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9 June 1980

# Latin America Report

(FOUO 13/80)



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## LATIN AMERICA REPORT

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### CONTENTS

#### INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

- Writer Focuses on Argentina's Strong Position in Future Accords  
(Estela Araujo; LA OPINION, 8 Apr 80)..... 1
- OPEC 56th Special Meeting Issues Press Communique  
(PRELA, 9 May 80)..... 4
- Briefs  
Venezuelans Not in Surinam Coup 6

#### BRAZIL

- 'THE TIMES' Interviews 'Architects' of New S. American 'Entente'  
(Arrigo Levi; THE TIMES, 15 May 80)..... 7

#### CUBA

- Refugees in Madrid Tell Why They Chose Exile  
(CAMBIO 16, 4 May 80)..... 10
- Vice Foreign Minister Assails U.S. Actions in Caribbean  
(PRELA, 15 May 80)..... 16
- Rodriguez Praises Cuban-Soviet Relations  
(Isabel Montero; PRELA, 5 May 80)..... 17

#### NICARAGUA

- Journalists React to Campaign Against Revolution  
(Javier Rodriguez; PRELA, 11 May 80)..... 19

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	<b>Briefs</b>	
	CIA Destabilization Plot	21
<b>PANAMA</b>		
	<b>Briefs</b>	
	Soviet, Panamanian Peace Committees' Declaration	22
	Government Communique Recognizes SWAPO	22
<b>SURINAM</b>		
	'PRELA' Views Thwarted Mercenary Invasion	
	(Jorge Luna; PRELA, 6 May 80).....	23
	Surinam Officially Protests Netherlands Part in 'Invasion'	
	(PRELA, 13 May 80).....	27
<b>VENEZUELA</b>		
	Venezuela Not Competing With Any Other Country, Montes de Oca	
	Says	
	(PRELA, 11 May 80).....	28

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INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

WRITER FOCUSES ON ARGENTINA'S STRONG POSITION IN FUTURE ACCORDS

Buenos Aires LA OPINION in Spanish 8 Apr 80 p 9

[Article by Estela Araujo: "Winds of Change Are Sweeping Over Latin America"]

[Text] The Cartagena Agreement, 10 years after it was signed, is playing an increasingly significant role in the South American complex. Arising, as a subregional pact out of LAFTA, it has shown that its influence has gone beyond the limits of its origins.

LAFTA, created in 1960, is in a period of crisis which is leading it toward new planning for reorganization and, perhaps, toward greater moderation in its goals.

The Plata Basin, as the association of its member states 10 years after having signed the treaty, is beginning a new stage. This is characterized by Brazil's change in attitude, its having adopted a position favoring dialog with Argentina, after years of increasing discord. The remaining members maintain good relations among themselves and with all the states. The results of the treaty can be seen in the major projects for binational infrastructures which are being built: Salto Grande (Uruguay-Argentina), Itaipu (Brazil-Paraguay), Yacyreta (Paraguay-Argentina) and other projects in the planning stage.

The Amazon Pact is the latest of the groups, founded in May 1978, by Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Surinam and Venezuela.

The Treaty of the Plata Basin, 1969, groups Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay.

LAFTA, founded in 1960, is made up of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. It has served as a pioneer.

The Andes Subregional Pact was formed in 1969 by Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador and Peru. Chile withdrew in 1976, but Venezuela has joined.

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At the beginning of the year, a new stage of the Cartagena Agreement was formalized, planned on its tenth anniversary--a stage of opening, which will make it possible to arrive at common points of view with possible members: Brazil and Argentina.

The foreign minister of Brazil, Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro, in Lima, when the round of talks with the Andes Council began, said: "Winds of change are sweeping over Latin America." After the rapprochement of Brazil, in January, the visit by the Argentine foreign minister, Carlos Washington Pastor, took place in March. This event is perhaps the culmination of a linked series of events which bode well for Argentina's foreign relations. In 1977 a period of isolation began, in which all fronts were unfavorable, as if, all of a sudden, old faults, old slights and century-old border disputes were combining to make the country suffer unbearably in the international arena.

The papal mediation, in January 1979, opened the new cycle. The solution to the pending problems of Yacyreta and finally the Corpus Agreement reveal a panorama in which the disagreements with our neighbors have possibilities for settlement.

The visit by Foreign Minister Carlos Washington Pastor reiterates a greater flexibility toward opening the door to the Andean countries and also to looking forward, consciously, toward a South American integration in which Pacific and Atlantic nations will find their meeting point in the Andean chain.

The May agreements, which are being signed between Argentina and Brazil, are the direct consequence of a country's ability to overcome difficulties and therefore to find itself in a strong negotiating position.

Argentina has no essential need in the prospective agreements. Therefore, it can obtain greater benefits than Brazil, which has pressing needs in energy matters.

Foreign Minister Pastor declared in Quito: "The Argentine Republic believes that the Andean group is a factor of basic importance in America's politics as well as its economics. To the extent of our capabilities, we are ready to support it firmly, contributing to its development with our economy, our technology and our human resources."

The Andean nucleus has a growing importance. At the same time the expanding dialog is another point of contact which strengthens future relations. Argentina is achieving a climate of concord with its neighbors. In addition there is a new North American attitude, rapprochement with Great Britain, a nuclear policy with Germany and Canada and a rapprochement with the Far East. Chile is completing a declining cycle which leaves it almost completely isolated.

Chile does not belong to any of the regional associations except LAFTA, which is engaged in a period of restructuring. Chile does not maintain an

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effective relationship with any of its three neighbors: Peru has no diplomatic relations with Chile, Bolivia is persevering in its demands for a seaport, and Argentina maintains the border problems through mediation. Its only outlet is the Orient, and relations with that area seem to be deteriorating day by day after the unsuccessful trip by President Augusto Pinochet.

Argentina has an opportunity, which it has not had for a long time, to be able to negotiate in all areas with relative freedom of movement, not confined within walls of negative facts. The next agreements will offer guidelines as to whether the new situation has been taken into consideration.

