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0210414 CARACAS PRELA IN SPANISH TO PRELA HAVANA 2351 GMT 20 FEB 74 C

(EXCERPTS) CARACAS, 20 FEB--MINES AND HYDROCARBONS MINISTER HUGO PEREZ LA SALVIA HAS LABELED U.S. CONGRESSMAN BILL GUNTER'S THREATS TO "SUSPEND VENEZUELA'S SUGAR QUOTA UNTIL THAT COUNTRY REINSTATES REASONABLE OIL PRICES" AS "WILD AND RIDICULOUS."

THE U.S. CONGRESSMAN HAD URGED THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE TO SUSPEND THE VENEZUELAN QUOTA OF 61,000 TONS OF SUGAR UNTIL THE COUNTRY REINSTATES ITS FORMER OIL PRICES. PEREZ LA SALVIA VOICED HIS DISAGREEMENT WITH GUNTER'S PROPOSAL AND REAFFIRMED THAT THOSE COUNTRIES PRODUCING RAW MATERIALS MUST DEMAND FAIR PRICES FOR THEIR BASIC WEALTH.

"I BELIEVE," THE VENEZUELAN OIL MINISTER SAID, "THAT THIS TYPE OF THREAT HAS NO EFFECT. WHERE THEY ARE SEARCHING FOR SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS THEY WILL FIND NONE." HE ADDED: IN THIS AFFAIR, THEY SHOULD REALIZE THAT OUR COUNTRIES MUST RECEIVE THE FAIR PRICES WHICH OUR EXPORTS DERERVE SO THAT WE CAN DEVELOP."

THIS IS THE SECOND TIME IN 20 DAYS THAT A U.S. CONGRESSMAN HAS DEMANDED REPRISALS AGAINST VENEZUELA. THE PREVIOUS ONE WAS LAWTON CHILES WHOSE PROPOSAL ELICITED A FIERY, COLLECTIVE REPUDIATION FROM THIS LATIN AMERICAN NATION.

REGARDING THE NEW ATTACK BY THE U.S. CONGRESSMAN, MINISTER PEREZ LA SALVIA CONCLUDED: "WHAT THEY SHOULD DO IS SEEK FORMULAS TO END THEIR UNFAIR COMMERCIAL EXCHANGE AND NOT THESE WILD AND RIDICULOUS PROPOSALS."

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VENEZUELAN MINISTERS COMMENT ON KISSINGER, U.S. THREATS

0210214 BUENOS AIRES IPS IN SPANISH 2350 GMT 20 FEB 74 C

(TEXT) CARACAS, 20 FEB--MINES AND HYDROCARBONS MINISTER HUGO PEREZ LA SALVIA SAID HERE TODAY THAT HE WAS SURPRISED BY THE STATEMENTS U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER MADE IN MEXICO CITY, STATEMENTS THAT SEEK TO CREATE A CONFLICT BETWEEN THE SMALL CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES AND VENEZUELA. MEANWHILE, VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARISTIDES CALVANI SAID IN MEXICO CITY THAT IF THE UNITED STATES PERSISTS IN ITS THREATENING ATTITUDE REGARDING THE ENERGY PROBLEM, VENEZUELA WILL NATIONALIZE THE OIL INDUSTRY BECAUSE THIS COUNTRY IS AFRAID, BUT NOT THAT AFRAID.

PEREZ LA SALVIA STATED: WE ARE SURPRISED TO SEE DR KISSINGER STAND UP AS A DEFENDER OF THE POOR COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD. THE UNITED STATES SHOULD HAVE ASSUMED THAT ROLE A LONG TIME AGO, AND NOT AT THIS LATE DATE. PEREZ LA SALVIA ADDED THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS TRYING TO PREJUDICE THE COUNTRIES OF THE CONTINENT AGAINST VENEZUELA BY ACCUSING IT OF OUTRAGEOUS AMBITIONS IN SETTING ITS OIL PRICES. HE SAID THAT VENEZUELA IS STUDYING MEANS OF OFFERING CREDITS TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO ALLEVIATE THEIR BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEMS.

PEREZ LA SALVIA RECALLED THAT DURING THE RECENT VISIT OF CENTRAL AMERICAN FINANCE MINISTERS TO CARACAS, A LONG-TERM CREDIT SYSTEM WAS IMPLEMENTED TO PUT THIS OFFER INTO EFFECT. HE POINTED OUT THAT VENEZUELA WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT PROMOTER OF THE LATIN AMERICAN ENERGY ORGANIZATION (OLADE), THROUGH WHICH THE COUNTRIES OF THE CONTINENT WILL AMICABLY SEEK A COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION TO THEIR ENERGY PROBLEMS.

