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24 September 1981

Latin America Report

(FOUO 23/81)



FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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LATIN AMERICA REPORT

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COUNTRY SECTION

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

SEAGA VISITS VENEZUELA--Caracas, 6 Sep (PL)--Jamaican Prime Minister Edward Seaga will start a 3-day official visit to Venezuela on Thursday, invited by President Luis Herrera Campins. During his stay in Venezuela Seaga will meet with Foreign Minister Jose Alberto Zambrano Velasco and will hold work sessions with several ministers of Herrera Campins' Christian Democratic cabinet to examine the current bilateral cooperation agreements. According to the Caracas newspaper EL NACIONAL, Herrera Campins and Seaga "will review bilateral relations and current agreements, and will explore areas of mutual interest" to establish new fields of cooperation. The invitation to Jamaica's prime minister is part of the diplomatic offensive that the Social Christian government of Venezuela, visibly identified with Seaga and the Christian Democratic regime of El Salvador, is carrying out in the Caribbean and Central America. [Text] [PA982000 Caracas PRELA in Spanish to PRELA Havana 1902 GMT 6 Sep 81]

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COUNTRY SECTION

ARGENTINA

BRIEFS

REUNITING PERONISM--Mexico City, 27 Aug (PL)--Mario Firmenich, secretary general and commander in chief of the Peronist Montonero Movement, said that Argentina's problem is one "of liberation or dependency and not of civilians or military." In an interview with Mexican journalist Mario Menendez Rodriguez, director of the weekly newspaper POR ESTO, Firmenich insisted on the reunification and transformation of Peronism. The Montonero leader also suggested a deep unity with the radical civic union to help form, with firm determination, a liberation front whose goal would be to achieve power. In the newspaper POR ESTO, Firmenich analyzes the chances of the political convergence process called "multiparty" and says that this is an initial positive step, but not enough. He adds that there are two tendencies in the multiparty process: one that wants to make it a civilian organization for a political-military convergence and a second that favors the formation of a national liberation front. [Text] [PA280441 Havana PRELA in Spanish 2215 GMT 27 Aug 81]

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COUNTRY SECTION

BRAZIL

CUT IN BBC PORTUGUESE BROADCASTS CRITICIZED

PY121803 Rio de Janeiro LATIN AMERICAN DAILY POST in English 11 Sep 81 p 4

[Editorial: "BBC Broadcasts"]

[Text] As to the Thatcher government's decision to eliminate the BBC's Portuguese language transmissions to Brazil, we wish the English prime minister all the bad luck possible.

The move is apparently the result of Thatcher's budget cutting zeal, a "now what can we cut here" measure motivated by a quick look at the right hand side of the ledger where the figure 360,000 pounds a year is registered. As usual in such cases, all logic is reduced to the magical argument of "savings." We question, however, whether even within the narrow confines of "savings" this decision can be defended.

According to the British Government there are "less than 200,000 regular listeners" to the BBC Portuguese-language service in the seven major Brazilian cities. Assuming that "less than 200,000" is Thatcherese for "close to 200,000" this amounts to about 1.3 pounds per listener per year. For this 1.3 pounds expenditure, the BBC and through it British society and culture, receive daily entry into the home of a middle to upper class Brazilian. This individual, by his education, income and social class, is within the top percentile of his society in influence and prestige. His society is at present the eighth largest economy in the free world, the wealthiest and most powerful nation in Latin America and one of the emerging leaders of the Third World. His country's gross national product is twice that of Mexico, one of 18 Latin American nations that receive the BBC Spanish service which will not be cut.

By any objective measure then, this Brazilian listener is a valuable customer. Not only is he a member of the affluent class of a nation with 120 million citizens, representing one of the world's largest consumer societies, but he is also an opinion maker within that society. From the point of view of the business world he is a top-of-the-line customer and Britain via the BBC is reaching this fellow each day of the year for a total yearly output of 1.3 pounds. We in Brazil call that a bargain.