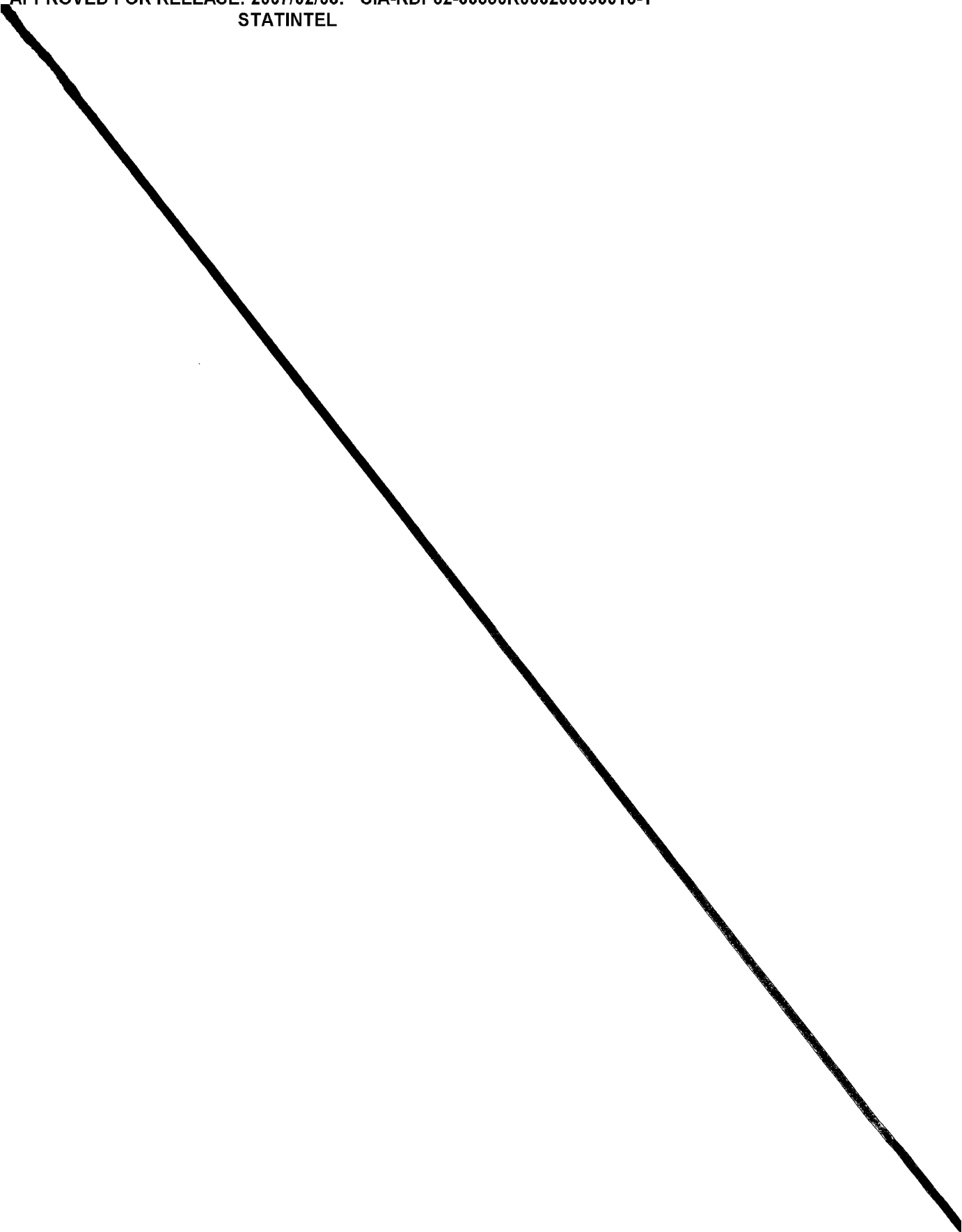
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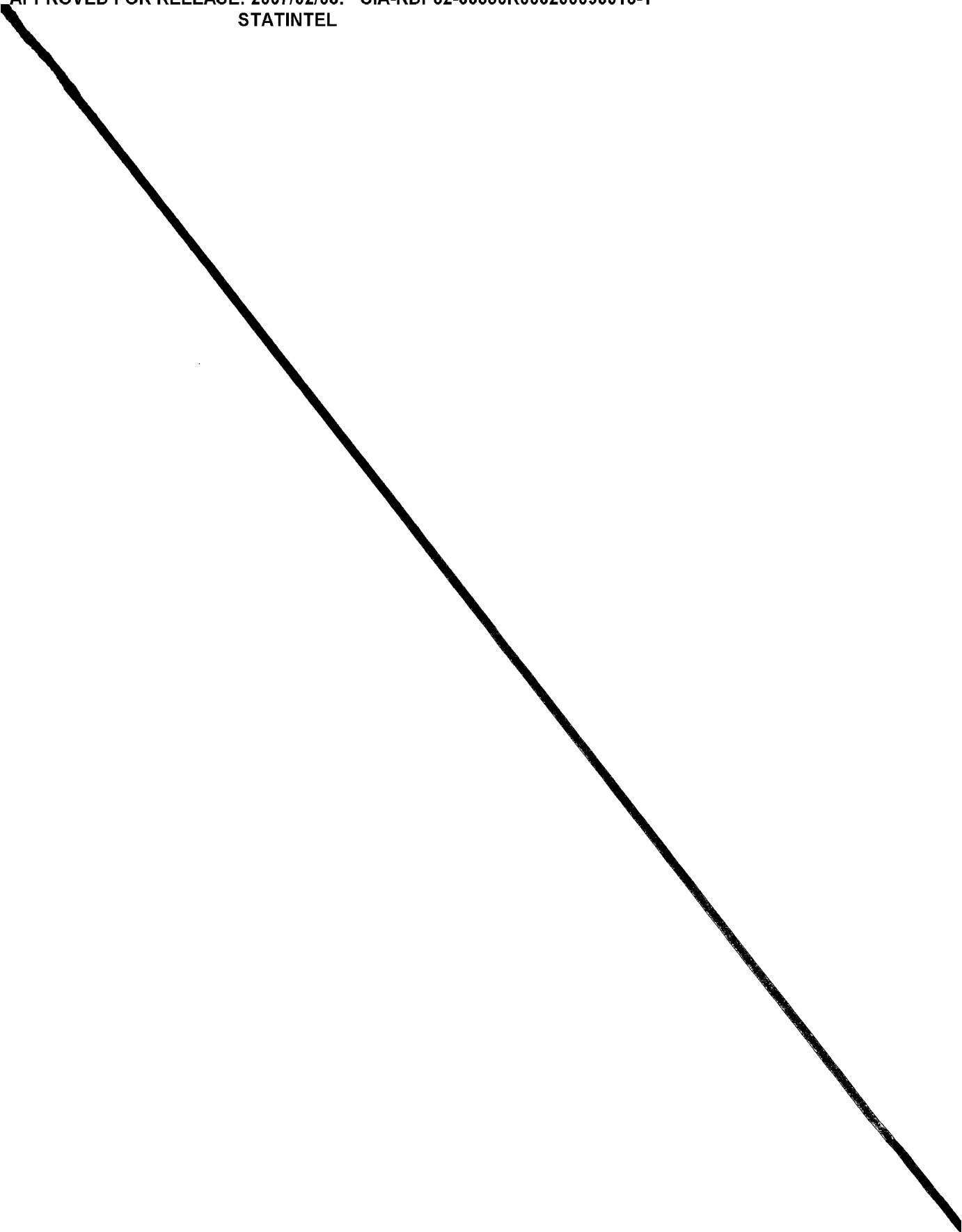


