

Perez, Videla Back New World Economic Order

Below are excerpts from the joint declaration signed by Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez and Argentine President Lt. Gen. Jorge Rafael Videla in Caracas, May 12, 1977.

...(the presidents) agree that, to guarantee integral peace and security on the continent, it is necessary to strengthen cooperation among the American peoples in order to achieve their development, seeking...new forms of collaboration in the economic, social, cultural, education, scientific, and technological fields...

The President of Venezuela reaffirmed the traditional support of his government to the full exercise of Argentine sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands, in agreement with the principle of territorial integrity.

Both presidents reiterate the support of Venezuela and Argentina to the people and government of Panama to stimulate the signing of a new Treaty with the U.S., that restores to Panama sovereignty over the Canal...

They call on the governments of the Hemisphere to give the broadest understanding to the problem of 'mediterraneity' (access to the Pacific Ocean) of Bolivia, and to aid the possibility of constructive (agreements) to resolve the situation.

They reiterate the sovereign right of States to establish those development policies which best meet their own needs and interests, as well as to dispose freely of their natural resources for the economic and social development of their populations...

In the case of shared waterways, active cooperation of countries (bordering on the river) should be promoted.

They reject any kind of manifestation of violence as representing a danger to national and world security and, consequently, a threat to essential human rights, and they commit their governments to act in solidarity in international bodies toward (gaining) the adoption of urgent measures to prevent and sanction terrorism.

They are pleased to emphasize the traditional adherence of the two nations to the principles adopted by the Regional Organization to guarantee an order of peace and justice, to strengthen and increase cooperation in defense of sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence. They reiterate their conviction that man should develop fully within a just social, political, and economic order that encourages the advantages and the human importance of the democratic system. In that sense, they are committed to favor the operation of these principles as well as those indicated in their respective juridical codes to safeguard the effective exercise of democracy....

They agree on the urgent necessity of extending the process of detente underway to areas to residual conflict, as well as amplifying the regional proposals...for elimination of tensions between countries....They agree on the necessity of supporting efforts to achieve the undertaking of a process of disarmament with the effective participation of nuclear and non-nuclear nations in the negotiating process and in the decisions that may be adopted....

They emphasize the inalienable right of all States to

develop research, production, and utilization of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, and (the right) to benefit from nuclear technology without any discrimination. They share the criteria of avoiding deviations in its use that might constitute a threat to life on earth, and in the necessity of converting (nuclear energy) fully into an instrument for the development of man.

They point to the necessity for a profound change in the present economic relations among States, in order to achieve the establishment of a new international economic reality based on...equal sovereignty, interdependence, common interest and cooperation between States....

They reiterate their conviction of the necessity of promoting the creation of associations of developing countries (which) produce and export primary materials, as well as strengthening those which (already) exist....

They confirm their inalterable adherence to the principle according to which no State can apply or stimulate coercive economic or political measures to force the sovereign will of another State, in order to obtain advantages or decisions of any nature....

They reaffirm their decided support to the objectives (of) the Latin American Economic System (SELA), and express their confidence in the application of its mechanisms, especially the Action Committees, destined to encourage the best utilization of human, natural, technical and financial resources of the region through the creation and promotion of Latin American multinational enterprises...

They emphasize...the Program for Cooperation among Developing Countries of the Third Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 (nations) in Manila, as well as the results of the Mexico Conference on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries and, in general, the (proposals) in the Colombo Action Program (of the Non-Aligned movement -ed.)...

...they announce the proposal to push the Andean-Argentine Commission, as a means of promoting a greater closing between the countries which signed the Cartagena Accord (establishing the Andean Pact -ed.) and the Argentine Republic....

They agree to intensify their efforts to promote commercial flow between both countries, on the basis of reciprocity, equilibrium, and mutual benefit, and (declare) that extensive possibilities exist to increase trade and to develop economic, technological and industrial cooperation between the two nations....

In this sense, they instruct that the talks to agree upon a basic convention between Venezuela and Argentina for economic, industrial, and technological cooperation be concluded...

