Argentine President will use his "popular mandate" to act as a protagonist, in the best interests of Argentina's people.

**Dec. 18, 2005:** Evo Morales is elected President of Bolivia, with a strong 54% majority.

**Jan. 13, 2006:** Bolivian President-elect Morales meets

with President Lula in Brasilia, Brasil.

**Jan. 15, 2006:** Michelle Bachelet is elected President of Chile, with over 53% of the vote.

**Jan. 17, 2006:** Bolivian President-elect Morales meets with President Kirchner in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

**Jan. 18, 2006:** Argentine President Kirchner visits Brazil, where he meets with President Lula, the head of the Supreme Court, and speaks before a joint session of Congress. The final communiqué of the Presidential meeting strongly reaffirms the Argentine-Brazilian "strategic alliance" as the "touchstone of South American integration," and their joint commitment to "solving situations that could affect regional peace and stability"—a clear reference to the Bolivia hot spot.

Both Lula's and Kirchner's speeches also announce their intention to help stabilize Bolivia, as well their ongoing cooperation on nuclear energy and aerospace. (See *Documentation*.)

**Jan. 19, 2006:** Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez joins Kirchner and Lula in Brazil, for a tripartite summit, whose final communiqué also stresses their joint commitment to support "Bolivia's political, economic, and social stabilization," as well as the South American gas pipeline project.

**Jan. 21, 2006:** Brazilian President Lula tells the Bolivian daily *La Razón* that the heads of state of Ibero-America have the obligation to help the new President of Bolivia, Evo Morales, govern. This includes opening the markets of Mercosur nations to alternative Bolivian exports, to replace the country's coca leaf exports. Lula also reports that he had asked Morales to draw up a plan of economic and other proposals to be given to Brazil, and that he had already spoken with the Presidents of Venezuela, Argentina, Peru, and Chile, about the proposal.

**Jan. 22, 2006:** Evo Morales is inaugurated as President of Bolivia, with 11 heads of state attending—including Kirchner, Lula, Chávez, and Chile's Ricardo Lagos. The presence of the Chilean President, in particular, punches a major hole in Cheney's gameplan of unleashing chaos and warfare across the Americas.