

Answering Atlanticist Lies Lopez Portillo Says He Will Follow Echeverria's Foreign and Domestic Policies

The following interview with Lopez Portillo by Djucka Juluis for the Yugoslav magazine Politika and reprinted in the July 19 Mexican daily El Dia honestly presents Lopez Portillo's view of key domestic and international issues which expose the numerous Atlanticist press reports as blatant lies.

Question: The people of Mexico have just elected you President by an impressive majority. How do you interpret this mandate and what do you think the Mexicans expect of you during the next six years?

Lopez: I interpret the copious vote as an affirmation by the people of Mexico of the democratic system a referendum in favor of the democratic system by which the Mexican Revolution expresses itself. The people of Mexico expect us to solve two big problems: to guarantee food production for present and future generations and to guarantee energy sources to solve the problems of employment and all that this involves...

Question: What does the Mexican Revolution mean for you today? What do you think are its basic tasks?

Lopez: My perspective is that we're going to be living through a process of restructuring for the rest of this century, after which we will reach a more or less definitive equilibrium, with a population which will be 80 per cent urban and 20 per cent rural, with a slight tendency for further decreases in the rural proportion. But we're going to live through periods of great turbulence while this structural change goes on.

Question: It's said that you think that basic decisions shaping Mexico in the Twenty First Century will be made during your six-year presidency. What are these decisions?

Lopez: I think that we have an historic opportunity to change the course of the Revolutionary Institutions. This change will follow through on President Echeverria's return to the revolutionary path marked by President Cardenas (1936-42). After Cardenas, the necessities of development forced us — like many other countries — into a "developmentist" model with a semi-capitalist economy. The industrialization effort had a social and an economic price. With the completion of this stage, in 1970, Echeverria's revolutionary consciousness brought the country back to its path and today we have the opportunity, with all the national and international institutions which Echeverria

revolutionized, to stick to his path and revitalize the Mexican Revolution.

If we don't achieve this revitalization, we will run the risks, now being run by Latin America, of being diverted into fascism and other dangerous possibilities. We have to promote and continue — not terminate — this task

Question: What do you see as the role of Mexico in a changing world? Of course you will continue the active foreign policy of President Echeverria.

Lopez: Definitely ... Echeverria understood that the efforts of a country to develop could not succeed without a more just international economic order, and thus a more just set of rights and obligations in international relations We seek an understanding with those countries which sell raw materials, buy technology and are avid for financing. Thus we will keep promoting our relations with the Third World countries and fighting for an international law which solves in a more logical way the savage problems of this unfortunate world.

Question: What must be done about a lasting world peace?

Lopez: I think that so long as a just financial system which considers the position of the developing countries and a just commercial order is not established, we're going to continue dancing the "dance of hegemonies," with tensions and detentes coming (and going) according to the play of the interests of the big powers which don't want to bring themselves into a rational order.

I think, however, that we are gaining ground. I think that the implementation of an economic order based on rights and obligations and taking care of money, financing, and commerce, with all that this entails, will be the best guarantee of a detente which would contribute to world peace. If there is no (new world economic) order, it's going to be damn tough for there to be peace

Question: In Latin America, it seems as though every day now there are less democratic countries. Are you worried about this? Secondly, what do you see as the toughest problems facing Latin America?

Lopez: I'm really worried because it's not just a case of the non-democratic countries staying that way, but of the loss of those who had or had rescued democracy. The sad case of Argentina is indicative, and I'm very worried about its fate. I have the impression that, independent of whatever internal problems characterize each of these countries, the big power disputes and world disorder contribute to the process of political deterioration which end up in some form of fascism, or at least do not contribute to avoiding fascism. Thus I think that the problems which undermine our political systems are basically economic — and this worries me even more

Peruvian Trade Union Back Debt Moratorium At Colombo

by Daniel Sneider

Aug. 7 (NSIPS) — The leaders of the Peruvian trade-union movement have issued a major declaration committing themselves to support the declaration of Third World debt moratoria at the upcoming summit meeting of the Non-Aligned nations in Sri Lanka. The Peruvian declaration sharply declares that only suspension of Third World debt service payments can liberate those nations, like Peru, which have been subjected to the dictatorship of the New York banks and the genocidal destruction of their country for the repayment of foreign debt.

