

Despite this firm public stand, two days later at the start of the Interparliamentary meetings, Senator Lloyd Bentsen (D-Texas) called on Mexico to lower the price of oil it exports to the U.S. "in exchange for" a reduction of tariff barriers for Mexican goods.

Augusto Gomez Villanueva, head of the Mexican delegation and leader of Mexico's Chamber of Deputies, reminded Bentsen: "We are not here to discuss oil. Mexico will sell its oil to the highest bidder." This position was driven home by the Mexican press. An editorial in the *Diario de Mexico* on May 28 noted that Bentsen is not representative of the U.S. population since he only represents "the House of Rockefeller." The official government daily, *El Nacional*, described Bentsen's statements as "a diplomatic blunder" and the Popular Socialist Party called the proposal "unac-

ceptable" since "our oil is not up for auction."

Only two days later, Bentsen was forced to eat his words when he stated that "the U.S. would never pressure Mexico to sell its oil...Mexico knows whether or not to sell the oil and to whomever it wants."

A positive approach to improving Mexican relations with the U.S. in the context of solving the current "international economic and financial disequilibrium" was presented by Gomez Villanueva in the keynote address to the meeting. After denouncing the Carter Administration's plans to impose fascist economies on Third World countries through debt strangulation Gomez Villanueva called for "alleviation of the foreign debt of the poor countries" through the formation of a new international economic order." Only in this way, Gomez added, "can the survival of international democracy be insured."

## What U.S. Declaration Of Independence Means To Mexico

*The following are excerpts of the speech given by Augusto Gomez Villanueva, head of the Mexican delegation to the 16th Mexican-U.S. Interparliamentary Meeting which was held in Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico, May 27-29, 1977. The translation of the speech is by NSIPS.*

Now in its bicentennium, the Declaration of Independence of the United States, signed by the fifty-six representatives of the first Congress of your nation, holds that all men were created equal before the law, to live in liberty and in pursuit of happiness. This humanist political conception became reality in the historic speech of Patrick Henry on March 23, 1775, before the House of Burgesses in Virginia, when he exclaimed, "Give me liberty or give me death."

The United States and Mexico share the North American geography but their people exhibit contrasting levels of development due to the unequal distribution of wealth which still clouds the vision of economic democracy conceived as their objective by the founders of our nations, by Benjamin Franklin and Hidalgo, by Adams and Morelos, by Lincoln and by Benito Juarez.

The inviolability of national sovereignty is the historical pact of neighboring countries, to guarantee the peaceful settlement of controversies and the achievement of friendly coexistence. This pact is based on the principle of nonintervention for which the weak countries have fought so long, for which we will continue to fight as long as neocolonial powers attempt to assume supreme privileges. Nonintervention and self-determination of nations are the reason and essence of Mexican foreign policy. They are the result of old and new battles in defense of our independence, and they constitute the only international law capable of preventing the triumph of bellicose interests over the search for peace on this planet.

Mexico has not only defended these principles for its

own benefit but to maintain respect for the sovereignty of all the nations of the world. In the event that the rights of self-determination of each country are jeopardized, we know that it would mean losing a part of their independence. For this reason we have historically defended the right of the Cuban people to choose their own form of government; it is for this reason that we have given our full support to the legitimate demands of Panama...

We approach these topics with the greatest objectivity and with the best intentions of contributing to the achievement of peace in the hemisphere, understanding that when a nation's economic and social rights are disregarded, peace can become a chimera.

The capacity of the human species to create a new world economic order is the best option for assuring international democracy and reducing the foreign debt of the poor countries which are already carrying a \$400 billion burden, which is the equivalent of the gross annual product of the ten richest countries on earth. To the extent that the peripheral countries are forced to resort to credits from the metropolitan centers of capital, their debt will increase through technology transfers, through manipulation of prices of basic export products, and through transnational investments that denationalize the productive plant and equipment of our nations, imposing subsistence living standards.

That is how a long-term breach in the equilibrium is generated, for which the foreign debt is an arithmetic global expression of international economic inequality which perpetuates deep chasms between the vast geography of hunger and its tiny islands of opulence.

