



A Mexican oil rig.

From the Mexican president's address

On his arrival in New Delhi, Mexican President José López Portillo delivered a speech focusing on the strategic issue of world peace. Excerpts follow.

The fantastic expense of the arms race consumes resources indispensable for subsistence and development. . . . All peoples seeking peace and law must struggle to reduce tensions and reject the pressures that try to commit us to a new cold war.

To advance toward these objectives, we must reach political solidarity and economic cooperation between countries which—like India and Mexico—face reality in much the same way. Countries without imperial dreams nor hegemonic pretensions, which zealously defend their sovereignty and which affirm their right to independent development.

My government believes that limited wars, border skirmishes, and the mere exhibition of military might threaten in varying degrees the world's equilibrium and peace. . . .

Mexico does not recognize security zones or zones of influence which extend beyond a nation's own frontiers. Therefore, Mexico disapproves of the concentration of warships and troops in the Indian Ocean, which, since 1971, has been expressly designated as a zone of peace.

We are extremely worried over the provocative declarations and the military preparations being made by foreign governments and groups interested in the Salvadorean events. Once more I must repeat that Mexico severely condemns any effort to intervene in questions that are the exclusive concern of the Salvadorean people.

Contemporary international society rests on the sovereignty of each of its members. It is based on the essential principles of self-determination and nonintervention. Any lack of observance of these principles is an attack on the foundations and the very *raison d'être* of international law. . . .

We are more than willing to accept these responsibilities, and we think that one way of doing that is to seek bilateral agreements with every country, but especially with those who share our political philosophy. I am sure that India and Mexico are among those countries, and that increasing exchanges between them will serve to improve the social conditions of their peoples and to strengthen the cause of universal peace.