The Peruvian declaration is being circulated by the head of the Committee of Union Unification, the central coordinating body of the Peruvian working class organizations. The declaration states:

"We Peruvian union leaders, committed to the cause of the people, in view of the grave economic and political crisis suffered today by our country and all the Third World, firmly commit ourselves in support of the call for a Third World debt moratorium. The moratorium demand — which emerged in the Group of 77 meeting in Manila in February of 1976 and which is declared as an inalienable right of the Third World in the Charter of the Rights of the Peoples in July 1976, and is now being debated in the summit conference of the non-aligned countries in Sri Lanka — is an urgent necessity in the struggle to liberate our peoples from imperialism.

"At a time when the international crisis of imperialism is demanding greater sacrifices from the Peruvian people, we recognize the right of the entire Third World to suspend its

payments on the foreign debt and to demand a more just New International Economic Order."

The declaration is signed by Victor Sanchez, the General Secretary of the National Confederation of Workers (CNT), Gerardo Medina, the General Secretary of the Federation of possibility for this, she explained, is increased because of the Fisherman's Federation of Peru and other union leaders.

There is no question that the Peruvian statement will be answered in Sri Lanka. In a speech last week, Sri Lankan Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike posed the establishment of the New World Economic Order as the objective of the summit. The possibility for this, she explained, is increased because of the existence of forces in the industrialized countries which are now prepared to accept the new world economic order.

A top official of the Indian Foreign Ministry told the Indian Council of World Affairs, in a speech on the summit meeting that the conference will formulate action proposals for "mitigating the debt burden of the Third World countries." According to Indian diplomatic sources, the Indian government has submitted a draft of the Economic Declaration of the summit which presents the Group of 77 Manila Charter demands as the basis for their position on debt.

The lineup for debt moratoria at the summit has provoked other proposals for Third World economic cooperation from governments like Egypt, which is maneuvering under tremendous pressure both from the New York bankers demanding austerity and from pro-development forces pushing for an Egyptian debt moratorium. Sadat, attempting to placate both, has issued a proposal — to be presented at the summit — for the creation of a Third World "payment union" which would function as an apparatus for issuing short term trade credits within the developing countries without drawing on the Western banks or existing foreign exchange reserves. Such a proposal is too undefined at this point to make it clear whether it is merely another mechanism for freeing reserves for the payment of debt or could function as part of a new world economic order based on debt moratoria.

All of these proposals — and draft declarations on the major economic and political issues — will be discussed when the pre-conference meeting of the Bureau of the Non-Aligned Nations (consisting of 19 countries) begins meeting Aug. 9. The full session of the summit will open Aug. 16, but top leaders and delegations are already arriving in Colombo or are on their way now.

New York Times Cites Chile, Peru As Warning To Pro-Debt Moratorium Third World Nations

Aug 6 (NSIPS) — Following are excerpts from an article in the Aug. 4 New York Times, "Economic Misfortunes Threaten Peru's Regime," by Jonathan Kandell.

... In Chile, ... The Marxist Government of Dr. Allende found itself on the verge of economic collapse, with no one to turn to but the Western bankers who had been antagonized by the Chileans' moratorium on foreign debts and the refusal of the Allende government to compensate foreign concerns that had been nationalized

The military regime has taken some important steps to enhance its creditworthiness in the eyes of western bankers

The Foreign Minister, Gen. Miguel Angel de la Flor, was dismissed because of his strong Third-world views and his declarations in favor of a moratorium on foreign debts for the most hard-pressed developing countries.

The new Foreign Minister, José de la Puente, a civilian, has emphasized that relations with Peru's rightist military neighbors will be strengthened. He has noted pointedly that he will not attend the conference of third-world nations, to be held in the middle of the month in Sri Lanka, at which the debt moratorium issue will probably be discussed again

As Times Announces Successful Kissinger Peru Coup Peru Trade Unions Call For Debt Moratorium

Aug. 7 (NSIPS) — Trade unions and trade union confederations representing a large percentage of Peru's working class have issued a declaration of support for Third World debt moratoria against Wall Street's banks, and arrangements are now being made to ensure that the resolution is heard as representative of the Peruvian working class by the many heads of state and other officials of developing nations who will meet Aug. 16 in Sri Lanka.

The debt moratorium resolution was circulated last week by the head of the CUOS, a united front of Peruvian trade unions, which will send it to Sri Lanka as the "legitimate" position of Peru. Already, the resolution has been endorsed and signed by the official leaderships of the Christian CNT Federation of unions, the Fisherman's Federation, and Power and Light Workers. If, as expected, the "official" delegation of Peru's Wall Street occupation-government attempts to block debt moratorium moves at the Sri Lanka summit, it will have to explain why it so brazenly violates the proclaimed aspirations of tens of thousands of Peruvian workers who belong to those unions.

