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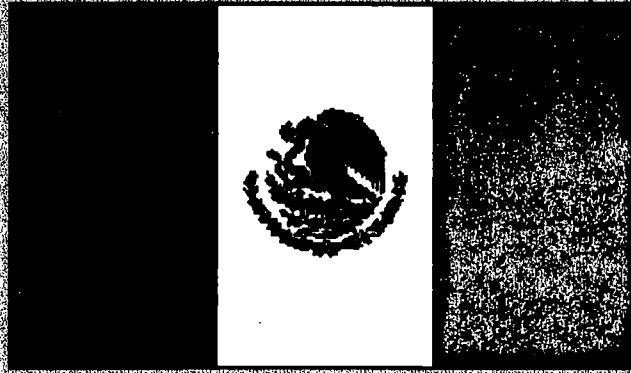
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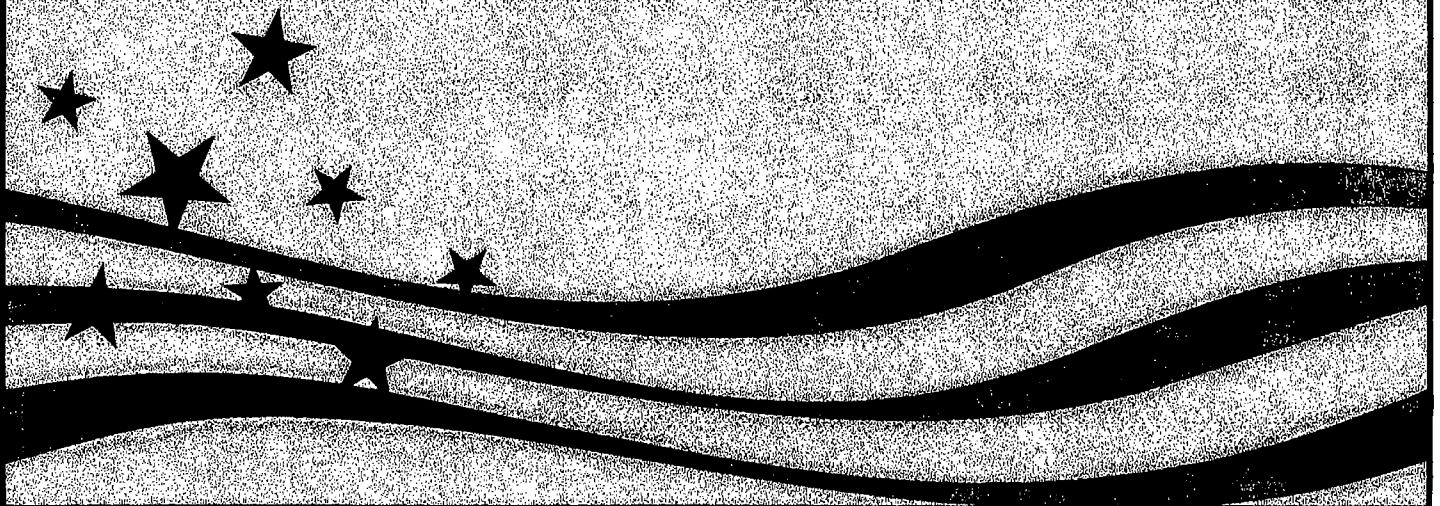
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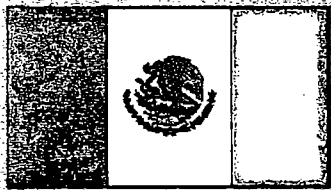
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**Visit of The President
and The First Lady
to Mexico**

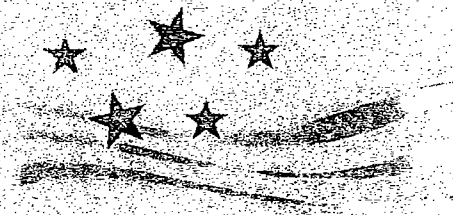
May 5-7, 1997





**Visit of The President and
The First Lady to Mexico**

May 5-7, 1997



U.S.-bashing coming from some unlikely sources in Mexico

BY LAURENCE ILIFF

The Dallas Morning News

MEXICO CITY — When President Clinton arrives in Mexico City on Monday night to praise the maturing binational relationship, he probably should steer clear of local TV shows lest it sour his upbeat mood.

The star of the top-rated soap opera, "North of the Heart," is a sadistic Border Patrol agent who rapes and kills helpless immigrants. Commercials offer no reprieve, either. An ad for the phone company Telmex features a greedy, fast-talking American businessman, "Burton Helms," trying to get his naive "amigos Mexicanos" to switch to U.S. long-distance carriers.

"This is no way to treat an American friend who has stood next to us during bad and good times," said Guadalajara taxi driver Salvador Meneses.

Meneses remembers the \$50 billion in loans the United States arranged for Mexico in 1995 in the aftermath of the peso devaluation, and he angrily recalled the red-carpet treatment the king of Spain recently received while visiting Mexico.

"When is the last time Spain bailed us out?" he asked.

Indeed, even as U.S. and Mexican officials proclaim that their relationship has never been better, analysts said the apparent flames of anti-Americanism are being fanned by some unlikely sources, including the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, and the very Mexican companies involved in joint ventures with U.S. firms.

"Paradoxically, there is a climate

of false anti-Americanism being created by the United States' traditional friends: the ruling party and the government on one hand and the business community on another," said Cuauhtemoc Sandoval, a federal congressman with the center-left Democratic Revolution Party. "The PRI is doing it for votes, and Telmex, for example, is doing it to maintain their clients."

There is more than a little hypocrisy among the nationalists, he said.

Sandoval maintains, for example, that Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo and the PRI claim to have taken a tough line with the United States on protecting immigrant rights and attacking the demand side of the drug trafficking problem, but have exerted no real influence on either issue. Meanwhile, Telmex is listed on the New York Stock Exchange and is partly owned by San Antonio-based SBC, the parent company of Southwestern Bell. And TV Azteca, which airs "North of the Heart," is partly owned by NBC.

To be sure, election years often produce bizarre behavior anywhere in the world, and Mexico faces historic mid-term elections on July 6 in which the PRI could lose control of the federal Congress for the first time in 68 years.

But analysts said the current political anti-American rhetoric, whether fueled by the intellectual elite or at the grass-roots level, doesn't make it any easier for Mexicans and Americans to come to terms with their painful 200-year history, much less realize the dream of a true North American community.

The Miami Herald

THE FOREMOST DAILY NEWSPAPER OF FLORIDA

MONDAY, MAY 5, 1997

Clinton will try to sidestep Mexican politics

By ANDRES OPPENHEIMER
Herald Staff Writer

MEXICO CITY — President Clinton's visit here and his agenda of photo opportunities with Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo could give a boost to Mexico's ruling party shortly before key congressional and local elections.

But as they prepare for Clinton's

NEWS ANALYSIS

arrival today on the first Mexican visit of his presidency, U.S. officials reject such suggestions. They say they have taken unprecedented steps — including first-ever meetings with opposition leaders — to avoid a per-

ception of favoritism that could influence Mexico's July 6 elections.

Public opinion polls show the vote could deal a serious setback to the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI).

During his two-day visit, Clinton is expected to appear with Zedillo on at least six occasions, including a joint press conference after their

closed-door meeting Tuesday, a gala dinner hosted by Zedillo later that day and a speech at the National Auditorium on Wednesday in which the U.S. president will be introduced by his Mexican counterpart.

An avalanche of smiling pictures of the two presidents in Mexico's

PLEASE SEE MEXICO, 6A



Clinton

As Mexicans campaign, Clinton works not to take sides

MEXICO, FROM 1A

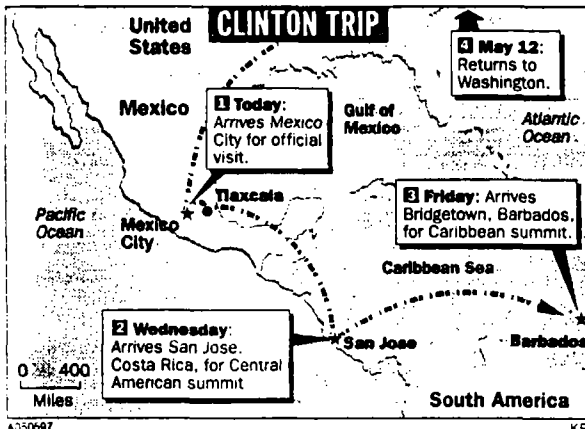
media is almost guaranteed: Clinton and Zedillo, who have already met on several occasions, are both Yale graduates who pride themselves on having good personal rapport. Zedillo was indebted to Clinton, who pushed through a \$20 billion rescue loan shortly after Mexico's financial collapse in December 1994.

U.S. officials say the two presidents will stress their affinities on issues such as free trade and will avoid public quarrels on divisive subjects such as migration, drug policies and Cuba.

In the past, U.S.-Mexican summits have been used by Mexico's government — and the government-friendly television networks — to stress the ruling party's credentials as the most experienced to manage the country's international affairs, and the only party with enough stature to deal with the United States.

Clinton's visit, the first of three scheduled trips to Latin America over the next 10 months, was originally set for April 11, when the campaign for renewal of Mexico's lower house of Congress and seven state governments was not yet in full swing.

But Clinton's knee injury in March forced the trip's postponement until this week. By now, election fever has already taken over Mexico: Polls show the rul-



ing party may lose its absolute majority in Congress for the first time in seven decades and that an opposition candidate may win the post of Mexico City governor, a job that replaces the appointive position of mayor.

"The timing of this visit was planned with clear electoral purposes [by the Mexican government]," said Jorge Castañeda, a Mexican political scientist with New York University and strong government critic. "It's obvious that they could have waited another three months for this visit."

"Zedillo and the PRI will be the obvious winners," he said.

In an effort to avoid a percep-

tion of partisanship, Clinton will meet separately with Felipe Calderon, president of the center-right opposition National Action Party (PAN), and with Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, head of the center-left Party for the Democratic Revolution (PRD).

The meetings have been scheduled to last 15 minutes each, Mexican sources say. The two opposition leaders and PRI president Roque Villanueva will be received — in alphabetical order of their parties' names — Tuesday evening at Clinton's suite at the Hotel Presidente, the sources say.

"It will be the first time that a U.S. president meets with the

CLINTON'S ITINERARY

- Today:** Arrives Mexico City.
- Tuesday:** Meets Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo; lays wreath at Altar to the Nation; meets opposition political leaders; attends state dinner at National Palace.
- Wednesday:** Addresses Mexican people; visits Tlaxcala town square; visits pyramids at Teotihuacan; arrives San Jose, Costa Rica.
- Thursday:** Addresses Central American summit; joins parade

- to National Theater; attends summit dinner.
- Friday:** Visits Braulio Carrillo National Park; arrives Barbados; joins reception for Caribbean summit.
- Saturday:** Attends Caribbean summit; meets President Rene Preval of Haiti.
- Sunday:** No public events scheduled.
- May 12:** Returns to Washington.

opposition," says Ricardo Pascoe, head of the PRD's international relations department. "We see this as a recognition by Washington, D.C., that things have changed here, that there are new rules of the game."

The meeting with opposition leaders will be especially significant because the PRI has long based its propaganda campaigns on the "fear factor" — the idea that an opposition win could result in political chaos and violence, government critics say. The meetings with Calderon and Lopez Obrador will convey the message that Washington would have no problem in dealing with a president from another party, opposition leaders say.

"Even if it were only five minutes, or one picture, it will have a major impact on public opinion," said PRD congressman

Graco Ramirez. "The message will be that, for the United States, the PRI is no longer the only game in town."

In addition to the meetings with the leaders of all major political parties, Clinton will reach out to all political factions during a speech at the 15,000-seat National Auditorium. Opposition politicians, intellectuals and artists — many of whom are government critics — have been invited to the event.

Anti-American groups close to the PRD are planning several protests during Clinton's visit, but most analysts agree that such events will not draw massive crowds. Polls show that most Mexicans blame their government — rather than Clinton — for the economic crisis from which the country is only beginning to emerge.

Clinton on Central America mission

By William Neikirk
Paul de la Garza
THE STAFF WRITERS

WASHINGTON—President Clinton heads south of the border Monday to talk to America's neighbors about the flood of drugs and illegal immigrants into the U.S.

At the same time, they want to talk to him about sending more American business their way.

Clinton's weeklong trip to Mexico, Costa Rica and Barbados is billed as a goodwill mission to emphasize this nation's positive relationship with Central America and the Caribbean, but tensions also are evident.

This is especially true with Mexico, where Clinton in a three-day state visit will praise its "mature" democracy while urging the government of President Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon to move more aggressively against drug trafficking and corruption.

"This drug problem is as big or bigger a problem for Mexico as it is for the United States," Clinton said Saturday. "They will, in the end, not be able to maintain the fabric of an orderly, democratic, free society if the narco-traffickers come to dominate huge sections of their country."

Administration officials emphasized Mexico's cooperation in fighting drugs but added they want more progress from the Zedillo government.

The administration has a lever: The U.S. Congress, where many members criticized Mexico's drug record after Clinton certified the country was cooperating on the issue.

U.S. Ambassador James Jones defended Mexico's record and said Congress, using Mexico as a scapegoat, was falling prey to an old temptation: blaming foreigners for domestic problems.

