

Exclusive NSIPS Translation, from Izvestia:

“Mexico After The Elections”

July 17 (NSIPS) — The following article appeared in the July 12 Izvestia, the official Soviet government daily, under the byline R. Tuchnyi.

The modern history of Mexico is measured in six-year periods — the length of time that a president is in power. The bourgeois-democratic revolution of 1910-1917 not only put an end to the 30 year reactionary dictatorship of Diaz, but also established in the constitution the principle of forbidding re-election of the head of state and government.

On July 4 the new president of Mexico became known — José López Portillo, the candidate of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI).

For almost half a century the PRI has played the leading role in the life of Mexico. Closely tied in with the state apparatus, it has for all these years had its representatives at the roots of power, and its political course has changed depending on which of its ruling classes held the top leadership of the party. The presidency of Lázaro Cárdenas (1934-1940) left a great imprint on the history of Mexico, when representatives of patriotic sentiments in the national bourgeoisie nationalized the oil and carried out other important progressive reforms, strengthening the economic independence of the country and beginning the construction of a large state sector.

At the present stage the development of the situation in Mexico is characterized by an increased polarization of social and political forces. The local oligarchy — an economically strong clan of large financiers and landowners, acting in harmony with American capital — does not conceal its hostility to the state legislation which limits its entrepreneurial appetites. It would like to manage things so as to give itself scope for uncontrolled exploitation of national wealth and of the people, and politically to establish a reactionary dictatorial regime, like those which now exist in several states of the Latin American continent.

The extreme right forces became especially active on the eve of the present elections. The landowners started behaving more aggressively; and in answer to the just demands of the landless dwellers in the Mexican countryside, they have more and more frequently had recourse to savage reprisals against peasant leaders — there have been tens of murders by their “white bands.” Several latifundists even went so far as to cut back agricultural production, which did economic harm to the country.

Large industrial-financial groupings openly came out against the right of workers to strike. With unprecedented fury they went up in arms against the governmental law limiting speculation on plots of land in the cities. Matters went so far that influential financial big shots met in Monterrey at a secret conference to agree on actions against certain governmental measures.

It was evident that the upper strata of the Mexican oligarchy was trying to exert pressure on certain circles in the government and to turn the trend of the electoral campaign to the right. Concerning the Monterrey meeting, President Luis Echeverría remarked that the same people participated in it who, after the overturning of the Salvador Allende government in Chile, wanted to do the same thing in Mexico. The candidate (López Portillo) from the PRI called them Ku Klux Klan-types.

In the past the extreme reactionary forces opposed the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party in presidential elections with their main political stronghold — the Party of National Action (PAN). But this time dissension within the party went so far that its

leaders could not even register their candidate for the post of president and were limited to participation in the electoral struggle for a place in the senate and the house of deputies. However, disorganization in the camp of the reactionary opposition does not mean that the extreme right forces intend to give up their attempts to direct the development of the country into another channel.

A broad electoral campaign was waged by the Mexican Communist Party (PCM), together with the Movement of Socialist Organizations and the Socialist League. The leadership of the PCM has stressed that the main goal of its electoral campaign is to mobilize the masses around a program called “The National Movement for Democracy.” And although the authorities did not allow the candidate from the PCM — Valentin Campa — to be included on the candidates list, still the active participation of the party in the electoral struggle strengthened its political position and influence.

In five months, the elected president of Mexico will start his work. López Portillo stated that his policy will be directed at raising the standard of living of broad layers of the population and achieving full employment. On questions of foreign policy, the government intends to continue the present course for further development of relations with all countries of the world.

On the road of its development Mexico, as an independent country, has achieved no few successes. But it must now resolve many problems in the name of social progress and strengthening of its Sovereignty.

Special to NSIPS:

Statement By Venezuelan Ambassador To Mexico

July 17 (NSIPS) — The following statement by Dr. Francisco Herrera Luque, Venezuelan ambassador to Mexico, was given to NSIPS to clarify impressions left by an interview the Ambassador granted to the Mexico City daily Ultimas Noticias of July 7, on the potentially volatile Venezuela-Guyana border issue. Tensions in this area have been deliberately fomented by Kissinger's Institute for Policy Studies to ignite the Rand Corporation's “regional wars” scenario in the northern tier of South America. The nature of the questions and the editing of the interview in Ultimas Noticias, the afternoon edition of the Institute-controlled Mexican daily Excelsior, implied that Venezuela would consider invading Guyana to “liberate” the people in the western half of that country who “want to be annexed to Venezuela.” The interview also omitted any mention by Ambassador Herrera that Venezuelan-Guyanese relations “are absolutely normal and cordial.”

Excelsior is linked to the Venezuelan weekly Resumen, which is also edited by Institute agents. Resumen has been a key source of provocative lies against Guyana in an effort to inflame the border issue within the right wing of the Venezuelan military. Forces allied with Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez are aware that a military adventure against Guyana would lead to the immediate end of civilian government in Venezuela.

Over the last two decades of the nineteenth century, Venezuela was dispossessed of three-fourths of its national territory.

