

## Dateline Mexico by Josefina Menendez

### López Portillo's India trip

*Foreign businessmen can profit by watching the upcoming state visit in New Delhi.*

As the U.S. businessman or his colleague in Europe or Japan looks for Third World markets for the West's industrial goods, two nations stand out as potential partners: Mexico and India. Both nations have deeply rooted modernizing elites, large populations, and government leaders committed to production advances through high technology.

So the match-up of India and Mexico which takes place at the end of this month, when López Portillo arrives in New Delhi for a three-day state visit, bears special watching.

All López Portillo's major trips—to the Soviet Union, Japan and China, France and West Germany—have closely intersected initiatives for new world development accords. The European Monetary System initiative of France's Giscard and Germany's Schmidt paced this effort from 1978 on.

López Portillo's trip to India, tentatively set to start Jan. 24, comes one year after Giscard's own ground-breaking state visit to India, and only one month after Brezhnev's equally important talks in New Delhi.

Sources have told *EIR* that Foreign Minister Jorge Castañeda, who tried to sabotage Mexican accords with Giscard and Schmidt last May, also counseled against the India trip. He was overruled.

The preparations for the trip were first begun by Mexican Indus-

try Minister José Andrés de Oteyza in a trip to India in April 1980. De Oteyza, in meetings with his Indian counterpart Charanjit Channana and Indian Oil Minister Virendra Patil, laid the basis for cooperation in a number of fields and agreed to an initial sale of 1 million tons of Mexican petroleum to oil-short India. This sale was regularized in late November on an approximate 10,000 bpd basis. The planning for this month's trip originally included a possible stopover in the Middle East. It appears that option has now been abandoned, though Pemex director Jorge Díaz Serrano has established important links with Saudi Arabia.

López Portillo's personal staff is currently in India arranging final details. The list of members of the presidential party is not yet known, though it is expected to include his son, José Ramón López Portillo, and Cassio Luiselli, director of the Mexican Food System (SAM).

From the Indian side, *EIR* has conducted a series of exclusive interviews with high-level Indian planners who exhibit a profound grasp of the significance of the visit.

The creator of the Indian national oil industry, K. D. Malaviya, told *EIR* that the Mexican oil nationalization program and subsequent development into world-class oil and petrochemical power was a "daring action" which had "inspired" his own efforts in India.

"Under Cárdenas [president during the nationalization in 1938], conditions were set for Mexico's rapid economic growth in later years in much the same way that our first and second Five-Year plans, initiated under Jawaharlal Nehru, with their emphasis on basic industry, laid the groundwork for our economic growth.

"Special emphasis must be placed on nuclear energy—both fission and fusion," he stated. "India and Mexico . . . have rich deposits of nuclear minerals—uranium and thorium—and there is no reason why we cannot plan out both the transfer of technology as well as the rational utilization of these resources for increased nuclear energy production throughout the world."

The founding member of the Congress Party concluded: "India and Mexico must come closer to each other because such a process will have its own moral and material consequence toward improving the world's future."

Colone R. Rama Rao, of the Birla Institute of Scientific Research, New Delhi, highlighted for the *EIR* potential accords in "space technology . . . agriculture, industrial development, and scientific research," in addition to nuclear energy and "cooperation in the defense field also."

These interviews are appended to *EIR*'s just-released exclusive report, "The India José López Portillo Will Find." Interested readers can contact *EIR*'s New York and Mexico bureaus for details on this companion report to the influential study, "The Europe José López Portillo Will Find," prepared on the eve of the Mexican president's European trip in May 1980.