PEREZ LA SALVIA'S STATEMENTS SUPPORTED THE ORTHODOX POSITION ADOPTED BY FOREIGN MINISTER ARISTIDES CALVANI AT THE MEXICO CONFERENCE, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND VENEZUELA. CALVANI SAID YESTERDAY THAT THE UNITED STATES IS WASTING ITS TIME WHEN IT DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY THREATENS ECONOMIC REPRISALS AGAINST VENEZUELA. HE WARNED THAT THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BRANCH HAS ALREADY PREPARED THE BILL FOR THE NATIONALIZATION OF THE OIL INDUSTRY IF IT IS DEEMED NECESSARY TO TAKE THIS STEP IMMEDIATELY.

RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND VENEZUELA APPEARED TO WORSEN TODAY WHEN CARACAS RECEIVED A REPORT FROM WASHINGTON TO THE EFFECT THAT U.S. CONGRESSMAN BILL GUNTER, OF THE GOVERNING PARTY, HAD ASKED THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH TO SUSPEND THE VENEZUELAN SUGAR QUOTA UNTIL THAT COUNTRY RETURNS TO FAIR OIL PRICES.

UPI160

(KISSINGER)

MEXICO CITY (UPI) -- SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER AND A TOP-LEVEL CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION ARRIVED WEDNESDAY FOR THREE DAYS OF TALKS WITH WESTERN HEMISPHERE FOREIGN MINISTERS ON TOPICS INCLUDING THE PANAMA CANAL, THE ENERGY CRISIS AND "ECONOMIC COERCION."

THE TRIP MARKED KISSINGER'S DEEPEST INVOLVEMENT INTO LATIN AMERICAN AFFAIRS AND WAS CONCEIVED AMID COMPLAINTS BY LATIN DIPLOMATS THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAS DIRECTED MOST OF HIS ATTENTION ON THE SOVIET UNION, ASIA AND THE MIDDLE EAST.

KISSINGER WAS ACCOMPANIED BY HOUSE SPEAKER CARL ALBERT OF OKLAHOMA, SENATE DEMOCRATIC LEADER MIKE MANSFIELD OF MONTANA, SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER HUGH SCOTT OF PENNSYLVANIA, SEN. GALE W. MCGEE, D-WYO., AND REPS. DANTE B. FASCELL, D-FLA., AND WILLIAM MAILLIARD, R-CALIF.

MCGEE IS CHAIRMAN OF A SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS AND FASCELL IS CHAIRMAN OF A SIMILAR HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE. MAILLIARD HAS BEEN NOMINATED TO BE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES.

THE LATIN AMERICANS DREW UP AN EIGHT-POINT AGENDA AND SCHEDULED THE MEETING AFTER KISSINGER ASKED THEM LAST OCTOBER AT THE UNITED NATIONS TO FORWARD THEIR SUGGESTIONS TO HIM. THEY DECIDED TO CALL IT "CONFERENCE OF TLATELOLCO," THE AZTEC NAME OF THE MEXICAN FOREIGN MINISTRY.

ONE OF THE PRIMARY ITEMS ON THE AGENDA WAS "ECONOMIC COERCION." THE FOREIGN MINISTERS CITED AS AN EXAMPLE OF THIS THE UNITED STATES' DECISION SEVERAL YEARS AGO TO CUT OFF MILITARY AID TO ECUADOR FOLLOWING THE SEIZURE OF AMERICAN TUNA BOATS BY ECUADOR'S NAVY.

KISSINGER ALREADY HAS MADE HIS FEELINGS KNOWN ABOUT THE PANAMA CANAL, ANOTHER ITEM ON THE AGENDA. DURING A RECENT TRIP TO PANAMA, HE RENEWED U.S. PROMISES TO EVENTUALLY TURN IT OVER TO PANAMA.

ONE ITEM THAT KISSINGER ADDED TO THE AGENDA IS THE ENERGY CRISIS. HE SAID HE WANTED TO DISCUSS HOW THE ENERGY CRISIS AFFECTS BOTH DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDED HOW TO CONTROL MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS AND SUBJECTS OF TRADE AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY.