Nevertheless, the congressional criticism serves a purpose. It enables the administration to point to congressional pressure as a sign that more needs to be done.



AP photos

A soldier patrols Sunday outside Mexico City's National Auditorium, where President Clinton will deliver a speech during his three-day visit. In Washington (right), Clinton leaves church with daughter Chelsea.

The immigration issue long has been a major source of friction. Clinton said the U.S. has been extremely generous in accepting more legal immigrants from Mexico and now wants more enforcement at the border.

The recent U.S. law cracking down on undocumented workers isn't popular in Mexico. It has led to protests at the U.S. Embassy and to heavy criticism in the Mexican press.

Clinton remains popular in Mexico despite the pressure. Opinion polls in Mexico show him with 70 percent approval ratings.

The president is especially admired for his unpopular decision early in his first term to bail out Mexico with a loan from a

U.S. fund to protect the dollar. The loan has been repaid.

The president will be making the first of two trips south of the border this year. This autumn, he is to visit South America to bolster economic and trade relations with a region often neglected by U.S. presidents.

In San Jose, Costa Rica, he will attend a summit Thursday and Friday of Central American countries to discuss trade, drugs, immigration and the environment. In Barbados on Saturday, the issues will be similar at the Caribbean summit.

Such issues as U.S. action in rating some airports in the region as substandard and Washington's support for an end to European

concessions for Caribbean bananas also will be hot topics.

Drugs also will be a key agenda item in the two summits. Gen. Barry McCaffrey, the president's top drug fighter, said at a news briefing leading up to the president's trip that Caribbean nations are concerned about "this enormous onslaught of cocaine, in particular coming out of Colombia, principally through Venezuela or by sea."

McCaffrey said that "it's having a devastating impact not only in the obvious gun smuggling, drug smuggling, money laundering violence and corruption, but indeed in the addiction of the people in the Caribbean Islands themselves."



Clinton's trip is part of an administration effort to expand free trade, following up on the North American Free Trade Agreement and to strengthen democracy in the region.

Thomas (Mack) McLarty, Clinton's envoy to the Americas, said the transition to open markets isn't complete.

"The real question in the region is, Can democracy that has moved through the region ... really deliver to the people of the Americas?" he asked.

In that regard, U.S. policy toward Cuba, toughened by the

Helms-Burton Act, will be spotlighted by the president during his trip.

Clinton also will do some sight seeing. He will visit the pyramids near Mexico City and a rain forest in Costa Rica, and relax on the beach in Barbados. At the rail forest, he will highlight U.S. efforts to prevent environmental degradation in the region.

Tribune reporters William Neikirk contributed from Washington and Paul de la Garza from Mexico City.

Chicago Tribune

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14 Section 1

Monday, May 5, 1997

Editorials

The summit south of the border

The summit in Mexico City Monday between President Clinton and his Mexican counterpart, Ernesto Zedillo, could be testy. Following bitter charges and countercharges about Mexico's worthiness as a partner in the drug war and changes in United States immigration policy, relations between the two countries are at a low.

U.S.-Mexico relations seem to play out simultaneously on two levels. One is the roller coaster of front-page events: NAFTA, financial bailouts or drug-related corruption in Mexico.

The other is the far more subtle but significant story of ever-closer and more interdependent links—economic, cultural, even demographic—that bind the two countries.

If the two leaders expect to break the current impasse, they need to put their disputes in the context of this almost symbiotic relationship.

Between 1993 and 1996—even after the internal debacle following the 1994 peso devaluation—Mexican imports from the U.S. rose 42 percent, from \$39.9 billion to \$56.8 billion. Meanwhile, exports to the U.S. shot up 75 percent, from \$41.6 billion to \$73 billion. After Canada, Mexico is the most important trade partner of the U.S. and the Midwest one of the greatest beneficiaries of this tremendous export market.

American products and culture are omnipresent in Mexico, and likewise, the Latino influence is being felt in all spheres of American life, including politics. Within the next decade, the Latino population—most of it of Mexican origin—is expected to become the largest ethnic group in the U.S.

In the explosive area of narcotrafficking, a good

conversation-starter would be for the U.S. to recast the issue as a bilateral problem. Let's face it: Mexico delivers the drugs, and we buy them—to the tune of \$50 billion a year.

The annual cliffhanger of certification should be eliminated. Periodic, cooperative, *honest* reporting of progress to control supply *and* demand would open more avenues for developing enforcement strategies.

The U.S. also should aggressively pursue the new efforts by the FBI to train elite Mexican police and get the Mexican military out of the drug-enforcement business. The result of those policies has been rampant corruption of the armed forces and their growing presence in civic affairs—a dangerous precedent anywhere in Latin America.

Massive immigration to the U.S., most of it illegal, is an equally thorny issue. Historically, Mexico has used it as an economic escape valve, while the U.S. has benefited from the cheap, plentiful labor.

The U.S. must formulate and enforce its own immigration policies, according to its own best interests. But there needs to be more consultation with Mexico, to clarify the nature and intent of our policies and reduce friction and misunderstandings on both sides of the border.

Trade and common economic interests are the most important elements driving U.S.-Mexico relations. NAFTA has been a resounding success for both countries that must not be compromised.

During their summit, Presidents Clinton and Zedillo need to publicly reiterate their commitment to the agreement and to promptly resolving the implementation glitches that still crop up.

THE WORLD

Mexico will be at its best for Clinton

Troubled neighbor gets vis't today

By Mimi Hall
USA TODAY

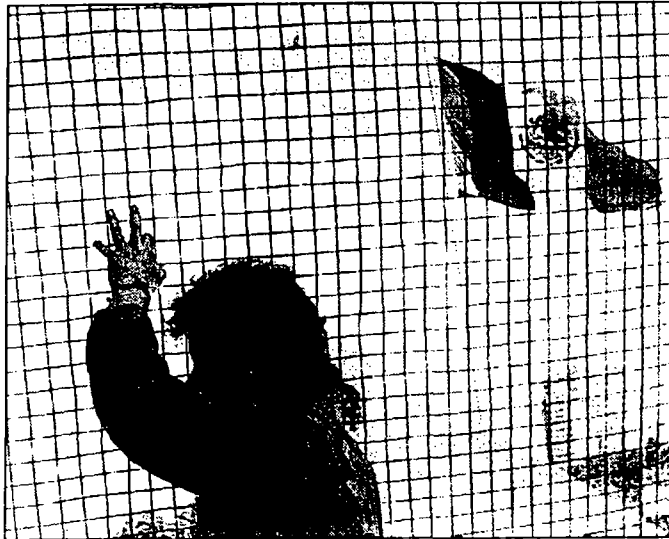
President Clinton will see the best of a battered land when he travels to Mexico today for his first state visit.

He'll lay a wreath at a monument to Mexican patriotism. He'll watch a performance at Mexico City's sparkling white marble Palacio de Bellas Artes. He'll dine at the magnificent National Palace.

But beyond Mexico City's glistening monuments lies a deeply troubled capital. Anti-American sentiment is growing in the chaotic four-party Congress and among the city's 16 million residents, nearly half of whom live in staggering poverty.

Mexico is the largest recipient of foreign direct investment by U.S. corporations. But three years after passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) brought a promise of prosperity, inflation is high, wages are stagnant and the banks aren't lending.

Beggars crowd the city center, taxi passengers are beaten and robbed and office buildings sit vacant in the haze of sickening pollution.



Spiffing up: A worker at Mexico City's National Auditorium puts up mesh that will hold lights for President Clinton's speech to business leaders.

Aside from crime, the only booming industry, it seems, is the narcotics trade. Each year, 240 tons of cocaine enter the United States, more than half of it from Mexico.

And despite plans for historic elections in early July, a recent poll in Mexico City's *Reforma* newspaper found that 95% believe political corruption is as bad or worse than ever.

Former president Carlos Salinas is in exile in Ireland. A former deputy

attorney general is in jail in Houston, charged with taking nearly \$8 million in bribes from drug cartels. And tales of corrupt officials and Swiss bank accounts are the stuff of daily newspaper headlines.

"The Mexican government will probably do its best to show Clinton a picture of a Mexico that has recovered fully from its economic crisis, a Mexico that is headed toward electoral democracy and a Mexico that is

Mexico: Fast facts

Mexico, three times the size of Texas, shares a 1,936-mile border with the USA.

	Mexico	USA
Population (in millions)	96	267
Inflation rate	27.7%	3.3%
Infant mortality (per 1,000)	25	7
Life expectancy	74	76

Sources: 1996 CIA World Factbook, National Geographic Atlas of the World, Bloomberg News

a stable neighbor despite the drug scandals," says Denise Dresser, a political scientist at Mexico's Autonomous Technical Institute. What he will not see is "significant resentment generated by what is perceived as the U.S.'s moral superiority."

Many Mexicans view the United States as arrogant. Many Americans see Mexico as unreliable. Thomas "Mack" McLarty, Clinton's special envoy to the Americas, acknowledges, "We are at a delicate time."

Clinton is sure to be well-received by President Ernesto Zedillo and members of the nation's ruling party, the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), who view him as a symbol of better economic times to come. But many Mexicans distrust the PRI, which some suspect has held power for 70 years by killing or buying off opponents. For the first time in decades, experts say, it may lose control both of Mexico's Congress and the

capital city's mayor's office.

On the other side of the border, where 3 million Mexicans live and work illegally, recent crackdowns on illegal immigrants angered many Mexicans who view tough new anti-immigration laws as racist.

Drugs are another irritant to relations. Though unsuccessful, recent efforts in Congress to decertify Mexico as an ally in the war on drugs — efforts prompted by the arrest of Mexico's top drug czar — infuriated some government leaders and

wounded many Mexicans' pride. In response, last month demonstrators tossed eggs at the U.S. Embassy and burned Uncle Sam in effigy.

Sen. Felix Salgado Macedonio, a member of the left-wing Party of the Democratic Revolution, led a drive to declare Clinton *persona non grata*. Angered by Mexico's concessions on NAFTA and a \$13.5 billion U.S. bailout loan in 1995, Salgado said Clinton represents "the absolute submission this government has given to North American interests."

Even Mexican strawberry growers are up in arms over U.S. claims that berries fed to schoolchildren in Michigan last month were tainted with hepatitis-A before they crossed the U.S. border.

Clinton will try to ease tensions with a speech to Mexicans on Tuesdays. Mexican officials also are trying to smooth the visit. Last week, Mexico fired 1,100 agents in the gov-

ernment's domestic anti-drug force.

This is the first of three trips to the region for Clinton in the coming year. In the fall, he will visit Brazil, Argentina and Venezuela. In early 1998, he'll go to Chile for the second Summit of the Americas with the region's 34 democratically elected leaders.

The first week-long trip, which also will take Clinton to Costa Rica and Barbados, is meant to show that "Latin America is back on the agenda," says Susan Kaufman Purcell of the Council of the Americas.

In the U.S. Congress, Clinton is pushing "fast track" legislation to expand the trade agreements now in place with Mexico and Canada throughout Latin America. That effort has been stalled, in part by critics who say NAFTA has failed to create the jobs it promised while sending some U.S. manufacturing jobs across the border as companies look for cheap labor and lax environmental regulations.

"Mexico is one of the very most important countries to the people of the U.S.," says William Perry, a Latin American affairs expert and former adviser to presidents Reagan and Bush. "The average guy on the street says, 'Do we really want to be associated with a country like this?'"

But Perry says that despite the drug trade and immigration problems, "our future is Latin America."

Contributing: Michelle Melendez in Mexico City

U.S.-Mexico Wrangle: Close Relationship Between Allies Breeds Friction

By JULIA PRESTON

MEXICO CITY, May 4 — A labor leader unintentionally insulted President Ernesto Zedillo during May Day ceremonies here, showing something about how rocky relations are between the United States and its southern neighbor.

News Analysis Whistles and catcalls forced Victor Flores, the head of Mexico's main labor congress, to cut short his speech to an auditorium filled with workers after he accidentally addressed Mr. Zedillo as "the President of the United States."

Even though it was an obvious slip, Mr. Flores's remark rankled the workers because to them it suggested some American encroachment on Mexico's sovereignty and identity. His gaffe was especially conspicuous because President Clinton is to arrive here on Monday for his first visit to Latin America since he took office, a visit regarded by Mexicans as long overdue.

The episode reflected how vulnerable Mexicans continue to feel to United States power and how deeply they distrust Washington's intentions.

Recent events have shown that even when the two Governments want to get along, turbulence is the normal state of relations. The peculiar logic of the marriage of geography and convenience between the United States and Mexico seems to be that the closer the relationship gets, the more tensions arise.

In many ways, ties across the 2,000-mile

border have never been stronger. Presidents Clinton and Zedillo like each other. They are both relatively young leaders who studied at Yale, both aspiring reformers whose ideas have been sharply tempered by political realities at home.

Through sessions of a commission set up in 1981, Cabinet members from the two countries meet regularly to jaw over disputes. For a commission meeting on Monday, eight Cabinet secretaries from Washington will come to Mexico along with President Clinton.

In addition, the Clinton Administration has gone much further than recent American Governments in heaping praise on Mexico's President and his Government.

In comments last week, Treasury Secretary Robert E. Rubin pointed to "the quite remarkable political courage and resolve of the Mexican leadership." Barry McCaffrey, the retired general who heads the Administration's anti-drug efforts, spoke of "unprecedented cooperation" on narcotics issues.

