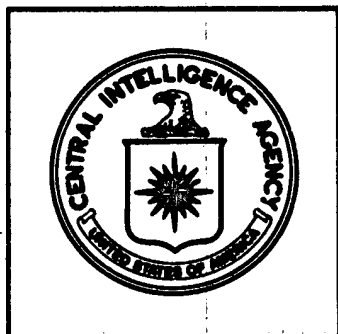


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REGIONAL AND POLITICAL ANALYSIS

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Mexico: State Visit to US a Success

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In a Chicago meeting with executives from more than 30 major US corporations, he responded well to tough questioning and impressed some of the businessmen with his enthusiasm and sincerity. He also met with representatives of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank to defend Mexico's economy as intrinsically strong.

Four days after Lopez Portillo's return to Mexico, the government sought to enhance investor confidence and strengthen Mexico's position in the world financial market by publicly acknowledging a vast oil potential.

To boost tourism, a major source of foreign exchange, Lopez Portillo agreed to enact a number of American Automobile Association recommendations including a tourist aid office, national standards for the arrest and detention of tourists, use of citizen band radios, a tourist hotline, and training for customs officials.

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The trip will also evidently enhance Lopez Portillo's image at home. Since he was inaugurated on December 1, the President has been characterized in the US press as a moderate who would disavow third world activism and cooperate with the US, leading some Mexicans to suspect that he would curry favor in Washington. He worked to dispel that notion in addresses to the National Press Club, the Organization of American States, and the US House of Representatives; the latter broadcast live to Mexico and published as a full-page advertisement in US newspapers. He defended his country's participation in the third world movement, called for greater access for Mexican exports to US markets, demanded respect for the rights of undocumented Mexican workers, and criticized US press coverage of assaults against tourists in Mexico.

Lopez Portillo has consistently argued that the US and Mexico must negotiate outstanding bilateral issues, such as the trade balance, narcotics enforcement, illegal immigration, foreign investments, and tourism on a package basis.

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