PRESIDENT NIXON MEANWHILE ANNOUNCED ON THE EVE OF KISSINGER'S DEPARTURE THAT AN AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED WITH PERU ON COMPENSATION FOR U.S. FIRMS NATIONALIZED BY THE LIMA GOVERNMENT SINCE 1968.

DIPLOMATS SAID THE AGREEMENT COULD SERVE AS THE BASIS FOR SOME KIND OF REGIONAL MECHANISM FOR RESOLVING THE ISSUE OF NATIONALIZATION IN SEVERAL LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES.

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TLATELOLCO FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE ENTERS 2D DAY

Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2330 GMT 19 Feb 74 C

[Carlos Ferreyra dispatch]

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 19 Feb--The 24 Latin American and Caribbean foreign ministers meeting in Mexico City have begun their second working session today. They face an unknown quantity--the future development of their talks with U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger which will begin Thursday. The foreign ministers have approved the general outline of what is now known as the Tlatelolco Conference. There were some reported differences with regard to form, but not to substance.

The documents, as approved by the meeting of experts from 12 to 15 February, encountered no objections except those referring to the spokesmen assigned to each topic. The ministers attending the first meeting approved the general procedure suggested.

Despite the mysterious atmosphere surrounding the meeting, LATIN was able to find out the documents discussed on the first day. They are:

1. A basis for a new dialog adopted by the Bogota conference;
2. The general documents on the Bogota conference proceedings;
3. A memorandum from the Secretariat regarding the bases for the dialog between the foreign ministers and Kissinger;
4. The text of the topics proposed by Kissinger (a speech he gave in Washington 11 February and another speech, defining the role of the Western Hemisphere vis-a-vis the world situation, which Kissinger also gave in Washington;
5. Suggestions from the Secretariat pro tempore for the selection of topics for the agenda of the talks with Kissinger;
6. Peruvian proposal entitled "Techniques for a Dialog and Timetables;"
7. Suggestions for the drafting of a possible document from the conference (experts' proposal);
8. Documents for discussion on the Panama Canal consisting of copies of two speeches given by Henry Kissinger in Panama on 7 February. They were delivered to the committee by Foreign Minister Juan Antonio Tack.
9. Uruguayan suggestion: structure for the development of the talks;
10. Notes received by the Mexican Foreign Secretariat from the U.S. Government approving the forgoing documents.

The order of the day included the organization of the dialog with Henry Kissinger and the naming of spokesmen.

The two working points caused differences among the foreign ministers. They did not agree on who should have precedence in taking the floor: Kissinger or the Latin American spokesmen. The spokesmen have not been designated yet.

According to suggestions made by the conference's General Secretariat, only for Point 8, inter-American relations, will there be no spokesmen chosen beforehand. The foreign ministers may participate in the discussion of any topic they wish.

Format Discussed

Paris AFP in Spanish 2018 GMT 19 Feb 74 C--FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Anita de Calera dispatch]

[Excerpts] Mexico, 19 Feb--Until today the 24 Latin American foreign ministers still have not agreed on the procedure to be followed in their meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. Nevertheless, there are still 2 days left to decide on three points:

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1. The order of the speakers,
2. Selecting the foreign ministers who will be Latin America's spokesman during the discussion of each of the 10 problems included on the Tlaltemolco Conference's agenda.
3. Whether it is more advisable to discuss each item individually, or to the contrary, give Kissinger the floor from the onset for him to expound on the eight points brought up by Latin America and the two problems brought up by the United States.

The United States added the energy crisis and the international situation to the agenda. If the latter procedure is selected, the Latin American foreign ministers would meet to prepare a common answer to Kissinger's proposal. This procedure was suggested by a preparatory meeting of experts at the ambassadorial level, but from the very first discussion almost every aspect of this procedure was questioned.

To many delegates the mere fact that Kissinger--the busiest diplomat in the world--is coming to a Latin American capital to devote 3 whole days to the problems of the Latin American region is itself a guarantee that the United States will change its attitude toward Latin America.

Also, apart from the position Kissinger will adopt regarding the problems which Latin America wants solved, there is another intangible element--the format, which counts so much south of the Rio Grande. The U.S. secretary of state seems to be aware of this, because today he sent greetings to his Latin American counterparts on the start of their work sessions, assuring them of his good will. In his message Kissinger said: I am aware that there may be discrepancies between us regarding several problems, but my attitude on coming to Mexico will be characterized by the conviction that we, on this continent, are in a unique position to show the world that countries can, despite their differences, collaborate constructively for their mutual benefit.

