

THE INSPECTION PANEL

INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

1818 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20433

Telephone: (202) 458-5200
Cable Address: INTBAFRAD

IPN REQUEST RQ97/1

March 19, 1997

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

Dear Sir:

Re: Request for Inspection - Brazil: Itaparica Resettlement and Irrigation Project (Loan 2883-1-BR)

The Inspection Panel (the "Panel") received on March 12, 1997 a Request for Inspection (the "Request") dated March 12, 1997 from a group of about 121 individuals and an organization called Pólo Sindical do Submédio São Francisco - representing people who live in the project area (the "Requesters") who claim that they have been directly, materially and adversely affected by acts and omissions of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (the "Bank"). The Request claims that the standards of living, health and economic-well being of people living in the project area have been directly and adversely affected as a result of construction of the Itaparica Hydroelectric dam—located on the São Francisco River, at the border of the Bahia and Pernambuco states—the faulty execution of the above-referenced project, and the Bank's omissions and failures in the preparation and implementation of the project. Specifically they claim, inter alia, that after ten years of involuntary resettlement of the project area population (a) only 35% of the project's six irrigation systems have been completed, 34% are under construction and 31% are still in the design phase; (b) the Tuxá indigenous community has been resettled in the Municipality of Rodelas but are unable to grow crops, since the irrigation system promised is still under design; (c) several of the irrigation systems already constructed have serious operational and maintenance problems; (d) the delays in the installation and commissioning of the irrigation projects have contributed to an increase of violence in the resettled communities, to alcoholism and family breakdown; (e) there is an evident deterioration—because of the poor quality of the materials utilized in construction—of some of the project's 110 agricultural settlements (Agrovilas) which include health and education infrastructure; and (f) in general, a significant proportion of the about 40,000 beneficiaries (six thousand families) are in worse social and economic conditions than before the construction of the Itaparica dam. The Requesters claim to be harmed as a result of alleged violations of various provisions of Bank policies and procedures set forth, inter alia, in the following:

- Environmental Policy for Dam and Reservoir Projects (OD 4.00 - Annex B)
- Environmental Assessment (OD 4.01)
- Involuntary Resettlement (OD 4.30)
- Indigenous Peoples (OD 4.20)
- Supervision (OD 13.05)

In accordance with paragraph 17 of the Panel's Operating Procedures (the "Operating Procedures"), I am notifying you that I have on March 19, 1997, which is also the date of the dispatch of this notice, registered the Request in the Inspection Panel Register.

All communications with the Requesters in connection with the Request will be sent to Mr. Eraldo José de Souza at the address listed below.

March 19, 1997

In accordance with paragraph 18 of Bank Resolution No. 93-10 and paragraph 18(d) of the Operating Procedures, Bank Management is hereby notified that it must provide the Panel no later than April 17, 1997 with written evidence that it has complied, or intends to comply with the relevant policies and procedures in the implementation of the above-referenced project. The essential criteria for the response to the Request are set out in paragraph 33 of the Operating Procedures.

The Request has been assigned IPN Request Number RQ97/1.

Sincerely yours,

Richard E. Bissell
Chairman

TO: Mr. Eraldo José de Souza
Coordenador Geral
Pólo Sindical do Submédio São Francisco
Rua Dantas Barreto, 139
Petrolândia, Pernambuco
Brazil

TO: Mr. James D. Wolfensohn
President
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
Room E-1227

[by hand against confirmation]

cc: The Executive Directors and Alternates
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development