

Rama Rao on the growth potential

The following interview, which we excerpt, was conducted by EIR's New Delhi bureau chief Paul Zykofsky, with Col. R. Rama Rao (retired), of the Birla Institute of Scientific Research. The interview took place on Dec. 17, 1980, shortly before Mexican President José López Portillo's visit to India.

EIR: Up to now relations with Mexico have not been very extensive. In light of the upcoming visit by Mexican President López Portillo to India, do you think India and Mexico can develop closer relations?

Rao: There are important reasons why the two countries, so geographically far apart, are close, and in the days to come could move even closer to each other. . . .

Specifically, I feel that the two countries can work closely in an international forum promoting peace and mutual cooperation, especially among nonaligned and developing countries. Other promising areas are in agriculture, industrial development, and scientific research. Cooperation in the defense field also, such as meeting each other's needs of equipment, should be possible.

EIR: Could you elaborate further on some of the areas in which bilateral cooperation could be carried out?

Rao: In the case of agriculture, Mexico and India have cooperated earlier, I believe under the auspices of international organizations, in agricultural research and extension, thus initiating the "green revolution" in India. Mexico made a positive contribution in that India first obtained high varieties of corn and wheat from Mexico, which technique this country subsequently extended to other crops. Soil productivity in both countries could be stepped up significantly by further planning and use of agricultural technology.

Overall, the water resources of Mexico, as well as of India, are by no means extensive in relation to respective land areas and population densities; hence the need for water conservation, better utilization of surface, as well as underground water. In short, better water management linked with agricultural research directed toward evolving systems which utilize less water than at present are areas requiring continued research in which the two countries can fruitfully cooperate.

The industrial sector offers an equally broad scope. Mexico has been building up its industrial sector rapidly; India, less rapidly so. Even so, this country has acquired expertise in the production of engineering equipment, capital equipment, and transportation equipment, as well as other goods. For a start, each could try to supply the other with some of the items now imported from third countries. This could steadily increase, since both countries are planning to industrialize rapidly.

Each country could assist the other and thus disprove those gloomy forecasters who have advised the American President that between now and A.D. 2000 Mexico's real average annual growth rate of per capita income should be no more than 1.3 percent and India's 0.8 percent. Earlier, the two countries proved how wrong William Paddock's associates were when they forecast near famine conditions and chronic food shortages in Mexico and India by 1975. Mexico, despite its water shortages in its northeastern provinces, has not done too badly, while India's farmers in 1975 succeeded in raising bumper harvests.

EIR: What about cooperation in the field of energy?

Rao: As you know, Mexico is endowed with rich oil resources. Mexico's experience in dealing with multinational concerns and developing and safeguarding its oil resources is of value to India in the development of our own potential in offshore basins along our eastern as well as western coasts.

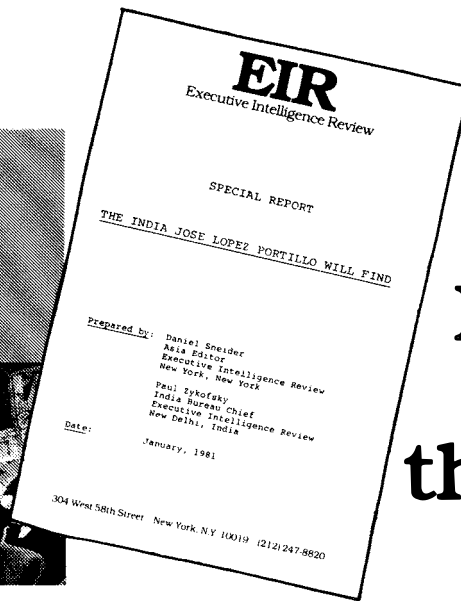
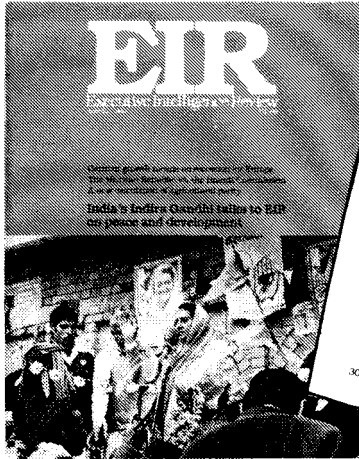
Mexico also has extensive uranium resources and is, as I understand it, correctly planning to set up a number of nuclear power stations with an installed generating capacity of 20,000 megawatts between the 1980s and 1990s.

Our own plans for nuclear development ran into trouble—from which we are only now emerging. We too have plans to set up nuclear power stations in addition to those under construction, so that by A.D. 2000 we may have about 9,000 to 10,000 megawatts of installed nuclear generating capacity. This is very modest indeed compared to Mexico's program. Hopefully this target for installed nuclear generating capacity will be revised upward once we overcome the problems.

On the positive side, India's total self-reliance in the design and operation of nuclear power stations has been obtained. Only production capacities in certain key areas will have to be created and stepped up.

Undoubtedly there will be scope for close cooperation between the two countries in all aspects of application of nuclear technology and space technology, which India is also developing. . . .

The scope for mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries is so vast, I earnestly hope that President López Portillo's visit to India will lay the foundation for such cooperation.



To analyze Lopez Portillo's trip to India, the Mexican press turned to *EIR*

Indian Congress Party leader K.D. Malaviya... showed interest in having Mexico and India intensify transfer of nuclear technology to resolve the problems of supply over the long term. Malaviya said: "What inspired men like me was the decision of the Mexican government under President Cardenas to take over the petroleum industry entirely from the American and British multinationals."

El Sol, Jan. 25, 1981.

Unattributed citation from exclusive interview with Mr. Malaviya in *EIR* Special Report, "The India Jose Lopez Portillo Will Find."

I believe very strongly in modernizing the country. I think there are some traditions which have to be kept because they are a unifying factor for one thing, and a certain amount of national pride is essential if you want people to put in their all.... Saying we're going to keep

some of the old and also some of the new, that is the most difficult. But there is no way out. That is what we need for this country.

Jose Luis Mejias, *Excelsior*, Jan. 26, 1981. Unattributed quote from Indira Gandhi 1979 *EIR* interview, appended to *EIR* Special Report "The India Jose Lopez Portillo Will Find."

The victory of Indira Gandhi showed that her defeat, four years before, could be attributed not to personal errors but to a trap laid by the World Bank. [The trap] was the World Bank demand that Indian demographic growth be stopped at all cost if India wanted that institution to provide it credits which were so urgently needed by the country. And here it is appropriate to reproduce an answer which Mrs. Gandhi gave in a press interview.... "The developed countries, the powerful countries, are

accumulating nuclear arms, and refining them, making them more and more sophisticated, whereas they don't want us to use [nuclear energy] even for development purposes, which is all that we want."

Francisco Cardenas Cruz, *El Universal*, Jan. 28, 1981. Unattributed use of the analysis of *EIR* Special Report, "The India Jose Lopez Portillo Will Find," and of an appended May 1978 *EIR* interview with Mrs. Gandhi.

Mexico has extensive uranium resources and is, as I understand it, correctly planning to set up a number of nuclear power stations with an installed generating capacity of 20,000 megawatts between the 1980s and 1990s.

El Nacional, Jan. 28, 1981. Unattributed citation of Colonel R. Rama Rao, in exclusive interview for *EIR* Special Report, "The India Jose Lopez Portillo Will Find."

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