Mr. Zedillo has responded in kind, recently calling Mr. Clinton "the American President who has shown the most respect for Mexico."

Despite the friendliness, relations between the countries are more tense and abrasive than they have been in at least a decade.

There are sharp divisions over the war against increasingly powerful Mexican drug cartels and the presence of an estimated two million illegal immigrants from

Mexico in the United States.

Although the North American Free Trade Agreement has increased cross-border trade to record levels, sticky disputes have arisen about trucking, several agricultural products and the move by the United States to punish some Mexican companies doing business in Cuba.

Anti-Washington feeling surged here after the bitter debate in the United States Congress this spring over whether to recertify Mexico as an ally in the drug war, and because of a new American law to curb illegal immigration. Anti-Mexican feeling in the United States is growing in parts of the Southwest and California.

The inequality between the world's most powerful nation and Mexico, which is struggling out of an economic depression in the midst of a disorderly transition to democracy, makes for chronic differences.

"The tighter the connection between the two societies, the greater the friction," said Peter H. Smith, director of Latin American studies at the University of California at San Diego.

Part of the problem, Mr. Smith said, is that "the issues that continue to bedevil the relationship, like drugs and immigration, are not ones that can be resolved easily by cooperation between the two Governments."

"They respond to the classic incentives of supply and demand and resist Government action," he said.

Mexicans complain that despite their country's strategic importance for the

United States, Washington's policies are increasingly determined by the vagaries of domestic politics on drugs, immigration and trade.

"America's ignorance and disdain for learning the ways and customs of its neighbor seems to be endless," said Jorge Montaño, who served for two and a half years as Mexico's Ambassador in Washington. "The way they deal with us is by turning us into one more item on the domestic agenda."

At the same time, many Mexicans are intensely ambivalent about the United States. The mixed feelings were abundant one holiday afternoon last week at a bustling McDonald's restaurant in a middle-class neighborhood where scores of families took their children for a distinctly American-style lunch.

"It is not easy for us to be the weak ones," said María Guadalupe Ramírez Ornelas, a high school teacher. "We become Americanized. We bring our children to eat American fast food. But underneath, there is a lot of rancor."

Francisco Olivares, 23, an accountant, said: "Mexicans in general are always going to have doubts about the United States. We don't know whether the Americans' intentions toward us are really healthy."

Opinion surveys conducted from June 1996 to May 1 of this year among city-dwelling Mexicans by the United States Information Agency reflect the conflicted views. About half those polled have a high

opinion of the United States and about half have a poor one.

According to the polls, about two-thirds of Mexicans think relations are good. But only 38 percent think the United States treats Mexico more fairly than it did five years ago. Seven in 10 said the United States approved of United States efforts to help Mexico fight drug trafficking and solve economic problems. But 6 in 10 said the United States wielded too much influence in Mexican affairs and expected Mexico to bow to United States wishes.

Mexicans are largely enthusiastic about President Clinton, giving him a 69 percent favorable rating in a May 1 poll.

However, the customers at McDonald's were concerned that President Zedillo had not been an especially forceful President, and they worried that he might yield to pressures from Mr. Clinton.

For Mexicans, one of Mr. Clinton's most significant meetings will be the 15-minute sessions scheduled for Tuesday with leaders of the two major opposition parties. It will be first such meetings for an American President.

But Foreign Minister Ángel Gurría said the major impact of the visit would come from the mood and body language, "the image and feeling President Clinton will take away about what Mexico can represent for the United States and vice versa."

"Just the fact that the President of the United States is visiting Mexico already makes the visit a success," Mr. Gurría said.

WORLD NEWS

MONDAY, MAY 5, 1997

Mexico and U.S.: Close, yet Somehow Distant

Presidents, Meeting Today, Maintain Warm Ties, but Animosity Fester at Lower Levels

By Molly Moore and John Ward Anderson
Washington Post Foreign Service

MEXICO CITY—The gringo-accented U.S. businessman who introduces himself to radio listeners here as Burton Helms epitomizes all that Mexicans abhor in their northern neighbor: dubious intentions, patronizing arrogance, sly interventionism.

The advertisement—a blatantly nationalistic plea by Mexico's formerly state-run telephone monopoly for customers to shun foreign competitors in the newly privatized telephone market—pokes fun at various U.S. policies considered distasteful to Mexicans, from the Helms-Burton trade sanctions against companies doing business with Cuba to the U.S. drug certification process for foreign countries.

With its buffoonish gringo character, the ad illustrates the conflicting attitudes Mexicans and Americans sometimes have toward each other and the complex, often contradictory relationship that is evolving between the two countries.

President Clinton is to arrive here today on the Mexican visit of his presidency to find a neighbor that seems ambivalent if not antagonistic toward the often overbearing giant to the north. Governmental relations generally are cordial—and relations between Clinton and Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo seem warm—but feelings are cooler on the streets and in the legislatures.

As the United States and Mexico become more culturally, economically and politically intertwined, they are simultaneously more divided over immigration and drug trafficking, with resentment building on both sides of the border. While their fortunes often seem nearly inseparable, there is rarely a sense of shared problems or common future, except in academic circles and at high levels of business and government.

"Clinton comes confident that he is considered a 'friend' because he has rescued us twice, no matter what the [U.S.] Congress thinks," said Marco Rascon, an outspoken congressman from Mexico's leftist opposition party, in a recent newspaper commentary. "Clinton represents those who propose intentionally provoking a crisis in Mexico to generate a 'conditional rescue,' which effectively results in the U.S. imposing its own conditions."

Such bitterness might surprise Clinton, who stuck his political neck out to push for passage of the con-

troversial North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), who stitched together a \$50 billion bailout when the Mexican peso collapsed in late 1994 and who battled congressional efforts this year to decertify Mexico as a cooperative partner in the campaign against drugs.

But far from receiving plaudits, the United States gets pounded daily in the Mexican press and on the floor of Congress here.

"There's a lot of irritation against the U.S. government," Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, the center-left Party of the Democratic Revolution candidate for mayor of Mexico City, said in an interview.

When Mexican officials visited the White House to help plan Clinton's visit, they recommended that he tailor his speeches to winning the support of the Mexican public, partly by drawing a clear distinction between his pro-Mexican attitudes and the supposedly anti-Mexican actions of the U.S. Congress, according to Mexican officials.

Zedillo, in a session with U.S. reporters on Friday, conceded that relations in "recent weeks were not particularly smooth."

"The key challenge for the president is to repair the breach," said a White House official, noting the frayed feelings and lingering distrust between the two countries. After a stormy winter—during which Mexico arrested its anti-drug czar on narcotics charges while the U.S. Congress thrashed Mexico in the certification debate and enacted more stringent immigration law—senior officials in both governments are eager to emphasize their friendship.

"There's a tremendous amount of commerce and other links, but it's not the kind of family or personal relationship . . . that is fundamental in a meaningful and deep relationship" built on mutual trust, said Thomas F. "Mack" McLarty, the president's special envoy for the Americas.

"We have to jump-start the confidence level," Foreign Minister Jose Angel Gurría told reporters Friday. "We have to get working together again." Ten bilateral agreements are to be signed during the visit, the cornerstone of which is the scheduled release of a joint assessment of the drug plague.

How have relations become so ambivalent when NAFTA has boosted U.S.-Mexican trade almost 60 percent in three years, making Mexico the third-largest U.S. trading partner; when the popularity of things Mexican—from food to music to professional

baseball players—is booming in the United States; when record numbers of Mexicans and other Hispanics are moving to the United States and exerting more influence over U.S. politics; when Mexican workers in the United States, both legal and not, are sending billions of dollars back to their home country every year?

At the heart of the bumpy U.S.-Mexican relationship are the issues of drugs, immigration and official corruption.

Clinton's aides have admitted that they are concerned about potentially devastating photo opportunities in which Clinton is shown with his arm draped around a Mexican official or business leader who could be associated a few months later with drug trafficking. A senior White House official noted, however, that "Mexico isn't the first place where we've had that concern."

U.S. officials all but ignored the issues of drugs and corruption during the 1988-94 administration of former president Carlos Salinas de Gortari, who was universally praised in Washington for liberalizing the Mexican economy.

Today, however, with Mexican drug cartels and transporting an estimated 70 percent of the cocaine and other illegal drugs consumed in the United States, U.S. officials have been forced to confront the drug problem more vocally.

Corruption accompanying the escalating power of the drug mafias is spilling onto the U.S. side of the border. NAFTA also has many U.S. detractors, who complain that it has opened the border to drug traffickers and illegal immigrants while pushing jobs south to Mexico.

The voter-rich border states of California and Texas, which often suffer the consequences of drug and immigration troubles, drive U.S. policy. On the other side, nationalistic Mexicans expect their president to defend their national dignity and rebuff what they see as U.S. strong-arm tactics and discrimination. The resulting clash is more often political than ideological. Officials often have found it easy to blame their neighbor for difficult domestic problems.

Zedillo said on Friday that many of the most complex issues are blurred by "a lot of noise" from extremists. "It is inevitable that in a relationship as intense and complex as the one we have, that voices which are not necessarily rational are heard from time to time," he said.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

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TUESDAY, MAY 6, 1997

What's News—

* * *

Business and Finance

REYNOLDS TOBACCO SCORED a major victory in a Florida state court, where a jury found that the firm wasn't responsible for the death of a three-pack-a-day smoker who died of lung cancer at age 49. The trial had been closely watched as a bellwether for future suits against the industry.

The Dow Jones industrials soared 143.29 to a record 7214.49, buoyed by the tobacco ruling and Friday's budget deal. The rally capped the industrials' comeback from a 9.8% drop. Bond prices rose and the dollar was mixed.

(Articles on Pages A3 and C1)

Bell Atlantic and Nynex expect to reduce their combined work force of 137,000 by at least 10,000, more than three times their original estimate, people familiar with the plans said.

(Article on Page A3)

X's admission that its Busang likely contains no gold worth mining intensified the efforts of police and stock-market regulators to find who was responsible for the scandal.

(Articles on Page A3 and in Column 4)

Ford said light-vehicle sales fell 4.3% in April, capping a tepid sales month for the Big Three, while their Japanese rivals benefited from the strong dollar and popular models.

(Article on Page A2)

The FDA refused to clear generic versions of the menopausal drug Premarin, reinforcing American Home Products' virtual lock on the market for hormone-replacement products.

(Article on Page B6)

Northrop agreed to buy Logicon, a maker of battle-management systems, for stock valued at \$750 million.

(Article on Page A4)

A Donaldson Lufkin unit agreed to buy 85% of DecisionOne, a computer-maintenance firm, for \$690 million in cash and stock. It also will refinance \$226 million of DecisionOne debt.

(Article on Page A4)

* * *

World-Wide

U.S. OFFICIALS PRESSED Zaire's rebels for restraint as they near Kinshasa.

Laurent Kabila, the rebels' leader, said his forces are 40 miles from the capital and reiterated his demand that President Mobutu step down or be ousted. A U.S. special envoy in the area urged him to enter the city peacefully, but a greater threat may be crumbling discipline among Mobutu's soldiers. Meanwhile, rebels nationalized a major railway, alarming investors concerned about their policies. (Article on Page A18)

Rebels delivered loads of Rwandan refugees to Kisangani on jammed trucks, ignoring pleas by U.N. officials to avoid brutality during the hurried expulsions.

Timothy McVeigh's sister testified for the prosecution in the Oklahoma City bombing trial, saying he told her shortly before the '95 attack he was in the "action stage" of his fight with the government. Earlier, an FBI expert said a drill bit found at the home of suspect Terry Nichols matched marks on a lock jimmied in a '94 explosives theft.

The FTC proposed letting manufacturers attach "made in the USA" labels to consumer products with only 75% domestic labor and materials, not the 98% that was the unwritten standard for 50 years. The agency said new guidelines reflect U.S. consumers' increasing acceptance of changes in the global marketplace. (Article on Page B1)

Police in Texas killed a secessionist militia leader during a gun battle near the compound he and another man fled when the rest of the group surrendered Saturday. Meanwhile, the group's leader was indicted on federal fraud and conspiracy charges for allegedly issuing \$1.8 billion in worthless financial warrants to militia members.

Baxter International is expected to present research today saying its artificial blood avoided the need for postoperative human blood in 39% of the cardiac-surgery patients it studied. The findings, which also promise survival advantages to trauma patients, were unveiled at an anesthesiology conference in Switzerland. (Article on Page B6)

The Pentagon should weigh the impact on smaller suppliers of contracts it awards to big firms, a Defense Department study urges. The study, to be released today, bolsters the concerns Pentagon officials have expressed about big defense mergers, particularly the acquisition of McDonnell Douglas by Boeing. (Article on Page A24)

America Online posted its first profitable quarter since it abandoned a controversial accounting practice.

(Article on Page B8)

Sweden's Incentive agreed to buy Vivra of the U.S. for \$1.59 billion, a move that would create one of the world's biggest kidney-care groups.

(Article on Page B4)

GTE agreed to buy Internet pioneer BBN, people close to the matter said. An industry executive said a deal could be valued at up to \$1 billion.

(Article on Page B6)

Andersen Worldwide's board nominated accounting partner Jim Wadia to be its next CEO, overriding the firm's nominating committee.

(Article on Page B5)

Kodak is close to launching a campaign to interest the 33 million U.S. kids aged five to 12 in photography.

(Article on Page B8)

Warren Buffett warned of "conditions that can lead to excess" in the current stock market during Berkshire Hathaway's annual meeting.