We do not ask privileges but justice in all economic interchange: in commerce, in technology transfer, in credit, in investment and in the just treatment that migratory workers deserve...Justice that finds its pragmatic expression in the market; in the prices to which interchange is subject; in the terms in which tech-

nological transfer is carried out; in the conditions under which labor is contracted; in the cost of foreign credit...because after all the hunger of the masses throughout the world, one can not, should not, continue to romantically invoke the "favors" of international justice.

It is not justifiable that the industrialized countries aspire — at any price and before the rest of the world — to become autarchic islands that, in the end, tend to cancel all real or potential comparative advantages of the poor countries, reducing them to the traditional role of primary producers...

Frequently, interest groups in both countries (U.S. and Mexico) distort the image of Mexican reality and of our relations; they opt for presenting the economic, political and social problems in isolation. They apply the fallacious theory of induction and, because of that, they focus the problem of drug trafficking as if it were exclusively a criminal issue; they present the problem of unregistered workers as a unique fact and, lamentably, this fragmented and mystified view is favored by the powerful communication media.

As part of the developing world, we suffer the effects of world economic fluctuations and its cyclical crises. The inflation, the foreign debt, the unemployment and the devaluations are not phenomena unique to Mexico but of the industrialized and cannibalized worlds. In

order to stabilize the world economy, it is essential to also assume the responsibility of avoiding inflationary speculation, to seek new sources of energy, to broaden employment opportunities and to equalize the distribution of wealth on an international scale.

We are also students of your history which, at the end of the Eighteenth Century, contributed to the organic formation of the lawful modern states of the New World through the federalist theses of Madison and the constitutional concepts of Jefferson. Since then, we have followed closely the rapid development and the creative talent of the North American people which reaches its zenith in science and technology...

While inequality continues to exist between developed and underdeveloped, our political responsibility will have to grow and become more capable of dictating important measures which are not only conjunctural but which eliminate servitude and supremacy, in order to be able to arrive in the Twenty-First Century in a higher state of coexistence.

The issue is to fight for international economic justice which, we know, is the only means to eliminate the danger of a new world conflagration which is imminent as long as resources continue to be employed in the arms race, as long as there persist hegemonic pretensions over strategic economic zones, over oppressed populations and over war-torn territories like the Middle East....

## U.S.-Mexico Declaration On Drugs

*The following is the joint declaration on drugs issued from Hermosillo Mexico and signed by all members of both U.S. and Mexican delegations.*

It is the will of the peoples and governments of the United States and Mexico:

To energetically condemn, without any reservation, the illegal cultivation of all plants, which, used as intoxicants, cause great harm...

To tenaciously and tirelessly prosecute with all measures at our disposal — within the constitutional and legal bounds of each country — the traffic of these drugs within each country and across our borders...

We declare that, in addition to the economic incentives given to the use, production and traffic in such noxious substances in the United States of America and Mexico, since the beginning of the Twentieth Century, occurrences and situations have developed over the entire world which have created an atmosphere of skepticism, laxness and fear, encouraging...particularly among the youth, the use and abuse of drugs...through the acts of criminal organizations dedicated to this inhuman traffic.

The youth of the world — captives of discouragement and pain, of the succession of world, regional and local wars in the Twentieth Century, the appearance of the threat of nuclear catastrophe, the worsening of the material conditions of life...and the lowering of educational and

cultural levels — have taken the course of avoidance and escape...and have lost faith in their won futures, all of which serves to broaden the realm in which drug addiction and other grave deviations and vices which afflict the human masses of our era proliferate.

For these reasons, the parliamentarians of Mexico and the USA, faithfully interpreting the sentiments, the worries and the cherished hopes of our peoples, declare that it is the decision of the public institutions and the most responsible forces in our two nations, to deepen, strengthen and expand to the greatest possible extent, the fight against the cultivation, traffic, the use and abuse of drugs, and to adopt with this proposal, all legislative, judicial and political measures conducive to the eradication of this plague of such enormous proportions.

We make a cordial and urgent call to all governments and people of the world, to rise up against drug trafficking once and for all...to make a decisive and total fight against an illicit and criminal commerce which represents a degenerative danger to the culture of all the world's people...

We recommend and demand measures that will be stringent, preventative, persecuting and punitive to discourage the cultivation of plants which can produce this type of drug, and to eliminate drug traffic; but at the same time we call attention to the historic necessity to create for youth...a sure alternative of peace and work.