U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger has attempted to use Peru in his campaign of terror and destabilizations directed against the leadership of the Third World as the prime example of what can happen to advocates of debt moratorium. The Kissinger policy was announced in brazen terms in the Aug. 4 issue of the New York Times.

"A consortium of United States private banks," said a front-page Times article, "is making strict economic and political demands in exchange for badly needed additional loans" to Peru. Ex-Foreign Minister De la Flor, gloats the Times, was dismissed "because of his strong Third World views and his declarations in favor of a moratorium on foreign debts." The Times then holds up the fate of Dr. Allende's Chile, now crushed under a monstrous Rockefeller junta over-seeing slave-labor camps as the intended fate for the developing countries who support debt moratorium.

"For developing countries the example of Peru holds a lesson," ranted an accompanying editorial in the Times. It was unnecessary for the Times to mention what Third World leaders already know: the collaboration between the rightist military elements in Peru (the present government) and the New York banks, the naked threats to Peru's former pro-development regime from the U.S.-puppet Brazilian Army which preceded the coup, etc. The threat is clear.

Somali Leader in Moscow: Stop Imperialist Offensive in Africa

Aug. 5 (NSIPS) — The speech excerpted below was delivered by M.A. Samantar, the Defense Minister of the Somali Republic and a member of the ruling Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party, in Moscow. It was carried in Pravda, newspaper of the Soviet Communist Party, on August 3.

...General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union L.I. Brezhnev, in his report to the XXV Congress of the CPSU, noted that the conclusion of the Pact of Friendship and Cooperation between the Soviet Union and Somalia signifies a new stage, a new step in the development of friendly cooperation between our two countries, our peoples. Today we can say that relations between our countries have taken an even more important step in their development. This new stage of our relations rests on a firm foundation.

I fully agree, Comrade Kirilenko, (A.P. Kirilenko, a member of the Politburo of the Soviet Communist Party—ed.) with your analysis of the international situation, with your evaluation of the activities of imperialism against the countries of Africa and states in other parts of the world.

Serious events are occurring around us, new military plots which are inspired by imperialist forces hostile to us.

In order to discuss with progressive leaders of Africa all the possible consequences of these events, our President flew yesterday from Mozambique to Dar-es-Salaam. He went there to discuss with the leaders of Tanzania and Mozambique the possible steps that should be taken in order to stop the new offensive of imperialism in the eastern part of Africa.

The conference of the heads of the non-aligned states will open soon. We know that all kinds of intrigues are possible here by imperialism, which is trying to exert pressure, using the services of reactionary and corrupt regimes.

We resolve to continue our struggle against imperialism and colonialism, against racism, against all forms of exploitation of man. We know that in this struggle we can always be sure of the support of the country which is in the vanguard of world socialism — the Soviet Union.

And we are sure, that in this struggle, we will be victorious, because our work is just.

I am convinced that this victory will come because truth is on the side of progress, on the side of socialism. Imperialism can slow down but not stop the natural course of history. Today imperialism is not even able to do what it would like, because there is a force that can oppose it. That force is the Soviet Union.

Yugoslavia's Tito: Pressures and Blackmail Increased To Break Non-Aligned

Aug. 7 (NSIPS) — The following is excerpted from an interview with Marshall Tito by Tanjug, the official Yugoslav press agency. In this section, Tito is answering a question regarding the future of non-alignment.

.... The non-aligned countries are the international force behind the on-going efforts to constitute a new international economic order. They have defined the principles and framework for the solution to this central question of our epoch which today confronts all humanity

But the pressures and blackmail continue. They increase as the date of the Colombo (non-aligned conference in Sri Lanka) approaches. Some great powers have been sowing discord among certain non-aligned countries. They are attempting through various means to break the unity of the non-aligned nations. They are attempting to impose conditions and insinuate the positions that the conference should adopt. But no one can cause the non-aligned countries to deviate from the road that they themselves have built. This too will be demonstrated at the Colombo conference.

