

# Peace Through A New Economic Order

*Mexico's President, in Moscow, helps extend East-West cooperation*

In a historic address to the Soviet people at the end of the talks in Moscow last week, Mexican President José Lopez Portillo spoke straight to the heart of what is required for international peace.

"To us of the developing countries," he told the Soviet nation, "the important thing is not just reducing the risk of war, but winning the peace. This is only achieved if we find the true path toward the new international economic order, which resolves problems of financing, transfer of technology, and basic trade."

It was a speech parallel in impulse and effect to the May 6 address of Soviet Party leader Leonid Brezhnev to the West German people, announcing the signing of the Bonn-Moscow 25-year economic treaty. Brezhnev at that time powerfully evoked the need for world economic development, and emphatically included the Third World in a partnership with advanced sector collaborative projects. Lopez Portillo's trip to Moscow, part of the same strategy, directly brought leading elements of Third World forces, which Mexico represents, into the highest levels of international planning to ensure that the outlook of the Bonn-Moscow accords is implemented on a global basis.

President Brezhnev, Prime Minister Kosygin, and Foreign Minister Gromyko personally greeted the Mexican leader on his arrival at the Moscow airport May 17, in a gesture termed highly "unusual" by the Soviet press. All regular programming on Soviet television was preempted for a live broadcast of the reception. Prominent coverage of the event in the Soviet and other socialist-sector press made particular mention of Mexico's key role as an organizing force for development in Latin America and the Third World as a whole.

The question which remains unanswered is whether the U.S. is going to enter the kind of partnership for capital-intensive development based on advanced technology which Mexico is forging with the Comecon socialist-sector nations as well as with Japan and Western Europe. Some British commentators have suggested that the Lopez Portillo trip is a move "against the U.S." But Lopez Portillo himself directly answered this charge during his Moscow press conference May 19. "Those who state that I visited the Soviet Union to threaten the United States," he angrily asserted, "terribly underestimate Mexico . . . We came to the Soviet Union to affirm and broaden our friendship, not to defy or threaten any friendly country."

## *Nuclear Cooperation*

The specific content of the economic and scientific accords worked out in Moscow underscored the nature of the capital-intensive development commitment involved. The center of discussions was transfer of Soviet nuclear and oil technologies to Mexico, including Soviet "cooperation in the construction of nuclear reactors for peaceful purposes."

The scientific highlight of the opening days of the trip

was the Mexican President's tour of the advanced fission and fusion nuclear facilities of the Kurchatov Institute outside of Moscow May 19. His guide was the renowned Soviet physicist A. N. Aleksandrov, president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences and director of the Institute. Aleksandrov offered Mexico full Soviet cooperation in nuclear energy development. Lopez Portillo told reporters he was "very impressed" and later that day, after signing major new Mexican-Soviet technical and scientific accords, declared that the accords would permit advances in all forms of energy, "especially nuclear."

Mexican Natural Resources and Industries Minister Oteyza simultaneously announced that Mexico had opened negotiations for Soviet enrichment of Mexican uranium, and that the two countries would exchange delegations of nuclear technicians to study ways to increase nuclear collaboration.

The Oteyza announcement, given banner headlines throughout the Mexican press May 21, coincided with U.S. Department of Energy confirmation that the U.S. will embargo a large shipment of Mexican uranium now in the U.S. for enrichment, pending Mexican compliance with new U.S. on-site inspection demands.

## *Transfer of Technology*

Significant as the bilateral points of discussion were, Lopez Portillo and his hosts clearly saw these bilateral arrangements as a model for *global* economic arrangements. In a major address to the Academy of Sciences of the Siberian industrial center of Novosibirsk May 22, Lopez Portillo expanded the question of Mexican-Soviet transfer of technology to the question of transfer of technology generally. "Technology is a patrimony of humanity," he said; "the powerful countries have the obligation, for the future of humanity, of honestly transferring their advances."

Similarly, in a detailed presentation to the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (Comecon) May 18, the Mexican chief of state placed Mexico's strong treaty relations with the Comecon within the need for "genuine interdependence at a world level," and called for expanded levels of Mexico-Comecon trade to "give an example of the form in which worldwide interdependence between all countries can be carried out."

The Soviets declared the need for expanded trade and scientific ties with equal insistence. Brezhnev, in his welcoming remarks, noted that though Mexico-Comecon trade volume "is not large yet," the "perspectives are good." "We stand shoulder to shoulder with Mexico" is the way Comecon official Ion Patan put it in an official answer to Lopez Portillo's address to that body.