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In its argument before the House of Lords, the Thatcher government stated in defense of elimination that Britain's exports to Brazil are less than to Austria. This may be true today but we wonder what will be the case 20 or even 10 years from now. Certainly both momentum and potential are on the side of Brazil.

The shortsightedness of the Thatcher approach was revealed by her spokesman in the House of Lords when he remarked that the Spanish service "goes to 18 countries and is in fact understood by some in Brazil." In other words, let them listen to Spanish. The opposite, of course is equally true, Portuguese is understood by some outside of Brazil.

As friends of Great Britain we continue to hope that this important and traditional link between non-English speaking Brazilians and the United Kingdom will not be broken and Parliament will force the government to back down. Certainly we hope that in the coming debate some mention of the importance of Brazil will be made. After all we are not talking about a banana republic.

A good businessman always knows a good customer when he sees one and Britain at present is holding 200,000 of them in Brazil by the grace of the BBC and at a yearly cost of 1.3 pounds per head. Cutting them off may seem to some to be a good savings but to us keeping them would be even better business.

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

CONCEPCION CALLS HAIG'S TRIP A 'FIASCO'

PA161345 Havana PRELA in Spanish 1735 GMT 14 Sep 81

[Article by Eloy Concepcion: "Haig: Lies as a Weapon"]

[Text] The U.S. attempt to calm European protests over its warmongering policy by sending Secretary of State Alexander Haig on an urgent tour has resulted in a new fiasco.

In West Berlin some 80,000 persons booed Reagan's envoy. They used the most radical epithets against war and in favor of peace while Haig, surrounded by police officers, signed the golden book of the city, which is occupied by U.S. troops.

Upset and annoyed by the demonstrators, Haig had to resort to one of his favorite weapons (in addition to the neutron bomb) to refute the angry FRG youths: the lie.

The United States used in Vietnam a chemical product called "agent orange" to break Vietnam's resistance to the U.S. invasion of its territory. Now, through its secretary of state, the United States is accusing the Soviet Union of using toxic substances in Southeast Asia.

There are currently thousands of Vietnam veterans in the United States who were affected by "agent orange." The Vietnamese fields are damaged by the chemical war waged by the U.S. Army in the area.

Haig forgot to mention other things in Europe: the United States is using bacteriological warfare to spread epidemics in countries with which it doesn't agree.

The U.S. Army has the largest arsenal of chemical weapons ever in the history of a country in times of peace.

The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency spends millions of dollars on experiments with animals and human beings to "test" products, insects, microbes and bacteria so as to use them in its operations against other countries.

President Reagan has ordered the manufacture of the neutron bomb, to later distribute it throughout Europe. The hawks in the Pentagon consider the neutron bomb a "clean" weapon because it "only" kills human beings and leaves installations intact so that they can later be used by the United States.

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Naturally, the secretary of state could not say these things and resorted to lies, which are his favorite weapons.

With the shouts of "we want peace" resounding in his ears in Berlin, anger took hold of the soldier-diplomat Haig and he began shouting insults against the Soviet Union and the European countries which were showing "apathy" toward the U.S. policy.

His anti-Soviet phobia extended to Vietnam, Libya and the GDR. He questioned the possibilities of success of the arms limitation talks which have not even started due to Washington's lack of interest.

The White House experts convinced Reagan of the urgent U.S. need to send an envoy to Europe to try to quiet the protests from governments and peoples regarding the U.S. attempt to return to the cold war era, using as the setting a continent which has already experienced several destructive wars.

Haig began his trip with the enthusiasm befitting Reagan's main foreign policy spokesman...but he has returned upset because he was not able to convince any government or silence the boos. Instead he witnessed how the stars of his flag were being replaced with crosses, and an eagle, under fire, lay dying.