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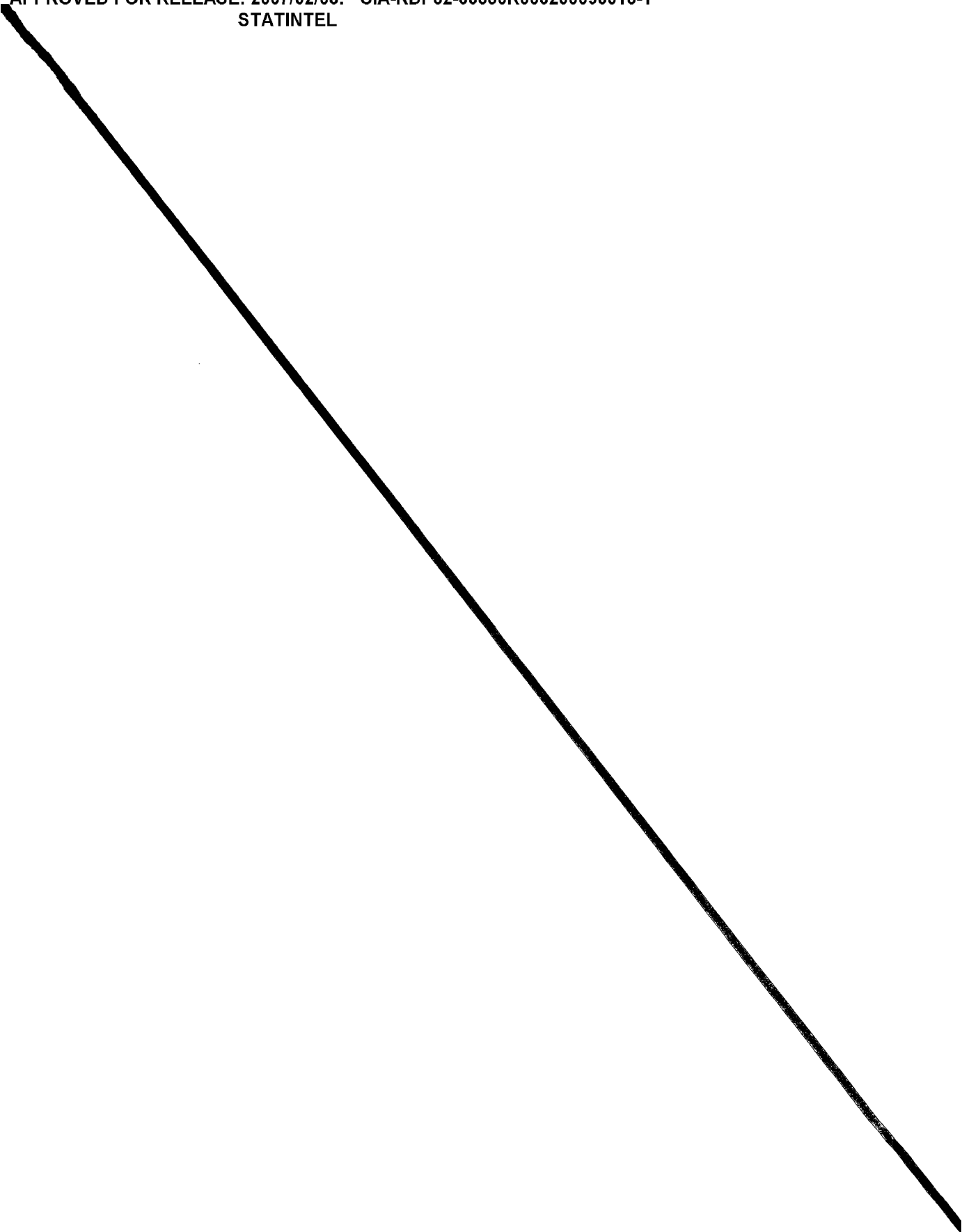
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BRAZIL

'THE TIMES' INTERVIEWS 'ARCHITECTS' OF NEW S. AMERICAN 'ENTENTE'

LD151035 London THE TIMES in English 15 May 80 p 9

[Report by Arrigo Levi: "Closer Ties Forming in S. America"]

[Text] Brasilia--The present visit to Argentina of President Figueiredo of Brazil, the first since Getulio Vargas, will be a turning point in the relations between South America's two greatest powers. The Buenos Aires summit meeting could also open an era of increasing political and economic cooperation for the whole region.

The multiple world crises, as well as the dramatic fall in American influence over Latin America in the Carter years, are forcing the Latin American nations to try and achieve greater economic and political self-sufficiency. The biggest step along this road is the new "entente cordiale" between Brazil and Argentina.

Although it is not an alliance, as Senor Ramiro Saraiva Guerre, the Brazilian foreign minister, told me on the eve of the president's trip, the new entente extends to a very wide range of economic and technological fields. It will even have unexpected political implications.

I understand that the final document of the visit will include a political statement of great importance. The two presidents are expected to state that the idea of a pluralistic democracy and the existence of political parties represent essential elements of Brazilian and Argentine historic tradition. This passage, which is being apparently included, on President Jorge Videla's request, may raise hopes of Argentina imitating sooner or later, Brazil's Abertura, the process of democratization which has already transformed radically, for the better, the Brazilian political system.

The architects of this visit--among them Argentina's brilliant ambassador in Brasilia, Senor Oscar Camillion, and the secretive Brazilian, General Golbery de Couto e Silva, President Figueiredo's "grey eminence," who is head of his household--deny, however, that this "rapprochement" has any ideological meaning.

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What is happening, as Senor Camillion told me, "belongs to the sphere of state relations."

The road to the new cooperation agreements was opened last autumn, when the two countries finally patched up their old quarrel concerning the use of the Parana River waters. Once this problem of "traditional diplomacy" was solved, the two governments embarked on a new exercise of atomic-age diplomacy, and were quite successful.

Senor Saraiva Guerreiro explained to me his country's new dynamism in foreign policy--it is aimed in all directions, but it concerns first of all Latin America--as a reaction to the "especially difficult" world situation, which raises great risks even for a country like Brazil, which "has a whole continent at its disposal."

Its total dependence, at least for some years, on imported oil, which keeps coming mostly from the Middle East (so that in the case of an Iran-Iraq war Brazil might grind to a halt) increases its interest in Mexican and Venezuelan oil, but even more so in Argentina's newly discovered huge reserves of natural gas, which cannot be sold elsewhere.

