



President Fernando Collor

INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS

The Brazilian Position



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Federative Republic of Brazil

**President Fernando Collor
Vice-President Itamar Franco**

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This is the first of a series of volumes to be issued regularly by the Press Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic.

The purpose of this initiative is to present Brazil's position with respect to various current and significant questions, such as north/south relations, the environment, indigenous matters and others.

Statements made by the President and drawn from speeches, interviews and articles will be used to express the nation's position on each of these topics.

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ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY

Aside from hampering our access to technological innovations, the developed nations are hindering us from taking economic advantage of purely national technologies. Thus, we must act on two fronts: the first within Brazil, to channel ever greater resources to research; and the second abroad, working so that these doors will be opened to us.

*Interview with newspaper directors
and editors, 07.03.90*

It is true that some nations still resort to force as a means of resolving their controversies. It is also true that the division of wealth between rich and poor continues as an aggression against the values of the human person. It is no less true that the intensification of trade flows and access to state-of-the-art technology seem restricted to a privileged few nations in detriment to the vast majority.

*Speech at the end of year greetings
to the diplomatic corp accredited
in Brasília, 12.11.90*

The developing nations desire access to new forms of knowledge because advances in clean technologies cannot be considered as

property of one or the other party, but rather as the common heritage of humanity. We want access to the technology that will aid us in overcoming the enormous distance that separates us from the developed world.

Article published in the Gazeta Mercantil, 06.20.91

We desire access to clean technology, the technology capable of reducing the enormous distance between the developed nations, holders of capital and technological knowledge, and the developing countries that do not possess capital nor access to knowledge.

Interview with journalist Boris Casoy, 06.21.91

I regret that every time we meet a demand of the First World, something occurs, new obstacles arise that hinder investments and technology transfers.

Dinner with foreign correspondents, 08.23.91

BIPOLARITY

Recently, we abandoned the bipolarity between the capitalist and communist worlds, imagining that we would enter a decade of peace and solidarity. However, this peace was broken and gave way to a new bipolarity: the division between rich and poor that is just as threatening to world stability as the former bipolarity that divided the world in a cold war and ideological conflicts.

Interview with NTV of Japan, 10.29.90

We stand before historical challenges that demand creation of a new international reality. The end of bipolarity has revealed the

limitations of ideological solutions. The greatest failure of the rigid bipolar system is in the fact that we are dramatically far from resolving the most fundamental problems of humanity.

*Speech at dinner for the President
of Ecuador, 11.06.90*

In wealthy nations, privileges and injustices persist. We have yet to formulate the concept of a healthy world. It is imperative that we follow a path based upon a profound revolution of universal consciousness to produce a society devoid of economic and social privileges, thus creating a situation of true equality of opportunity for all.

*Speech at dinner for the President
of Ecuador, 11.06.90*

World leaders are charged with avoiding the possibility of the ideological bipolarity we are now burying giving way to a new bipolarity between rich and poor. Aside from making solutions to the great problems of the world impossible, this unacceptable division would, in final analysis, make the horizon of universal peace we have begun to perceive an unfeasible goal.

Article published in the Gazeta Mercantil, 12.03.90

What some want to term a new world order is of deep concern to me. The world's new geopolitical configuration worries me. With the end of the cold war, ideological bipolarity has been left aside, and we are attempting to resolve the new bipolarity that has replaced it, seeking bridges of understanding with the developed world.

Television program Cara a Cara 03.03.91

From the ideological point of view, the end of the bipolar world led us to believe in the victory of democracy. However, this great empty space has been occupied by a new empire, the Empire of the North, standing alone, wealthy, prosperous, possessor of the most advanced forms of knowledge.

Interview with the newspaper Excelsior of Mexico, 07.12.91

At this moment in which new economic blocs are being formed and the world is taking on a new geopolitical configuration, I believe it opportune to construct bridges of economic understanding, so that we can build a world of peace and stability. With the decline of East-West bipolarity, we have been surprised at the appearance of a new bipolarity between the rich nations possessing capital and technology and the immense majority of nations denied access to new forms of knowledge.