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

'PRELA' LISTS CIA 'ATTACKS' ON CUBA

PA162302 Havana PRELA in Spanish 1300 GMT 16 Sep 81

[Report by Victorio M. Copa]

[Text] When the Cuban Embassy in Santo Domingo was assaulted and its diplomats were attacked, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and its allied terrorist groups began the longest series of aggressions against a nation ever seen.

The history of the aggressions by U.S. agents against Cuban diplomatic officials is as old as its revolution, Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca told PRENSA LATINA.

The following is an account of the terrorist actions carried out by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) against Cuba.

1959

- | | |
|----------|--|
| June | Terrorists machinegunned the vehicle of the Cuban Ambassador to Port au Prince, Haiti. |
| July | The Cuban consul to the U.S. city of Miami in the state Florida is attacked and wounded. |
| December | The Cuban Embassy in Guatemala City is the target of a dynamite attack. |

1960

- | | |
|----------|--|
| October | The Cuban consulate in Miami is attacked. |
| November | Terrorists attack the Cuban Embassy in Lima, Peru at gunpoint. |
| December | The Cuban diplomatic mission in San Salvador, El Salvador is attacked. |

1961

- | | |
|---------|---|
| January | Terrorist groups hurl incendiary bombs at the Cuban Embassy in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. |
| April | The Cuban diplomatic mission in Panama City is attacked by gunfire. |

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May	Terrorists hurl bombs at the Cuban Embassy in Panama City.
June	Terrorist groups fire at the Cuban diplomatic mission in Panama City.
July	Two Cuban diplomatic officials in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil are attacked and the Cuban consulate in Barranquilla, Colombia, is machinegunned.
September	The Cuban Embassy in La Paz, Bolivia is attacked and sustains heavy material losses.
October	A bomb is placed in the Cuban consulate in Panama City. A bomb explodes in the gardens of the Cuban mission in the Panamanian capital.
1962	
November	A diplomatic official of the Cuban mission to the United Nations and two other citizens of that Caribbean nation are detained and wounded.
1963	
March	A commercial flight carrying two Cuban diplomatic couriers explodes while flying over Peru.
September	Terrorists storm the UN General Assembly sessions and attack the Cuban delegation.
1964	
December	Terrorists hurl a bomb at the UN building in New York while Cuban Minister Commander Che Guevara is speaking.
1965	
May	Terrorists attempt to assassinate the Cuban charge d'affaires to Athens, Greece, and two Cuban citizens are wounded.
1966	
January	Terrorist groups stage a dynamite attack against the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City.
September	A bomb explodes in front of the Cuban Foreign Ministry in the city of Ottawa, Canada.

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1967

April The charge d'affaires of the Cuban mission at the United Nations is wounded by a letter bomb sent through the mail.

May A bomb explodes inside a vehicle owned by the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City.

August Terrorist elements attack the consul general of Cuba in Hong Kong, British colony.

October A bomb is placed at the Cuban commercial office in Montreal, Canada. A bomb explodes at that Cuban office.

1968

May A bomb is placed at a New York hotel where a Cuban reception is being held.

July Terrorists attack the Cuban consulate in Canada. A bomb explodes near the Cuban mission at the United Nations, New York. A bomb destroys the home of an official of the Cuban diplomatic mission at the United Nations.

August The Cuban Embassy building in Tokyo, Japan is destroyed by a fire. Cuban tourism offices are attacked with bombs. A powerful bomb goes off at the entrance of the Cuban consulate in Milan, Italy.

October Terrorist groups try to assassinate the Cuban ambassador to the United Nations.

1969

May A bomb is placed at the Cuban consulate in Montreal, Canada.

June An incendiary bomb is hurled at the Cuban mission at the United Nations, New York.

1970

May An attempt is made to attack the Cuban ambassador to Mexico from a moving vehicle.

1971

May An official of the Cuban Embassy is wounded in Brazzaville, Congo during an attempt to attack this diplomatic mission.

July A bomb is placed at the Cuban commercial office in Montreal, Canada.