In that period of Victorian Imperialism, Venezuela was unable to oppose such acts of exploitation. We were a poor and injured nation, recovering from two wars, without the wealth and military power needed to defend what was stolen from us. Our country did not, however, renounce the rights of sovereignty over these territories.

Years before the independence of Guyana, Venezuela again demanded that England return to the lands.

Since 1965 the maps of our country include the claimed zone.

When Guyana achieved independence, Venezuela transferred its claims to the new state and Venezuela persists (in making such claims - ed) to this date, as is public knowledge.

Venezuela, without renouncing its rights, has never harassed nor threatened Guyana, since Venezuelans have profound convictions

never to attack small countries and even more so if it is as demilitarized as is our neighboring country. Our armies have never crossed our borders for imperialist ends. When they went abroad, with (Simon) Bolivar in the lead, it was to help our brother peoples from Colombia to Bolivia win their Independence.

This does not mean, however, that with this we renounce our sovereignty. The Foreign Offices of Venezuela and Guyana have been conducting dialogues on this question for years. I am neither informed nor authorized to give any more comment in respect to these talks. I am giving you these declarations in order to clarify in Mexico at the request of the press, whatever doubt could exist on the matter. The relations between the two countries, despite their differences, are absolutely normal and cordial.

Signed by Francisco Herrera Lague, Amb. and Maria Isabel Ferrero de Gonzalez, Press Attache, Mexico, July 13.

NSIPS Special Report

ICLC Calls For Emergency Debt Moratorium For Peru To Prevent Continental Rand War

July 17 — Three months ago the International Caucus of Labor Committees (ICLC) issued an international warning of the threat of a rightwing coup against the pro-development government of Peru, and the danger that a successful coup would lead almost inevitably to war with Chile and a chain reaction of territorial wars across the Latin American continent. The bloodless coup on Friday, July 16, which purged the leading leftist ministers in the military government, and brought the government firmly under the control of civilian and military rightwing forces controlled by U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, has escalated the danger of continental war to a point of immediate gravity.

The ICLC warned last April that the Peruvian rightwing military is committed to waging a revanchist war with Chile, to regain Peruvian territory conquered by Chile in the original War of the Pacific in 1879. This revanchist obsession of the military rightwing — profiled extensively by RAND agent and top Kissinger advisor Luigi Einaudi — was the issue around which leading rightwing agents split the Army, and forced continued concessions from the pro-development military.

Since the emergence of Peru as a Third World leader in the fight for a New World Economic Order and development — and particularly since Foreign Minister De la Flor's endorsement of moratoria on Third World foreign debt at the February UNCTAD conference in Manila — U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and the Wall Street bankers have used blatant economic warfare, internal subversion, destabilization, and the threat of RAND regional war to try to destroy the pro-development elements in the military government and crush the working class. Kissinger has targetted Peru for "Chileanization" to prevent the possibility of a Peruvian debt moratorium declaration which would have triggered a chain reaction of moratoria throughout the Third World, and broken the death grip of the Dollar Empire.

It is well known by Kissinger, Wall Street, Rockefeller international finance agencies, and governments throughout the Third World that prior to yesterday's coup, the Peruvian pro-development forces had been actively organizing for a debt moratorium, and that the key factor in their defeat was a lack of critical international support.

We remind all individuals, financial and business layers, and governments with an interest in the continued existence of Latin America, that without open international support for the pro-development forces in Peru within the days ahead, the coup or-

dered by Kissinger last Friday will lead to the devastation of the entire Latin American continent through a RAND-scripted "30 Years War" holocaust. We remind you, as we did in April, that the rightwing now holding the reins of power in Peru is bent on war with Chile, a war which would quickly force a geopolitical military lineup across the continent and set off longstanding territorial disputes and hostilities.

If Rockefeller, Kissinger and their RAND scenario-writers are not stopped now, their policy of destabilizations, promotion of genocidal regional wars, economic warfare, terrorism and the imposition of fascist dictatorships throughout the Third World to prevent Third World debt moratoria will inevitably lead the world to a general thermonuclear confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union.

An immediate, emergency debt moratorium for Peru is the only basis on which the pro-development military forces in Peru, backed by a working class ready to fight, can wage a successful counterattack, and overturn Kissinger's coup.

Anyone and everyone who has an interest in the continued existence of Latin America and its potential as a market for trade, as a site for industrial and capital-intensive agricultural development, and its very ability to support human life, must ensure that a moratorium on Peru's foreign debt is granted — now.

On July 16, the three members of the Peruvian cabinet most closely identified internationally with the struggle of the Third World and internally with uncompromising commitment to national development were forced out of their posts. The most important nationalist in Peru, Gen. Jorge Fernandez Maldonado who served as Prime Minister, War Minister, and Commanding General of the Army, and one other senior general were forced into retirement in order to make room for right-wingers to take over those powerful positions.

No official explanation has yet been given for the elimination of the revolutionaries from the Revolutionary Government and their replacement by conservative and pro-imperialist elements.

This "bloodless coup" was the immediate result of an uprising by the Navy and parts of the Air Force and the Army against the progressive forces, but can best be understood as part of a long series of economic, political and military attacks and threats against Peru. NSIPS has over the last year exposed and published details on these destabilization campaigns and the various representatives of the State Department, RAND Corporation, and