They consider that said possibilities for cooperation are located particularly in the following sectors of subsectors: agriculture, agroindustry, livestock, mining, hydrocarbons, steel, auto industry, shipbuilding, petrochemicals, light metal, and military industries...

Aware that scientific investigation and the utilization of new technologies are factors which dynamize the

processes of development in the present world, they openly state the necessity to exchange knowledge and put into effect joint programs in all these matters within the framework of the existing Basic Convention for Technical Cooperation.

In this respect, they agree to stimulate contacts already established between the National Commission for the Development of the Nuclear Industry of Venezuela, and the National Atomic Energy Commission of the Republic of Argentina....

Brazilians Upset By U.S. Provocations

The Brazilian daily Jornal do Brasil, May 12, responding to the statements of U.S. Undersecretary of State for Interamerican Affairs, Terence Todman, in Caracas:

The importance of Todman's statements denying any preponderant role to Brazil was made much greater by the fact that they were made precisely in the capital of a country vying for regional leadership. Even more: a country which has been taking political positions clearly against Brazil, whether to criticize the Brazilian regime, or to seek alliances with countries which represent an opposition to Brazil in the continent — in this case, Argentina, with the visit which President Videla began yesterday in Caracas.

The mere affirmation of Todman, suddenly isolated Brazil in the Latin American continent and left the Brazilian diplomats perplexed. Though Perez is the immediate and direct beneficiary of the negation of leadership to Brazil, Videla also will receive the benefit of that negation and its political advantages, since in this exact moment he is seeking a politico-commercial alliance with Caracas.

CAP: Brazil Indispensable To Continental Integration

The following are statements by Venezuela's President Carlos Andres Perez from a May 13 press conference in Caracas, countering the attempts by U.S. Undersecretary of State Todman to instigate tensions between Brazil and Venezuela-Argentina.

"Those who speak of Brazil as a nation that plans to open a new imperialism in the region are not the Brazilians, but the enemies of Latin American integration who want to divorce Brazil from the rest of the nations of the Latin American continent.

"Relations between Venezuela and Brazil are completely normalVenezuela is interested, in the context of its integrationist credo, in the best of relations with Brazil...

"... Brazil is ... indispensable to the plans of Latin American integration, and we are also indispensable to Brazil for Brazil to be able to realize its manifest destiny which is the destiny of Latin America. There is no Brazilian destiny, there is no Argentine destiny, there is no Venezuelan destiny, there is a Latin American destiny."

Behind The Mexican Political Reforms

MEXICO

On April 2, Mexican Interior Minister Jesus Reyes Heróles, on behalf of President Jose López Portillo, announced the initiation of a process of "political reform." He declared that the state was attempting to "broaden the possibilities of political representation," a phrasing widely taken to herald legalization of some political parties not now on the ballot and a reevaluation of the hegemonic role of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) which has been in power since the early 1930s.

Subsequently the President sent Reyes Heróles a formal letter requesting public hearings of the Federal Election Commission (CFE) to galvanize public discussion and deliberation over the appropriate content of political reforms. These hearings are now underway. Daily commentary in the press is extensive and all sides of the Mexican political spectrum, but particularly the

various groups on the left, are in ferment. The foreign press has been virtually silent on the subject.

The Reform represents the government's principal initiative to channel popular support behind its program, an "Alliance for Production." In a substantial sense, the government will stand or fall by the Reform.

What the government means by the Reform was spelled out in two major addresses by Reyes Heróles on April 2 and by PRI party president, Carlos Sansores Perez, at CFE hearings on May 14.

As International Monetary Fund-Wall Street debt collectors are demanding that Third World governments enforce repression and austerity, Reyes defined an opposite approach for Mexico. "Starting from this difficult (economic) situation, there are those who want a hardening of the government," he warned. "But to harden and fall into rigidity is to expose us to the rapid rupture of the state order and the national political order. Faced with these intentions, President Lopez Portillo is striving for the state to broaden the possibilities of political representation... (This) is the firm base of development, of the rule of liberty, and of the possibilities for social progress."