*Speech at the Commission of the European
Parliament, 07.24.91*

We stand before a new cycle in the history of humanity, an era in which the co-existence of nations must be based upon the desire for peace and the unceasing pursuit of cooperation. We have come to the end of ideological bipolarity which exacerbated regional crises and blinded many before the paths of understanding.

*Speech at dinner for the President
of Angola, 09.09.91*

We are leaving a world accustomed to capitalism and communism and plunging into a world divided into rich and poor. This development model founded excessively upon the concentration of income and knowledge is no less of a threat to world stability.

*Interview with the newspaper
Nihon Keizai Shimbun, 11.09.91*

Relieved at the end of ideological bipolarity, I fear that the world is now witnessing the appearance of a new bipolarity between rich and poor. There is but one planet and one humanity. The abyss between rich and poor must be narrowed and one of the major forces behind this movement must be the creative power of entrepreneurs. The third millennium must be modeled upon solidarity, peace and development with social justice.

*Speech at the Meeting of Businessmen
of the Keidanren, Tokyo, 11.14.90*

EQUILIBRIUM

In the world of equilibrium that we seek, new ethical standards will be needed to determine the limit on unacceptable forms of greed and define new models of relations among States.

*Speech at the Passage of the Environmental
Torch, 06.05.91*

FIRST WORLD

At the start, we decided to adopt a stance that would clearly indicate Brazil's desire to become part of the First World. We elaborated a program that would lead irreversibly to concrete changes in the economy and Brazil's integration into this extraordinary new world we see growing around us.

Time Magazine interview, 07.03.80

For the first time in history, we will not permit the sacrifice of our development in exchange for payment of the external debt. We are opening our economy to position Brazil definitively among the nations of the First World.

*Speech to the country on nationwide television
and radio, 11.21.90*

We do not want to distance ourselves from the international financial community. We want to deepen our relations, insert ourselves competitively into this new world that is arising with the end of ideological bipolarity. In the framework of this modern view of the State, we want to prepare the nation to take its place together with the countries of the First World. Whether utopian or not, each of us must have an objective and this must be our objective.

Interview with the newspaper ABC, Madrid, 12.14.80

INTEGRATION

Brazil is open to the world. We desire increasing and competitive integration. Diplomacy will act intensively at the bilateral and collective level, constantly seeking new forms of cooperation, whether it be in the area of the economy, in the field of science and technology or in the political dialogue.

Inaugural speech at the Planalto Palace, 03.15.90

Brazil does not accept exclusion from the process of world transformation. National interest demands the path of gradual, constant and secure integration into the plenitude of the economic process. This is the reality of the planet's more developed nations. This is the real vocation of Brazil.

Inaugural speech at the Planalto Palace, 03.15.90

The world is moving towards integration, interrelations and interdependence and this calls for solidarity. I believe that it is precisely within this spirit that all of the actions of the developed world must be based from this point forward.

Interview with Newsweek Magazine, 09.21.90

The moment has imposed grave responsibilities upon us. We are dealing with the very feasibility of democracy and the possibility of achieving peace. International cooperation is essential. The criteria and requirements for this cooperation cannot be founded upon rhetorical formulas devoid of practical backing. Those who defend liberal orthodoxy cannot spend billions of dollars on subsidies and cannot block negotiations of fundamental importance to international trade, such as those at GATT. Those who hinder access to environmentally clean technologies cannot demand greater efficiency in terms of progress in the ecological sphere.

Article published in various newspapers, 12.30.90

MEGABLOCS

We cannot permit the distance between the developed world and the developing world to broaden. Should this come about, we will be digging the grave of our own planet. There must be an attitude marked by solidarity among nations and peoples. We cannot isolate ourselves in megablocs, in protectionist blocs determined to ignore the rest of the world.