It has been 20 years since Nehru Nasser and I met here in Brioni ... At that time the international situation was very difficult. The danger existed that the cold war would become a hot war. We debated what to do. We agreed that it was necessary to bring about the cohesion of all countries belonging to neither bloc That is how the first non-aligned conference was initiated

If we desire an enduring peace and world-wide cooperation, there is no alternative to the policy of non-alignment. I have always maintained that the development of events such as were initiated at the end of WW II would lead to a new catastrophe. I have always believed that the greatest possible numbers of people and countries must actively participate in obstructing imperialist and other maneuvers to prevent a new war

Look how many participants there will be at the Colombo conference and the significance that it will have on succeeding world events. We must maintain our unity as a condition for the success of our struggle. I know that it (unity) will be maintained and this will be very important. I also believe that in the future more organized activities will be announced. Because not all of

the non-aligned countries have been sufficiently active, it is probable we will have to make self-criticisms in this regard

We don't wish to alter the nuclear balance that, be it as it may, represents a guarantee against the danger of total war. But neither are we resigned to be permanently intimidated by this danger into renouncing our search for a change in the unjust international political and economic relations which presently exist. We are advocates of negotiations between the great and powerful, as long as they are not harmful for third world countries. The large and rich countries should make evident their greatness and concern for the destiny of humanity through their deeds, demonstrating above all a greater understanding of the problems confronting the non-aligned and developing nations.

Third World Leaders Speak About Colombo

Aug. 7 (NSIPS) — Following are excerpts and reports on statements on the upcoming Colombo Non-Aligned meeting by Third World leaders.

Vietnam and Laos: In a joint communique issued July 28, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and Laos announced their "determination to contribute their efforts at the coming non-aligned countries conference at Colombo, Sri Lanka, to create a cooperative atmosphere among the non-aligned and socialist nations to fight imperialism, old and neo-colonialism, racial prejudice and aggression in order to achieve peace, freedom, and stability of the world," according to the Aug. 2 Bangkok Post. The communique was issued during the visit of Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Paan Hien's visit to Laos.

India: Indian Foreign Minister Y.B. Chavan stated that, "The time has come to again underline India's basic principles and accelerate the adoption of an action program, directed toward installing a new, just economic order in the world," in a speech at the inauguration of the Institute for International Policy in Bombay. Chavan also called for the liquidation of all foreign bases in the Indian Ocean. The only such base is the U.S. base at Diego Garcia. Chavan's speech was reported in the East German newspaper Neues Deutschland.

Sri Lanka: Sri Lanka Prime Minister S. Bandaranaike declared in a speech Aug. 5 that the Colombo Non-Aligned summit would establish the new world economic order, according to West German radio reports. The possibility for this, she explained, is increased because of the existence of forces in the industrialized countries which are now prepared to accept the new world economic order.

Exclusive Translation from Pravda

"Changes Are Inevitable:" "Developing Countries Strive for New Economic Order"

Aug. 7 (NSIPS) — The following are excerpts of an article appearing in the Aug. 6 Pravda by A. Maslennikov.

The economic crisis that has gripped the world capitalist system has severely affected the situation in the developing countries. Using their command position in the world capitalist market, the international monopolies are trying to assuage the negative effect of the collapse of production and of inflation by intensifying their exploitation of the peoples of the developing countries. Under the pretense of compensating losses from the rise in oil prices over the past two years, the capitalist West has sharply increased the prices of its own goods while at the same

time reducing purchases of the products of the developing states.

This had led to an exacerbation of the economic difficulties of the young independent countries, a growth in their foreign trade deficit, a slackening in the rate of economic development and dependence for foreign financial aid. Developing countries which do not have their own oil sources or other raw materials in high demand are finding themselves in a particularly difficult situation...

The ill effects of the capitalist crisis, says Maslennikov, can be seen clearly in the example of Pakistan, "although the situation in that country as compared to a number of other developing states is far from the worst."

Despite its difficulties, the Pakistani government continues to increase its allocations for economic development...but given the growing shortage of international resources, it was compelled in increasing degree to turn to foreign loans. Last year alone...Pakistan concluded agreements for foreign loans totalling more than \$1.7 billion.

This same situation, writes Maslennikov, can be seen in many other developing countries: "for instance, in 1974 Sri Lanka was forced to export 35 per cent more tea in order to purchase the same amount of foreign wheat as it had in 1970."

This sort of economic "blood-letting," as has been noted in a number of documents from UNCTAD and other international organizations, has placed some developing countries in an extremely difficult situation. By the mid-1970s, the total indebtedness of the developing countries is reported to have reached \$120 billion, and in a number of cases payments on old debts have begun to exceed the volume of new loans. For instance, in 1975-76, according to economists' calculations, the developing states owed the USA, Japan, West Germany, and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD or World Bank) almost \$1.5 billion more than the volume of newly acquired loans,...

It is not surprising that both in Asia and Africa and in Latin America attempts have been made to find a way out of the present situation. In the present situation, when the socialist system is exerting powerful influence on world development, and demonstrates an entirely new type of international economic relations, the developing countries have been more actively conducting a struggle against the economic repression of the imperialist powers. There has been a growing tendency towards the creation of various regional and branch-based economic entities.

