

Triangle" drug smuggler — was intended by Carter to be the linchpin of the drug scenario for Colombia. Colombia's rejection of the nomination has dealt an important blow to those plans.

Lopez's chosen candidate for the 1978 presidential elections in Colombia, Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala, has taken a similar first step in condemning the proliferation

of a drug culture in Colombia as "the virus of moral degeneracy." Turbay had posed a programmatic alternative to Carter's genocidal plans for Colombia in a speech earlier this month when he called for intensive mechanization of the countryside to free labor for the industrial employment of the Colombian economy.

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## Response Begins To Gomez Hurtado's Drug-Pushing

*The following are excerpts from a June 28 letter written to the widely-read Bogota Liberal daily El Tiempo by one Josefina Velez de Escobar. This is the first public response to the drug-pushing policies of Alvaro Gomez Hurtado through his newspaper El Siglo.*

The *El Siglo* columnist Juan Diego Jaramillo insists on a highly negative, destructive and detrimental thesis for the country...on the problem of marijuana...

It is necessary to alert public opinion to this thesis of *El Siglo's*, which is as pitifully backward as if it existed in Bedrock, the city of the Flintstones; and as contradictory as if it were deliberately attempting to mislead Colombians. Let us see why:

The problem of drug addiction begins at its "source," that is, in the production of the raw materials. For *El Siglo*, the problem has its "origins" in the fact that there exist drug addicts,

or "consumers." This is sheer idiocy...

To pretend that the problem is an "economic" one, that is to say, that only those who have the purchasing power can afford the vice, is another aspect of the vulgar and "desarrollista" (a reference to the Brazilian economic model — ed.) theory which is as insane as the (column's) final conclusion that "it is necessary to legalize the production of marijuana" to obtain revenues. And that the "buyers" defend themselves as best they can...

I call attention to this thesis which I furiously denounce and combat because it demonstrates a total ignorance of the drug problem and because it is a threat against the country. The mere fact that a newspaper calls for legalization of the cultivation of marijuana is equal to a call to farmers to abandon the growing of food and to dedicate themselves instead to the production of this corruption. We can gauge the consequences!

## Venezuelan President Upsets Carter's Plans

The Carter Administration planned the current visit of Venezuelan president Carlos Andres Perez to the United States to culminate in the establishing of "special relations" between the two countries, making Venezuela into what one Brazilian paper called "the officialized voice of Jimmy Carter in Latin America." Even before the end of the five-day visit, President Perez has shot down U.S. hopes of placing Venezuela securely in its hipocket, and reaffirmed his country's commitment for a new world economic order.

The Carter Administration had four basic objectives on which it hoped to secure Venezuelan agreement. Venezuelan support for Carter's human rights policy toward Latin America was considered sewn up following Venezuela's active support for the United States' human rights position at the just-ended meeting of the Organization of American States. Venezuelan aid in blocking the West German nuclear plant deal with Brazil was judged only slightly more difficult. Of more fundamental interest to the Carter Administration was the securing of a "U.S. option" on Venezuela's oil reserves in

the Orinoco, and the use of Venezuela's petrodollars in bailing out the debt of the Caribbean countries.

Perez has explicitly rejected all but one of the Carter Administration objectives, as the following brief selections from two of Perez' speeches in the U.S. vividly demonstrate. Perez announced even before leaving Venezuela that Venezuela's oil would not be an item of discussion. Perez sharply rejected Carter's human rights stand as a vicious fraud without a new world economic order in his greeting to Carter at the White House, and then fully supported Latin American's right to develop nuclear energy in a speech before the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States.

*Printed below are excerpts of a speech by President Carlos Andres Perez at the White House June 28:*

Mr. President of the United States and Mrs. Carter:

...The problem of world peace can no longer be defined in terms of strategic balance, balance of power, zones of influence, blocs and military alliances. Peace is not only

the absence of war. The real problem of peace is the incorporation of the Third World into an international order in which all the participating nations take part in its construction. The order imposed by the victors of the Second World War no longer exists.

The majority of nations, which is the Third World, are in radical disagreement with the form in which the unjust and discriminatory world system is structured. Peace is endangered and everything possible must be done to protect it.

Human rights cannot be considered only in terms of physical safety and political liberty. The essential human right is the right to life, wellbeing, the full dignity of each being. And this right is flagrantly violated by those responsible for the world economic order....

The existence of liberty is an impossibility if there is no economic and social development...

It is illusory to expect democratic development and the introduction of human rights within an international order so deeply anti-democratic as the present one. The democratic transformation which your illustrious international policy pursues cannot be achieved without the disappearance of the hegemonic and predominant structures that characterize this international order...

The forces of the Third World working for dialogue and cooperation to establish the new international order have not encountered satisfactory response from the industrialized world, including the United States. The hardly encouraging results of the North-South Conference indicate that the industrialized world is resisting recognition of the necessity to transform the structure of privilege, and demonstrates as well that they still don't see with sufficient clarity the dangers involved in this situation.

...The traditional conception isn't clear on the real relationship between political, economic and military problems in today's world. According to this traditional view, the strategic balance between the great powers and the East-West confrontation play the most important role in decision-making in the industrialized world. The continued influence of this perspective is demonstrated by the great quantity of intellectual and material resources invested in the arms race, which you have valiantly denounced.

It is indispensable that the industrialized world understands that the first order of priorities is no longer the East-West conflict and the stabilization of traditional power blocs, and that the majority of effort must now be located in resolving the North-South conflict for the creation of a new, just and equitable economic order.

...There will be no solution to today's world problems

without the restructuring of commercial relations, which will assure just participation in the process of international trade: a new division of labor...; the solution to the problem of the foreign debt, which is asphyxiating many Third World economies; and definitely the construction of a new international economic order that must include the establishment of just regulations for contracting technology and capital, assuring adequate transfer under favorable conditions on a foreseeable and permanent basis...

*Below are excerpts of CAP's speech before the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States on June 29:*

We must not accommodate ourselves, as we have in the past, simply to changes in inter-American policies of the United States, even when we applaud the proposals presented to us by President Carter...If there is one experience we Latin American nations have learned well it is that bilateral understanding between the United States and Latin American countries have always proven precarious, resulting often in increased distance among ourselves...From any point of view from which one chooses to examine the difficulties facing our countries' development, it is evident that integration is the only secure means of realizing this development...

It is necessary to affirm that the influence of external factors is the essential generator of this situation (of the lack of human rights in Latin America —Ed.). The hegemonic structures and privileges of the existing international order impose upon our countries pressures that cannot be overcome. Unjust relations of trade have brought an intense process of decapitalization upon Latin American economies. Our industrialization has been asphyxiated...The grave social tensions prevalent in Latin America are the seed of regimes of force, which instead of reducing tensions, tend to accentuate them in an incessant struggle against subversion, which has its roots in the hard living conditions suffered by the large part of the Latin American population...

Nuclear energy offers potentials that must necessarily be explored and oriented towards Latin American development. Venezuela supports projects aiming at the peaceful use of this energy as long as it does not endanger ecological equilibrium. At the same time, Venezuela is firmly opposed to the proliferation of nuclear weapons. We, the countries, of Latin America, can and must cooperate on matters of nuclear energy, in projects that are of service to the entirety of our peoples, and never at the service of ambitions of domination...