Further Details

Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2130 GMT 19 Feb 74 C

[Text] Mexico City, 19 Feb--Colombian Foreign Minister Alfredo Vasquez Carrizosa reaffirmed today that the eight points agreed upon in Bogota [for the agenda of the foreign ministers conference] remain unchanged and that U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger will have to define a position toward them when the foreign ministers' conference begins here on Thursday.

Vasquez Carrizosa denied reports that the eight points on the agenda were changed during the talks yesterday and today because of differences between the Latin American and Caribbean foreign ministers. Vasquez Carrizosa spoke to newsmen this morning when he left the private meeting to make a telephone call to the Colombian Embassy. He declared: "We are still waiting for a definite answer to the eight points proposed which have not been changed one bit. We shall see what Kissinger has to say."

CHILEAN FOREIGN MINISTER OPPOSES RAPPROCHEMENT WITH CUBA

Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0318 GMT 20 Feb 74 C

[Text] Mexico City, D.F., 19 Feb--Chilean Foreign Minister Ismael Huerta Diaz announced here today that Chile would oppose any motion for the readmittance of Cuba into the OAS.

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During a press conference, Huerta Diaz also disclosed that the government of the late President Salvador Allende had been linked with the international drug Mafia and received a share of its profits. Huerta is in this capital attending the preparatory conference of Latin American and Caribbean foreign ministers for their meeting on Thursday with U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

The Chilean official refuted a statement by Costa Rican Foreign Minister Gonzalo Facio that the conditions which brought about Cuba's expulsion from the OAS at the Punta del Este meeting in 1962 no longer exist. Gonzalo Facio said yesterday that the expulsion, which Chile first opposed and then consented to, was based on Cuba's intervention in the domestic affairs of other states. This move, Gonzalo Facio said, "was based on the concepts of an aggression and a subversion which no longer exist."

Nevertheless, the Chilean foreign minister said that Cuba had intervened in Chile's internal affairs by sending arms to equip a second, parallel army in the last months of the Allende regime prior to the 11 September coup. "Now there is a higher degree of Cuban intervention and this has been proven," Huerta added, after reading a series of documents and a letter from Prime Minister Fidel Castro to Allende which he referred to as "documentary proof."

On his charges of an alleged connection between the international drug Mafia and the Allende regime, Huerta said that Allende shared the profits with the traffickers. He pointed out that among the principal individuals implicated in these operations were General Director of Investigations (Chilean civil police) Eduardo Paredes and other high-ranking officials.

Huerta said: "The Popular Unity government, mainly leftwing parties which constituted the coalition supporting Allende, was financed by the drug traffic," but he did not identify which group of traffickers he meant. Huerta gave a list of Chileans arrested for drug trafficking in several Latin American countries and he noted discovery of cocaine producing laboratories.

The conference, which lasted for nearly 2 hours, began with the foreign minister's introductory remarks on the causes which forced the military men to a coup d'etat and caused Allende's death.

Huerta, who had been a rear admiral and the minister of public works and transportation for 3 months during the Allende regime, said that Allende's death was a matter of unconcern for him. He added: "Allende was taking the country down a wrong road."

Huerta admitted that there had been "excessive rudeness in dealing with prisoners," but denied that the number of dead resulting from the coup was over 1,000.

Huerta reiterated his country's support for the subregional Andean integration pact formed by Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Colombia and Venezuela. "It is headed in the right direction. It can be strengthened with the complementary economies of its members countries. Latin American nationalism is not at odds with regional integration."

Concerning an attack made at the Bertrand Russell International Court stating that former Nazi officials, including Walter Rauff, a former SS officer presently residing in Chile, are training Chilean military personnel, Huerta said: "This is the first time I have heard about it." "If that were the case, I would be the first to request an investigation," he added.

Rauff was denounced at the Bonn courts where his extradition was requested and at first accepted but later rejected because his crimes had been rendered invalid as they had been committed 20 years ago.

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Comments on Prisoners

Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0028 GMT 19 Feb 74 C

[Text] Mexico City, 19 Feb--Chilean Foreign Minister Ismael Huerta admitted here today that there are still several thousand prisoners in Chilean jails.

At a news conference Huerta said that about half of those persons arrested during the 11 September coup have been freed; the rest are being tried "independently" by Chilean courts. But, as is to be expected, trials proceed "closely."