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1972

January Terrorists burn a car belonging to the Cuban mission at the United Nations, New York.

April A terrorist attack is carried out against the Cuban commercial office in Montreal, resulting in one Cuban official killed.

December A bomb is hurled at the Cuban consulate in Mexico City.

1973

June A bomb is hurled at the home of the Cuban commercial adviser in Santiago, Chile. An attempt is made to burn a car belonging to the Cuban mission at the United Nations, New York.

August Bombs are placed in the cars of three officials of the Cuban Embassy in Santiago, Chile. A bomb that was going to be placed at the Cuban Embassy in Paris, France explodes in the hands of a saboteur.

September The army of the military junta headed by Gen Augusto Pinochet attacks the Cuban Embassy in Santiago, Chile, the ambassador and other Cuban officials are wounded in the attack.

1974

January An attack is carried out against the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City. Book-bombs are sent to the Cuban diplomatic missions in Canada, Argentina, Peru, Mexico and Spain, injuring several persons.

February A postal package sent to the Cuban Embassy in Spain explodes in Madrid.

March A bomb is thrown at the Cuban Embassy in Kingston, Jamaica.

April A bomb goes off at the Cuban consulate in Madrid, Spain.

May A bomb explodes on one side of the Cuban Embassy in London, Great Britain. The Cuban consulate in Merida, Mexico is attacked.

July A bomb explodes at the Cuban Embassy in Paris, France.

August Attacks are carried out against the Cuban diplomatic missions in Kingston, Jamaica; Damascus, Syria, and Lima, Peru.

November A bomb explodes in the car of the Cuban ambassador to Mexico.

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1975

March A bomb is hurled at the Cuban mission in Mexico City.

July An attack is carried out against the wife of the Cuban commercial attache in Mexico City.

August An attack is carried out against the Cuban Embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

November Terrorists send a letter-bomb to the Cuban Embassy in Caracas. A bomb explodes in the car of the Cuban ambassador in Mexico City.

1976

March A package containing books put out by the United Nations explodes at the Cuban mission at the United Nations in New York, injuring an official.

April A powerful bomb placed in the Cuban Embassy in Lisbon, Portugal kills two Cuban diplomatic officials.

June A bomb explodes in the building of the Cuban mission at the United Nations in New York.

July A letter-bomb is sent to the Cuban Embassy in Madrid, Spain. An attempt is made to kidnap the Cuban consul in Merida, Mexico and a Cuban technician is killed.

August Two officials of the Cuban Embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina are kidnapped and are never found.

September A bomb is placed at the Cuban Embassy in Georgetown, Guyana.

October The Cuban Embassy in Caracas, Venezuela is fired upon.

November Two bombs go off at the Cuban Embassy in Bogota, Colombia.

1977

February The Cuban military attache in Lima, Peru is attacked.

April The Cuban Embassy in Caracas, Venezuela is fired upon.

1978

September A bomb explodes at the Cuban mission at the United Nations in New York, injuring one person and resulting in great damage.

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November A dynamite attack against the Cuban mission at the United Nations, New York occurs.

December A bomb explodes at the Cuban mission at the United Nations, New York.

1979

January The Cuban ambassador's residence in Lima, Peru is fired upon.

May A bomb explodes outside the offices of the Cuban interests section in Washington.

October A bomb explodes at the Cuban mission at the United Nations, New York, damaging the installations, its cars and nearby buildings.

December A bomb explodes at the Cuban mission at the United Nations, New York, damaging the building and a car owned by a diplomat.

1980

January A bomb explodes at the entrance to the Cuban consulate in Montreal, Canada.

March An attack is defeated when a bomb is found under the car of the permanent representative of Cuba to the United Nations, New York.

September Terrorist groups kill an official of the Cuban mission at the United Nations, New York.

December A bomb is found at the Cuban consulate in Montreal, Canada.