Interview in the Pantanal, 06.05.90

There are three points that concern us. In the first place, the world's new geopolitical configuration, the formation of megablocs that will certainly be transformed into extremely protected markets. Secondly, there is the question of access to new forms of knowledge. In third place is the question of the external debt which is a heavy burden on our economies.

Interview with the Financial Times, 11.27.90

MODERNITY

Brazil is determined to be — and will be — a developed country, for it is our desire that all countries attain this status. One cannot speak of the progress of humanity without speaking of equal conditions for all men.

Speech at luncheon for heads of diplomatic missions, 03.16.90

Brazil's objective is to be a modern country in a modern world. However, it will have to follow a development model different from that with which we are familiar, since our planet will no longer tolerate the simple multiplication of systems marked by current levels of waste, pollution and consumption. We trust in the future and in man's capacity. Despite the gigantic difficulties to be coped with, we are optimistic and determined. We see other countries as friends and partners.

Article published in various newspapers, 12.30.90

Brazil desires and will reach the status of a modern country. Modernity is increasingly understood as the predomination of freedom over oppression, of social justice over privileges, of human rights over violence, of economic development over stagnation, of ecological awareness over consumerism, of peace over war. The building of a modern country presupposes the use of reason as the basic instrument in making decisions in matters of collective interest. The predominance of reason does not mean an insensitive government. We pursue reason marked by ethical content, a rationality in which man is always the means and ultimate end. We move toward modernity along the path of democracy.

Article published in various newspapers, 12.30.90

In the contemporary world there is no room for isolationist adventures. Intense market interdependence means an interdependence of development strategies in which cooperation and openness to the world community are of fundamental importance. This is the greatest commitment of modernity: to grow, but to grow together.

Speech at luncheon for the Director of the Federation of Industries, 06.05.91

The consistency with which our modernization project has been and will continue to be implemented should be reflected in increasingly clearer gains in terms of our external image. Now, we have the opportunity to improve our relative position in the arduous international competition for financial resources. Victory in this struggle is absolutely vital to our development. To a great extent, Brazil's external image will reflect our self-image.

Article published in various newspapers, 08.04.91

We must pursue modernity. To achieve this end, it is essential that we regain our investment capacity. However, to invest we need resources and, to seek these resources, we must foster internal reforms, eliminate the deficit once and for all, open channels of communication with the international community so that we can achieve sustained growth, with social justice and a correct distribution of income.

Article published in various newspapers, 06.25.91

MULTIPOLARITY

It is the understanding of the Brazilian government that the new geopolitical configuration of the world evinces a multipolar

structure. In its diplomatic and economic contacts, Brazil does not favor any region but rather maintains its firm decision to deepen commercial and diplomatic ties with traditional partners, without ignoring the possibility of opening doors to the new partners that are coming forward.

Interview with journalist Karl Heinz Nuber, 08.29.91

NEOCOLONIALISM

The nations of the Third World are suffering a new form of colonialism. No longer the classic form of colonialism, it is rather one of knowledge. The highly industrialized nations want to store and impede other countries from gaining access to technological progress. It is essential that this knowledge that exists in the world not be restricted nor considered the exclusive heritage of a few. Scientific and technological knowledge must be the legacy of all humanity.

Interview with The Globe and Mail, 06.28.90

One cannot permit that political colonialism and economic neocolonialism be replaced by an equally colonialist system in the area of knowledge, science and technology. The reasoning that denies universal access to the fruits of man's genius is the same that once denied the right to national independence and development to all peoples.

*Speech at the Special Session of the Assembly
of Portugal, 12.23.90*

PEACE

The moment of history in which we now live holds a strong promise of peace, though it has not yet abolished the specter of

instability and violence. To the extent in which the ideological and strategic bipolarity between East and West declines, the threat of a new bipolarity between the rich and poor nations has come upon the scene. We will only achieve peace if we find a way to distribute economic and scientific progress in the world community in an equitable manner.