(Article on Page C1)

Huntington Bancshares agreed to acquire First Michigan Bank in a stock transaction valued at \$897 million.

(Article on Page A14)

Markets—

Stocks: Volume 549,400,210 shares. Dow Jones industrials 7214.49, up 143.29; transportation 2624.01, up 18.18; utilities 226.52, up 5.80.

Bonds: Lehman Brothers Treasury index 6639.36, up 10.51.

Commodities: Oil \$19.63 a barrel, off two cents. Dow Jones futures index 160.61, up 0.01; spot index 156.96, off 1.96.

Dollar: 126.54 yen, off 0.08; 1.7325 marks, up 0.0030.

A sergeant's attorney accused the Army of racism for targeting black men in its investigation of sex abuse at a Maryland base. The remarks came at a hearing before the second trial arising from the scandal, this one involving charges of consensual sex. Meanwhile, a jury weighed a life term for a sergeant convicted of rape last week.

Clinton arrived in Mexico for a state visit. Meanwhile, U.S. authorities rejected a bid for political asylum by a former top prosecutor Mexico has been seeking for questioning in a case involving the brother of ex-President Salinas, people familiar with the matter said. (Article on Page A18)

Arafat's justice minister said he would impose the death penalty on Palestinians who sell land to Israelis in an effort to prevent Israel's expansion into areas such as East Jerusalem. Meanwhile, Arafat said he doubted a U.S. envoy would bring any fresh ideas on how to resume peace talks.

Britain's new Labor government vowed to end London's confrontational stance toward integration with the EU, a hallmark of the previous Conservative government. The new foreign secretary, Robin Cook, pledged to join a common program on workers rights and signaled flexibility on other issues.

Russia's foreign minister said he hopes to finish negotiations on a draft accord with NATO in a meeting with its secretary-general today. The agreement will outline Moscow's ties with NATO after the alliance expands into former Warsaw Pact states.

A Canadian court cleared the way for the deportation of a Saudi man suspected of playing a role in last year's bombing in Dhahran, which killed 19 U.S. servicemen. Both Saudi and U.S. authorities have expressed interest in questioning the man.

A Hamas leader arrived in Jordan from the U.S., deported after Israel dropped an extradition request. The political leader of the Muslim militant group lived in the U.S. for 15 years, but was detained in 1995 on suspicion of engaging in terrorist activity.

Los Angeles Times

MONDAY, MAY 5, 1997

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Trade Knits U.S. and Mexico Ever More Tightly

By MARY BETH SHERIDAN
TIMES STAFF WRITER

MEXICO CITY—The last time an American leader visited this capital, Mexico was the United States' No. 4 trading partner. The year was 1979. Mexico's main export was oil, and President Jimmy Carter's most famous comment regarded his case of "Montezuma's revenge."

President Clinton may still want to skip the drinking water. But

■ WASHINGTON OUTLOOK

Tough talk may be needed for Clinton's visit to Mexico. A5

when he arrives today, he will find that other aspects of Mexico have been transformed. Mexico is now poised to overtake Japan as the United States' No. 2 export market—trailing only Canada.

Behind that move is a remarkable story of how the two neighbors' economies have become increasingly knit together. Even as many Americans' impressions of

Please see MEXICO, A10

MEXICO: Mushrooming Trade With U.S.

Continued from A1
Mexico focus on problems such as drug smuggling and illegal immigration, this country has quietly become a kind of Sun Belt for the United States.

"The North American market is becoming more and more important for us," said Raul Hinojosa, an expert at UCLA on the North American Free Trade Agreement, which was created to open up exchange between the United States, Mexico and Canada. "How Mexico evolves will be incredibly important for the U.S. economy."

While also spotlighting issues such as fighting drugs and controlling illegal immigration, Clinton hopes to use his trip, which includes two days here and stops in Costa Rica and Barbados, to generate momentum for extending NAFTA to the rest of Latin America.

The president also plans to emphasize NAFTA's benefits in advance of a potentially hostile U.S. congressional review of the accord scheduled for this summer.

Since NAFTA took effect in 1994, trade between Mexico and the United States has mushroomed to record levels. U.S. exports to and imports from Mexico combined were worth about \$130 billion last year.

But though U.S. exports to Mexico have surged 36%, NAFTA opponents note that imports from Mexico have grown by twice that percentage—leaving the U.S. with a \$16-billion deficit.

Success or failure? Many analysts say it is still too early to judge

U.S.-Mexico Trade

Bilateral commerce has risen more than 500% since 1979.

In billions



Source: Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Division; researched by JENNIFER OLDRHAM/L.A. Times

Los Angeles Times

NAFTA. That is especially true since Mexico is emerging from its worst recession in 60 years, a disaster that far outweighed any NAFTA effect.

But analysts say the economic relationship between the two countries has been radically transformed. Just consider: Bilateral trade as measured in dollars is up more than 500% since Carter's visit in 1979.

The most important change actually came before NAFTA. Mexico started slashing its sky-high tariffs in the mid-1980s as part of a drastic shift toward freer markets. That

encouraged many U.S. companies to move labor-intensive elements of their production to Mexico, where wages were lower.

Today, most of Mexico's exports to the United States are manufactured products such as cars, televisions and clothing. But many are chock full of American content. In fact, about 80% of U.S. exports to Mexico are "intermediate goods," which are installed in Mexican computers, spun into Mexican T-shirts and riveted into Mexican cars—many headed back north of the border.

They are products like the U.S. gabardine that goes to Corporativa Libra in the northern Mexican state of Coahuila, which borders Texas. The company cuts the fabric and sews it into insulated overalls, which go back to a U.S. distributor.

"The company's strategy of looking toward the U.S. market is 10 years old. But with NAFTA, the whole process has been accelerated" because of lower tariffs in both directions, said Isidro Garcia, a senior company official.

In a striking sign of how companies are increasingly viewing North America as a single market, about half of U.S.-Mexican trade is now between subsidiaries of the same companies or between firms with strategic alliances, estimates Sidney Weintraub, a Washington-based trade expert and author of "NAFTA at Three: A Progress Report."

Ford, for example, imports Escort models from its plant in the northern Mexican city of Hermosillo. But the company and its suppliers export to Mexico the engines, from Dearborn, Mich.; the brakes, from Cin-

cinnati; and the power steering pumps, from Indianapolis.

Such integration means that Mexico and the United States now depend on each other economically far more than ever before.

But the division of labor has serious consequences, especially in manufacturing centers such as Southern California.

A new, comprehensive study by Hinojosa ranks Los Angeles County as the No. 1 area in the United States that is likely to lose jobs because of imports under NAFTA. But the county, ironically, is also expected to be one of the biggest job gainers, thanks to rising exports of its more sophisticated products.

"What people don't understand in Southern California is that we're highly integrated with Mexico compared to other parts of the country," Hinojosa said.

Take the electronics industry. Southern California's biggest export to Mexico is electronics, Hinojosa notes. Electronics are also the state's biggest import from Mexico, but mainly products assembled in Mexico using U.S.-made parts. Exporters of sophisticated electronics from Southern California, therefore, may be enjoying a boom—even as workers in the region's assembly plants are facing layoffs.

According to Hinojosa's study, job losses among low-skilled U.S. workers due to the accord have largely been matched by job gains.

many of them among higher-skilled workers.

Despite sharp gains in trade between the United States and Mexico, two-way commerce remains small in relative terms. Most products that Americans buy are produced at home. Even with its growing appetite for American products, Mexico receives only about 9% of U.S. exports.

But for workers whose factories move south, that is small comfort.

"People who lose their jobs in the U.S. because of trade imports don't go up the ladder, they go down or off. Their new jobs pay much less, or they don't get new jobs," said Jeff Faux, president of the Washington-based Economic Policy Institute.

Presidents Join in Declaring War on Drugs

■ **Diplomacy:** Months of maneuvering produce statement on sensitive topic of cross-border narcotics trade.

By MARK FINEMAN
TIMES STAFF WRITER

MEXICO CITY—It took 15 months of charges, counter-charges, scandals and suspicion between the world's largest consumer of illegal drugs and the neighbor that supplies much of them.

But in a garden ceremony Tuesday, the presidents of Mexico and the United States issued a joint declaration of war on the drug gangs that feed America's \$49-billion-a-year habit. Ernesto Zedillo and Bill Clinton signed a 97-page document that paints a stark and candid picture of a narcotics trade that has defied both nations' efforts to stop it, and promises a joint strategy to combat it by the end of the year.

"Let's be frank here," Clinton declared after the signing ceremony. "On the American side, the problem is we have less than 5% of the world's population and we consume half the drugs. . . . Our second problem is that while we are increasing our capacity to deal with it, we have not succeeded in reducing the demand or completely controlling the border on our side."

"Now, the Mexican problem is that narco-traffickers can destroy

the fabric of civil society. . . . They'll go after places with open spaces and a vulnerability to organized money and violence."

It took the two governments more than a year of wrangling to admit the scope of the problem. The process leading up to the "U.S.-Mexico Binational Drug Threat Assessment" that Clinton and Zedillo signed spoke volumes about the sensitivities of the issue.

"When we started this, we were at loggerheads," a Clinton administration official said of the joint effort merely to assess the drug threat, let alone to overcome it. The first few sessions were characterized by traditional finger-pointing, with Mexico blaming America's drug habit and U.S. officials citing widespread Mexican corruption as the biggest cause of the vast supply of drugs in U.S. cities.

The document originally was due out in February—the same week Mexico's top counter-narcotics official was arrested and accused of collaborating with Mexico's most powerful drug cartel. But again, the politics of drugs intervened: That arrest, just weeks before Clinton had to certify to the U.S. Congress whether Mexico was

cooperating as an ally in the drug war, drove official U.S. concerns about Mexican corruption to new heights and delayed the report.

The final report handed to Zedillo and Clinton by U.S. anti-drug czar Gen. Barry R. McCaffrey and Mexican Atty. Gen. Jorge Madrazo Cuellar is a candid assessment of a problem that both leaders conceded neither country can solve independently.

One sentence in the report sums up the confessions of both nations: "While the United States has one of the greatest problems of drug abuse in the world, Mexico has grown to be one of the world's most significant drug producing and transit countries."

The U.S. position in the report asserts that cocaine use in America has declined by 50% from its 1979 peak but concedes: "The central issue for the United States is that the rate of drug use involving young people between the ages of 12 and 20 has been rising since 1991."

Of the \$49 billion Americans spent on illegal drugs in 1993—the last year for which data are available—it states that \$31 billion went for cocaine, \$7 billion for heroin, \$9 billion for marijuana and \$2 billion for other illegal drugs.

The "globalized" industry generates tens of billions of dollars in illicit profits every year.

Although the report details dozens of federally funded U.S. programs to reduce the demand for illegal drugs, it stresses that far more must be done.

As for demand south of the border, the report notes that consumption here traditionally has been among the world's lowest but "the problem of [drug] consumption and dependence is increasing in Mexico."

It is Mexico's role as a drug supplier that the threat-assessment addresses in the most candid terms. It describes the Mexican drug gangs that are instrumental in meeting U.S. demand—citing Amado Carrillo Fuentes as "the most powerful drug trafficker operating from Mexico." And it details some of the corruption that has helped traffickers flourish.

The report cites official corruption cases such as that of former Mexican anti-drug czar Gen. Jose de Jesus Gutierrez Rebollo as "a key component in the drug traffickers' strategy."

"Drug trafficking . . . poses a clear threat to national security, as well as generating corruption by incorporating public servants in their efforts," the report states. "The tremendous wealth and power of the narco-traffickers threaten to undermine the legitimacy and effectiveness of law-enforcement."

In gauging the importance of Tuesday's assessment, though, an administration official concluded: "We've got a common threat assessment. Now we need a common strategy."

Family Planning Center Visit Puts First Lady on the Spot

By MARY BETH SHERIDAN
TIMES STAFF WRITER

MEXICO CITY—It seemed to have all the makings of a feel-good event: a visit Tuesday by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton to a family planning center supported by U.S. funds in a hard-scrabble Mexican neighborhood.

The only hitch: The United States has decided to ax funds for the center—something that has left its director incredulous.

"We don't understand the U.S. policy of strengthening the border and then taking [away] money for family planning," the director, Alfonso Lopez, complained to reporters accompanying the first lady. He explained that many migrants to the U.S. come from poor regions with fast-growing populations.

The moment appeared to be one of the most awkward during the first official trip by President Clinton to Mexico.

Mrs. Clinton was greeted warmly Tuesday by hundreds of local officials and women at the Mexican Family Planning Foundation, known as Mexfam. The visit was intended to demonstrate U.S. government support for family planning programs, according to a White House background paper.

Mrs. Clinton watched a skit on sex education at the center, then gave a speech praising the program.

"I am also proud of the role that USAID has played in supporting Mexfam and your public health institutions," she told the crowd.

Lopez said the United States Agency for International Development plans to cut funding next year. The center now receives more than \$700,000—roughly 15% of its budget—from USAID. Most of the rest comes from international foundations; a small part comes from client fees.

Lopez added that the U.S. Embassy told him "not to touch this subject" of funding during Mrs. Clinton's visit. He added, however, that he hoped the first lady's tour of the center would "raise her interest."

A USAID official traveling with Mrs. Clinton said the assistance is being phased out because Mexfam is becoming more successful in funding itself. "You attempt to create sustainability," said the official, who asked not to be identified.

