

EIR Editor on U.S.-Mexico relations

Fernando Quijano Gaitan, Editor-in-Chief of the Executive Intelligence Review, was recently interviewed by two major Mexican daily newspapers on the issue of U.S.-Mexican relations. Both papers, Mexico City's Diario de Mexico, and the semi-official government daily El Nacional, gave the lengthy interviews prominent coverage, featuring the importance of U.S.-Mexico relations based on the exchange of Mexico's energy resources for advanced technology from the U.S.

Just a month short of President Carter's state visit to Mexico, the article in El Nacional is viewed by observers as a possible indication that Mexican circles would look favorably on a U.S. negotiating position based on this perspective.

Diario de Mexico carried similar coverage of this perspective under a page one banner heading, "Rise of Our Country Inevitable, With or Without the USA."

Reproduced here are major portions of both articles, beginning with the Jan. 9 feature carried in El Nacional, entitled "The Energy Policy of Mexico, Basis for Achieving a New Economic Order: Quijano Gaitan."

Mexico's energy policy, which is oriented toward an exchange of oil for technology, together with the recently established European Monetary System, can become one of the most important pillars in the present world for achieving a new and more just economic order.

Given that Mexico is consolidating its oil industry and will shortly be a major producer and exporter, it is reasonable to expect the U.S. to respond to Mexico's position by establishing mutually beneficial relations in all areas.

Until now, the United States has lacked a clear consciousness of what a prosperous Mexico would mean, and of the enormous potential as a market for technology and scientific advances which Mexico would represent, as well as demonstrating what relations between North and South should be.

The above considerations summarize the fundamental thesis of seminars on "the European Monetary System" and "Mexican oil" that have been organized by the North American weekly journal *Executive Intelligence Review* and that will be presented to officials and businessmen on Jan. 4 in New York and on Jan. 31 in Washington, D.C.

Fernando Quijano Gaitan, Editor-in-Chief of the magazine — which is distributed in the United States, Europe and Latin America — told *El Nacional* that "when we say that a prosperous Mexico would be a major market for technology," we are basing ourselves on the fact that within the next 10 to 15 years, Mexico will have to produce and import capital goods and industrial equipment to the tune of \$80 billion in order to achieve its full industrial development.

"Before this," he emphasized, "oil will have to become Mexico's key pivot and a bargaining chip to be able to acquire the advanced technology needed."

U.S., Soviet experience

Quijano Gaitan indicated that experience has shown, both in the United States and in the Soviet Union, that oil has constituted the basis for industrialization of their economies, and that Mexico is conscious of this and thus is taking the necessary steps to achieve, in the shortest time possible, that objective which will place Mexico among the leading nations of the world.

Nevertheless, he believes that Mexico should gradually begin changing — and in this will be assisted by technology — the energy source for their industrial operations.

He explained that at the present time both the North American as well as the Soviet economy face the dilemma of changing their energy sources to renewable ones.

The Soviet Union — he said — has decided in favor of a transformation on the basis of nuclear energy and thermonuclear fusion, while in the United States there is a major controversy over the matter.

But what is clear, he added, is that the majority of the Third World, Europe, and Japan agree that the option of the future is nuclear energy.

The Editor-in-Chief of the *Executive Intelligence Review* said that it is necessary for the industrialized countries to accept responsibility for providing — in a just manner — technology in exchange for the raw materials that they acquire from the Third World, so that the poor nations can begin developing their industrial capacity to enable them to satisfy the urgent needs of their populations.

"Only by resolving the North-South conflict in this way can we arrive at the 21st Century in peace and prosperity," declared Quijano Gaitan, noting that the European Monetary System seeks in the short term the stabilization of currencies to control inflation and expand commercial trade, and in the longer term has discussed becoming the mechanism for granting credits and technologies to Third World countries on much more favorable terms than presently exist."

Rise of our country inevitable ...

We have all we need for development

Mexico can reach the highest levels of economic development, with or without the United States. Mexico can develop even if the United States opposes it because it has an ample infrastructure, a wide range of resources, available labor power, able political leaders who are fighting against disorganization and corruption — which are brakes on Mexican development — and also because it is today, like it has been for more than half a century, the most mature and politically stable nation in Latin America.

Such statements were deduced from concepts given in an exclusive interview to the *Diario de Mexico* by Quijano Gaitan, prominent economic and political analyst and president of

the Editorial Board of the weekly *Executive Intelligence Review*, published in New York City.

