

World and Nation

Brazil faces presidential elections

By WAGNER DOTTO
Staff Writer

Brazil, the third most populous democracy in the world behind India and United States, holds its first direct presidential election in 29 years today amid its worst economic crisis in recent history.

The vote is mandatory for all Brazilians 18 years old and older and is optional for those between 16 and 18 years old. Eighty-two million people, more than the entire combined population of East and West Germany, are expected to choose among 22 candidates who represent communist, socialist, environmentalist and other "ist" views. Almost 70 percent of the voters are illiterate, semi-illiterate or have not completed the sixth grade, according to a recent government report.

Inflation has reached about 1,300

News Analysis

percent a year, an all-time record, and the minimum wage in September of about \$150 a month corresponded to only 13.2 percent of its 1940 value, when it was established for a family of four and its basic necessities. Income distribution, on the other hand, has become one of the worst in the world, according to World Bank figures. From 1960 to 1980, the wealthiest 10 percent of the population increased its participation in the national wealth from 39.6 percent to 51 percent.

Like other countries in Latin America, Brazil has a huge informal sector in the economy that has grown out of the government control. According to recent estimates, this sector generates a

total of \$176 billion annually. If correct, that estimated value would represent half of the gross national product and millions in taxes that the government is unable to collect.

To make things worse, Brazil is the largest debtor in the Third World, owing about \$110 billion to foreign banks.

Fernando Collor de Mello, a pro-business politician from Brazil's second smallest state who almost overnight became a national figure, is the leading candidate, according to several polls taken last week. He has ties with the military that ruled Brazil from 1964 to 1984, and defends the privatization of many state-owned companies.

In second place is Luis Inacio Lula da Silva, a trade union leader candidate backed by a leftist coalition that includes one of the two Brazilian communist parties. Da Silva is slightly ahead

of former Rio de Janeiro Gov. Leonel Brizola, a socialist, and has defended a strong state intervention in the economy.

The main concern in Brazil the last few days has been how the undecided voters will cast their ballots today. One of the polls published last Sunday by Folha de S. Paulo, a major Brazilian newspaper, showed that 26 percent of the voters are still undecided, after at least six months of electoral campaigning that included free air time on television for all parties.

If no candidate gets 51 percent of the votes today, a second-round election is scheduled for Dec. 17, when the two top vote-getters will compete against each other. A very polarized second round is expected, with two candidates representing two complete divergent plans of government.

Bush praises rapid changes in communist Eastern Bloc

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — President Bush declared his confidence Tuesday that "Europe will some day be whole and free," saluting a decision by Czechoslovakia to ease travel restrictions as just one more sign.

Bush said he was not concerned about the dizzying pace of change sweeping Eastern Europe. "I don't think it's moving too fast and I don't know of anybody in my administration that feels that it's moving too fast."

The White House said the administration was reviewing developments in Eastern Europe with an eye toward "changing relationships and new policies and programs."

"There are large issues of East-West relations, of the NATO-Warsaw Pact's future, of the status of the Soviet empire as these countries change their relationship with the Soviet Union," White House press secretary Marlin Fitzwater said.

News in Brief

Groups report on cholesterol

NEW ORLEANS — The nation's top public and private heart organizations released "overwhelming evidence" on cholesterol Tuesday that they said "more than justifies" the campaign to change the way Americans eat.

The American Heart Association and the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute prepared "The Cholesterol Facts" in reaction to an article in September's Atlantic Monthly called "The Cholesterol Myth."

The article's author, Washington writer Thomas Moore, analyzed a variety of research to make his point that the cholesterol scare has been overblown.

The organizations marshaled the same studies and many more to reach the opposite conclusion: Americans should cut down on saturated fat and cholesterol in their diet to minimize their risk of heart disease.

Retail sales fall in October

WASHINGTON — Retail sales fell a full 1 percent in October, driven down by a slumping auto market, and industrial production dropped 0.7 percent in its steepest fall in more than three years, the government said Tuesday.

But some analysts said the reports were not as pessimistic as they would appear. They noted that except for autos, most other sales categories rose and that the drop in industrial output was due largely to an aircraft strike and factory disruptions after the California earthquake.

The Commerce Department reported that retail sales dropped to a seasonally adjusted \$144.5 billion, the first decline since a 0.4 percent drop last February. Sales had risen 0.7 percent in September and 0.9 percent in August.

Namibian nationalist movement wins big

From Associated Press reports

WINDHOEK, Namibia — The black nationalist movement that fought South African rule for 23 years won a solid majority Tuesday in national elections but will have to bargain with rival parties in drafting a new constitution.

The leftist South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) won 384,567 votes, or 57 percent of 670,830 ballots cast, according to results announced Tuesday.

SWAPO's leaders had predicted their movement would easily win the two-thirds majority that would have enabled it to single-handedly write the constitution.

The Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, a multiracial coalition that favors a capitalist economy, finished second with 191,532 votes, or 29 percent. Thousands of SWAPO supporters

filled the streets of Windhoek, the capital, waving flags, singing and honking horns throughout the day.

The celebration carried on into the night in Katutura, the main black neighborhood on the edge of Windhoek.

"We struggled all the years for this day," said SWAPO President Sam Nujoma.

South African President F.W. de Klerk said his government was "grateful that the election proceeded peacefully, and thus accepts the outcome."

Namibians voted from Tuesday through Saturday for a 72-member assembly that will draft a constitution and declare independence for Namibia after 74 years of South African rule.

SWAPO will hold 41 seats in the assembly, and the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance 21 seats.

The United Democratic Front will

have four seats, followed by the conservative, all-white Action Christian National, with three. The Federal Convention of Namibia, National Patriotic Front and the Namibia National Front each won a single seat.