*Speech at the graduation ceremony of the Army
Command and Staff School, 11.28.90*

The suffering of billions of men, women and children in all parts of the world must be the number one question of international relations. We cannot permit that the celebrated end of ideological bipolarity be replaced by another even more profound form of bipolarity. There will be no solid and lasting peace if the idea that one person's life is more valuable than that of others is allowed to prevail.

Speech at dinner for President Bush, 12.03.90

The essential element in Brazil's foreign policy is the struggle for world peace. This is not a rhetorical position but rather a constant effort to make effective and meaningful contributions to disarmament and peace. Let us construct a new world of justice, peace and ecological balance. A world of good will and understanding, a better world.

Speech on World Environment Day, 06.05.91

The perception is growing that the major threat to world peace is the increasing gap between the developed nations and those societies that still suffer from profound material scarcities. This is the moment to build bridges, not to raise new walls: the quality of the peace we are capable of building will define the civilization in which we will live.

Address to the Washington Exchange, 06.18.91

If we intend to build a world of peace, a politically stable world, we must seek urgent and realistic solutions marked by solidarity for this enormous problem of the growing distance that separates the nations of the south from those of the north. We must reduce the disparities between the community of the wealthy and the community of the poor.

*Speech at the Inaugural Session of the First
Iberian-American Summit, 07.18.91*

It is our hope that, from this moment forward, we will stand together in proposing to the First World a discussion of the enormous disparities that separate the north from the south; in contributing to the construction of a world in which peace will no longer be a rhetorical option of humanity but rather a reality of our daily lives. A world in which social justice corrects these tremendous distortions that have made us fear for a future of stability. Above all, we hope to bring our continents together in the pursuit of a more just and more fraternal society, marked by profound solidarity.

Speech at Harare Airport, Zimbabwe, 09.12.91

PROTECTIONISM

I cannot fail to cite our concerns with what has been occurring at the very core of GATT, for it signals an exacerbated protectionism prejudicial to the interests of our countries as we open our borders to the world, as we are now opening them, eliminate subsidies, while some communities remain locked in closed positions, with no intention of conceding any points whatsoever.

Interview with the Financial Times, 11.27.90

It is with great concern that I view the position of the European Economic Community at the GATT negotiating table. This extremely protectionist position is out of tune with the new moment through which the world is passing.

Interview with the newspaper ABC of Madrid, 12.14.90

The advances of science and technology that have affected the production systems and very organization of society have not been disseminated throughout the community of nations. The universalization of economic, commercial and financial relations that has accentuated interdependence among the centers of production and consumption has not been able to overthrow protectionist and discriminatory barriers that have gained in strength in detriment to greater interaction among nations.

*Speech at the 1990 graduation ceremony
of the Rio Branco Institute, 05.29.91*

RECIPROCITY

In the international trade sector, it is difficult to understand protectionist measures, in the framework of the increasingly interdependent world in which we live and at a moment in which we are adopting measures aimed at opening our economy. We desire reciprocal treatment. We want to break out of the cocoon in which we isolated ourselves from the rest of the world so that we can insert ourselves competitively into the international market.

Article published in the Gazeta Mercantil, 06.20.91

All ideologically based forms of government and development that have been tried down through the history of humanity have

demonstrated that the only way to find stability is within the democratic system. For this reason, I believe that the nations of the north will want to grant reciprocal treatment to the countries of the south.

Interview with Mexican TV, 07.12.91

SOLIDARITY

It will only be possible to build a world of peace if we constantly remind the developed nations of their responsibility for avoiding the widening of the abyss that separates the developed and developing nations. In this way, we will establish an axis of solidarity in the pursuit of solutions to the world's difficulties.

Gazeta Mercantil, 06.20.91

The end of ideological bipolarity cannot be followed by an even more pernicious bipolarity dividing nations into the camps of developed and prosperous and those marginalized and facing difficulties in their attempts to resolve the very grave problems of their peoples. If we want to build an ethically more just world marked by greater solidarity, we must seek ways of reducing the abyss that is growing between rich and poor nations.

*Speech at the opening of the Meeting of Ministers of Health
of the Southern Cone Nations, 07.29.91*

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