

MEXICO-CUBA: Lopez Portillo's Trip

In his speech in Cuba on Saturday, President Lopez Portillo emphasized Mexico's solidarity with Cuba while subtly encouraging Castro to seek greater independence from the USSR. He did not criticize the US by name but, in line with his concern for nonintervention by either superpower, condemned the maintenance of "areas of influence of all hegemonies." The joint communique reiterated Mexico's longstanding support for an end to the economic embargo of Cuba, the return of the Guantanamo Naval Base, and called for an end to violations of Cuban air space. Lopez Portillo publicly offered to broker negotiations with the US on ending the embargo.