Fast growing Latin-American markets are also more attractive for Brazil's new, powerful industry. Argentina, in spite of some misgivings over Brazil's large, productive dimensions and aggressiveness, knows that it can graduate into a modern industrial country only if it has access to a really big market like Brazil's.

The new agreements are, according to Senor Camillion, "a triumph of the obvious." They include an important treaty on double taxation, which will finally make joint ventures possible and several pacts for technological and industrial cooperation, including one for nuclear energy, which is the "piece de resistance" of the whole visit.

In spite of rumours to the contrary, the two sides present this agreement (the first such one between two "developing" countries) as the equivalent of a bilateral pact for nuclear non-proliferation. It became possible only when, on both sides, "the generals finally got the idea of the atomic bomb out of their heads."

Agreements signed during the Figueiredo visit might prove to be the first step on the long road leading to a genuine "common market" between the two countries though it will take time. All this seems to represent a rather aggressive and instructive answer to the challenges of these difficult times.

After two decades of impressive growth, Latin America is beginning to have more confidence in its own future. This is particularly true of Brazil, in spite of present economic difficulties, and indeed the rest of the world,

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and indeed the rest of the world, as Senor Saraiva Guerreiro told me, is "becoming more receptive" to the idea of having stronger links with Brazil.

In general, a gradually unifying Latin America would become a much more interesting economic and political partner for Europe, although the Europeans are slow to understand it.

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CUBA

REFUGEES IN MADRID TELL WHY THEY CHOSE EXILE

Madrid CAMBIO 16 in Spanish 4 May 80 pp 68-69, 71

[Text] When they arrived in Madrid, the 500 Cuban refugees whom the Spanish Government accepted added to the testimony on the dramatic social and political reality which impelled the expatriates to seek asylum in the Peruvian Embassy, braving innumerable hardships.

There are 500 dramatic stories, 500 bitter stories and 500 hopeful of reshaping their lives, to make a living in another land. There are 500 Cuban refugees who lived a tragedy that forced them to become expatriates and protagonists in the most massive asylum in the history of diplomacy. First was the hell of the interminable days in the gardens of the Peruvian Embassy in Havana. Almost 11,000 people packed "in our urine and excrement" were harassed by insults, rocks and even a shot from hostile groups.

Clutching her baby son, a young woman recalled: "We suffered from thirst and hunger. The children had many health problems at the beginning. The sun was torture and then came the cold nights." All the testimony that CAMBIO 16 collected resulted in a resounding refutation of the official Cuban Government version that enough food was supplied. The refugees who arrived in Spain said that the authorities refused Red Cross aid and that they shared minimal rations.

Lilian Garcia, a 22-year-old woman with a 2-year-old child, pointed out: "This lack of food made the men fight for food for their families. That was what they wanted--to make us fight among ourselves, to divide us." The decision to establish organization committees helped distribute the scarce food.

With her nerves shot, Mrs de Ferreiro (27 years old with a 7-year-old daughter) said that she and her husband spent the first 4 days without eating and drinking very little water in order to sustain their daughter. "My husband lost 7 kilos and I lost weight. I believe that it is an understatement to say that that was hell."

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In three successive trips of 54, 50 and almost 400 people, Spain rescued the 500 refugees to whom it had agreed to grant asylum. The work at the Barajas Airport and in the Red Cross and ACNUR [UN High Commission for Refugees] offices was not enough to attend to the surge of problems that the exiles brought. Emotions overflowed upon meeting relatives or simply finding that the nightmare had finally ended. After passing through customs, the exiles waved their refugee documents like flags, shouting: "Freedom, freedom" and "Spain, Spain." Several times they sang the Cuban national anthem.

"We arrived with what we have on because they took the few things of value that we had at the airport," explained Luis Ferrer who became a spokesman for his companions who arrived in the first group. Several of the recent arrivals were attended for wounds caused by fists, sticks, rocks and every type of object thrown at them while they were at the Spanish Consulate and while they waited at the Havana International Airport to board the Iberian airplane.

"They treated us like animals," said Estonia Maria Perez who was with her husband and her 18-month-old son. "They hit the child with a potato at the consulate and hit me with a rock even though I am pregnant." An employee of the consulate was wounded and the Spanish ambassador had to ask for police intervention when several windows at the embassy were broken. She added: "They insulted us at the embassy and later at the airport. They slandered us by calling us criminals and antisocial elements."

Sergio Perez, 49 years old, added angrily: "We are all good workers tired of a life of poverty, deprivation and oppression. I was responsible for construction projects so they would not let me leave. I was very happy to find some workers who worked under me here; they came to welcome me because they already had obtained asylum in Spain."

"It Is Impossible to Live"

Sergio Perez added: "The basic reason we left, risking everything, is that it is no longer possible to live there. Money does not pay for anything. My 18-month-old son takes 1-1/2 liters of milk per day and I am about to have another child. The milk quota is taken away when a child turns 7. We went up to 3 months without eating meat. I was directing a project for a 20-story building but I do not earn enough to live on. It must be recalled that most people earned less than I.

"When we wanted to leave, we were fingered as counterrevolutionaries. I worked exemplarily but was called a criminal and alienated! I was tired of having to be careful about everything, to endure anything so they would not take my job away. They humiliated and insulted us even at the airport. I think Fidel Castro, president of the Nonaligned Movement, who proclaims that he defends human rights has acted deplorably by treating his own people so poorly."

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Sergio Perez and his family entered the embassy on Saturday at 1700 hours. Alberto Ramirez, a 27-year-old railroad worker, had entered 3 hours earlier with his wife and 2-year-old son. "As soon as we saw it in the press, we decided to leave everything and go immediately." Alberto and his wife Lilian are the so-called "children of the revolution"; that is, they were born and educated during the development of the Cuban revolution. The large number of youths among the refugees is a very hard blow for the regime since they are the ones who received an education that should make them fanatics of Castroism.

Sergio recalled: "At the beginning we agreed, of course. But later it turns out there is a gap between what they teach you and reality which is filled with lies and hypocrisy."

Lilian interrupted: "Also you have to be involved in political meetings all the time or complying with their orders to demonstrate that you are 'integrated.' If they do not dislike you, they leave you alone. If you do not join the guard or do not go to a meeting, they finger you. There are CDR [Committees for the Defense of the Revolution] in all the neighborhoods which control you at all times. Depending on how you behave with them and whether you give them information about your friends and your neighbors, they will like you or put you on the list."