Placing emphasis and agreement on the need for disarmament, the Mexican President called a press conference his last day in Moscow, May 19, to propose a special fund, to be taken from expenditures now going

into arms, which would be used to facilitate energy development and supply in regions of the globe now deficient in energy.

He thus directly linked the question of disarmament with the development of new energy sources. The Soviets officially ratified the Tlatelolco Treaty, a Mexican-drafted document establishing Latin America as a "nuclear-weapons-free zone," while Lopez Portillo was in Moscow.

#### *Dialogue Between Revolutions*

The Mexican-Soviet talks deepened a long tradition of good relations between the two countries. In his opening remarks Lopez Portillo stressed that his visit continued the "valuable dialogue" begun toward the start of the century when "our respective and incipient revolutions struggled to triumph over internal and external reaction." Mexico, he noted, was the first country on the American continent to exchange ambassadors with the fledgling Soviet republic.

The special tradition of Mexican-Soviet cooperation established at that time advanced during the 1960s when Mexico, alone of all the Latin American states, refused to cut off ties to Cuba. Then in 1975 President Luis Echeverria dramatically extended the grounds for cooperation with the negotiation of a far-reaching trade and technology pact with the Comecon, one of only four of its kind ever signed by the socialist sector with outside countries.

Brezhnev paid tribute to this accord upon Lopez Portillo's arrival: "In just the last two to three years more agreements between the USSR and Mexico were concluded than in all the postwar period," he stated.

#### *Four-Way Oil Swap*

After three days in Moscow, Lopez Portillo left May 20 for the famed Baku oil region to inspect advanced Soviet oil technology, one of the main purposes of his trip. Mexico has indicated it is highly satisfied with Soviet drilling equipment now at work in developing Mexico's Southeast fields, and wishes to acquire more technology, particularly in the area of secondary recovery.

Although no official announcement has yet been made, it is expected that a "four-way" oil swap will be ratified before Lopez Portillo leaves the Soviet Union, whereby Mexico will supply Cuba with oil it has now contracted to supply Spain, and the Soviets will pick up the Spanish contract.

Before returning to Mexico May 29, Lopez Portillo is to stop over in Bulgaria. Mexico has shown great interest in studying Bulgaria's agricultural sector, one of the most advanced in the world. At the same time Mexico hopes to provide technical assistance for oil refining and petrochemical development in that Comecon nation. Over recent months Mexico has exchanged important trade missions with almost all the other Comecon member countries as well.

#### *Japan Next*

Beyond the Soviet Union, Mexico is looking to Japan as the next "leg" in the extension of dense advanced sector-Third World trade and development deals. Lopez Portillo has scheduled a state visit to Japan for October as his

### "All The News That's Fit To Print"

*While the Lopez Portillo trip to Moscow has received substantial coverage in the socialist sector press, most Western media, and particularly certain "newspapers of record," have virtually blacked it out.*

*The New York Times did manage to slip in four lines of coverage as a filler on an inside page May 18. The article, which we reprint in full length here was pulled in a later edition to make way for a larger picture with another article on the same page.*

**MEXICAN LEADER ARRIVES IN SOVIET**  
Moscow, May 17 (UPI) — President Jose Lopez Portillo of Mexico arrived here today for an official visit that is expected to include talks of a possible oil agreement.

priority diplomatic effort after Moscow. He sent a close advisor, Tourist Minister Rossell de la Lama, to Tokyo on the eve of the Soviet trip to begin previsit consultations. Emerging from a meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Fukuda, Rossell declared that Japan, with its "great technological advances," is destined to be "one of the best partners of the Third World." Mexico, he added, can be the "bridge" between Japan and the rest of Latin America.

—Tim Rush

## 'Technology Is Humanity's Patrimony'

*Following are excerpts from the speech delivered by Mexican President Lopez Portillo at the Academy of Sciences in Novosibirsk May 19.*

Scientists of Novosibirsk:

You have built a well-rounded apparatus, almost perfect; you have known how to combine basic science with applied scientific research in an optimal way; you have understood — and you have insured — that research is directed at achieving the development and welfare of the people. You have organized it in a planned way and you have had the courage of going to the regions where direct investigation is required...