The assembly's decisions must be backed by at least 48 members.

"In spite of the difficulties, in spite of all the odds placed in our way to victory, the liberation movement has won," said senior SWAPO spokesman Hidipo Hamutenya.

The election result was seen as promising for a peaceful transition to independence for the sparsely populated region of southern Africa.

Some observers feared that if SWAPO won a two-thirds majority, it might have written a constitution leaning heavily in its favor.

Had the organization won less than 50 percent of the vote, it may have challenged the results and accused South Africa of trying to prevent a SWAPO government.

The chairman of the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, Dirk Mudge, said

his organization had no plans to align itself with another party, but "if SWAPO comes with a (constitutional) proposal we can live with, we will support it."

The assembly is to meet within a week, and the 1,500 South African troops in Namibia are to withdraw shortly. U.N. peacekeepers are scheduled to leave Namibia at the end of March.

The top U.N. official in Namibia, Martti Ahtisaari, said he expected Namibia to achieve independence before then. Ahtisaari, who certified the election results, said Namibia "has given the whole world a shining lesson in democracy."

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said he was confident the various parties would be able to work through their differences and adopt a constitution "with the same degree of enthusiasm and patriotism that they displayed during the course of the electoral process."

In addition to the U.N. monitors, dozens of private groups observed the elections.

West Germany set to help East Germany rebuild

From Associated Press reports

West Germany on Tuesday pledged massive financial aid in the style of the post-war Marshall Plan to rebuild East Germany's economy, but demanded political and economic reforms the communists have so far rejected.

The new communist premier said the Berlin Wall must remain standing to keep AIDS, crime and other Western problems out of his country. He promised a coalition government but didn't say whether the opposition could join it.

And West Berlin Mayor Walter Momper warned that the sudden opening of East Germany's borders was creating traffic jams, currency problems and other economic questions that the two governments must resolve.

West German Economics Minister Helmut Haussmann announced a six-point East German recovery plan that would include investments and joint ventures, as well as revamping the nation's dilapidated communications and transport systems.

Haussmann did not set a figure for the proposed aid, and said the plan would be useless if East Germany failed to carry out a "thorough change" in its centrally directed economy.

Haussmann compared his proposal to the Marshall Plan, brainchild of U.S. Secretary of State George C. Marshall, which sent more than \$12 billion in American aid from 1948-51 to help war-devastated Europe return to prosperity.

East German authorities have rejected the idea of adopting a completely free-market system.

New East German Premier Hans Modrow, a leading reformer in the communist ranks, says he wants "step by step" economic changes. He seems to be looking to streamline the bureaucracy, but has given no indication he'll urge sweeping changes such as those in Hungary or Poland.

Modrow was quoted in Tuesday's editions of West Germany's Bild newspaper as saying the Berlin Wall can remain open to travel but must remain

standing.

"In our country there is little criminal activity... cases of AIDS and drugs are virtually unknown. Our people are asking themselves why they shouldn't just leave that as it is," he was quoted as saying.

The government is considering opening part of the wall near the Brandenburg Gate as yet another passage between East and West Berlin, according to the official East German news agency ADN.

The gate, a huge columned monument, is close to the wall in East Berlin and is one of the city's best-known symbols.

Before East Germany opened its borders Thursday, the gate had been a major rallying point for demonstrators seeking freedom to travel to the West. Hundreds gathered there Tuesday in hopes a hole would be opened.

A leader of East Germany's biggest opposition group, New Forum, said the movement could work with a revamped Communist Party but that naming Modrow premier was not enough.

"I can imagine cooperating with a reformed Communist Party," said Jürgen Tallig, the spokesman for Neues Forum in Leipzig, the heart of the pro-democracy movement.

"But there are still too many people in top positions with whom dialogue is not possible," he said in a West German radio interview.

More sweeping change could come at an emergency party congress in East Berlin on Dec. 15-17. The congress, which has authority to change the entire party leadership, set policy and alter party statutes, was called late Monday by the party Central Committee.

Modrow, named premier on Monday, has called for a coalition government but gave no indication the opposition will take part in it, despite widespread protests pressing for an end to the communists' 40-year monopoly on power.

He said he would seek broader cooperation with the four small parties that have been aligned with the Communist Party.

Grossman

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dated by the enormous power of the destroyers. We need to legitimize life and the earth."

Aspirations need to be raised. Environmentalists can no longer be content with small decreases in harm to the environment, he said. People need to demand sweeping changes in the treatment of the environment to make a difference, instead of accepting reductions.

The government is doing very little to protect the environment, Grossman said. "Virtually nothing" in the Clean

Air Act, now under consideration by the Congress, will have a significant impact on the environment, and Grossman joked at President Bush's claim that he is an environmentalist.

He pointed to Amnesty International as a model for environmentalists to follow. They asked for definite change from the government and had a success rate of 25 percent last year, he said.

Grossman will conduct a workshop about corporate/labor cooperation and the environment at 3 p.m. today in 211 Union.

Israel

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Other than their own resistance strategies, Gvirtz said he felt the media's coverage of the uprising had helped to control some of the violence of the Israeli government.

"The press is what I call a public eye weapon."

"When the Israelis start doing something bad in the occupied territories, they are less likely to do something if they know the media are watching. If nobody was there, I'd be even more afraid of what the Israeli government might

do."

Gvirtz also said that in order for there to be peace, the resistance could not back down.

"There is a big difference between peace and resignation," Gvirtz said there could not be peace as long as the Israeli government tried to keep control over Palestinian lands.

As part of Human Rights Week, Gvirtz and Assailey will present a program titled "Prospects for a Peaceful Solution" on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. in Gerrard Hall. The Carolina Association for Palestinian Human Rights is sponsoring the talk.

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