Huerta said that the military government will grant safe-conducts to about 200 refugees still in Chile. After the coup there were about 7,300 refugees in the various embassies. Of these 7,200 have already been granted safe-conducts. He said that in September there were about 3,000 refugees in Chile due to persecution in other countries. Practically all of them have left: only about 300 remain in Chile, where they have been since after World War II.

The foreign minister said about 1,000 were killed in the coup and not the number that has been reported. He claimed that the world's attitude toward the new Chilean Government has changed. "Some newsmen" who visited Chile subsequently said afterward they "did not know what they were saying" when they wrote about events in Chile.

Earlier Press Conference

Mexico City PRELA in Spanish to PRELA Havana 2251 GMT 17 Feb 74 C--FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 17 Feb--The Chilean military junta's foreign minister, Ismael Huerta, arrived in Mexico at noon today to take part in the Tlatelolco meeting.

Huerta was accompanied by Chilean Embassy personnel. Mexican Foreign Minister Emilio O. Rabasa, who did not greet the Chilean minister publicly and did not present him to newsmen, was standing next to Huerta. The Chilean foreign minister answered newsmen's question as follows:

(PRENSA LATINA) The Chilean press has recently begun a campaign accusing Peru of being "a beachhead for communism in America." What is your opinion of this campaign and what is your opinion of the Peruvian military government?

(Huerta) We are very respectful of nonintervention and noninterference in other countries' domestic or international affairs. I am not aware of any campaign in the national press; it seems to me that nothing much has been published. Without referring to any country, I would like to say categorically that we would be seriously concerned if Soviet penetration were apparent in any Latin American country. We have just emerged from a very sad experience which fortunately we have overcome.

(PRENSA LATINA) Two years ago President Richard Nixon said that this continent's policy would lean in the direction of Brazil's policy. What is your opinion?

(Huerta) I would like first of all to point out that Chile is a friend and a brother to all Latin American countries, without singling out any country. Now it seems to

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me that you are trying to point to a sort of Brazil-Chile axis. The press has mentioned this recently, and I would like to deny it. We do not believe in any axis and would rather lean toward the interests of Latin America as a whole.

(PRENSA LATINA) The former Swedish ambassador in Chile, Mr Edelstam, reported here that the Chilean coup had caused the death of 15,000 persons. What can you say?

(Huerta) Mr Edelstam is noted for his distortion of news. It surprised me that he said 15,000 here, because somewhere else he said 80,000. These figures are absolutely exaggerated. There were casualties in Chile, that we cannot deny, but in view of the magnitude of the danger and what could have happened with the arsenals and the preparations for civil war, we believe the number of casualties was less than 1,000. Yes, we believe the figure is less than 1,000; it is a relatively small figure. Had there been only one victim, it would have been painful for us, but all things considered, the figure is relatively small.

(V. Bargoza--not further identified) What is Chile's position regarding the arms race in America? What about the unofficial proposal for an arms freeze in order to use resources for national development?

(Huerta) Although this proposal is not official, it has our full support. The Chilean military government will wholeheartedly support any proposal to devote resources to development instead of using them for arms purchases.

(Radio Agricultura de Chile) Do you bring any official proposal from the Chilean Government to the foreign ministers conference?

(Huerta) Well, all the Latin American countries meeting here have their own proposals, but I am sure we are all willing--just as the Chilean delegation is--to work within the framework of Latin American interests in general, particularly for technological cooperation.

(PRENSA LATINA) In your opinion do the interests of Chile and Latin America agree with those of the United States at this conference?

(Huerta) I expect Chilean interests to coincide with those of the United States. Latin American countries have had common points of agreement and disagreement. We believe we must start talking with the United States about all the things which unite us. We share the same geographic region and we are not going to talk about things which may divide us.

(PRENSA LATINA) What are the points of division between the United States and Latin America?

Without replying to the last question, Huerta stood up and said he would not answer any more questions because there would be "an official news conference" later. He said: "I would like to extend a greeting to Mexico from Chile, a nation which now can laugh and be happy in a promising spring."

Chilean Delegation Rebuffed

Mexico City PRELA in Spanish to PRELA Havana 2334 GMT 18 Feb 74 C--FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Text] Mexico City, 18 Feb--The representatives of the Chilean military junta suffered their third defeat here today when Costa Rican Foreign Minister Gonzalo Facio refuted alleged Cuban intervention in Chilean affairs.

