Brazil: Plebiscite On Form Of Government Scheduled For Sept. 7, 1993

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On Sept. 7, 1993, voters are to choose whether to retain the current presidential form of government, or change to a parliamentary system. The latter option includes a monarchy, because monarchists collected 45,000 signatures. Established in May, the Pro-Brazil Monarchy Council publishes a monthly magazine and holds conferences throughout the country to promote the cause, using the slogan: "Wake up to what’s real; monarchy is ideal!" According to retired Gen. Pedro de Araujo Braga, "The republic has failed. Only monarchy can give us stability and respectability." A survey published by the newspaper Folha de Sao Paulo in early May indicated that 12% of Brazilians favored the idea. Eleven percent of pro-monarchists want the king to be a descendant of Pedro II. Two candidates with a lot of support were Antonio Ermirio de Moraes, a prominent businessperson, and Pele, the former soccer star. Monarchists note that royal families head stable, prosperous democracies in such countries as Belgium, Britain, Denmark, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain and Sweden. Former ambassador Jose Osvaldo Meira Penna, a prominent royalist, said a king would lend stability to the political system by mediating between competing interests. (Basic data from AP, 06/06/91)

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