

## Dateline Mexico by Carlos Cota Meza

### The Madrid summit ship of fools

*George Bush's golden boys among Ibero-American heads of state gathered in Madrid—with a few glaring exceptions.*

Some 12 months ago, we said, at the time of the first Ibero-American heads of state summit held in Guadalajara, that “Carlos Salinas de Gortari’s distinction (if you can call it that) is of having gathered together this ship of fools, of whom several will not make it to Spain for the second summit in 1992.”

The reason for such a statement was not the repugnance provoked by some of the heads of state, but the fact that the entire subcontinent finds itself under *wartime conditions*, and its institutions, which these presidents represent, are in the process of dissolution, as are all the creations of the post-World War I Versailles Treaty arrangements. This dissolution was clearly in evidence at the second summit held July 23-24 in Madrid, Spain.

For example, it is most likely that Carlos Andrés Pérez will not make it to Christmas celebrations this year as Venezuela’s head of state. Ironically, at the Guadalajara summit, Pérez had called for the disappearance of the concept of national sovereignty, “through “a revision of the old and anachronistic formulations of its guiding principles.” This same anti-national attitude is what produced the coup attempt against him last February. His own Congress forbade him to leave the country for Madrid, for fear of some new action in his absence.

César Gaviria Trujillo, of Colombia, boasted in his Guadalajara speech one year ago: “Good news. . . . We have succeeded in dismantling several leading criminal organizations, and bringing their chieftains to justice.” As the whole world knows, Gaviria

did not attend the Madrid summit because drug lord Pablo Escobar “inexplicably” escaped from his self-constructed so-called prison. Various political forces in the country are now demanding Gaviria’s resignation.

Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori did not attend the summit for very different reasons. At the moment, he is the only Ibero-American leader with the courage to try to correct the disastrous policies of his predecessors, by taking personal command of the war against the “genocidalist” narco-terrorists of Shining Path. Thus far, however, he has failed to confront the genocidalists of international finance, who would make his country “disappear” through their policies of usury and demilitarization.

Carlos Menem of Argentina, and Fernando Collor de Mello of Brazil, did make it to Madrid, but their positions are less than secure.

Carlos Salinas de Gortari of Mexico arrived at the summit as the culmination of a tour to Great Britain and other European countries. In London, he attended a meeting of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, whose fantasy-ridden director, Jacques Attali, pleaded for his “advice toward applying economic strategies to encourage the development of eastern Europe.” As if the non-existent “Mexican miracle” could solve the desperate crises of Russia, Poland, or Czechoslovakia—or of Mexico, for that matter.

When Salinas met with the advisory board of the London *Guardian* to promote his “miracle,” the leading news of that day’s edition was that

“the world is experiencing a general economic crisis not seen since the ’30s.” Other dailies, like the *Financial Times*, with whom Salinas also met, analyzed the fall of the world’s leading stock markets as a presage of the collapse of the international financial system.

In France, Salinas compared Europe unified under the Maastricht Treaty to his own North American Free Trade Agreement with the United States and Canada, just as Europe is going through the throes of a political crisis over the defeat of the Maastricht Treaty in a Danish referendum, and its possible defeat by a French referendum in September.

At the Madrid summit, the cowardly Presidents in attendance agreed not to speak about the countries whose Presidents were absent. To have done so would have meant defining themselves with respect to the life-and-death issues now facing the entire continent. For example, the final summit statement refused to mention by name the ruling of the U.S. Supreme Court permitting the kidnaping of foreigners, and limited itself instead to rejecting “any kind of interpretation which seeks to recognize the possibility of the extraterritorial application of one country’s laws to another.” Possibility? Tell that to Panama!

These fops also reaffirmed their “commitment to intensify cooperation and jointly fight the production, trafficking, and illegal consumption of psychotropic substances”—with Gaviria’s Colombia undoubtedly the model. They similarly said they “unequivocally condemn all acts, methods and practices of terrorism,” but denied their support to Peru in its critical battle with Shining Path. And perhaps most telling, they reaffirmed their commitment to the suicidal free trade policies demanded by Bush’s new world order.