However, he acknowledged that congressional cutbacks in USAID's budget are having an effect. "If we didn't have constraints on our budget, the phase-out [of aid to the center] might be longer," he said.

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5 Sections

Clinton's visit comes as U.S., Mexico try to ease tensions

President credited for tough calls, but resentment over drug certification lingers

By Kathy Lewis

Washington Bureau of The Dallas Morning News

WASHINGTON — President Clinton travels to Mexico City on Monday as both nations seek to repair damage from a particularly painful episode in their often-sensitive relationship.

Mexican officials credit Mr. Clinton for championing three key causes — free trade, financial help during the peso crisis and drug certification — despite political risk.

But his first presidential trip to Mexico comes amid lingering resentment there over the recent congressional debate on Mexico's efforts to combat drug trafficking.

"Mexico is a very nationalistic country, just like the United States. So, we were hurt," said Jesus Silva-Herzog, Mexico's ambassador to the United States.

The ambassador predicted a good reception.

"I think President Clinton is going to find a friendly country that recognizes the decisions taken by a presi-

dent that has been a friend to Mexico," Mr. Silva-Herzog said.

Shortly before Mr. Clinton announced his trip, Mexico made an early, final repayment of its U.S. loan. That celebratory atmosphere dissipated with the debate over drug certification.

Had Mr. Clinton's knee injury not forced a postponement, Mr. Clinton's trip would have more closely followed that fight.

U.S. officials said sentiments on both sides have cooled down in recent weeks.

Mexico's reorganization last week of its anti-drug unit helped to reassure some congressional critics that President Ernesto Zedillo's government recognizes the corruption problem and is doing something about it.

Mr. Clinton also dispatched several high-ranking officials to smooth the way for his trip.

Thomas F. "Mack" McLarty, the White House special envoy to the Americas; Immigration and Naturalization

Please see CLINTON'S on Page 9A.



Associated Press

Government worker Enrique Torres washes down the Boy Heroes monument in Mexico City on Sunday before President Clinton's visit. The monument honors six military cadets.

Clinton's visit comes as U.S., Mexico try to ease tensions

Continued from Page 1A.

Service Commissioner Doris Meissner; and drug czar Barry McCaffrey made visits.

Officials said their message to Mexico has been mutual respect, trust, cooperation and sovereignty. The United States will enforce its immigration laws but do so in a humane way. Drugs are a problem of demand as well as supply.

The president himself will pick up the effort this week as he seeks to emphasize what U.S. officials call an important and unique relationship between neighbors.

"I don't see it as a visit of reconciliation. I see it as building on an ongoing partnership between two great nations that share a huge border and a common future, have some common problems and inevitably some disagreements. We should look at this as a regular part of our building a common future," Mr. Clinton said Saturday.

The president has also sought to defuse the controversy surrounding Mexico by taking a bipartisan congressional delegation with him.

By the time he arrives Monday night, almost a dozen members of his Cabinet will have begun meetings with their Mexican counterparts. The Binational Commission will work on a wide spectrum of "nuts-and-bolts" issues.

Mr. McLarty said the trip, which will end on May 12, "will underscore the breadth and the depth and the maturity of the relationship, where we can talk about these complicated issues like immigration, which have a certain degree of understandable tension in them."

Without such a broad partnership, Mr. McLarty said, it would be difficult to address critical issues such as immigration and narcotics, which affect people's lives in both countries.

White House officials are not predicting dramatic announcements in Mexico City. On narcotics, officials hope the two leaders can release a document that assesses the threat and another that pledges new cooperation.

Similar agreements were to be released months ago but were delayed by the arrest of Mexico's drug czar on corruption charges and the bitter congressional debate over Mexico's counterdrug efforts.

Still, release of the agreements should help bridge the tension of recent months, say officials from both governments.

Both sides also predicted incremental progress on other matters, including the environment, immigration and trade.

"I'm not sure any one of these agreements in and of themselves will be dramatic, but I think when you accumulate the steady progress that's being made on all of these fronts, it will be a solid record," said White House National Security Adviser Samuel Berger.

Presidential visits to allied countries rarely result in substantive agreements, said Delal Baer of the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

The visits instead emphasize symbolic gestures of friendship, and those are particularly important in Mexico in light of recent tensions, she said.

"I don't see it as a visit of reconciliation. I see it as building on an ongoing partnership between two great nations that share a huge border and a common future, have some common problems and inevitably some disagreements."

— President Clinton

"This is a kiss-and-make-up trip for President Clinton," said Ms. Baer, "a trip to say that we're sorry for having acted like ugly Americans."

To that end, Mr. Clinton will lay a wreath at a memorial to Mexican heroes from the 1848 war against the United States, considered by most Mexicans to be the aggressor in that conflict.

"That gesture will resonate in Mexico," Ms. Baer said. "There is a certain strength and nobility attached when the strong acknowledges the grievance of the weaker."

In their pretrip comments, Mr. McLarty and Mr. Silva-Herzog emphasized how the lives of Americans and Mexicans are intertwined.

"There are not two other countries in the world with such an intense, complex and diversified relationship like the one between the United States and Mexico," Mr. Silva-Herzog said.

He pointed to a border that stretches almost 2,000 miles with more than 10 million people living along it and almost a million crossing daily from one side to the other.

"We have a very important problem of migration, with a huge Mexican-American population living permanently in the United States," he said. "And then we have drugs — a terrible problem, a kind of a pest of the modern times. That involves supply and demand."

The two nations had more than \$130 billion in trade last year. Mexico is the United States' third-largest trading partner, Mr. McLarty said.

Besides his sessions with Mr. Zedillo, Mr. Clinton also will meet with leaders of the political opposition and visit a town outside of Mexico City. First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will join the president in Mexico City after touring Mayan historical sites near Merida, part of the itinerary Mr. Clinton had to cancel because of knee surgery.

Before returning to Washington at week's end, Mr. Clinton will meet with Central American leaders in Costa Rica, where he is expected to sign several aviation agreements. He also will confer with Caribbean leaders in Barbados, where he will discuss trade and drug trafficking.

This is the first of three trips to the region. Mr. Clinton is to visit Argentina, Brazil and Venezuela in October. Next spring he'll attend the Summit of the Americas in Chile.

Staff writer David LaGesse contributed to this report.

INTERNATIONAL

Former Prosecutor In Mexico Is Denied Asylum by U.S.

By LAURIE HAYS

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

WASHINGTON — U.S. authorities have rejected a bid for political asylum by a controversial former Mexican prosecutor at the center of some of the most explosive murder and corruption cases in Mexican history.

As Mexico's top prosecutor, Pablo Chapa Bezanilla had led probes into the 1994 assassinations of both the ruling party's candidate for president and its No. 1 official, as well as into the gangland-style slaying of a Roman Catholic cardinal. Mr. Chapa was hailed as a hero in some quarters after he obtained the arrest of Raul Salinas de Gortari, the older brother of former President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, on charges that he conspired in the assassination of Jose Francisco Ruiz Massieu, the deputy leader of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party.

But Mr. Chapa's fortunes plummeted after he dug up a skeleton on Raul Salinas's ranch and suggested the remains belonged to a missing Mexican congressman who had been implicated in the Ruiz

Massieu slaying. The skeleton later proved to belong to a distant relative of a purported psychic who had been close to Raul Salinas. President Ernesto Zedillo fired Mr. Chapa in December, and the former prosecutor is now being sought for questioning on grave-robbing and witness-tampering charges.

Mr. Chapa's whereabouts have been a mystery since February, when he wrote a letter to the Mexican media, from "somewhere in Mexico," defending his decision to go into hiding.

According to people familiar with the matter, Mr. Chapa turned up in the U.S. a few weeks ago seeking political asylum. But after consulting with top Justice Department officials, the U.S. turned down Mr. Chapa's request, according to those people.

Still, officials at the Justice Department would like to talk to Mr. Chapa because of information he might be able to provide for a U.S. investigation of Raul Salinas. If he agreed to a debriefing, the U.S. might try to help him, said the officials knowledgeable about the matter. "We'd like to know where he is and talk to him," said one official.

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The official said the U.S. can't, however, offer asylum because Mr. Chapa is wanted on charges that "might be valid" in Mexico. In addition, it could pose serious complications for relations between the two countries, already tenuous over U.S. doubts that Mexico is really making an effort to combat drug trafficking. President Clinton is expected to take up those matters with his Mexican counterpart in his first visit to Mexico, which began yesterday.

The U.S. investigation centers on the origin of more than \$120 million Raul Salinas sent abroad during the final years of his brother's presidency, which ended in 1994. If the money proves to have come from drug traffickers, as many investigators suspect, the U.S. may press money-laundering charges against the Citibank unit of Citicorp, which provided banking services to Mr. Salinas.

Raul Salinas has denied all the charges against him. Citibank officials also deny wrongdoing. Carlos Salinas hasn't been charged with any wrongdoing.

Just how valuable Mr. Chapa might be to U.S. investigators is unclear. Some U.S. officials note that the former prosecutor made little progress in his effort to tie Raul Salinas to the Ruiz Massieu murder. In any event, U.S. officials say they don't know Mr. Chapa's whereabouts now and they have lost touch with him. They believe he has returned to Mexico.

The Justice Department and State Department declined to comment.



Pablo Chapa
Bezanilla

WASHINGTON

'Good friend' Clinton on state visit to Mexico

President Clinton declared himself "a good friend to the people of Mexico" Monday as he opened his first state visit to the U.S. neighbor. Arriving in Mexico City for a two-day visit before continuing on to Costa Rica and Barbados, Clinton tried to soften tensions over immigration restrictions and illegal drugs.

"The biggest threat we face," he said, "is the intensified attention being given to Mexico by the narco-traffickers, because they have so much money, so much power, so much capacity for violence. And because Americans, frankly, pay so much money every year for drugs."

Clinton toured the National Museum of Anthropology with Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo. Their work begins today. First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton arrived earlier and toured Mayan ruins on the Yucatan peninsula. An avid hiker, she wanted to climb the 1,000-year-old Uxmal pyramid, but said, "I wore the wrong shoes."



By Gary Hershorn, Reuters

Pyramid power: First ladies Hillary Clinton and Nilda Zedillo visit Uxmal.

Before Clinton left Washington, U.S. officials announced \$6 million in aid for Mexico to rebuild its anti-drug force, disbanded last week in a corruption probe.

Mexican officials, eager to avoid common nationalist passions against the USA, avoided putting up U.S. flags, which often are burned in street protests. Instead, Mexico City street lamps were adorned with banners of red, white and dark blue stripes, which easily could be mistaken for the French flag. Still,

there were reports of hundreds of demonstrators near the U.S. Embassy, burning U.S. flags and shouting slogans to protest U.S. immigration policies and Clinton's support for Zedillo, whose party has ruled for 68 years.

Los Angeles Times

TUESDAY, MAY 6, 1997

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Associated Press

Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo greets President Clinton before an Aztec calendar at a Mexico City museum.

Clinton Begins Visit to Smooth Ties to Mexico

By STANLEY MEISLER
and MARK FINEMAN
TIMES STAFF WRITERS

MEXICO CITY—President Clinton arrived here Monday for the first presidential visit to this capital in almost two decades, as many of his Cabinet members met with Mexican counterparts to sign a host of agreements on bilateral matters ranging from money laundering to building new bridges—literally—between the two countries.

Before leaving the White House, Clinton made it clear that he hoped his visit will alleviate some of the tensions between the two countries over such issues as drugs and immigration.

"We share one of the broadest and deepest relations of any two nations on Earth," he said. "Beyond the 2,000-mile border that joins us, beyond the strong bonds of trade that benefit both our peoples, we must cooperate as never before to find common solutions to common problems."

In advance of Clinton's arrival, Mexican Foreign Secretary Jose Angel Gurria Trevino and U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright chaired the annual meeting of the Binational Commission—a conference of those members of the two Cabinets who deal with U.S.-Mexican issues.

Later, in a separate meeting of a high-level contact group set up to address one of the most contentious of those issues—the multi-billion-dollar cross-border trade in illegal narcotics—senior Mexican and U.S. Cabinet officials spent more than two hours detailing extensive new cooperation between the two countries.

A Clinton administration official said U.S. and Mexican deputy defense secretaries unveiled a drug-fighting package that will deliver four C-26 U.S. surveillance air-

Please see MEXICO, A6

MEXICO: Clinton

Continued from A1

craft, 50 UH1H helicopters and \$8 million in parts to the Mexican armed forces this year. Mexico already has received 23 helicopters, they reported.

U.S. and Mexican treasury officials at the meeting, which was chaired by U.S. anti-drug czar Gen. Barry R. McCaffrey and Mexican Atty. Gen. Jorge Madrazo Cuellar, reported that the U.S. also has delivered computer hardware and software to combat money laundering and arms trafficking, the administration official added.

Clinton will take another step toward reinforcing cooperation when he meets with Mexico's President Ernesto Zedillo today. The two leaders are expected to sign a document assessing the threat of drug trafficking to both countries.

After Monday's meetings, State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns added that Albright had promised the Mexican government \$6 million to help it build a new government counter-narcotics agency. Mexico unveiled the agency last week to replace the anti-drug force formerly headed by Gen. Jose de Jesus Gutierrez Rebollo, who was arrested Feb. 18 on charges related to drug corruption.