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

FAUSTINO PEREZ REJECTS STAFFORD'S IPU REMARKS

PA170138 Havana PRELA in Spanish 0045 GMT 17 Sep 81

[Text] Havana, 16 Sep (PL)--Faustino Perez, vice president of the Cuban delegation to the 68th IPU conference, today refuted statements made by U.S. Senator Robert Stafford and reiterated the opinions expressed by President Fidel Castro.

Citing Cuban national hero Jose Marti, the Cuban deputy said that "words are for telling the truth, not for hiding it."

A great majority of the delegations attending this conference, he said, have expressed their support for the Cuban president's declaration, emphasizing its historic importance. Others--a very few, to be sure--have had divergent opinions, although "no serious arguments," he said.

Perez said that he wished to make certain statements out of respect for those who feel that words have a more worthy function than serving as instruments for deceit and hypocrisy; that is, most of those gathered at the conference.

Referring to statements by Senator Stafford in the morning session, the Cuban legislator emphasized the lack of real argument with which Stafford rejected Fidel Castro's declarations.

He said that Stafford could not refute the fact that his country's government has pursued an aggressive policy against Cuba for over 20 years.

Faustino Perez asked who could be convinced by the Republican Senator that his government is not primarily responsible for the conflicts that threaten peace in the Middle East, Southern Africa or Latin America.

He challenged the experienced senator to justify "the criminal economic and commercial blockade" imposed by the United States against Cuba.

He said: "Lacking arguments, Mr Stafford resorted to insults, adopted a pharasaical attitude and, of course, following a deeply-rooted tradition among yankee rulers, told a couple of lies."

He reiterated the Cuban President's charges regarding the use of bacteriological weapons against Cuba, citing irrefutable proof taken from the U.S. Senate itself.

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Perez demanded that Senator Stafford return to the rostrum to explain the measures his country's senate is taking to end the subversive, criminal activities of the CIA, activities that are perfectly well known to the legislative body he represents.

He added that perhaps the silence on this subject should be attributed to complicity in these activities.

The Cuban diplomat said that it is not true that the United States was a philanthropic supplier of products needed for the campaign against the dengue epidemic. On the contrary, he said, it delayed for almost 1 month the shipment of the "abate" requested through the pan-American health office.

Perez also said that Cuba did not send persons with mental deficiencies to the United States via Mariel. He rejected Stafford's statements in this regard as lies.

Similarly, he criticized a sarcastic statement by a British delegate regarding the "model" Maze prison, where 10 Irish Republicans have died, and he ridiculed an aggressive attack by Australian deputy Cohen.

He insisted on Cuba's belief that "peace is the most urgent of mankind's requirements" and that "there can be no development without peace."

To return to the process of dialogue and detente that the U.S. Government has interrupted, Perez said, it is imperative that we be concerned about the hundreds of millions of people who are burdened with hunger, illiteracy and disease.

He emphasized that Cuba, its government and its legislature, are permanently committed to peace and development and will support the proposals drafted at the IPU preparatory conference in Manila to stimulate dialogue and safeguard detente.

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NICARAGUA

ARAB COUNTRIES, PLO SUPPLY SIGNIFICANT AID

Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French No 1075, 12 Aug 81 p 39

[Article by Denis Ropa: "Arab Aid"]

[Text] Libya, Iraq, Algeria and the PLO [Palestine Liberation Organization] are filling the gap left by America's default on aid to Managua.

The 30 Soviet-made tanks of the Nicaraguan army were not, as first believed, supplied by the USSR, but rather by Algeria. Another Arab country, Iraq, has also declared it is ready to come to the assistance of this small Central American country. Libya, which has already deposited \$100 million in the Central Bank of Managua, the capital city, is reportedly considering contributing to some major agricultural development projects.

The PLO, which has a representative in Managua, seems to have given the word to "revolutionary" Arab countries to provide development assistance. An "offensive" of this scope has never previously evolved in a region hitherto subject to the exclusive influence of the two Superpowers, especially the United States.

