

balloon" for SATO, and reports that there are rumors that "the foundations of a SATO are already being structured." The editorial, entitled "Creation of a South Atlantic Treaty," favors a "more active" Brazilian role in the African Atlantic zone, "in order to influence the evolution and shape the developments according to our national and ideological interests." It then emphasizes that in order for SATO to be solidified, "it is absolutely necessary that the U.S. participate in it effectively through means other than logistical, armaments, and training support." The editorial also praises Brazil's decision to participate in the NATO-sponsored Carib Ops naval maneuvers off Puerto Rico later this month.

The French daily *Le Nouveau Journal* calls the Soviet Union's plane sale to Peru a "master coup for Moscow" that now "threatens a fearful Chile."

1-8-77 *Folha de Sao Paulo* reports Brazil's Foreign and Army Ministries answer to the *Nouveau Journal* article. The Foreign Ministry points out that Peru's arms purchase will not affect Brazil-Peru relations, which have been at high point since the Nov. 5, 1976 Geisel-Morales Bermudez meeting. The Army Ministry says it is not worried about the purchase, since Peru is neither Communist nor Marxist and bought the Soviet equipment only because the Soviets offered the best terms.

Folha de Sao Paulo prints a small note

reporting that the war between Peru and Chile is building.

Estado de Sao Paulo claims that Brazil will have a more aggressive policy towards Central America and the Caribbean now that under President José Portillo, Mexico will not follow former President Echeverria's international policy towards those areas.

Estado de Sao Paulo reports that the French magazine *Defense Interarmée* published an article signed by Francois Dutrai that says that "the political stability and the strength of the (Brazilian) military regime create real possibilities for an imperial policy by the Brazilian government." According to *Estado de Sao Paulo*, *Defense Interarmée* contends that military power is not part of Brazil's foreign policy but that Brazil's geopolitical interests will force the country to intervene in other countries' policy.

Estado de Sao Paulo reports on a U.S. Congress investigation on the human rights question and says that Brazilian military men would be very upset if U.S. military aid is shut off.

1-9-77 A *New York Times* article by Jonathan Kandell comments that Brazil is a democracy and has only minor problems related with human rights.

Eliot Janeway in the *Washington Star* calls for a Brazilian invasion of Venezuela to solve Brazil's oil supply problems.

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Replies to U.S. Manipulation

The following excerpts are from the transcript of Venezuelan Foreign Minister Ramon Escovar Salom's press conference responding to the article by Eliot Janeway in the *Washington Star*. Escovar's comments were printed in the Caracas daily *El Nacional* of Jan. 12.

Escovar: The public opinion of our peoples must be fully warned and conscious of the fact that this is a matter of the manipulation of international suspicions against the unity and solidarity of the developing nations.

Question: And what is Venezuela doing to face this?

Escovar: The best way to fight this kind of campaign is with the truth.

Q: Does the *Washington Star* article form a part of all this?

Escovar: I have not fully read the article to which you refer. I have only read what has been published in the (local) press. I have asked our ambassador in Washington for a full report. But I can say, without referring to this item but rather to a series of articles published in the last few days, that there is a visible and concrete attempt to present certain aspects of international affairs in a distorted and incorrect manner. And Latin America in particular, along with the Third World in general, must be fully aware of those manipulations so as to be able to fight them.

Q: What circles do you think are behind this campaign against the unity of the Third World?

Escovar: There could be several, but the important thing is that they exist.