

BRAZILIAN PETROLEUM CORP
Form 6-K
May 15, 2003

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 6-K

Report of Foreign Private Issuer
Pursuant to Rule 13a-16 or 15d-16 of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the month of May, 2003

Commission File Number 1-15106

PETRÓLEO BRASILEIRO S.A. - PETROBRAS

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Brazilian Petroleum Corporation - PETROBRAS

(Translation of Registrant's name into English)

**Avenida República do Chile, 65
20035-900 - Rio de Janeiro, RJ
Federative Republic of Brazil**
(Address of principal executive office)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover Form 20-F or Form 40-F.

Form 20-F Form 40-F

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Yes No

Petrobras clarifies doubts on Social Security

(Rio de Janeiro, May 14, 2003). PETROLEO BRASILEIRO S.A Petrobras, (BOVESPA: PETR3 / PETR4, NYSE: PBR / PBRA, LATIBEX: XPBR / XPBRA), Brazil's largest oil and gas, petrochemicals and energy company, announces that with respect to the list of INSS (National Institute of Social Security) debtors, among them Petrobras, published by the Social Security Ministry, the company wishes to clarify as follows:

- Petrobras, itself, has no outstanding payments with the INSS. The published amounts refer to payments that the INSS understands were not made by the outsourced service providers contracted by Petrobras.
- Petrobras is considered by the INSS as jointly and severally responsible for its contracted service providers. In the case of all litigation, the Company has already been taking the appropriate legal and administrative steps, contesting the claims and requesting that its contracted service providers supply the necessary proof of social security payments. In the mean time, the Company is provisionally booking the value of all the actions to its balance sheet.
- Pursuant to Law 8212/91, Petrobras requires, in the case of all civil construction contracts, that proof of INSS payments be made by its contracted service providers. In all other service contracts employing substantial numbers of workers, the Company discounts 11% from the invoiced value, paying the amount directly to the INSS.
- As from January 2003, the verification of the control of the legal obligation to present evidence of tax payments on the part of contracted parties has been automated such that payment for services rendered is now only effected following proof of settlement of such mandatory charges.

<http://www.petrobras.com.br/ri/ingles>

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This document may contain forecasts that merely reflect the expectations of the Company's management. Such terms as "anticipate", "believe", "expect", "forecast", "intend", "plan", "project", "seek", "should", along with similar or analogous expressions, are used to identify such forecasts. These predictions evidently involve risks and uncertainties, whether foreseen or not by the Company. Therefore, the future results of operations may differ from current expectations, and readers must not base their expectations exclusively on the information presented herein.

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

Date: May 15, 2003

PETRÓLEO BRASILEIRO
S.A--PETROBRAS

By: */s/* José Sergio Gabrielli de
Azevedo

**José Sergio Gabrielli de
Azevedo
Chief Financial Officer
and Investor Relations
Director**

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This press release may contain forward-looking statements. These statements are statements that are not historical facts, and are based on management's current view and estimates of future economic circumstances, industry conditions, company performance and financial results. The words "anticipates", "believes", "estimates", "expects", "plans" and similar expressions, as they relate to the company, are intended to identify forward-looking statements. Statements regarding the declaration or payment of dividends, the implementation of principal operating and financing strategies and capital expenditure plans, the direction of future operations and the factors or trends affecting financial condition, liquidity or results of operations are examples of forward-looking statements. Such statements reflect the current views of management and are subject to a number of risks and uncertainties. There is no guarantee that the expected events, trends or results will actually occur. The statements are based on many assumptions and factors, including general economic and market conditions, industry conditions, and operating factors. Any changes in such assumptions or factors could cause actual results to differ materially from current expectations.
