

## Interview: Carlos Andres Pérez



# “We repudiate the Kissinger Report”

*This interview with former Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Pérez, known as CAP, in his capacity as president for Latin America of the Socialist International, took place at the meeting of the Socialist International of Peru and the Caribbean in Lima, Peru May 9. The interview was conducted by Sara Madueño de Vásquez, EIR correspondent in Lima.*

**Madueño:** As president of the Socialist International for Latin America, are you prepared to call upon Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid—spokesman for our continent in upcoming talks with the President of the United States—to urge his American counterpart to join Ibero-America in rejecting the genocidal policies of the International Monetary Fund, given that these represent a security problem for the United States as well?

**CAP:** President de la Madrid, who will be visiting the U.S. President in the next few days, carries a clear mandate from all our peoples and all our governments to present to the American head of state the viewpoint of a united Latin America, determined to make its collective voice heard. On the economic question, the Latin American countries met in January in the city of Quito [Ecuador], and unanimously we produced the Declaration of Quito, expressing an unshakable solidarity in our points of view. De la Madrid carries the resolutions of Quito with him for his talks with Reagan.

On the political side, on the most pressing issue of the moment, President de la Madrid represents one of the countries that formed the Contadora Group. Contadora, however, is not the initiative of just four countries, but those four countries represent the feeling, the will, and the determination of all of Latin America and the Caribbean. Therefore, I am sure that President de la Madrid will be speaking in a plural tone and voice, making President Reagan understand the aspirations, the positions that all the countries of the region maintain.

**Madueño:** The Kissinger Commission Report on Central America makes clear that it is Kissinger and the forces he represents which are the main obstacles to achieving an understanding of peace and cooperation between the United States and Ibero-America. What do you think about this?

**CAP:** What we can neither accept nor share with the controversial Kissinger Report are its conclusions. They are con-

clusions meant to assert the pre-eminence, the hegemony of the United States of America. We wish to share responsibilities with the United States. We accept its leadership in the Western world, with which we stand in solidarity, but we can in no way permit the United States to interpret our sentiments, to supervise our interests. We demand our independence, our right to interpret our situation as we see fit and to lead our nations' destinies ourselves. In this sense, we totally and frankly repudiate the Kissinger Report.

**Madueño:** The assassination of Colombian Justice Minister Lara Bonilla is, in *EIR's* estimation, the opening shot of a new Opium War against Ibero-America. What is your opinion?

**CAP:** The problem of drug trafficking has become one of the most serious problems for our Latin America, not only because it enthrones a criminal mafia with great economic power and, therefore, with the diabolical capacity to interfere in the governance of our countries, but because it represents a powerful organized force that corrupts and destroys the youth of our nations.

But the drug trade doesn't only spell ruin for the developing countries. It does not injure us alone, but also the industrialized countries because they are the principal recipients of the drugs. The war against drugs is, therefore, of mutual interest, that is, of interest both to the United States and Western Europe and to the smaller nations of Latin America. We must pursue drug trafficking as the worst possible crime, the most abominable crime that can be committed against humanity. I think every country can unite on this question without any kind of resistance, the large and the small, the United States and Latin America.

**Madueño:** What is your view regarding the formation of an Inter-American Defense Council to fight drugs?

**CAP:** The Malvinas war triggered the vigorous awakening of Latin America's consciousness, and we have reached the conclusion that we are extremely vulnerable, both politically and economically. SELA has already approved a resolution on the economic security of Latin America, and I am certain that we will establish our own norms for the political security of our continent as well, be it within the framework of the Organization for American States or outside of it. A new Latin America is being created, and our friends throughout the world will soon know it.