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At a news conference at the Mexican Foreign Ministry, Facio told television Channel 9 newsmen that, "if Cuba did send arms to the Allende government, it was not an act of intervention but of collaboration."

During an interview with military junta newsmen, Foreign Minister Emilio Rabasa described relations between Mexico and Gen Augusto Pinochet's regime as a "special situation." The newsmen asked Rabasa to clarify for the junta's representative to the Tlatelolco meeting, Adm Ismael Huerta, the constant attacks by the Mexican press against the situation created by the coup. Rabasa rejected this idea, saying "we cannot control the people's feelings." He asked Chileans "to dedicate" themselves to the meeting and "not talk about our bilateral problems."

Pinochet's delegate yesterday caused the only diplomatic goof so far at the international meeting when he "went the wrong way" toward the protocol hall, creating commotion among security agents, diplomats and newsmen at the airport.

VIGNES DISCUSSES ARGENTINE GOALS AT TALKS

Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1500 GMT 18 Feb 74 P

[Text] Mexico City, 18 Feb--Foreign Minister Alberto Vignes stated here that Argentina is not only trying to consolidate a new pattern for Latin American solidarity, but also to obtain concrete and pragmatic answers from the United States.

The Argentine representative at the Latin American foreign ministers meeting, which began here today, said that this meeting was a timely one. He stated his belief that it should be used to reaffirm the conviction that Latin America is an active, dynamic and unified participant in world problems. "Therefore," he added, "Latin American is a significant participant not only with the United States, but also with the other communities or countries throughout the world in this hour of constant change."

Vignes referred to the definition of basic points of regional consensus to carry out a dialog with the other regions of the world as a starting point from which to carry out other unified acts with the entire Latin American community. He added that Argentina desired and would dedicate its best efforts to the goal that this idea of a continent associated in defense of their common interests be the moral and political motive of this new joint mechanism in this area of the world. Stressing that it was fundamental to bear in mind the development of those less favored and less developed Latin American regions, the foreign minister said that Argentina was prepared, in this respect, to contribute wherever possible, the scientific and technological elements within its means to initiate this task.

As Lieutenant General Peron stated, he added, this is a most ambitious enterprise which Argentina ought to undertake and which his foreign policy will encourage most, with a solidarity extending to the other countries of the world as members of the nonaligned movement, cornerstones of the Third World to which some Latin American countries already belong.

Foreign Minister Vignes was accompanied by Emilio Abras, press and radio secretary, and the other members of the delegation at the time he made these statements to newsmen soon after the meeting was held with his Mexican colleague, Emilio Rabasa.

In the ensuing dialog, Vignes pointed out the special role Argentina is to play in this conference, as Argentina is perhaps, with the exception of Mexico, the only country fully supported by its people, its electorate.

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Regarding the conference's objectives, the foreign minister stated that it was an excellent possibility to hold a frank and open dialog with the United States, following a joint effort to reach Latin American integration. It will make it possible for Latin America on all occasions to play the role and have the influence appropriate to it in discussions concerning world problems.

Since Cuba's absence at the hemispheric meeting was brought up, the Argentine representative said that Argentina's position was clear, because it had diplomatic relations with Cuba. He added that the end of the measure against Cuba depended on the decision of the rest of the foreign ministers. I only can speak for myself, he added.

FOREIGN MINISTER TACK REITERATES NEED FOR FAIR CANAL TREATY

Madrid EFE in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Feb 74 C

[Text] Mexico City, 18 Feb--"The agreement of principles signed with Kissinger is only the first step in solving the canal problem. That will be settled only when a real treaty is signed," Panamanian Foreign Minister Juan Antonio Tack told EL HERALDO reporters here.

The Panama Canal problem, one of the main topics at the Tlaltelolco meeting, has aroused much interest among local and foreign press circles. The newspaper EL HERALDO today publishes an exclusive statement by Minister Tack regarding the conference.

"There is no such thing as U.S. technical aid to Latin America," Tack claims. "Technical aid should benefit the majority. What we have had so far is a simple business transaction: for every dollar the United States invests in Latin America, it makes three."

Tack said that the agreement signed with Kissinger is only the first step toward solving the Panama Canal problem. "We will solve it only when the United States and Panama sign a real treaty."

Foreign Minister Tack said he would present Panama's position to Kissinger clearly so as to help settle the conflict. "We reiterate the need for a fair treaty," he said.