We have seen in Moscow what you have achieved in the cosmos, and we are seeing here in Siberia all that you can do on earth. Like you there are other powerful countries which have also achieved this, but I want to leave with you here the disquiet (concern) of what happens to us, to the countries without great resources. Those of us who also have a population to serve and who see with restlessness — and sometimes disillusionment — how the technological gap keeps widening more and more. Every one of your victories multiplies your capacity for investigation and for solving problems, and for us the distance keeps increasing. What are we to do?

— we ask — Are we to research what you already researched years ago? How do we choose our projects?... These are some of the questions which we developing nations must resolve....

Developing nations *can* do the following: insist at international forums that technology is a patrimony of humanity; that the powerful countries which have achieved it and implement it have the obligation, for the future of humanity, of honestly transferring their advances so that backwardness can end, so that tomorrow's humanity will not be as divided as it might otherwise be.

### 'Our Humanist Purpose'

*Mexican President Lopez Portillo delivered the following greeting to the Soviet leadership May 17.*

I accepted with goodwill the cordial invitation to meet with the Soviet people and government, because it represents the continuation of a valuable dialogue begun when our respective incipient revolutions, urged on by their people in arms, battled to triumph over external and internal reaction. This is a contact which continues to have meaning after more than half a century.

It is frequently mentioned that our country was the first on the American continent to establish relations with the nascent Soviet state, and today I repeat this here with satisfaction, because this fact reveals the nature of our friendship, based on mutual and authentic respect...

The key to understanding Mexican diplomacy is the recognition of its struggles, its history and its aspirations. We have always reiterated that we adhere to clear and irreversible international principles, because they are anchored in our own identity... We demand respect of all sovereign states, and non-intervention, with the vivid experience (in our minds) of continued interference designed to hold back our revolution... Who better than the Soviet people, for reasons very similar to our own, can comprehend and support these principles?

We have come to speak of peace, with a people which has suffered the greatest ravages of war and which has stood out for its constant initiatives for disarmament, détente and coexistence.

We Mexicans are people of peace, because we are convinced that our humanist purposes can only be achieved in a world at universal peace...

### 'Peace Demands Development'

*Mexican President Lopez Portillo appeared on national television May 18 to deliver the following address to the Soviet nation.*

Today, we have a completed series of talks with Mr. Brezhnev, which I have found extraordinary fruitful.

We agreed on the identities which link us together. It struck me, as I reviewed the Constitution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, that the similarities with our own system and regime were extraordinary. The political will for peace and disarmament reigned as a common denominator between the two chiefs of state,

permitting us to substantially advance in areas that we viewed as very important.

The government of the Soviet Union has signed a document which is fundamental to us: the Second Protocol of the Tlatelolco Treaty which restricts the spread of nuclear armaments in Latin America.

Recently, this same document was signed, at the urging of Mexico, by the President of the United States of America.

Thus an advance in common purpose has been strongly cemented by the adhesion of the two great powers of the world.

If we add to this signing the consular and scientific aspects (of the discussions —ed.), and the intention of deepening and broadening the relations between the Soviet Union and Mexico, the achievements of this meeting appear to us to be exceptional.

We have said, however, that while the great powers have their problem of survival resolved, and are concerned fundamentally with assuring that there must not be wars, to us of the developing countries the important thing is not only reducing the risk of war, but of winning the peace. This will only be achieved, for us, if we find the true path toward the new international economic order, which resolves problems of financing, transfer of technology and basic trade. And in this, we also view the will of the great powers as fundamental.

We have had the opportunity of touring this beautiful, great city (Moscow —ed.). We have had the opportunity, however brief, of viewing the great successes which Soviet intelligence and organization have achieved in the cosmos and on earth.

Thanking the people and the government of the Soviet Union for the hospitality which has been extended to us, I leave with you all the affectionate and fraternal greetings of the Mexican people and the wish that we will soon see the political representatives of this great country in Mexico...

Many thanks, a very good night to you and the greatest happiness.

## Brezhnev Lauds

### Soviet-Mexico Friendship

*At a state dinner May 17, Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev reviewed the history of relations between Mexico and the USSR.*

...Our meeting is yet another evidence of strengthening ties between the Soviet Union and Mexico. Geographically our countries are far apart, in different hemispheres. But distance is no obstacle to cooperation when there is a sincere desire for friendship.

With what do Soviet people associate Mexico in their minds?

