

and central region of the country. . . .

The artificial lakes created by this system would constitute a valuable reservoir of energy and fresh water, to supply the current future population centers of the country. They would also increase the hydroelectric production by 16.5%, and would facilitate navigation through the Pánuco river. . . .

The new development poles would be the magnets to reorganize Monterrey and Saltillo, and for the relocation of businesses of La Laguna, one of the most critical regions of the country, together with El Bajío and The Valley of Mexico, because of water resource shortages. . . .

There are also detailed plans for the rest of the country. There does not exist a region in Mexico which does not possess great development potential.

The Pacific West Complex

From north of Puerto Vallarta to the port of Mazatlán, one finds one of the best coastal zones of the country with regard to physiographic features and the variety of natural resources for the development of Mexico's food potential. In southern Nayarit, for example, the San Pedro Mezquital and Santiago Rivers empty the Acaponeta River in the center and the Presidio and Baluarte Rivers in the extreme north. Together, these rivers carry an average annual flow, along their 300 km length, of 15.3 billion cubic meters—which, if dammed and administered rationally, would constitute 154.3 billion cubic meters of water, or about 340 cubic meters per second, sufficient to sustain agro-industrial development and new population centers for 110 million Mexicans. Already constructed dams along these Nayarit rivers, and others that are planned, would allow the interconnection, through canals and transfer tunnels, of all the hydraulic networks of the central and northern zone of Sinaloa, and southern Sonora.

Along these coastal areas of the Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific, apart from the management of water for multiple uses, corridors of agro-industrial development could be built, fed by packages of communications infrastructure, high-speed freight and passenger trains, modern highways, fiber-optic "highways," and high-tension grids for transmission of electrical energy. The development corridor could be conceived as one gigantic assembly line for connecting a city and its surrounding agro-industrial zones.

Similarly, other development corridors have been proposed, with the same characteristics, that would run "transversely," from the coasts of the Gulf of Mexico to the coasts of Mexico's Pacific. . . .

If we build this polygon of development corridors, we will not have to beg at the back door of the slavemasters. Mexico will be able to build its own destiny. We have the resources, the intellectual capacity, the technical cadre—albeit reduced at the moment—all waiting to be tapped. With these, we could establish the basis for a new generation of development. Putting this revolution in basic economic infrastructure into gear, we could achieve the development goals that would give Mexican families opportunities for decent

jobs and for a dignified life, instead of entering into the human grinding mills known as *maquiladoras* and/or illegal emigration to the United States.

To carry this development strategy forward, we need to defeat Jorge Castañeda's political plan. This is the plan of those currently in power. We are still on the other side. My proposal is thus to develop a campaign of political attack. We have the forces to attack on this flank and to put an end to Castañeda's imperial design by exposing him for what he is. Castañeda laments that Mexican society doesn't yet understand the advantages of his annexationist policy. What I believe is that, if we let the population know what this policy truly is, the Mexican people will be ready to defeat this annexationism, because they still want to continue to be Mexican. . . .

To launch this political assault of ours, we will publish a pamphlet with all these elements of information and analysis, which must be broadly distributed and debated, above all in the universities. The students intuit, or know, that under the current policy, they have no future, that their fate is unemployment, misery, and the dustbin of history. The youth, the students, must fight for their future. That future is national economic reconstruction, beginning with the construction of basic infrastructure works. If the youth present at this meeting attract more youth to these ideas, we will be on our way to victory.

Sérgio Tasso Vasquez de Aquina

Sovereignty, Security, And National Dignity

From the speech by Vice Adm. Sérgio Tasso Vasquez de Aquina, former Deputy Chief of Staff of the Brazilian Armed Forces, at the seminar on Aug. 23.

. . . The aspiration for freedom is a gift of God, given to all human beings, and which is transmitted to the collective conscience of people who seek self-determination and their own means of carrying out their national mission; to be masters of their destinies, without accepting foreign servitude, limitations, and interference. . . .

The creation of the state is a political construct of nations, with the essential attributes of being one people, with one territory, and sovereignty. And from this sovereignty comes the incontestable right to exert force over their geographic jurisdiction, with due respect internationally for the principles of juridical equality among states, the right to self-determination, and non-intervention in the internal affairs

of other nations. . . .