Tack affirmed that he is concerned about certain U.S. officials' statements regarding an "association" with the underdeveloped countries. "Words like association, collaboration and others he said, "worry me because so far we have not been treated fairly. The foreign ministers meeting sets a precedent, because Latin America is presenting a common front to the United States, which is ready to start a new dialog based on mutual respect for the national identity of each country on the continent." He said no one expects the meeting to result in definite solution. It will be the first step in the process, however.

The newspaper EL UNIVERSAL this morning carries a lengthy article on the Panama Canal saying: "One of the most important points to be raised by the foreign ministers will be that of the Panama Canal." The article stresses the solidarity of all Latin America with Panama, saying that "settlement of this problem is of prime importance to the continent."

The newspaper ULTIMAS NOTICIAS publishes Tack's claim that "there will be no blocs at this meeting, only one united force." Ever since he arrived here Saturday, accompanied by the Central American foreign ministers who accepted his invitation to fly on the Panamanian presidential plane, Foreign Minister Tack has attracted the attention of newsmen covering the meeting.

Earlier Remarks

San Jose Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 16 Feb 74 C

[Text] Panamanian Foreign Minister Juan Antonio Tack, on his way to the conference of foreign ministers in Mexico City with U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, arrived at San Jose's Juan Santamaria Airport this morning to pick up Costa Rican Foreign Minister Facio. Later in the day, he was to pick up the foreign ministers of the other Central American countries.

Juan Antonio Tack told the Costa Rican newsmen that the conference in Mexico will serve to establish the bases of a new dialog between the United States and Latin America. With regard to basic problems, "we should give a great example of Latin American unity as a system," Tack said. "I have full confidence in the foreign ministers conference which will be held in Mexico. It will permit the establishment of the bases for a new dialog. Not all the solutions will emerge from there," said Tack. "We cannot always be taking opposition stands either because they will later cause frustrations for our people," he said. "The meeting in Mexico will be a far-reaching beginning because other meetings will be held after this one and will permit the development of what is called the new dialog," the Panamanian foreign minister said.

Cuba should be interested in joining the OAS. The foreign minister told newsmen that the Cuban case in the OAS is a regional problem. Cuba should be interested in returning to the OAS just as the Latin American countries should be interested in its return. Nevertheless, there have been some individual stands. Panama believes that the Cuban situation has changed radically, said Tack. He added that his country believes that the armed forces should be at the service of the interests of the people. Panama believes that the [word indistinct] should be prevented in order to lower military expenses and that those funds should be used for social and economic problems. Tack advocated a true Latin American unity, emphasizing the importance of subregional organizations such as the Central American Common Market and the Andean Pact.

The Panamanian ambassador to the United States, Nicolas Gonzalez-Revilla, said that the case of the Panama Canal is being negotiated between Panama and the United States so as to [words indistinct], protecting the internal affairs of each country. Gonzalez-Revilla said that with the progress being made in the negotiations, and if the United States continues with the [word indistinct] that it has attached to the matter, we might sign a new treaty in about 1 year. "In any event, I believe that there will be a new treaty before President Richard Nixon completes his term in office," stressed the Panamanian ambassador to the United States.

Panama and the United States are negotiating as equals, said the Panamanian foreign minister. He said that both countries have come to the negotiating table as equals and both governments have agreed not to interfere in the internal affairs of the other. We hope that every aspect of the Panama Canal issue will soon be solved and in a manner favorable to Panama, said Juan Antonio Tack during his 35-minute stopover at the Juan Santamaria Airport this morning.

VENEZUELAN MINISTER STRESSES UNITY OF DEVELOPING STATES

Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1219 GMT 17 Feb 74 C

[Text] Mexico City, 17 Feb--Venezuelan Foreign Minister Aristides Calvani said on his arrival here yesterday that the energy crisis is false, because it only tries to divide the consuming countries and the producing countries. Calvani stated that what really is in crisis is the worldwide system linking the developed and the underdeveloped nations and that the increase in the price of energy has simply unveiled the crisis which has historically existed between poor and wealthy countries. Calvani arrived here yesterday at 1830 local time (0030 GMT) to attend the foreign ministers conference which begins on Monday.

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He explained that the increase in the price of petroleum is similar to the wage increases that workers demand. In this way they defend their interests against their employers. The producing countries thus defend their raw materials against those who have traditionally imposed prices on them. Today's underdeveloped world is seeing the necessity [words indistinct]. He stressed that "in the same way that all the proletarians of the world's nations have expressed their unity, so too should the nations producing raw materials unite to obtain better prices for their products." He also said that "the poor countries are trying to destroy the barrier of slavery with better conditions and treatment for our underdeveloped countries."

