

## Lopez Portillo, Castro issue joint communiqué

*On May 18, Cuba's President Fidel Castro and Mexico's President José López Portillo signed a joint communiqué which we excerpt below.*

... Both rulers reaffirmed their adherence to the basic principles of the United Nations Charter and stressed the Charter's principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of other states, its prohibition against resorting to the threat or use of force in international relations, respect for the self-determination and independence of all peoples, peaceful resolution of conflicts, equal sovereignty for all states, and respect for individual and social rights.

They also stressed that these aforementioned principles include: unlimited respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of states; the obligation to refrain from exercising any kind of economic or other sanctions or from carrying out hostile acts against any country; and, the reassertion that each state maintains permanent sovereignty over its natural resources.

Both parties recalled that the 1972 Security Council meeting in Panama condemned the use of all types of economic coercion against the countries of Latin America and demanded the end to all acts of economic aggression against these countries, since such acts violate the rules of peaceful coexistence among states and the principles and aims of the United Nations Charter.

In that respect, they asserted the need to end the economic blockade imposed on the people of Cuba.

The two leaders agreed upon a conception of peace taken in its broadest and most universal sense, as embracing all parts of the world and benefiting all countries regardless of their size, economic power, or political influence. ....

The presidents emphasized the urgent necessity for the United Nations to strengthen its efforts and exercise full authority to eliminate all vestiges of colonialism; they reiterated their political commitment to continue seeking formulas that will permit the self-determination and independence of the peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia and of any other peoples subjected to colonial rule. ....

Both presidents also reiterated the importance of

abiding by the United Nations resolutions in eliminating foreign military bases which are maintained in countries against their will.

The presidents pointed out that the grave world economic problems demonstrate the need to move toward the full implementation of a new world order in conformity with the principles and objectives of the Declaration and Action Program of the New International Economic Order, the Charter of Economic Rights and Obligations of States, and the General Assembly resolutions on international economic cooperation and development, making use of the participation of all countries to avoid a situation in which only some benefit from the system of international relations.

The chiefs of state pointed to the international economic crisis which affects all humanity, particularly the developing countries. They recognized that the problems of food and energy shortages aggravate the general crisis and require a reasoned analysis of the economy at a world level, using the United Nations as the most appropriate forum for examining and solving these problems.

President Fidel Castro stressed the great importance of the fact that President López Portillo had announced that Mexico—itsself a key producer of hydrocarbons—considers the problem of the energy crisis to be “a common responsibility of all humanity.” He added that he fully approves of the Mexican proposal, and agrees with the need to assure all countries access to technology and to favorable financing to develop alternate energy sources. ....

At the same time, they referred to the excessive protectionism of the highly industrialized countries and the need to assure access to those countries' markets for the exports of the developing countries. They added that the inflationary pressures and the instability in the means of exchange, originating in the developed countries, has a particularly negative effect on the developing countries and has aggravated their indebtedness problems and limited their development capability.

Both parties pointed to the growing importance that the Group of Non-Aligned Nations has in promoting international peace and cooperation on a just and equitable basis. ....

Both chiefs of state expressed their firm support for the struggle of the Panamanian people and government to recover full sovereignty over the Canal.

The two presidents agreed that the historical, geographical and cultural ties that unite the countries of the Caribbean basin constitute the natural basis for a better recognition of common interests and for making better use of the broad possibilities for collaboration. ...