After the fall of the Soviet Union which followed the Solidarity revolution in Poland and the fall of the Berlin Wall, the globalist neo-liberal wave surfaced, and with it, the paradox of the current world, where it is now confirmed that weaker peoples of the so-called free world had greater freedom of sovereign action under the balance of terror that had existed between the Soviet Union and the United States, than they do today, under the hegemony of a single superpower . . . dominating on a planetary scale, based on usury, on money, on submission to material appetites, and on access to power on the global scale; without fear of God and without any charity toward the poorest and weakest people and nations, as has been exposed in this book which was put together by the friends who convoked this seminar, and which is called *The Plot to Annihilate the Armed Forces and Nations of Ibero-America*. . . .

One tragic result of the neo-liberal world order has been the destruction of public services and the persecution of public servants, as a means of destroying the nation-state and facilitating the surrender of national patrimony by means of this suspicious “privatization.” For example, in Brazil, on the pretext of privatizing the energy and communications companies, many were sold to state companies of France, England, etc. at an absurd price. This constituted a real surrender of the national patrimony, achieved at such great cost by generations and generations of Brazilians. This is now occurring in all of our countries.

There are outrages committed against sovereignty, under the tutelage of the IMF: the growing indebtedness and national impoverishment, the unhappiness of my people, and the contempt for them, manifest in the systematic and planned destruction of the health, sanitation, education, housing, employment, retirement, and public security systems; the dismantling of strategic energy, transport, and communications infrastructure; the cannibalization of industry; and the scientific and technological backwardness. . . .

The imposition of the IMF as the director of national and economic policies, with the large-scale diversion of national revenues for payment of the growing brutal interest rates on foreign and internal debts; the speculative and volatile capital which in Brazil we call “motel capital”—it enters, spends the night, and is gone—earns money but does not put a cent into national development. . . .

There is pressure, as I exposed in 1992, as Deputy Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, to transform the Armed Forces of all of our countries into gendarmes, a police force to oversee “democracy,” fight the drug trade, environmental crimes, and so on. Then we are to hand over our national defense, but to whom? To a multinational force. Commanded by whom? By the United States. . . .

There is a real threat of territorial dismemberment, an international ambition toward the Amazon, in the same way that it is expressed in Argentina toward Patagonia, and also

toward our Pantanal region, which is a rich biological reserve. With the nation-state weakened, and the Armed Forces reduced, it is much easier to try such a thing, which would not succeed under any other circumstances.

‘I Am Not Against the United States’

I want to clarify one point. I am not against the United States. I have lived there twice, once as a child during the Second World War. I speak English as if it were my second language, and at that time, I found a country in solidarity against the war, some very pleasant people. Each family had a son fighting in the Pacific, or in Europe. I believe that Americans have the right to defend their interests. We must make common cause where we have shared interests, but the rights of the Americans must be respected, just as the rights of Brazilians, and all the other free people of the Americas and the world. . . .

I came here to call for the union of Latin America, to strengthen our fight for the good, and in this union, I believe Brazil, Mexico, and Argentina have a fundamental role to play. It is necessary that we join hands—both civilian and military—across Latin America, without prejudice, but with total respect for the sovereignty of each nation-state. We must emphasize that which we have in common, to allow for the construction of a more dignified and just world, with the blessings of God.

Twenty Years Later

López Portillo Speaks Out on State in Crisis

by Gretchen Small

With Mexico’s leading daily, *Excélsior*, taking the point, the nation’s media prominently, and unexpectedly, celebrated the 20th anniversary of an event that Wall Street had hoped it had killed and buried for all time: President José López Portillo’s dramatic announcement, on Sept. 1, 1982, nationalizing Mexico’s banking system and Central Bank and imposing full exchange controls, to stop anti-national forces from bleeding the country by speculation and capital flight.

Excélsior chose to commemorate the anniversary by interviewing López Portillo on his past actions, and their relevance for the much greater crisis that Mexico faces. The interview, published in two parts on Sept. 9 and 10, was given maximum play, the first part published as the newspaper’s