Alberto continued: "For any job or any transaction, the officials ask the CDR about you. If they give a bad recommendation, you are hurt; you remain alone, very alone. As to education, I think that politics in everything gets tiresome, forcing you to always agree. One gets tired and bored. Then comes disillusionment and then rage. Everything is bureaucracy and red tape and you cannot even discuss anything seriously or decide anything. They call that a government of workers. Why? I could not even elect my political or union representatives from among the best, only from among those whom the party wanted."

Alberto said: "All this is overwhelming because there is also a lot of need. You live with a ration book for food and clothing. I earned 110 pesos (1 peso is equivalent to 70 pesetas) which is a good wage but was not enough to maintain a family. If they do not put down a 'pullover,' for example, in your ration book, you have to buy it separately from the state and it costs 90 pesos. Trousers in the ration book cost 25 pesos and are very bad. One meter of fabric costs 20 pesos. When you have to resort to what they call the black market, which is very common, the prices are scandalous."

Fear as a Way of Life

Gilberto Camps, 30 years old, and his wife and daughter told about similar problems. Employed at a polyclinic, he insisted that he lived very poorly with his 95 pesos in wages. "The worst is that they also drive you crazy with meetings, committees and guards. When you miss or complain or someone says that you complain, you run the risk of losing your job and then,

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boy, you are dead. On top of not being able to live decently, you always have the fear of staying poor or going to jail because they think you are a counterrevolutionary."

Alfredo Ferreiro, 25 years old and married with a 7-year-old daughter, gave the best testimony about the social situation. As a social worker, he was in contact with the most acute problems of the lowest classes in Cuba. "I believe that the most serious thing is that everything is done from above; things come down already 'chewed over.' They simulate debates but no one wants to risk an opinion that might compromise him. Also everyone knows that anything he says is useless. My uncle worked at the Ministry of Transportation which has one of the most serious problems. He told me that they 'sent down' a series of laws to discuss but that did not mean anything. The comrades tell you: 'Careful, do not get involved because there goes your security. Be careful or they will mark you.' They force you to participate in meetings and activities but you feel that you do not count except to say yes to everything. The people are disillusioned, lose initiative and the results do not matter to anyone."

Alfredo continued: "The hierarchs control everything; that is why there is so much inefficiency. There is robbery, lies and tremendous hypocrisy in everything."

Alfredo's wife interrupted: "No one can imagine what the transportation is like. It is necessary to wait hours for a bus that then stops in the middle of the highway or arrives filled. It is necessary to stand in very long lines to buy food. Alfredo earned 95 pesos and I did not have a job. We like to smoke but a pack of cigarettes costs 1.60; in other words, smoking one per day would take half his wages. While you suffer from everything--many times there is only one meal a day--you see the hierarchs go by in Soviet Lada automobiles. The people say that Lada stands for Liga de Delincuentes Adelantados [League of Advanced Criminals]. Also the hierarchs have special stores where they can buy everything, even imported articles. Those privileges provoke hatred, of course."

#### Crime and Corruption

Alfredo said: "One problem that causes much opposition is administrative corruption. It is necessary to give money or some object of value for anything. That goes from top to bottom. They talk about crime; of course, there is crime! The question is: Why is there so much crime and so much alienation after more than 20 years of revolution? The answer is that the regime itself causes the crime by the lack of participation, administrative corruption, inequality and, especially, the alienation that they create. They isolate you if you do not work as they want or if you are somewhat rebellious. I went to the university, I have two specializations and held several positions in the armed forces but they condemned me to vegetate for being a dissident and for asking to leave."

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Alfredo explained: "Those are the roots of crime in Cuba. It is especially focused on small-scale robbery. There is no armed robbery or anything like that; there are robberies at job sites and embezzlement. In this embassy case, they spoke of drug addicts. I do not know a single case of drugs. Where are they going to get them? When they talk about illegal gambling, that means they caught someone playing cards or dominoes for money. The law punishes that but I do not believe that anyone that does that is a vicious criminal, especially considering that the people in Cuba are very bored."

Another of the refugees explained the subject of "volunteers" in Africa. "At the beginning, there were some volunteers. Later, though, the dead and the wounded began to arrive and the people became frightened. It is very difficult to refuse, however. Volunteer is only a word. You have a job to protect because your family lives on that. The Military Committee calls you and asks if you want to go as an 'internationalist soldier.' If you refuse, they will persecute you. Right then they will call you a coward. Later, the CDR in your neighborhood will threaten to take your job or your house away. Nevertheless, many refused during the Angolan war. They were eliminated from social life, cut off. That is why there are so many alienated and criminal. They do not give you a chance."

One phenomenon that everyone gave as an example of the increased opposition and criticism of the regime was the arrival of 100,000 Cubans from abroad. The government permitted them to enter in order to benefit from the foreign currency that they left in Cuba, more than \$100 million. Alfredo Ferreiro said: "They taught us that these people were 'worms' and 'traitors.' They said that they worked as dishwashers and were starving in Miami. Then they arrived as if they were movie stars and brought 25,000 presents. We who lived in a workers' paradise had many restrictions and 25,000 things that we wanted. They only brought trinkets but why were people killing each other for them? Because they do not have anything else. If you feel isolated and powerless to lead a decent life, a shirt or 'blue jeans' become treasured."

The really pathetic testimony of alienation among the refugees came from the homosexuals. CAMBIO 16 had to give absolute guarantees of secrecy to get an interview. "Of course they persecute us. We cannot express ourselves. You have to pretend all the time. When someone accuses you, you are lost. They give you the worst jobs and the CDR are in charge of slandering you on all sides. Finally, they send you to jail, to special buildings. First they called us 'sickly,' then 'sick,' later 'degenerate' and lastly 'counterrevolutionaries.'"

Alfredo Ferreiro interrupted: "Under a totalitarian dictatorship, it is not permitted to be different. I want another life for my wife and daughter. Anyone who is critical or has long hair or dresses differently is accused of 'ideological diversionism.' With those two words you are condemned. The homosexuals are persecuted harshly. Accusing you of being a

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homosexual, even though they know that you are not, is a way to punish you if they think you are a dissident."

There are 500 stories. They are long to tell and much more painful to live. Now there is hope for those who arrived. Spain is a horizon, a road for these 500 expatriates who are beginning a new story.

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CUBA

VICE FOREIGN MINISTER ASSAILS U.S. ACTIONS IN CARIBBEAN

PA161436 Havana PRELA in Spanish 1310 GMT 15 May 80

[Text] Havana, 15 May (PL)--The United States is the true epitome of all the slave traders, pirates, traffickers and adventurers who preceded it, the newspaper GRANMA said today in a commentary bylined by Vice Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada.

It recalls that the United States invaded Cuba and Puerto Rico to seize both of them after the struggle of their peoples brought an end to the Spanish domination in 1898.

In a sort of historical recounting, it notes that thus far in the 20th century the United States has invaded Haiti, Santo Domingo and Nicaragua, in addition to Cuba, in the Caribbean.