Border fence reversed

Around 1990, the fences all along the Mexican-American frontier will be used to prevent U.S. citizens from crossing into our country to participate in the industrial boom and the prosperity which we will have here, and not like now to keep Mexicans from going to the U.S. to find work.

This contrast could come about as the result of the great oil wealth found under 80 percent of the Mexican territory and under the continental shelf in the Gulf of Mexico which is part of the patrimonial sea or maritime zone of economic influence which is controlled by our nation. International experts have estimated that Mexico has more than 350 billion barrels of oil.

The possession of that fabulous amount of non-renewable resources ... puts Mexico in a position to take "a great leap forward," because if Mexico manages its oil and gas rationally — diversifying markets and not depending on only one buyer — Mexico will have a rate of progress during the next few years unequalled in world history and perhaps never to be matched.

Fernando Quijano, the Yankee political editor is promoting two top-level seminars on Mexican oil for analysts, businessmen, and politicians in the U.S. ...

North American prejudices

We cite parts of the interview:

Blancas: In view of what's been published in the U.S. press about giving Mexico different treatment as a result of its great oil reserves, do you think there's been a change in the attitude of the North American government toward Mexico?

Quijano: The press of my country has related the existence of two supposedly different positions inside the North American government. One is the *hard line*, represented by Energy Secretary James Schlesinger, who thinks that Mexico is just one more *emerging power* which does not deserve special consideration or concessions. That's Schlesinger's position, which sabotaged the sale of Mexican gas to the United States. The other position, which they have tried to put across as the *soft line* and which certainly seems to be hegemonic in the Carter Administration, is Zbigniew Brzezinski's position. Carter's National Security Council claims that Mexico and its energy resources are *strategically important* to the United States. Therefore, U.S.-Mexican relations are *a national priority for the United States*. Thus, the majority of my country's press insinuates that Brzezinski would be willing to consider certain concessions. In my opinion — and that of everyone who is on top of the wheeling and dealing in Washington, there is no essential difference between the two positions, since both have the identical doctrine and identical intentions. Schlesinger fervently believes in Malthusianism, and you can see this in any of his books. For that reason, he opposes the industrial progress of Mexico and of the United States. That's why he sabotaged the purchase of Mexican gas. For his part, Brzezinski has said in private a number of times during the past two years that *the United States will not tolerate another Japan on its southern*

border. That is to say, they both share the doctrine that Mexico is not to industrialize. The only difference is over which tactics would be more effective to implement their doctrine.

North American common market

Blancas: The U.S. press has suggested that the new attitude of the U.S. towards Mexico could encourage the establishment of a community — or a common market — formed by Mexico, Canada, and the United States. What do you think of that?

Quijano: Look, the idea of creating a North American common market is an old one, a proposal which always considers Mexico as a mere provider of raw materials. The U.S. tried to impose this policy on Mexico through the Bucareli Accords (of 1923 - ed.)

and industrial self-determination. Then came the Clayton Plan, right after the Second World War, which also implied a North American association in which Mexico was to be an agricultural and mineral provider. Now, when Mexico is in condition to achieve its rapid industrialization, Brzezinski proposes the PRM-41 for the same purpose. ...

What should U.S. policy toward Mexico be?

Blancas: Everything said today leads to the inevitable question: In your opinion, what should U.S. policy toward Mexico be?

Quijano: U.S. foreign policy should follow the principles on which the nation was created. The Founding Fathers made a revolution to liberate themselves from English colonialism, which prevented the cultural and industrial development of my country. That means the U.S. should follow a policy of absolute respect for the sovereignty of other countries and favor the intentions of the Third World countries to industrialize.

The U.S. should guarantee and participate in a New International Economic Order. By acting that way we would help ourselves, since the New International Economic Order and the concomitant industrialization of the Third World implies tremendous exports from my country: nuclear plants, capital goods, and in general, all that could be considered a genuine transfer of technology.

I think it would be highly beneficial for my country to negotiate with Mexico in the terms proposed by President Jose Lopez Portillo. As he has said, it's not a question of simply solving problems of the moment or specific questions which are interesting in themselves. Rather, Lopez wants negotiations to set up a lasting relationship with our eyes on the 21st century, and that this should serve to catalyze a radical change in North-South relations. In a relation of this kind, the problems of migrant workers, bilateral trade, and the energy question cease to be bases for blackmail and become matters for friendly cooperation between two sovereign and equal countries. It's about time that my country returns to the principles of the American Revolution, which inspired all the revolutionaries of the continent in their fight against colonialism and for building their republics.

— Arturo Blancas
Diario de Mexico