The Binational Commission sessions and contact group meetings served as a warmup to the presidential visit and were designed to create a mood of good feeling despite some of the issues that divide the two countries. The two Cabinets at the commission conference did not even make a show of conferring before signing the latest batch of agreements. They were signed after the ceremonial opening of the conference and just before the delegations split into smaller, closed-door sessions.

The agreements, which covered a raft of issues of relatively minor importance, included pacts on an increased exchange of information on drug-money laundering, free transportation for Fulbright fellows, protection for migratory birds, noninterference with radio frequencies used by firefighters along both sides of the border, the start of construction of the new Los Tomates bridge over the Rio Grande between Brownsville, Texas, and Matamoros in Mexico, and the reopening of a reconstructed old bridge between Brownsville and Matamoros.



Associated Press

Demonstrators protesting President Clinton's visit burn an American flag near the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City.

The atmosphere of the public opening session of the commission was warm and optimistic. But Gurria did not hide two of Mexico's main grievances—the annual U.S. certification process that forces Mexico to go through the humiliating exercise of proving it is a cooperative partner in the war on drugs, and the new U.S. immigration law that Mexicans fear will hurt many of their compatriots living in the United States.

"It would be a tragedy for both our countries," Gurria said, "that drug traffickers would benefit while our governments are involved in a sterile and irritating exercise of allocating blame."

On the issue of immigration, however, he expressed the hope that a Mexico-U.S. study of migration, due to be completed next month, will clear the air and contribute to "better-informed discussions" on the matter.

Another contentious issue—a standing request by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration for its agents stationed in Mexico to carry arms for self-protection—came up at a joint Albright-Gurria news conference. Zedillo flatly denied that request in an interview with several U.S. correspondents here Friday. "The answer is no," he said. "No further discussion."

Asked about the controversy Monday, Albright said she hopes to

resolve it during this week's meetings and added: "They face dangers. We must ensure their safety." But Gurria told reporters that he would not contradict his president.

The Mexican foreign minister then quickly changed the subject to an issue many Mexican law enforcement agents see as the flip side of the drug trade: the illegal smuggling of U.S. arms into Mexico, often along the same routes used by Mexico's powerful drug cartels.

"The trafficking in arms is a concern to both countries," Gurria told a Mexican journalist who had asked whether his government would continue to pressure U.S. officials to crack down on the arms trade. And in her speech opening Monday's commission sessions, Albright indicated that Mexico has succeeded in keeping the issue on the agenda this year.

She referred to "the hydra-headed evil of drugs, corruption, money laundering, illegal arms trafficking and organized crime," and U.S. and Mexican officials then discussed ways to expand cooperation between the U.S. Treasury Department's Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agents and Mexican law enforcement on the arms trade.

In the closed-door sessions, Mexican officials reported that they have seized an average of

10,000 illegal firearms a month since 1994, a Clinton administration official said.

"A lot of gun-smuggling activity in Central and South America, in Mexico and in the Caribbean comes out of the United States," the official said, adding that the U.S. agreed to provide Mexico with Spanish-language software on arms smuggling that will link Mexican investigators with ATF databases.

Upon his arrival in Mexico City, Clinton conferred with Gurria and then took a two-hour tour with Zedillo of the renowned National Museum of Anthropology, which houses some of the most magnificent sculptures of the Mayan, Aztec and other pre-Columbian civilizations.

One heavily tattooed male statue with pierced earlobes reminded Clinton of a famous American. "Dennis Rodman," Clinton said, after gazing at the statue.

The president was not welcomed by everyone here. Several hundred students, militant leftists and pro-Castro demonstrators carrying homemade banners proclaiming "Clinton, Get Out" protested near the American Embassy.

Some burned American flags. Riot police with helmets, shields and truncheons kept them from gathering too close to the embassy.

Times staff writer Elizabeth Shogren contributed to this report.

For Ordinary Folk, a Sense That Clinton Visit Is Fateful

■ **Mexico:** One man wants U.S. leader to tell top officials to steal less. Another says he'll pick capital's mayor.

By MARY BETH SHERIDAN
TIMES STAFF WRITER

MEXICO CITY—Edgar Leon hopes President Clinton will resolve the immigration problem. Pedro Perez figures Clinton will choose the next mayor of Mexico City. And Benito Nieto thinks Clinton could curb Mexico's notorious corruption, by warning officials here not to steal so much.

As Clinton began his first official visit to Mexico on Monday, officials emphasized that his trip would be largely symbolic. But among ordinary folks, there was a sense that a man who shaped their fates—for better and worse—was arriving.

"People think he's coming to influence Mexico so the U.S. benefits. But there are benefits for both sides" in the trip, said Conrado Munguia, a retiree playing dominoes in the capital's Chapultepec Park.

In 20 interviews in the capital's streets, Mexicans expressed the traditional combination of admiration and resentment toward their northern neighbor. But their mood also reflected the pessimism and loss of self-confidence in a country struggling through economic hardship and corruption scandals.

"We hope Clinton gives us ideas," said Flor Cortes, a 22-year-old student. "We need help. We are passing through a crisis."

Although he is the first U.S. president to visit Mexico City since 1979, Clinton faced a low-key reception. Only a few red-white-and-blue banners fluttered near the Inter-Continental hotel where he is staying.

Clinton arrives as relations between the neighbors have been strained over drug-trafficking and a new U.S. law to limit illegal immigration. Still, those interviewed generally viewed Clinton more positively than they do other members of the U.S. government. Clinton has defended Mexico repeatedly in the U.S. Congress—pushing for the North American Free Trade Agreement, opposing punishment of Mexico for drug-trafficking, and pulling together a \$50-billion rescue package when Mexico nearly went bankrupt after the 1994 peso collapse.

"When they did [California's Proposition] 187, Clinton didn't

support it," said Maria de los Angeles Bueno, a 24-year-old news vendor. "He wanted to join with us, to help us."

Added her husband, Juan de Dios Ramirez: "He's better than that millionaire, Ross Perot, who attacks immigrants."

While Mexicans have often condemned U.S. intervention in their affairs, several people were so upset by the country's economic and corruption troubles that they suggested Clinton help out.

"We hope he helps us by making our government think in a different way," said Nieto, a taxi driver. Clinton, he said, should tell Mexican politicians not to be so corrupt.

Still, suspicion of U.S. motives persisted. Several people said Clinton would probably use his weight to influence midterm elections set for July. U.S. and Mexican officials have denied Clinton's trip was timed to support the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party.

But Perez, a street vendor, wasn't convinced. In fact, he declared, Clinton's main goal was to dictate to Mexican officials who should win the capital's first mayoral election. The official used to be appointed by the president. "In truth, Clinton is coming for this," said Perez. "He came to tell [President Ernesto] Zedillo what to do."

While many Mexicans expressed a positive opinion of Clinton, there was widespread concern about the new U.S. law cracking down on illegal immigration.

Leon, who was raking outside the capital's archeology museum, said he hoped Clinton and Zedillo could reach an accord on immigration.

"The majority [of Mexican emigrants] go north to our neighbor to find better opportunities. But they're very badly treated."



Reuters photo

Clinton begins 2-day Mexico visit

President Clinton and Mexico's Foreign Minister Jose Angel Gurría review troops after Clinton's arrival Monday at Mexico City's airport. Clinton began the two-day goodwill trip by pledging "to find common solutions to common problems," including drugs, immigration and trade. "We must cooperate as never before," Clinton declared. He then toured a museum with President Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon. In a modest symbol of the administration's support, the State Department announced shortly before his arrival that it would give Mexico \$6 million to help fight drug trafficking.

WORLD

Clinton in Mexico; seeks drug 'solutions'

By ANITA SNOW
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MEXICO CITY—President Clinton began a goodwill trip to Mexico on Monday by pledging "to find common solutions to common problems," including drugs, immigration and trade.

"We must cooperate as never before," Clinton declared.

In a modest symbol of the administration's support, the State Department announced shortly before his arrival that it would give Mexico \$6 million to help fight drug trafficking.

Clinton arrived after a four-hour flight to tour a museum with Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo. Their formal work begins today, with private talks and a news conference.

"We will be able to make further progress on the specific issues that concern both countries—such as trade, drug trafficking, migration, border issues," Zedillo predicted in an interview broadcast Monday.

Mexican and American cabinet officials met all day to hammer out a series of modest agreements in advance of their bosses' talks. The highlight was \$6 million to train narcotics officers hired after a recent purge of the Mexican anti-narcotics program.

Drug trafficking is the main problem in U.S.-Mexico relations. America wants its southern neighbor to do more to stop the flow; Mexico says the U.S. should shoulder some blame.

In advance of Clinton's visit, Mexico abolished its scandal-plagued drug-fighting agency and shifted its responsibilities to



DOUG MILLS/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hillary Rodham Clinton and Mexican first lady Nilda Patricia Velazco de Zedillo tour the Uxmal pyramids in Yucatan on Monday.

the attorney general. The former drug czar, army Gen. Jesus Gutierrez Rebollo, was fired in February after authorities charged him with being on the payroll of Mexico's No. 1 cocaine trafficker, Amado Carrillo Fuentes.

In an interview on PBS' "NewsHour With Jim Lehrer," Zedillo said corruption is inherent in drug-fighting operations.

The president's visit prompted at least two separate demonstrations. "Clinton go home!" read a sign at a protest of 2,000 unionized teachers.

Clinton might encounter harsh sentiments about drugs. Many Mexicans think they are seen unfairly as traffickers by Ameri-

cans who refuse to assume equal responsibility for creating a demand for drugs that encourages trafficking.

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, who arrived a day ahead of her husband, got an earful about tough new immigration laws on her visit with Mexican Indian women in Merida.

Clinton's stop in Mexico launches a week-long visit—his first as president—to Latin America and the Caribbean. After two days in Mexico, he will visit Costa Rica for a meeting of Central American leaders and Barbados for a summit with Caribbean officials before returning to Washington on Monday.



First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, at the Uxmal Pyramids in Yucatan Monday with Mexican first lady Nilda Patricia Velasco de Zedillo, found the crumbling steps too rugged for her shoes and declined scaling the 125-foot peak. AP Photo

Clinton begins tour of Mexico with \$6 million to fight drugs

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Hoping to ease tensions between neighbors, President Clinton began a goodwill trip to Mexico on Monday by pledging "to find common solutions to common problems," including drugs, immigration and trade.

"We must cooperate as never before," Clinton declared.

In a modest symbol of the administration's support, the State Department announced shortly before his arrival that it would give Mexico \$6 million to help fight drug trafficking.

Clinton arrived Monday night after a four-hour flight and toured the National Museum of Anthropology with Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo. Their work begins Tuesday, with private talks and a news conference. At the museum, the two presidents posed for pictures before an Aztec calendar dating back somewhere between the

10th and 15th centuries.

"We will be able to make further progress on the specific issues that concern both countries — such as trade, drug trafficking, migration, border issues," Zedillo predicted in an interview broadcast Monday.

Mexican and American Cabinet officials met all day to hammer out a series of modest agreements in advance of their boss' talks. The highlight was \$6 million to train narcotics officers hired after a recent purge of the Mexican anti-narcotics program.

Drug trafficking is the main trouble spot in U.S.-Mexico relations. America wants its southern neighbor to do more to stop the flow; Mexico says the United States should shoulder some blame.

The meetings also produced provisions to build a new bridge between Brownsville, Texas, and neighboring Matamoros, Mexico, and two sewage treatment plants on the border.

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

"USA TODAY hopes to serve as a forum for better understanding and unity to help make the USA truly one nation."

—Allen H. Neuharth
Founder, Sept. 15, 1982



David Mazzarella

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Editor of the

Editorial Page

Thomas Curley

President and Publisher



By Mike Keefe, The Denver Post, for USA TODAY

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Go slow on trade deals

OPPOSING VIEW **NAFTA has been a disaster for U.S. workers. Let's not make their situation worse.**

By Jeff Faux

The North American Free Trade Agreement has failed to deliver on its promises to people on both sides of the Rio Grande.

When NAFTA was signed in 1993, Americans were assured that an expanded trade surplus with Mexico would create at least 200,000 good jobs.

Instead, we have a \$16 billion deficit that has cost us 250,000 jobs. Three-quarters of the deficit is in the high-wage auto industry. Moreover, a recent government survey reported that NAFTA has made it easier for employers to threaten to move production to Mexico in order to force cuts in their U.S. workers' pay and benefits.

We were assured that NAFTA-induced prosperity in Mexico would reduce illegal immigration.

Instead, immigration pressures have increased as Mexico has lost 28,000 small businesses and 2 million jobs, and real wages have dropped by 40%.

We were assured that NAFTA would raise Mexican environmental standards.

Instead, rapid industrial expansion in northern Mexico — based on low-wage exports to the U.S. — has worsened water

and air pollution that spills over the border.

Finally, we were assured that NAFTA would support a new generation of honest, competent reformers headed by then-President Carlos Salinas.

Instead, the Salinas regime turned out to be riddled with drug-related corruption and incapable of handling the peso collapse that inevitably followed the overselling of NAFTA.

The subsequent U.S. bailout added to Mexico's already crushing foreign debt and has encouraged continuation of reckless policies. Today, as Mexican elections approach, Salinas' successor, Ernesto Zedillo, is artificially pumping up the economy, and the peso is again overvalued and headed for another collapse.