GRANMA adds that the Washington government has intervened on more than one occasion in the internal affairs of the Caribbean. It has brought down governments and installed other governments at will and has assassinated patriots like Nicaraguan Augusto Cesar Sandino.

The commentary stresses that "however, a new stage began in the history of the Caribbean at Playa Giron in April 1961 because although it is true that the Cuban people alone defeated the mercenaries sent by the Yankees in less than 72 hours, the winners were all of the Caribbean peoples."

It adds that the mercenaries were unable to see it, but a multitude of men and women who had been oppressed for centuries were behind the Cuban militiamen. It mentions, as cases in point, the Caribe Indians, the African slaves, the Haitian forces of Toussaint l'Overture and the Cuban Mambises who fought against the Spanish Army for 30 years.

It stresses that "imperialists have a hard time learning. Only an energetic and resolute struggle by the people forces them to respect them. They will be forced in this way to respect our people and all Caribbean peoples."

GRANMA then notes that "the march of the combatant people" scheduled for Saturday throughout the country will demonstrate that the era of the filibusters and the slave traders has been left behind.

"Let the combatant, enthusiastic and multitudinous demonstration on Saturday help imperialists to learn their lesson," Alarcon's commentary says in concluding.

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16

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CUBA

RODRIGUEZ PRAISES CUBAN-SOVIET RELATIONS

PA052149 Havana PRELA in Spanish 1615 GMT 5 May 80

[Report by Isabel Montero]

[Text] Havana, 5 May (PL)--Cuba and the Soviet Union are making their bonds of friendship and cooperation even closer in answer to the unsuccessful U.S. propaganda against both countries, declared Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers. Rodriguez granted an interview to PRENSA LATINA on the eve of the 20th anniversary of the reestablishment of the relations between Cuba and the Soviet Union, which will be commemorated next Thursday.

The Cuban leader referred to the difficult circumstances which the crisis of the capitalist system is causing throughout the world, which are manifesting themselves as threats against Cuba and the USSR through military deployment against the Caribbean country, he said. In reply to these threats, he emphasized, both countries are raising our banners of friendship and cooperation as a symbol of the unbreakable firmness of socialism, which nothing will be able to weaken, said Rodriguez.

The 20th anniversary of the reestablishment of Cuban-Soviet relations has exceptional significance, not only for Cuba but for the problems which occupy the world's attention today, said the Cuban leader. He included among these the norms of the economic and political relations between the developed and the developing countries. For Cuba this anniversary is a cause for joy because these 2 decades have served to make the Cuban-Soviet friendship indissoluble and over this period there have been unmistakable demonstrations that the unity between Cuba and the USSR is unbreakable.

He recalled that when Cuba responded to threats of the United States, which attempted to liquidate the Cuban revolution with the mercenary attack at Playa Giron in 1961, Fidel Castro, the top Cuban leader, gave his first historical replies to the United States. Cuba was alone in the world and it is the admirable part of those replies that history will record as singular and unique.

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A short time afterwards we obtained the political backing of the USSR, which was beginning to turn toward material cooperation. This has been, more than important, decisive in maintaining the unequal struggle of the Cubans against imperialism, he said. With its actions, the USSR has created an exemplary system of relations, which will undoubtedly serve as a basis for other young nations, affirmed Rodriguez. Described by Fidel Castro as "the most generous" it is not a question of reproducing on a universal scale what in some aspects can be exceptional, but of gathering the meaning and fundamental orientation of those relations and to transpose them to the framework of the relations between developed and developing countries.

Referring to bilateral economic, scientific and technical cooperation and to the process of an independent national economy, he said that it is necessary to evaluate in the first place the sacrifice, renunciation and determination of the Cuban people as the principal actor of this development.

Nevertheless, one must emphasize that the rate of growth of the Cuban economy would be much slower if Soviet cooperation had not been forthcoming in such an exemplary manner, eliminating the detrimental unequal exchange which exists between the capitalist powers and the developing countries, he said. With sugar prices controlled for long periods of time by the so-called world market regarding the developing sugar producing countries it would have been impossible to make advances in the Cuban economy without Soviet cooperation, he said.

If we add to this that in recent years, in which oil has been a burden on the balance of payments of the countries which do not produce it, Cuba has received all the oil it needs for its economic development at prices lower than those prevailing in the world market, he said. One does not need much imagination to understand the intrinsic nature of our economic ties with the Soviet Union, said Rodriguez, to measure the significance of the Cuban-Soviet relations.

In 20 years, he said, it is necessary to emphasize the importance of the works which we will undertake in the 1981-1985 5-year period, such as steel, atomic power plants, a refinery to process approximately 6 million tons of sugar, and other economic objectives. At the end of these 2 decades, Cubans and Soviets join forces as part of this always increasing torrent of men and women of all nations who see in socialism a guarantee for peace, just coexistence and happiness, he concluded.

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NICARAGUA

JOURNALISTS REACT TO CAMPAIGN AGAINST REVOLUTION

PA120249 Havana PRELA in Spanish 1950 GMT 11 May 80

[Article by Javier Rodriguez]

[Text] Managua, 11 May (PL)--Political and journalistic circles of Nicaragua have reacted vigorously to the intensification of an international campaign of lies and provocations against the revolutionary process that the country has been experiencing since the victory of July 1979.

A few days ago, Daniel Ortega, junta member and commander of the revolution, described the use of this bad propaganda carried out by the reactionary press as part of an attempt to turn world public opinion against Nicaragua.

The topic has again become a current issue in view of a torrent of false reports which have been published in newspapers and magazines in the United States and Latin America or which have been transmitted by Western news agencies.

The newspaper BARRICADA, the official organ of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], has refuted these lies with the publication of excerpts of some of the slanderous articles and an editorial entitled "The People Will Know How To Respond to the Slanders."

"The falsehoods continue to be at the service of imperialism which is now trying to justify the military maneuvers unleashed in the Caribbean in view of the vigorous protest of many Latin American governments, including ours," it noted.

Regarding these lies, BARRICADA stressed that the newspaper LA PRENSA LIBRE of Guatemala gave wide coverage to the obscure figure of "a so-called Urcuyo," the man who replaced former dictator Anastasio Somoza for a few hours and who fled in view of the FSLN advance over Managua.

The Guatemalan paper reports on the homage paid to Urcuyo by legislators and members of the ruling party after he formed a so-called "Nicaraguan Revolutionary Front."

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Moreover, communications media director Guillermo Roths Schuh charged that the main purpose of the maneuvers of the capitalist news agencies is to carry out a policy that is directly aligned with plans of the CIA.