During recent years, the movement of the young independent states against the inequities in international economic relations has been developing under the slogans of establishing a new world economic order. This includes a fundamental restructuring of world economic ties; elimination of non-equivalent trade, guaranteeing the participation — with equal rights — of the developing countries in solving world currency and financial problems; establishing control over the multinationals, a just redistribution of material, financial and technical resources. In its basic content, the movement for a new world economic order has a clear anti-imperialist direction.

Maslennikov says that under present circumstances, the capitalist countries can't ignore this motion, but they still try various tricks in order to avoid the question of a "fundamental restructuring of international economic relations." For instance, there are proposals for "creating various funds, special banks and other financial organs, which will supposedly mitigate the effects of the crisis on individual groups of these states without altering the system itself."

The same thing goes, writes Maslennikov, for the theory of

interdependence between the industrialized countries and the developing countries, an "interdependence" whose disruption will supposedly lead to "confrontation" and "chaos," in international relations. Maslennikov says that the real essence of these ideas of interdependence is shown in the efforts of Western propagandists to convince the developing countries that to the extent that the industrialized capitalist countries get out of their crisis, the worries of the Third World will be over. "In fact," writes Maslennikov, "just the opposite is happening. The multinational corporations have in recent times sharply intensified their pressure on the developing countries, obtaining price reductions on raw materials as well as new profit on their capital investments."

In contrast to the capitalist states, the Soviet Union and the other countries of the socialist community fully understand the efforts of the liberated peoples to put an end to the remnants of colonialism and to eliminate injustice in international economic relations. "Today it is quite clear," said comrade L.I. Brezhnev from the rostrum of the 25th party congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, "that liberated countries can fully withstand the imperialist diktat and obtain just...economic relations...the Soviet Union fully supports the lawful efforts of the young states, their resoluteness to fully free themselves from imperialist exploitation, and to dispose themselves of their national wealth."

That principled line is being consistently implemented. It is shown both in the cooperation of the Soviet Union with the developing countries and in support at various international forums for their demands for eliminating all forms of discrimination in trade, economic and other relations. That position has met with understanding in the developing countries. For instance, the trade minister of the Algerian Peoples Republic, L. Yaker, recently announced that the developing countries should strengthen their militant solidarity and businesslike cooperation with the countries of socialism in order to withstand imperialist blackmail and pressure.

All indications point to the fact that the struggle for renewing international relations has entered a decisive phase and that its outcome will affect the situation of hundreds of millions of inhabitants of our planet. The time of colonialism has passed, and changes are also inevitable in international economic relations.

IDB

HOW THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANK WILL WORK

\$1.25
(postage included)

Mail Check or Money Order to:
NSIPS Circulation Manager
GPO Box 1972
New York, NY 10001

to the XXV Congress of the CPSU, noted that the conclusion of the Pact of Friendship and Cooperation between the Soviet Union and Somalia signifies a new stage, a new step in the development of friendly cooperation between our two countries, our peoples. Today we can say that relations between our countries have taken an even more important step in their development. This new stage of our relations rests on a firm foundation.

"I fully agree, Comrade Kirilenko (A.P. Kirilenko, a member of the Politburo of the Soviet Communist Party — ed.), with your analysis of the international situation, with your evaluation of the activities of imperialism against the countries of Africa and states in other parts of the world.

"Serious events are occurring around us, new military plots which are inspired by imperialist forces hostile to us.

"In order to discuss with progressive leaders of Africa all the possible consequences of these events, our President flew yesterday from Mozambique to Dar-es-salam. He went there to discuss with the leaders of Tanzania and Mozambique the

possible steps that should be taken to stop the new offensive of imperialism in the eastern part of Africa.

"The conference of the heads of the non-aligned states will open soon. We know that all kinds of intrigues are possible here by imperialism, which is trying to exert pressure, using the services of reactionary and corrupt regimes.

"We resolve to continue our struggle against imperialism and colonialism, against racism, against all forms of exploitation of man. We know that in this struggle we can always be sure of the support of the country which is in the vanguard of world socialism — the Soviet Union.

"And we are sure that in this struggle we will be victorious, because our work is just.

"I am convinced that this victory will come, because truth is on the side of progress, on the side of socialism. Imperialism can slow down but not stop the natural course of history, Today imperialism is not even able to do what it would like, because there is a force that can oppose it. That force is the Soviet Union."