It's time to rethink this failed experiment. At the very least, we should amend the agreement to add environmental and worker protections enforceable in the courts of any NAFTA nation. These should include minimum wages, health and safety standards, the right to organize unions, prohibition of child labor, and other measures that will promote a growing Mexican domestic market.

Certainly, the Clinton administration should not attempt to extend NAFTA to the rest of Latin America before it can demonstrate that it has worked with Mexico.

Jeff Faux is president of the Economic Policy Institute in Washington, D.C., and author of The Party's Not Over.

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

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Today's debate: **FREE TRADE**

Foot-dragging on trade hurts U.S. workers

OUR VIEW The president's trip this week gives him an opportunity to pursue an overdue hemispheric trade pact.

As President Clinton parades through summits with Mexican, Central American and Caribbean leaders this week, he comes face to face with a major unredeemed promise: tearing down trade barriers between the United States and the rest of the hemisphere. Inaction on trade is causing U.S. business and workers to lose out.

Quaker Fabric of Fall River, Mass., has seen its textile exports to Canada and Mexico take off since the North American Free Trade Agreement took effect. But Quaker can't compete in Chile and Argentina, where Brazilian manufacturers now sell duty-free while Quaker pays a stiff tariff.

TRC Cos. of Windsor, Conn., sees a huge market in Chile, the fastest-growing country of the hemisphere, for its environmental technology. But it faces 20% withholding on its fees due to Chilean laws.

Caterpillar Inc. is thinking of shifting some of its heavy equipment manufacturing — and jobs — to Brazil in order to escape an 11% tariff and get inside the growing duty-free market that now covers more than half of South America.

When trade barriers among the U.S., Canada and Mexico were slashed in 1994, similar deals, first with Chile and then with others, were to follow. The benefits of a hemisphere-wide free trade area by 2005

were proclaimed. Central American and Caribbean nations are clamoring for a broader agreement. But nothing happened.

The authority required to effectively negotiate trade agreements expired and has not been renewed. That victory for industries and unions that fear foreign competition carries a steep price.

Chile, for example, has cut free-trade deals with nearly all its major trading partners except the United States. Jobs filling Chile's booming demand for imports are going to workers in other countries.

Leaders from Germany and Japan, France and Spain, even South Africa and Hungary have been hopscotching Latin capitals, building trade ties while the United States dawdles. The free-trade group of Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay and Chile now does more business with Europe than with the United States.

U.S. workers pay for the foot-dragging in opportunities lost. The 11.3 million existing export-related jobs pay 13% to 16% more than U.S. jobs overall. And exports accounted for one of every eight net jobs created between 1992 and 1996.

Yes, NAFTA has cost some jobs. Experts disagree on the number, but even the 250,000 claimed by its severest critics are scarcely more than one month's new jobs created by today's robust economy.

Clinton waited until his fifth year in office to finally visit any part of the natural U.S. market south of the border. Now that he's there, trade-expansion legislation appears glaringly overdue. Running scared is no way to run a trade policy.

The New York Times

TUESDAY, MAY 6, 1997



Associated Press

President Clinton arriving in Mexico yesterday for meetings with top officials on his first visit to a Latin American country as President. He was greeted by the Foreign Secretary, José Ángel Gurría.

Clinton Arrives In Mexico City For First Visit

By JULIA PRESTON

MEXICO CITY, May 5 — President Clinton and most of his Cabinet arrived in Mexico City today at a moment of high tension between the two nations, to test his Administration's policy of using praise rather than pressure to secure cooperation from Mexico on issues including efforts to combat drug trafficking.

Although Mr. Clinton fought two of the most high-risk foreign policy battles of his first term over Mexico — the North American Free Trade Agreement, which was approved in 1993, and the \$12.5 billion emergency loan to Mexico during a peso crisis in 1995 — he had never set foot in this country — or in any other Latin American country — since he took office.

When Mr. Clinton arrived to begin his two-and-a-half-day visit late this afternoon, small demonstrations were being conducted in front of the American Embassy. The protesters, members of an urban squatters' organization, shouted slogans denouncing the Mexican Government's decision to begin the visit on May 5, a Mexican nationalist holiday.

In another protest, about 600 rural schoolteachers, most of them Indians from Mexico's poorest states, attempted to march down a broad boulevard to the United States Embassy. They were stopped by the police about 15 blocks from the Embassy building. The teachers responded by sitting down across the

Continued on Page A6

Clinton and Aides Arrive in Mexico City for His First Visit

Continued From Page A1

boulevard, blocking it, waving placards that said, "Clinton, you stole from the peoples of the world. You are not welcome."

Earlier, Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright, Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, Attorney General Janet Reno and five other Cabinet members met with their Mexican counterparts for a session of the Binational Commission. Ms. Albright said that 10 agreements would be signed, including accords to open two bridges at Brownsville, Texas, and to improve information-sharing on financial transfers in an effort to detect laundering of narcotics money.

In a speech to the commission, Ms. Albright said that Mexico has taken "many forward steps" against growing narcotics cartels, but warned that it is too soon to declare victory.

"In the struggle between law and outlaw, between democratic integrity and corrupt expediency, we are neither winning nor losing, but remain in the hottest stages of battle," Ms. Albright said. She called for a stepped-up cooperative effort to "put major traffickers behind bars."

By the end of the day's talks, United States officials were not able to point to any progress on the most contentious issues between the countries, especially the question of protection for American drug agents who work in Mexico. On Friday President Zedillo sharply ruled out a United States request to allow agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration to carry sidearms for their self-defense when on Mexican soil.

Although American officials were optimistic last week that some compromise might be reached, today it appeared that the negotiations yielded no new results.

U.S. is trying to win cooperation by bestowing praise, not using pressure.

"Eventually we will be able to work that problem through," said a Clinton Administration official who briefed about a meeting of top drug and justice officials from both countries.

"It is an extremely dangerous environment" for United States and Mexican drug agents, the official said. "Our antennae are way up."

Despite the setback, the United States told Mexico that it will shortly be delivering 50 helicopters and 4 C-

26 surveillance aircraft for use in anti-narcotics operations. The aircraft had been held up for months by questions from conservative lawmakers in the United States Congress.

The State Department also offered \$6 million to pay for training of specially-vetted agents for a new anti-narcotics agency Mexico created last week. But Mexican Attorney General did not immediately accept the offer, United States officials said, but only said he would study it.

Ms. Albright, with an incandescent orange Mexican shawl wrapped like a stole around her neck, sought to set an unequivocally warm tone for the presidential visit by praising President Ernesto Zedillo and his Government. She seemed intent on dispelling any fears that President Clinton might be just another one of the many American Presidents whom Mexicans believe meddled in Mexico's internal affairs and imposed their will on the country.

Mrs. Albright called Mr. Zedillo "a determined and courageous partner" in the international fight against narcotics trafficking and said the Clinton Administration has "great respect and admiration" for him. She emphasized the "very cooperative spirit" of relations between the two countries.

Mr. Clinton will leave Mexico Wednesday night to fly to San Jose, Costa Rica where he will meet Central American leaders.

The Washington Post

TUESDAY, MAY 6, 1997

PRESIDENT OFF TO MEXICO



BY GERALD MARTINEAU—THE WASHINGTON POST

President Clinton boards a helicopter at the White House for the first leg of a flight to Mexico City. He arrived in time for Mexico's Cinco de Mayo holiday—the anniversary of the defeat of French invaders 135 years ago. Several accords were signed yesterday. Story on Page A15.

THE WASHINGTON POST

WORLD NEWS

Clinton Visits Mexico on May Holiday

*Several Accords Signed
But Major Issues Remain*

By Thomas W. Lippman
Washington Post Staff Writer

MEXICO CITY, May 5—The United States and Mexico chipped away at some of their differences today and reached some low-key agreements, but they left major issues unresolved as President Clinton arrived for his first state visit.

Meeting as a binational commission, cabinet officers and other senior officials signed a dozen agreements on environmental issues, border management and exchanges of information in the fight against money laundering. But the Mexicans made clear they have serious differences with Washington on the more difficult subjects of drug trafficking and immigration, differences that U.S. officials said will probably not be resolved during Clinton's visit.

The theme of the day, as expressed by Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright and Mexican Foreign Minister Angel Gurría in remarks to the Binational Commission and at a joint news conference, is that the two countries must and do work together, and are determined to resolve their differences without rancor.

"Modern attention spans are short, but effective institutions, robust economies, durable partnerships and positive attitudes do not arise overnight," Albright said. "They require constant tending and persistent hard work."

Clinton sounded the same note as he left the White House for a trip that will also take him to Costa Rica and Barbados. "Beyond the 2,000-mile border that joins us, beyond the strong bonds of trade that benefit both our people, we must cooperate as never before to find common solutions to common problems," he said.

Shortly before departing for Mexico, Clinton threatened to veto an emergency flood relief bill if Senate Republicans insist on adding provisions, including one that would prevent future government shutdowns by funding programs at a reduced level when Congress and the White House deadlock over appropriations for a new fiscal year, staff writer Helen Dewar reported.

The president's visit inspired a few small, scattered demonstrations, and the U.S. Embassy was sealed off by riot police behind a steel mesh fence. But this giant metropolis was mostly peaceful as Mexicans celebrated the Cinco de Mayo—May 5—holiday, commemorating a victory over the French in the Battle of Puebla 135 years ago. Clinton joined in the celebration, issuing a separate statement saying that "the U.S.-Mexican relationship is one of the closest our nation has today, and it is most appropriate that my visit to Mexico should begin on Cinco de Mayo."

Despite those upbeat notes, however, senior officials in both governments said that sharp differences remain and many Mexicans are strongly suspicious of their northern neighbor. One source of friction is the new U.S. immigration law, which has caused consternation throughout Mexico and Central America because of fears of mass deportation and suspicion that Latinos are the principal target. Critics also cite the U.S. practice of deporting accused criminals without notifying the countries where they are being sent.

"Mexico has stressed its concern that the implementation of the new immigration laws . . . could generate acts of discrimination and the violation of human and labor rights of Mexicans on United States territory," Gurría said. "While the United States has been focusing on . . . discouraging migration, Mexico has concentrated on strengthening its mechanisms to protect Mexican nationals abroad."

As she did Sunday in Guatemala, Albright acknowledged the sensitivity of this issue, saying it has special resonance for her as an immigrant herself.

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Clinton in Mexico City on State Visit

MEXICO, From A15

Nevertheless, she said, "Every nation has a right, a need to regulate immigration—to allow legal immigrants to remain and require those who are not legal to leave. That is our right, but our obligation is to see that in enforcing the law, the rights and dignity of every individual—I repeat, every individual—are protected."

Another irritant is the refusal of Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo to allow U.S. drug agents to carry firearms in Mexico. He told U.S. reporters last week that there will be "no further discussion" of this subject.

Albright and Attorney General Janet Reno met Gurria and Mexican law enforcement officials and

were encouraged by what they heard, including a desire to work closely with the Drug Enforcement Administration, State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said. Burns said Albright agreed to contribute \$6 million to help Mexicans train replacements for more than 1,000 anti-drug agents fired for corruption by Zedillo last week. Another sore subject with the Mexicans is the annual U.S. review of anti-drug activities to determine which countries may be "certified" as fully cooperating in U.S. anti-drug efforts.

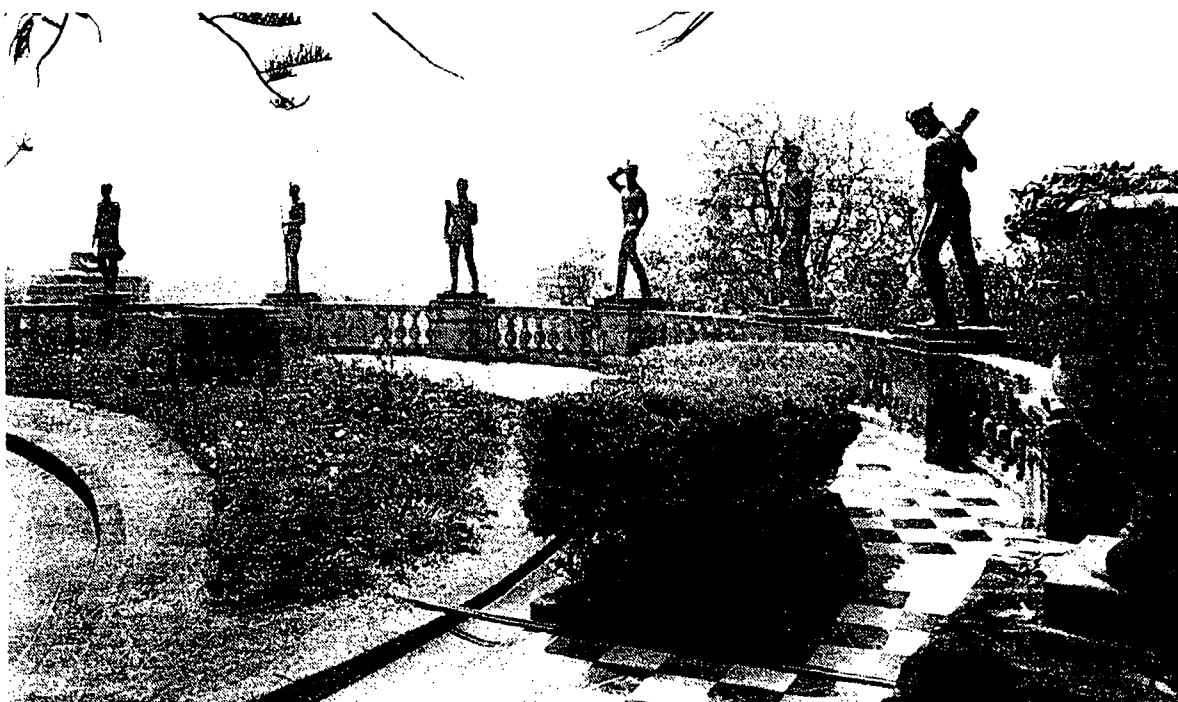
Clinton certified Mexico this year, but Mexicans were outraged by some of the critical commentary that ensued in Congress, and the process has stirred resentment across much of Latin America.