He cited as an example false news reports on an alleged depletion of Nicaragua's foreign exchange reserves which circulated yesterday. According to this report, a nonexistent IMF official had attested to this.

For their part, the members of the Union of Nicaraguan Newsmen issued a call to promote a project called "Heroes and Martyrs of Journalism" whose goal will be to unmask precisely this ill-disposed campaign.

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NICARAGUA

BRIEFS

CIA DESTABILIZATION PLOT--Mexico City, 9 May (PL)--The Mexican newspaper UNO MAS UNO reveals that the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) had drawn a special plan to destabilize the political situation in Nicaragua. Quoting U.S. sources, UNO MAS UNO affirms the CIA project was approved in August 1979, only a month from the victory of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN), and was designed to provoke a division in the Nicaraguan political leadership through a broad national and international campaign. One of the fundamental parts of the CIA plan consisted of transmitting to the press in Nicaragua and abroad, forged documents confirming the "communist danger" which the FSLN victory implied to the nations of the area. Other parts of the project, the paper notes, included the use of groups opposed to the Nicaraguan Government, the creation of tension in the relations of Nicaragua with the rest of the Central American nations, and incidents between the armed forces of El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala, and the Sandinist army. [Text] [PA100427 Havana PRELA in Spanish 2314 GMT 9 May 80]

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PANAMA

## BRIEFS

SOVIET, PANAMANIAN PEACE COMMITTEES' DECLARATION--Panama City, 12 May (PL)--The top Soviet and Panamanian peace organizations have condemned the planned U.S. military maneuvers in the Caribbean and the U.S. campaign against the Cuban people and government. The condemnations appear in a declaration of the Soviet Committee for the Defense of Peace and the Panamanian National Committee for the Defense of Sovereignty and Peace [CONADESOPAZ] issued here today as a result of the recent visit of a Soviet delegation to Panama. The two committees, the document stated, vigorously condemn the U.S. military maneuvers in the Caribbean as well as "the grossly promoted imperialist campaign against the Cuban Government and people to try to isolate the always glorious Cuban revolution." The declaration called for a multifaceted and multilateral activation of the struggle of the peace-loving public in the face of the increase of the aggressiveness of the imperialist forces. It stressed that the essential task is the elimination of the arms race and said that NATO's decision to install nuclear missiles in West Europe is against detente, peace and world security. In another section, the Soviet-Panamanian delegation greets the Nicaraguan revolution's triumph over the overthrown Somozist dictatorship and expresses solidarity with the Salvadoran people's current struggle for liberation. The declaration is signed by Marcelino Jaen and Camilo Perez of the CONADESOPAZ and Valeriy (?Dzheldzhin) of the Soviet Committee for the Defense of Peace. [Text] [PA130339 Havana PRELA in Spanish 1345 GMT 12 May 80]

GOVERNMENT COMMUNIQUE RECOGNIZES SWAPO--Panama City, May 6 (PL)--The Panamanian Government recognized the SWAPO [South-West People's Organization] national liberation movement as the only authentic representative of Namibia and invited that organization to install representatives here. After the four days of talks, Panamanian functionaries and members of the delegation of the Security Council of the United Nations for Namibia issued a joint communique condemning the South African maneuvers aimed at impeding the liberation of that people. The communique defines the obstinate South African refusal to withdraw from Namibia as a threat to international peace and security. The UN delegation, headed by Noel Sinclair, is on a tour through Latin America which includes Jamaica, Barbados and Trinidad-Tobago, among other countries. [Text] [PA051641 Havana PRELA in English 1450 GMT 5 May 80]

CSO: 3010

22

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SURINAM

'PRELA' VIEWS THWARTED MERCENARY INVASION

PA091431 Havana PRELA in Spanish 2320 GMT 6 May 80

[Article by Jorge Luna: "Defeat of a Mercenary Invasion"]

[Text] The recently thwarted mercenary invasion of Surinam, the South American country where a group of patriotic young noncommissioned officers overthrew Henck Arron's regime on 25 February, reveals the magnitude of the aggressive pressures which exist on this new process. It is no longer a question of--as the press in the Netherlands, former mother country of this land of 350,000 inhabitants, has tried to reflect--of an unsuccessful "coup d'etat" or "countercoup" in which national army sectors participated, but of a clear mercenary invasion.

The quick action of the popular sergeants in Surinam, whose army has only 800 men, aborted one more dangerous adventure which the United States and its European allies in the Caribbean try to carry out daily with a certain amount of impunity.

Following last year's victories in Grenada and Nicaragua and the popular struggles in other Central American and Caribbean countries, as well as the growing international prestige of the Cuban revolution, an interventionist offensive was launched and Surinam could hardly have escaped it. U.S. President James Carter himself criticized the new government in Surinam and described it as another "setback for democracy" in the region. With this the U.S. President seems to have given the green light to any anti-Surinam adventure.

As new data and details are made public knowledge on the attempt made against Surinam from French Guiana with mercenaries, one will be able to confirm the degree of U.S. participation of another U.S. "operation failure" which will probably not make the world's front pages like the defeat in Iran did. The initial information came--as no surprise to observers in Surinam--from the Hague, which is still maintaining an ironclad control over the national economy, and where the foreign minister "confirmed" the facts--from the other side of the Atlantic--which occurred in Surinam last weekend.

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Newspaper reporters from the Netherlands confined themselves to insisting on the theory of the "countercoup" without any time focusing on the climate of aggression which is exerting pressure on the young country whose sergeants assumed power to "declare war on social injustice." The new civilian cabinet appointed by the soldiers also promised to take steps as soon as possible to put an end to the neocolonialist dependence on the Netherlands and to establish an independent and sovereign foreign policy.

Prime Minister Henk Chin-a-sen in an emergency speech on television praised the courageous soldiers of Surinam and suggested that the Netherlands, Belgian, South Moluccan, Venezuelan and Surinamese mercenaries were backed by politicians with ties to Arron who "want to continue the corrupt practices" of the past in Surinam. The Surinamese Army units, based in Albina, a small and beautiful town on the banks of the border river Marowijne, which separates the country from Cayenne, a so-called French overseas department (French Guiana), from where the expedition entered, responded quickly.

The Surinamese Army was expecting the aggression, perhaps from the moment it assumed power 2 and 1/2 months ago. The sergeants became aware that the true enemy of their popular process would be working intensely in every field. Therefore, the Surinamese success should be considered a victory which transcends national borders and should be added to the list of victories of the Caribbean peoples against military intervention in the region.

Caribbean analysts have been reporting the existence in the region--which the progressive forces insist be declared and recognized as a "peace zone"--of militaristic, interventionist, neocolonialist and imperialist plans to dominate the broad and varied population of the Caribbean, which the United States calls its backyard. There is no Caribbean island, either English, Spanish, French or Dutch speaking which does not bear the marks of these interventionist plans of the United States and its European allies..