Moises Hassan, minister of construction and former member of the junta, explains it this way: "We have common interests-- he says, "--the Arabs and ourselves. For we recognize our weakness, and the frailty of our independence. Libya, Algeria, Nicaragua, and the Palestinians have learned what it is to be dependent on foreign powers and their representatives. The Americans will never be able to understand us because they have not had to endure great suffering. We have not yet completely achieved our independence, and the big powers cannot bring themselves to accept our freedom..."

Nicaragua has been especially "free" since Washington, which ended economic aid to the country on 23 January, accusing it of having supported the Salvadoran insurrection, reaffirmed that decision in April. However, the authenticity of the "documents" proving Nicaraguan support to the Salvadoran guerrillas has been thrown into serious question by a former CIA agent, Philip Agee. To put its allies off the scent, Washington got three countries--the wealthiest on the continent (Canada, Mexico, and Venezuela) --to agree to the idea of meeting at Nassau (Bahamas) 11-12 July for the elaboration of a proposed "Mini-Marshall Plan" aimed at the countries of the Caribbean and Central America. No concrete program emerged from that meeting.

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Aggressiveness

The four governments only agreed to act together where they are in agreement and separately where they are not. The United States reaffirmed its commitment to support private sector development in Jamaica, leaving it to Mexico and the other countries to help the more or less socialist states such as Grenada, Cuba, and Nicaragua. The latter country, which has only received limited aid from the USSR (\$50 million) and Mexico (\$150 million) is believed to need an additional \$400 million in 1982 just to keep the economy at the current level.

Before more than a half million of his compatriots meeting on the occasion of the second anniversary of the fall of dictator Anastasio Somoza (17 July 1979), Daniel Ortega, one of the leaders of the junta, stridently criticized President Reagan's "aggressive and dangerous" policy. Aggressive, because it eliminated assistance totalling \$81.1 million. Dangerous, because it has led to Sandinista government to take measures tending toward socialism if not Castroism: the nationalization of 14 companies accused of "economic sabotage" and state confiscation of unused agricultural holdings (holdings larger than 349 or 698 hectares, depending on the region.

These decisions risk permanently alienating United States support. But it is not true that the purpose of the aid from the Arab countries will be to promote "revolutionary solidarity"? A solidarity in which Fidel Castro himself, it is said, already has an interest, excessively tied as he is to Soviet aid (\$10 million per day)...

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COUNTRY SECTION

NICARAGUA

TINOCO CALLS FOR STRONGER NONALIGNED MOVEMENT

PA302050 Havana PRELA in Spanish 1805 GMT 30 Aug 81

[Text] Managua, 30 Aug (PL)--Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco has called for a stronger nonaligned movement, to confront the threats and aggressions against the underdeveloped world.

"We feel that the international situation prevailing on the 20th anniversary of the movement requires that it be strengthened," he told PRELA.

Tinoco added that the U.S. Government "shows a tendency to threaten and attack" in several areas of the world, citing the recent invasion of the People's Republic of Angola by South Africa as the latest example.

He added that the attacks against the young African nation go hand in hand with the destabilizing maneuvers against the remaining "frontline" countries.

Tinoco denounced the "increasingly open and evident" U.S. support for the regime in Pretoria, against all UN recommendations.

Another focus of attention, he said, is the situation in Central American, where there are threats of intervention by the United States, which has already sent hundreds of military advisers there.

He added that the shipment of U.S. weapons to the most reactionary countries in the area (El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras) are helping to create further tension there.

Tinoco noted that the Middle East and Southeast Asia continue to be trouble spots, requiring that the nonaligned movement's unity be strengthened.

Specifically referring to the Middle East, he said that it is a crucial part of the world, one of the weakest links in world peace because of the struggle between "Israel's intransigent position" and the Arab countries.

