

Brasília

O **New York Times** dedicou grande parte de sua segunda página, na edição de sábado, 3 de agosto, a uma reportagem sobre Brasília. O trabalho, do correspondente Alan Riding, destaca o esforço do governador José Aparecido de Oliveira para corrigir as distorções ocorridas na cidade durante os 21 anos de autoritarismo.

"Pouco depois que um novo governo civil tomou posse no Brasil, em março, os três homens idosos que projetaram Brasília foram convidados a retornar para ver o que estava errado e o que poderia ser consertado em seu projeto de 25 anos". Assim começa a reportagem, frisando que Lúcio Costa, Oscar Niemeyer e Roberto Burle Marx aceitaram com entusiasmo a ideia e culpavam "a desaparecida ditadura" pelos erros ocorridos na cidade.

O trabalho aponta a satisfação de José Aparecido pela colaboração dos três "pais" de Brasília: "Nós temos sorte de que os três ainda estejam ativos. Todos os que falam que Brasília foi construída para ser bela mas não funcional estão errados. Os governos militares não tentaram manter Brasília viva. Eles a aceitaram como um fato, mas sem convicção ou entusiasmo", disse o governador.

Riding assinala que, de acordo com o projeto original, a cidade deveria ter "uma população de 600 mil habitantes no ano 2000, mas Brasília está agora com 1 milhão e 600 mil habitantes, dois terços dos quais vivendo em oito cidades-dormitórios".

Destaca ainda que, sendo projetada como uma capital política, a cidade "funcionou mais como um quartel-general para os sucessivos regimes militares, uma arena mais para ordens do que para debates. E sem ninguém para protestar, novas construções foram permitidas sem o menor respeito ao projeto original".

O Mastro

O repórter assinala que Niemeyer pediu a remoção de "um descomunal mastro de bandeira metálico colocado em 1972 em frente ao Palácio Presidencial" e sugeriu novos vitrais na catedral. "Também disse que o terreno ao lado da catedral poderia acomodar seus projetos há muito engavetados de um Ministério da Cultura, do Museu



Guatemala Economy Deep in Gloom.

By JAMES LAMOTHE

GUATEMALA—There are few signs of economic recovery in Guatemala, where the national currency is sliding so fast that importers increase prices almost daily.

By any measure, Guatemala's ultra-free-market economy, the most powerful in Central America, has fallen into the worst economic depression it has suffered in 50 years. The crisis appears to be the main reason that the army has decided to overrule presidential elections in November, ending 30 years of almost absolute military rule. But the crippled economy is likely to provide an immediate and painful political test for whoever takes office.

Corruption in recent military rule, capital flight estimated at \$1 billion, falling prices for agricultural exports and a loss of tourism and interest money after a vicious civil war all appear to have helped drain coffers and increase the public debt to more than \$2 billion.

"We have dug our own grave," said Mario Solares, an opposition presidential candidate for the 1990 Democratic Party. "How was we going for someone to bury us?"

American officials talk of trying to prevent complete collapse until a civilian president is able to take office in January. The Guatemalan head of state, General Mejía Victores, says he expects the United States to give the government increased assistance.

Despite Congressional skepticism about Guatemala's battered human rights record, United States economic aid has steadily risen to more than \$200 million this year.

But could any new regime in a Black-And-the-White, a Western official said.

The growing economic difficulties have already touched off serious political consequences. Hoping to recover suspended \$20 million standby loan from the International Monetary Fund, the Government announced an austerity program in April.

The resulting protest, mostly from businessmen dependent on access to foreign markets, led to a coup against the Government. Several Western diplomats and businessmen, Guatemala's problems appear to be more than skin deep. Income distribution is highly skewed in favor of a few elite, and an extensive United States Embassy study points out "serious inequalities" in the ownership of land.

In this largely peasant society, the control of land is more concentrated than in El Salvador before land distribution, the study says. Much fertile land lies fallow in large estates.

In addition, Guatemala has one of the lowest tax rates in the world, about 12 percent of the national gross domestic product. One consequence is that almost no money is available for public programs to ease the burden of economic decline on the poor.

A foreign diplomat who specializes in economic matters contended that the attitude of the powerful Guatemalan private sector, considered one of the most conservative in Latin America, was the key issue. "Effective development," he said, "is not possible without the private sector. But we do not seem to have any responsibility for developing the infrastructure of the well-being of the population as a whole," the expert said. "It is the critical question of this country, where there is an enormous gap between reality and power."

Businessmen expressed their claim when the Government tried to raise taxes in April. "The business community," he said, "is not in a position to pay more taxes."

The coordinating committee of agricultural, industrial, commercial and financial associations demanded that the austerity package be withdrawn and permanently rescinded, and that the Government be dissolved.

The removal of a huge military garrison put up in 1982 by the army in the town of Patzún, where it was a base for the army, was seen as a sign of the army's willingness to accept a peace pact.

The diplomat said he was at a meeting of the army officers at the height of the standoff when the businessmen received a phone call. After a brief exchange, the businessman told the caller, "We do not have Huehuetenango."

The diplomat took the reference to mean that the army officer in command of the large military base in Huehuetenango had not agreed to back plans for a coup.

But the pressure tactics appeared to work. One night, General Mejía Victores went on national television to declare that the austerity package would be preventing. The next day, without explanation, he withdrew the plan. Within two weeks, he also dismissed his Minister of Finance and Economy, as the private sector had demanded.

Apparently in an effort to save face and buy time, General Mejía Victores then called for a national discussion to be held on the economic crisis, the national university and the church to look for measures to end the economic crisis.

After weeks of discussion, the negotiations produced a few mild tax increases that no one seems to think will even begin to solve the problems besetting the country.

"You just gave up," a Western diplomat said, contending that most problems will be left for a civilian government to solve.

Brasília's Capital: Old-Age Pains at 25

By ALAN RIDING

BRASILIA, Aug. 3—After a new administration took office in Brasília today, the city's 25th birthday was celebrated with a parade and a series of events.

The parade, which was held in the city's main square, featured a float with a large clock face, symbolizing the city's age. The float was carried by a group of people, and a large crowd gathered to watch the parade.

The city's 25th birthday was also celebrated with a series of events, including a concert and a fireworks display. The events were held in the city's main square, and a large crowd gathered to watch the celebrations.

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Aparecido e Niemeyer são destaques na página do **New York Times**

livre do crime que convulsiona outras cidades brasileiras e oferece um ambiente saudável para as crianças"

Após comentar a questão das mordomias que a Nova República busca superar, Riding refere-se à escassez de moradias nas cidades-satélites onde "mais de um milhão de pessoas vivem hoje obrigadas a gastar um terço dos seus salários na viagem diária ao Plano Piloto".

Destaca igualmente o problema do desemprego e diz que, agora, paradoxalmente, essa capital industrial tem que atrair indústrias e novos empregos. "Nós podemos encontrar fábricas que não afetem o ambiente", diz José Aparecido. "Para o pouco que veio para cá, temos que dar a segurança de que o sonho não se converterá mais um pesadelo."