Apart from the backfiring of the exercise invasion of Cuba through Guantanamo which the United States tried to perpetrate this month, the Netherlands, France, Great Britain, West Germany, Canada, Brazil and Venezuela carry out yearly joint air and naval maneuvers in the region, based in Puerto Rico.

The Netherlands, from where former Surinamese soldier Fred Ormskerk--leader of the invasion force--left 2 weeks ago, has warships in several ports of the "Netherlands Antilles." Ormskerk had told the Netherlands press of his decision to overthrow the present government as soon as he had 200 determined men available. France, whose "territory" was used to receive the mercenaries and to stage the invasion across the border, is also one of the military powers of the region, although it tries to play down its belligerent attitude.

In addition to zealously maintaining the colonies of Martinique, Guadeloupe and Cayenne--against the wishes of independence of their peoples--France has expressed its decision that these territories "remain French" without

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discarding the use of any military arms for this purpose, including nuclear arms. The French military presence in the Caribbean is growing and France has stationed more than 50,000 soldiers precisely in Cayenne, from where the authorities reportedly sent the Surinamese Government a delayed warning about the mercenaries. The population of Cayenne is 40,000.

The military prestige of the French, with all their bases and rocket and satellite launching sites in the Caribbean, has also sustained a hard blow with the efficient and patriotic action of the young Surinamese Army.

This militarization of the Caribbean by forces which are enemies of peace, especially the United States whose "Solid Shield 80" maneuvers were labeled by Grenada Prime Minister Maurice Bishop as a "massive terrorist action" is what is endangering the progressive development of the peoples of the region.

Carter himself "set back" the cause of democracy in Surinam while the people of Surinam hailed the victorious "7-hour operation" of the noncommissioned officers who toppled a regime which had opened the country to big transnational firms so they could exploit its natural resources.

Significantly--and the people of Surinam themselves may not know this--the newspaper DIARIO DE LAS AMERICAS, published in Miami, suddenly took an interest in the situation in Surinam and--simultaneous with the frustrated mercenary invasion--carried a venomous anti-Surinam article.

In other words, the campaign against the young nation--once relegated to meaningless press columns--is going beyond local politics and betraying the intentions that some powers have with regard to this region.

Arron's agriculture minister, Kasantaroeno, seems to be putting up the money for the adventure. The same ex-minister--lined to the turnover to France of a piece of the territory in exchange for millions in credit during the previous regime--was one of few aides of Arron who escaped to French Guiana on 25 February.

From there, after being welcomed by the colonial authorities, Kasantaroeno undertook a hysterical campaign against the sergeants accusing them of killing dozens of people as they took over power. The entire action resulted in merely six deaths.

Surinam's reply to the interventionists was firm: 300 mercenaries were arrested--the possibility has not been discarded that some of them may be Cuban counterrevolutionaries; the chief of the expedition was shot; six parliamentarians of Arron's party were arrested and Arron was arrested again 2 weeks ago; a small arsenal was impounded along the border on Monday.

The president of Surinam told the people that the army and the police are sufficiently equipped to stop all counterrevolutionary and subversive activities and urged them to redouble their vigilance.

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While the government reconsiders the possibility of again imposing a curfew throughout the country, Surinam seems to be under the total control of the authorities.

This vigilant attitude which is being praised in the region will teach a lesson to those who do not want to see the scope of the hawkish threats in the Caribbean. It will evoke regional solidarity insuring that Surinam is not alone.

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SURINAM

SURINAM OFFICIALLY PROTESTS NETHERLANDS PART IN 'INVASION'

PA140116 Havana PRELA in English 2347 GMT 13 May 80 PA

[Text] Paramaribo, 14 May (PL)--The National Military Council of Surinam protested formally to the Government of Holland, country from which it obtained independence 5 years ago, due to the participation of Dutch citizens in an unsuccessful mercenary invasion of this South American country.

At a press conference, Sergeant Major Badresein Sital, president of the NMC, presented the Dutchman Johannes Cornelis Krol, detained last week together with another 14 mercenaries.

He also showed newsmen an arsenal of modern weapons seized from the invaders, who attempted to enter Surinam over the border with Cayenne, so-called French overseas department.

The president of the council, which took power last 25 February after the overthrow of the regime of Henck Arron, also accused the former Dutch Minister Jan Prink of having helped to plan the operations.

He also said that the former Minister of Agriculture of Surinam Johan Kasantaroeno, now refuged in French Guyana, was the brain behind the unsuccessful invasion, which was going to be carried out tomorrow (15th).

According to reports, the operation contemplated the launching of mercenaries--approximately 300, of different nationalities--in five points of this country of 350 thousand inhabitants. The arsenal shown to the newsmen includes antigas masks, explosives, munitions and long and short arms.

The leader of the attempted invasion, the former Surinam military officer now living in Holland, Fred Ormskerk, was killed on 5 May, when the Surinamese army discovered him on the border.

According to the same reports, the Surinamese Government was informed of the conspiracy in April.

CSO: 3020

27

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VENEZUELA

VENEZUELA NOT COMPETING WITH ANY OTHER COUNTRY, MONTES DE OCA SAYS

PA120023 Caracas PRELA in Spanish to PRELA Havana 0007 GMT 11 May 80

[Text] Caracas, 10 May (PL)--Following is a text of the VENPRESS version of statements by Venezuelan Interior Minister Rafael Andres Montes de Oca in regard to the Caribbean and, tacitly, to Cuba.

Guyana City--Interior Minister Rafael Andres Montes de Oca said here today that Venezuela is not competing in Central America and the Caribbean with "any other country but is trying to cooperate with the countries within the framework of coexistence, ideological pluralism and nonintervention.

Montes de Oca made these statements during a breakfast meeting with newsmen at a club in this city. He noted that the country can be absolutely certain that the processes that are being experienced in the region have the attention of the world.

"We have wanted to establish in Central America and the Caribbean a clear line of nonintervention in any of the political processes of the region, not even as members of the Andean Pact," he said adding that Venezuela was not trying to promote a single political system in that region.

Montes de Oca explained that the Venezuelan aid is given out of international solidarity and to guarantee the expansion of freedom as the final goal of any political process.

He said: "The framework of this policy of cooperation with the Central American and Caribbean countries includes the supplying of oil as a main function as well as the establishment of better ties through the visits of most of the heads of states of these nations to our country."

He reiterated that the government is not "seeking confrontation or competition in the area and whoever seeks to confront or compete with Venezuela in its actions in Central America and the Caribbean would have to do it with the patterns that we are implementing in our policy.

END

CSO: 3010

28

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