He voiced the opinion that the nonaligned movement must solve "a number of somewhat unimportant internal conflicts that have risen" to be able to fully carry out its role of solidarity with all struggling peoples.

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Tinoco noted that the recent U.S. tendency to revive the aggressive "big stick" and "gunboat" policies calls for more cohesion among the nonaligned member states.

He stressed that Nicaragua attaches great importance to the movement, made evident by the fact that it joined immediately after the revolutionary victory of 19 July 1979.

He recalled that the Nicaraguan delegation to the sixth summit in Havana, Cuba, firmly embraced the movement's fundamental and precise positions, such as its opposition to imperialism, colonialism, zionism and apartheid.

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COUNTRY SECTION

NICARAGUA

D'ESCOTO INTERVIEWED BY MEXICAN PAPER

PA061342 Havana PRELA in Spanish 2205 GMT 4 Sep 81

[Text] Mexico City, 4 Sep (PL)--Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto has said that Mexico's attitude regarding Central America is one of solidarity in the quest for greater justice and democratization in the region.

During an interview with the newspaper EXCELSIOR, D'Escoto fielded questions on several current issues and established Nicaragua's position.

He referred to the U.S. intervention in Honduras, and more particularly in El Salvador, where "that country keeps dozens of militarymen who are advising the armies of those regimes."

He added that, obviously, we are speaking of a country (the United States) which does not adhere to law too much, because the fundamental right it has always respected is force and it thinks force gives it rights.

He said that, rather than oppose the interests of the region, Mexico is trying to place itself on the side of anything that means more justice.

History has made us regard the United States as a synonym of intervention. It is impossible to talk of intervention without thinking of the United States.

D'Escoto referred to the situation in El Salvador during his interview with EXCELSIOR.

He was questioned about the likelihood of a political negotiation of the Salvadoran conflict. He responded that this is unlikely at the present time because the Salvadoran army seems to be utterly opposed to it.

"They claim that the political solution will be found through an election, but it is hard to think of an election at this juncture," he said.

Regarding the Nicaraguan process and the attacks against it, D'Escoto said that "I have yet to notice the respect the United States shows for the self-determination of peoples."

"Nevertheless, the revolutionary process is going forward in Nicaragua, with or without the North Americans. Its fundamental guarantee is the people and the people's determination to have a free fatherland or die," he said.

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COUNTRY SECTION

NICARAGUA

BRIEFS

MEXICAN-FRENCH DECISION PRAISED--Managua, 29 Aug (PL)--Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the junta of the government of national reconstruction, said today that the recognition of the FMLN and of the Revolutionary Democratic Front, FDR, of El Salvador by Mexico and France was a very significant act. Just before boarding the plane that will take him to Libya, he praised the decision to consider the FMLN and the FDR as "a political representative force." Ortega said that it was a very serious and responsible decision, greatly increasing the possibilities of a political solution to the Salvadorans' tremendous crisis and tragedy. He added that the decision coincides with the views expressed by the Nicaraguan revolutionary government on the situation in El Salvador. [Text] [PA300344 Havana PRELA in Spanish 2130 GMT 29 Aug 81]

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COUNTRY SECTION

PANAMA

'PRELA' REPORTS TORRIJOS' BROTHER SKEPTICAL, SUSPECTS CIA

PA080019 Havana PRELA in Spanish 2141 GMT 7 Sep 81

[Text] Mexico City, 7 Sep (PL)--Moises Torrijos, brother of former Gen Omar Torrijos, said that there are still doubts about the causes of the death of the Panamanian leader. He revealed details about a former plan against Torrijos.

Moises Torrijos told the newspaper EXCELSIOR that evidence leads him to believe that the airplane accident in which his brother was killed was planned, but he stressed that the term murder cannot be used yet.

He said that the government commission investigating the accident explained that when an airplane crashes, the wreckage, as well as the bodies of the passengers, are spread out over an area.

He said, "However, the plane in which Torrijos was traveling was smashed to bits and the bodies burned."

