

Press comments on García policies

Excelsior (*Monterrey, Mexico*), Sept. 26:

The strong statements made by Peruvian President Alan García in the U.N., which were ratified by the Brazilian President, José Sarney, and warmly received by Argentina and Colombia, indicate the formation of a debtors' front, which is raising the banner of Latin American independence against the impositions of the IMF. . . . The best thing is that the Peruvian President is not alone. . . . Mexico must move into solidarity with . . . Peru, Brazil and the others.

Washington Post, Sept. 26:

The Peruvian chief is posing a puzzle for U.S. policy-makers, who are not yet sure how to interpret and deal with him. . . .

While challenging the international banking community, García is showing himself to be a monetary conservative at home, having frozen prices, limited foreign exchange, and begun to dismantle part of the state-owned industrial bureaucracy. . . .

Such moves have bolstered his popularity among the country's impoverished masses, but, along with an anticorruption crackdown against Peruvian police and human rights curbs on the Army's fight against rural and urban guerrillas, they have increased the risk that his crusading presidency could be blunted by a conservative backlash.

New York Times, Sept. 26:

With the path to political negotiations evidently blocked, many officials as well as foreign bankers who work in Latin America are apparently becoming resigned to the inevitability of a new debt crisis, to be sparked this time by a unilateral move of some government feeling overwhelmed by domestic political pressures. . . .

Peru is a small debtor, so its stance has not served as a precedent for the region. . . . [Mexico and Brazil] are both measuring their debt in political terms.

The Times (*London*), Sept. 25:

Both leaders [García and Sarney] have embarked on what is believed to be a coordinated Latin-American policy to instill fear into the international banking institutions and force them to reform.

Christian Science Monitor, Sept. 26:

Peru's withdrawal alone would not make a great deal of difference, say observers. But if other nations, in particular Brazil, Mexico and Argentina, followed suit, one of the greatest threats to the international economic system since the Great Depression could occur.

The Guardian (*London*), Sept. 24:

President Alan García had good reason for satisfaction as he made his debut before the world at the UN General Assembly in New York on Monday. In less than two months in office, Mr. García has stamped his authority on one of Latin America's most troubled democracies.

The Times (*London*), Sept. 24:

As short a while ago as the occasion of President García's inauguration in July it was easier to note the differences than the similarities between these leaders' positions [García, Sarney, Mexico's de la Madrid] on the debt question. The differences still exist, but the positions have converged, and not in the direction of compliance with IMF orthodoxy.

A member of the Santos family, who owns the Colombian El Tiempo newspaper, and is close to drug-mafia protector López Michelsen, commented to the Schiller Institute Sept. 25:

The speech of the Peruvian President is not news in Colombia, because the people don't care about what the President of Peru has to say.



This otherwise confused cartoon, appearing in the New York Diario/La Prensa, at least accurately reflects the growing influence throughout Ibero-America of the "Operation Juárez" policy promoted by the Schiller Institute, whose Ibero-American Labor Commission met with Alan García on Sept. 17. García is saying: "Neither Kissinger nor Castro; neither IMF nor drugs; neither Hansel nor Gretel; neither payment of foreign debt . . . but yes to foreign investment."

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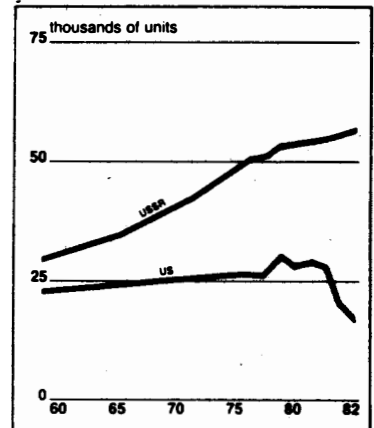
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