First of all with the courageous struggle by the Mexican people for freedom and independence. The ardent patriotism and glorious traditions of the liberation, anti-imperialist struggle of Mexicans long evoke sympathy and respect in the Soviet Union.

The history of Soviet-Mexican relations is already more than half a century long. It has numerous vivid and glorious pages. Friendship between our countries has withstood the trial of time.

Mutually advantageous equal cooperation based on principles of peaceful coexistence now exists between the USSR and Mexico in many fields.

No doubt about it, the tone of our relations is set by the successful development of diverse political contacts. Serving as a reliable foundation for them are adherence to the cause of struggle for peace and international security, solidarity with the people upholding their freedom and independence. We easily find a common tongue on many issues of international politics and come out from common or close positions on most topical problems of our time. Regular consultations, exchanges of parliamentary delegations and, of course, meetings at summit level — all this helps strengthen mutual understanding and mutual trust and to outline milestones of further cooperation. As to trade and economic ties, here, too, we have good prospects. The volume of trade today is not yet great, but the goods that we are exchanging are needed by the economies of our countries. Besides, we have a substantial legal basis of treaties. The matter is to make the most rational use of existing possibilities.

It is no secret that Soviet people show an understanding of the Mexican people's efforts directed at developing its national economy, at protecting its natural wealth from exploitation by foreign capital. We hold that

these efforts are in the common channel of the struggle by Latin American and all developing countries against the sway of foreign monopolies, for restructuring international economic relations on a democratic, just basis...

Through the combined effort of all peace-loving states—and here we pay tribute to Mexico's contribution as well — it proved possible to conclude a number of international and bilateral agreements which limit to a definite extent the production and deployment of individual types of armament. On the whole the past decade has brought about quite a few good, I would say healthy, changes in international relations. They have become commonly known as relaxation of international tension...

It is proceeding from these aims that we have recently come out with a concrete program of practical steps directed at putting a complete end to the further quantitative and qualitative growth of the armaments and armed forces of states possessing a big military potential. We want the production of all types of nuclear weapons to be stopped, we want the production of all other types of weapons of mass annihilation to be stopped and these weapons banned, we want no more new types of conventional arms of great destructive force to be created, we want the permanent Security Council members and countries bound with them by military agreements not to expand further their armies and not to increase conventional armaments...

## Share U.S. Know-How With Mexico

*New Mexico Senator Harrison Schmitt challenged the Carter Administration's insistence that the only form of aid the U.S. should offer Mexico is help in establishing labor-intensive rural work programs, as proposed by Vice-President Walter Mondale in January 1978. Schmitt issued the challenge in testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee May 18.*

*Schmitt's remarks offered an evaluation of the Administration's bill to crack down on illegal aliens known as S. 2252. Instead of the primitive technologies Vice-President Mondale proposed for Mexico, Schmitt's remarks represent a point of departure for establishing renewed Mexico-U.S. economic cooperation in the same high-technology framework as the Mexico-Soviet discussions this month.*

*Here are portions of Schmitt's testimony.*

... there have been numerous proposals designed to provide solutions to the tremendous influx of immigrants who enter the United States unlawfully, but because of the complexity and delicate nature of this problem, enactment of any meaningful legislation has been thwarted. One of the biggest difficulties has been the lack of accurate data on the scope and nature of the problem...

Although I support the humanitarian provisions contained in S. 2252, I feel that the Administration's proposal is generally short-sighted, based on limited factual data

regarding the nature of this problem, and only suggests snake-oil treatments, not solutions to the problem...

Mr. Chairman, as a member of the Senate Subcommittee on International Finance of the Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee, I will actively pursue means by which the United States can, *concretely*, renew its commitment to providing technical and financial assistance to Mexico.

In addition, we must continue to seek financial assistance programs but must develop a new approach in the use of this assistance. The world respects our educational, technological and economic achievements. We must develop a method of sharing those achievements. In other words, to be successful in assisting the economic development of Mexico, a program of sharing our know-how combined with financial assistance to support the projects is needed. We must seek programs which involve various departments and agencies of our government and international financial institutions. The involvement of our society, especially the business community, will be needed.

The solution to the long-term problem is the development of Mexico and other nations of Latin America. The United States has a historic commitment to these nations. Now is the time to begin a major effort of assisting and financing their economic development. The dividends for the United States will be great. A renewed era of goodwill and solutions to some of our own problems will be just some of these dividends.