He said, "Those who say that a watch which was stopped at 1145 and a canteen were found, are making up a legend, because the truth is that nothing was found."

He added that a group of friends of the Panamanian leader are sponsoring an investigation of the accident, parallel to the official investigation.

He said that in 1973, the CIA made plans to murder the general, because he was trying to recover the so-called Panama Canal zone.

Moises Torrijos told EXCELSIOR that two former CIA agents had told General Torrijos of details of the plan.

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COUNTRY SECTION

PERU

COMMUNIST PARTY REJECTS ORTIZ AS U.S. ENVOY

PA310314 Lima PRELA in Spanish to PRELA Havana in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Aug 81

[Text] Lima, 27 Aug (PL)--The Peruvian Communist Party [PCP] has rejected the appointment of Frank Ortiz as U.S. ambassador to Peru because he promotes the subversive and terrorist actions of the Peruvian right.

In a press communique, the PCP said that in 1969 Ortiz, in his capacity as an embassy official, led a dangerous espionage network and was forced to leave Peru because he was condemned for his evil activity.

It said that while he was ambassador to Guatemala Ortiz maintained ties with extreme rightist military groups that operate there.

The appointment of an official with such a record as ambassador to Peru, according to the PCP, reflects the U.S. policy of returning to the cold war, especially in the Southern Cone, where the CIA and other meddling U.S. organizations operate.

It also considered the appointment as indicative of the Peruvian Government's implementation of "a defeatist and denationalizing policy."

After stating that this policy particularly benefits the U.S. monopolies, the PCP warned that Ortiz' presence in Peru will make the domestic political situation even more tense.

"Unquestionably, Ortiz' presence would increase the subversive and terrorist action promoted by the Peruvian right," it added.

President Fernando Belaunde Terry himself recently confirmed Ortiz' appointment and said that he would give his "agreement."

The decision was made despite opposition, even though sectors close to the government have called for the rejection of Ortiz' appointment.

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COUNTRY SECTION

PERU

COMMUNIST PARTY CRITICIZES GOVERNMENT POLICIES

PA090043 Havana PRELA in Spanish 1330 GMT 8 Aug 81

[Text] Lima, 8 Aug (PL)--The Peruvian Communist Party (PCP) has accused President Fernando Belaunde Terry of manipulating facts and figures to make it seem that his first year of government has been successful. According to the PCP, there has been no such success.

In a lengthy document on the president's address to the nation on 28 July, on the occasion of his government's first anniversary, the PCP stresses the country's current economic crisis.

It warns that by year's end an even bigger fiscal deficit is expected, the international reserves will have been reduced, inflation will be higher and production, particularly production that is geared to the overseas market, will experience only a small growth.

These are the results, the document adds, of the U.S.-inspired political model implemented by Prime Minister Manuel Ulloa and his collaborators, which seems to benefit the foreign monopolies and the big local capitalists.

According to the communique, the current economic policy has placed the burden of the crisis on the people's shoulders.

In this regard, it denounces the reduction of wages, the rising unemployment, the higher cost of living and the declining consumption.

After condemning the country's opening up to monopolies, it accuses the government of having become a "civilian dictatorship" that rules the country without any regard for the legislature.

It adds that in view of the people's resistance to that policy, the executive branch has responded with repressive measures, such as the controversial "anti-terrorist law."

Further on, the PCP communique condemns the return of the mass media to private hands and the plans to limit the right to strike.

According to the document, the Peruvian crisis is not only characteristic of the present moment, but is also a structural crisis, since the country's productive

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forces have been limited by the economic domination of the monopolies, thus creating the dependence and underdevelopment that U.S. imperialism imposes.

After stating that the country must replace that backward structure with a progressive one, the PCP proposes the nationalization of monopolies and a number of other measures. It also hails the leftist unity coalition which is based on a broad popular unity, as a key instrument in implementing these measures.

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