Minister Calvani pointed out that the Latin American nations will in no way resolve their problems during the Tlatelolco Conference, but that it will at least initiate a new stage in political and economic relations between the United States and Latin America

He said that only by unity would they obtain better conditions from the industrialized nations. Calvani stressed that the struggle is not between the poor countries, but between the underdeveloped countries and those who have world control of prices of raw materials, and that Latin America should be aware of this.

Discusses Oil

Havana PRBIA in Spanish 2330 GMT 18 Feb 74 C--FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Text] Mexico City, 18 Feb--Venezuelan Foreign Affairs Minister Aristides Calvani has declared that the Tlatelolco meeting will be "a simple dialog; that neither guidelines for treaties nor negotiations of any sort will be obtained."

Asked about the scope of the meeting to be held here from 21 to 23 February between the Latin American foreign ministers and U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, Calvani said that the meeting will be a "dialog to exchange viewpoints."

Calvani warned that in the conclave Latin America must be careful "not to let the idea be introduced--like a Trojan horse--that the interests of the underdeveloped and the wealthy countries are the same; and that a common policy may be established for them."

Calvani said that in the oil conflict there are forces maneuvering to divide the world between consumers and producers. "That is an artificial and false thesis," he added.

Calvani exhorted the raw materials producing countries to unite "in the defense of fair prices at a just international economic level."

"We are on the threshold of eliminating the barriers of dependency and slavery on the international level." Pointing out as an example of the above the unity of the oil producing countries, Calvani added that "for the first time in history the underdeveloped countries have taken the initiative to change the course of events." He added that the concern for stable prices has now become a concern for fair prices and investments. He also warned against the dangers of divisiveness in this regard.

Calvani stressed that high oil prices undoubtedly affect the underdeveloped countries which do not produce oil. "We must, therefore, find a solution to this problem among ourselves" without letting the idea be introduced, like a Trojan horse, that it is a common problem which equally affected the developed and underdeveloped nations, he declared. Calvani pointed out that "Latin America's oil interests are not the same as the U.S. oil interests." He expressed his support for lifting the trade blockade imposed against Cuba.

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A R G E N T I N A

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PERON RECEIVES POLITICAL SECRETARY LICASTRO, DEPUTY VALONI

Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1900 GMT 18 Feb 74 P

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Feb--Head of state Lieutenant General Peron this morning received Francisco Julian Licastro, the Presidency's political secretary, according to the Political Secretariat.

During the meeting, Licastro submitted a series of projects from his secretariat to the head of state for approval.

Among these were: the creation of the national school of political leadership; the mobilization of the cultural front within Buenos Aires; and a plan for popular publications containing the political and military works of Lieutenant General Peron.

The political secretary submitted his report of the work done in the area of the middle generation, and received presidential approval for the area meetings of the middle generation, first of which will take place in mid-March in Comodoro Rivadavia.

The interview, which began at 1100 and lasted for an hour, was attended by National Deputy Jose Luis Fernandez Valoni, who is president of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Deputies.

Fernandez Valoni spoke on subjects regarding his ministry.

Licastro, as well as Fernandez Valoni, pointed out at the end of the meeting that General Peron has consented to receive us for a work meeting which, they pointed out, has been very profitable for us, because we have been able to hear the guiding word of our leader. In addition, we have been lucky to get his approval of the various plans and projects we presented to him.

PERON DENIES TRAVEL PLANS, COMMENTS ON YOUTH

Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 16 Feb 74 p 15 P

[Text] In an interview with a reporter specially sent by the Chicago DAILY NEWS and which was distributed yesterday by the news agencies, President Peron said that he has no intention of leaving the country.

"I did not know about my plans for leaving until I read about it in the papers," Peron told reporter Georgie Anne Geyes, and added that the rumor probably had originated in his request to the Congress for an authorization to leave the country, and which was given for the whole year. The president said: "But I asked for that because Congress was going into recess and I would have not been able to ask for constitutional authorization in case I need to travel."

In addition he said that he would only travel abroad "to deal with matters relating to international relationships."

Peron also rejects the views that a great sector of the Peronist Youth might leave the Peronist Movement. "The only problem is to deal with the ultraleftists or the Trotskyists," he said. "We must eliminate those people from the movement, although they do not have much political importance. Now that is a question of the [administration] justice, the law and police work."