Gurria said the certification process should be

abolished because it "inhibits and discourages cooperation on this issue."

Some members of Congress and some Clinton administration officials agree, but Albright was non-committal. "We're all trying to figure out the best mechanism to achieve the best result," she said. "There are discussions going on about how to improve the process."

Among the agreements signed today, one amends the bilateral Migratory Bird Treaty to account for the bird-hunting traditions of Alaska native communities. One provides for shared operation of a sewage treatment plant in the San Diego-Tijuana area. One provides for construction of a new bridge between Brownsville, Tex., and Matamoros, Mexico. And another clears up discrepancies over radio frequencies used by emergency service crews along the border.



Kath Dannehl for The New York Times

The Niños Héroes monument in Mexico City, where President Clinton is to lay a wreath, honors teen-agers who died in a United States invasion.

On Clinton Itinerary: A Counterpart of the Alamo

By SAM DILLON

MEXICO CITY, May 5 — Exactly 150 years ago, an American invasion force was fighting its way toward Mexico's capital in a war engineered by President James K. Polk that claimed 50,000 Mexican lives and allowed the United States to slice off and annex half of Mexico.

In the final battle, United States troops stormed the military academy on a hill overlooking Mexico City, bayoneting its last defenders. These included a dozen or more adolescent cadets, one of whom is said to have hurled himself from a parapet wrapped in the Mexican flag rather than accept surrender.

The slain teen-agers have entered Mexico's nationalist pantheon as the Niños Héroes, or Boy Heroes. Every school child here learns their story.

On Tuesday, an American spotlight will briefly shine on those 1847 events as President Clinton, during his first state visit here, is to pay homage to the cadets in a brief ceremony at the foot of the hill where they perished.

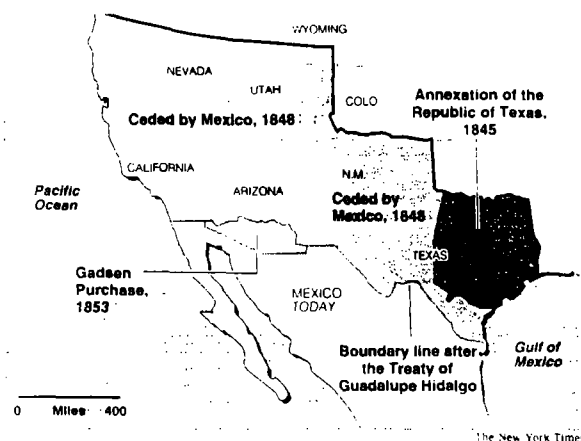
"It infuriates me to read about it," said Alejandro Bolaños, 15, during a visit last week to the Niños Héroes monument, a pink marble terrace with six memorial columns at the edge of Chapultepec Park, where Mr. Clinton will lay a wreath. "Mexico had no stable government. We were fighting each other, and you Americans invaded and took advantage."

Virtually all heads of state who visit Mexico City pay a call at the monument. But in view of the Mexican emotions that still surround the invasion, officials in Mr. Clinton's advance team initially questioned the decision by aides to President Ernesto Zedillo to schedule the wreath-laying ceremony.

"The U.S. delegation asked us why we arranged this, whether it was really opportune," a senior Mexican official said. "So we said it's just a sign of respect, part of the protocol."

An American official acknowledged the Clinton Administration's initial hesitance. "Because of the history angle, this is something that makes people not used to dealing with Mexico stop and take pause," the official said. "But in the end, this will be a simple ceremony. It won't become an issue."

Mexico was in chaos in the years



The United States sliced off and annexed half of Mexico's territory in the middle of the last century, mostly as a result of the Mexican War.

before the 1846-48 war. During the previous decade, 18 successive presidents, most of them army generals, ruled the country. President Polk viewed Mexico's turmoil as an opportunity, and after declaring war in 1846, he sent armies to invade on several fronts. Gen. Winfield Scott, commanding 16,000 troops, was dispatched to seize Mexico City.

Five months after landing on the Gulf Coast, Scott's force began a fierce three-week siege of the capital that culminated on Sept. 13, 1847, with an artillery bombardment and infantry assault on Chapultepec Castle, a baroque structure perched atop a rock outcropping three miles from the National Palace and the heart of the old city. The day's fighting killed 1,800 Mexicans and 450 Americans and culminated in the massacre of the cadets and other Mexicans on the castle grounds.

A committee of surviving Mexican officers described the events: "Driven mad by the shelling, fatigued and hungry, our few defenders were hurled down onto the rocks at bayonet point by a New York regiment that climbed to the highest point of the building where some cadets were the final defenders."

Months later, Nicholas Trist, a State Department official, negotiat-

ed the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which ended the war and, along with other treaties, ceded to the United States territories stretching from what is now South and West Texas north to Colorado and west to California. Mr. Trist described later how he felt as he signed the treaty.

"Could those Mexicans have seen into my heart at that moment, they would have known that my feeling of shame as an American was far stronger than theirs could be as Mexicans," he said. "That was a thing for every right-minded American to be ashamed of."

In the first years after the war, the slain cadets were not distinguished from the 50,000 other Mexican dead. But late in the 19th century, Mexican nationalists coined the term Niños Héroes, elevating six adolescents who were deemed to have fought with special bravery into national icons, said Josefina Zoraida Vázquez, a historian at the Colegio de México.

After the surviving American troops went home, the war's nasty details were mostly ignored in the United States until 1947, when President Truman paid the first visit by an American President to Mexico City, on the 100th anniversary of the invasion. During that tour, Mr. Tru-

man at the last minute included a stop at the Niños Héroes monument.

As the scene was described in The New York Times: "When Mr. Truman arrived with members of his party, a guard of honor was drawn up facing the monument. There was no fanfare nor playing of national anthems. Mr. Truman placed the wreath, turned around and walked slowly back to his waiting automobile. Tears of emotion streamed down the faces of the honor guard composed of cadets of the Colegio Militar, now housed in Chapultepec Castle, and as the President drove off, old men wiped their eyes."

Hours later, the Mexican Foreign Minister, Jaime Torres Bodet, celebrated Mr. Truman's gesture in a toast at a state dinner. "The highest kind of friendship between man and peoples is that which has the courage to base itself on a feeling for the truth," Mr. Torres said. "President Truman, by rendering homage to the immortal glory of the boy heroes, spans an abyss of the past by another bridge into the future."

John Coatsworth, a professor of Latin American history at Harvard University, said Mr. Clinton's visit to the monument on the 150th anniversary of the United States invasion would be "more than standard protocol and will likely carry considerable symbolic weight."

"But I find it surprising," he said, that like Mr. Truman, Mr. Clinton is not scheduled to utter a word during the ceremony. "The President could use the event to make a statement that would go beyond President Truman's silence. But it's a difficult subject for any American President to talk about."

Last week Reyna Osogobio Huerta, 30, a housewife, brought her son Ricardo, 10, to view the monument and to climb a tree-lined walkway to Chapultepec Castle, where bronze statues of the Niños Héroes stand silent sentry at the edge of a terrace.

"It still hurts," she said of the 1847 invasion. "But maybe this is a way to make peace. Those territories are no longer part of Mexico. And Clinton probably wants to smooth over what happened back then."

The Miami Herald

THE FOREMOST DAILY NEWSPAPER OF FLORIDA

TUESDAY, MAY 6, 1997

CLINTON IN MEXICO

Bill Clinton is accompanied by Mexican Foreign Minister Angel Gurría upon the U.S. president's arrival Monday evening in Mexico City.

Clinton was to formally unveil a new U.S.-Mexican "alliance" against narcotics that includes scores of aircraft and millions in aid for training pilots and agents, according to a top official.

Story, 13A.

GREG GIBSON / AP



U.S. will help fund Mexican anti-narcotics efforts

By CLINTON MARQUIS
ANDRES OPPENHEIMER
Herald Staff Writers

MEXICO CITY — As President Clinton arrived in Mexico on a state visit Monday evening, his deputies announced a vast array of donations to help the U.S. neighbor fight drug-traffickers, including 73 helicopters, four surveillance planes and at least \$6 million to train drug agents.

The assistance package, which also includes \$8 million in spare parts and a two-year training course for Mexican pilots, will be formally unveiled by Clinton today as part of a new U.S.-Mexican "alliance" against narcotics, said a top official who asked not to be named.

The administration has

pledged another \$6 million to help train officers to staff and overhaul Mexico's anti-narcotics agency, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said Monday.

Albright announced the grant after bilateral talks, which included White House drug czar Barry McCaffrey, Attorney General Janet Reno and their Mexican counterparts.

Agency setback

The \$6 million for training is aimed at helping the government of President Ernesto Zedillo rebuild its anti-drug agency after the devastating arrest in February of its chief, Gen. Jesus Gutierrez Rebollo, accused of working for a major Mexican trafficker. Since then, Mexico

has fired virtually all 1,200 employees of the agency and has vowed to rigorously screen all new applicants.

The drug issue is one of the most sensitive bedeviling U.S.-Mexican relations, with U.S. officials decrying rampant corruption in Mexican law enforcement and Mexican leaders complaining bitterly about American heavy-handedness in its annual "certification" of drug war allies.

Albright on Monday sought to downplay the tensions and praised Zedillo, who has repeatedly described narcotics trafficking as the greatest threat to Mexico's national security.

Still fighting

"We have seen your courage in

denouncing and unmasking corruption," Albright said.

"Together we have taken many forward steps. But we know that — in the struggle between law and outlaw, between democratic integrity and corrupt expediency — we are neither winning nor losing, but remain in the hottest stages of battle."

Mexican Foreign Minister Angel Gurría also sought to burnish the image of U.S.-Mexican cooperation on a host of issues, as ministers from both countries met on 14 issues from environmental protection to immigration to trade.

"Never before, during two centuries as neighbors, have our two countries generated such an intense network of exchanges,

interests and mutual influence," Gurría said.

But the foreign minister quickly upbraided Washington for its certification process, a procedure ordered by Congress, which is aimed at identifying nonperforming nations and opening the door to sanctions. Clinton certified Mexico on March 1 over the objections of a bipartisan group of U.S. lawmakers.

Crosses borders

"Drug trafficking is a global phenomenon that does not stop at national boundaries," Gurría said. "It would be a tragedy for both our countries that drug traffickers would benefit while our

governments are involved in a sterile and irritating exercise of allocating blame."

On another thorny issue, Mexico — citing issues of national sovereignty — continued to stiff-arm an administration request that U.S. drug agents operating in Mexico be licensed to carry sidearms for their personal protection. Privately, U.S. and Mexican officials have said an understanding may be reached that will not be codified.

"We're just going to have to continue talking about the gun issue," State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said. "We need to work out a way that we can be assured that their security is guaranteed."

Houston Chronicle

Tuesday, May 6, 1997

Welcome to Mexico



Associated Press

President Clinton is greeted by Mexican Foreign Minister Jose Angel Guerra as he arrives Monday at the Benito Juarez International Airport in Mexico City. Clinton's two-day visit will likely be dominated by the troubled effort to clamp down on drug trafficking.

Clinton downplays tensions in visit

By **DUDLEY ALTHAUS**
Houston Chronicle Mexico City Bureau

MEXICO CITY — President Clinton arrived in the smog-choked capital Monday for a state visit while members of his Cabinet and their Mexican counterparts put the finishing touches on several accords, including one to curb money laundering by drug traffickers.

■ First lady sidesteps criticism over immigration policy: Page 13A.
■ Mexicans ambivalent: Page 13A.

But even before Clinton arrived, his top aides, as if following a well-used script, strived to soft-pedal differences over illegal drugs and immigration that have plagued relations between Mexico and the United States.

Many Mexicans are incensed at tougher U.S. immigration laws that began to take effect April 1, and over what they perceive as heavy-handed hypocrisy by Washington on the drug issue. Some Americans are angry over evidence of endemic narcotics corruption among Mexico's ruling class.

Although officials of both nations tried to em-

See CLINTON on Page 10A.

Clinton

Continued from Page 1A.

phasize trade and other aspects of the bilateral relationship, Clinton's two-day visit will likely be dominated by the troubled effort to clamp down on narcotics trafficking in Mexico.

In an interview with Mexican television reporters broadcast here Monday, Clinton acknowledged that the international narcotics problem begins with U.S. consumers.

But he said, "The biggest threat for Mexico is the increased amount of attention being given to it by the narco-traffickers. They have so much money, so much power, so much capacity for violence.

"It puts . . . unbelievable pressures on Mexico, on its institutions and the very fabric of society itself," he said. "To me, this drug issue is not a problem of the United States beating up on Mexico. We must handle this together."

Later, State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns announced the administration had offered Mexico \$6 million for the training of new drug agents.

While drugs and immigration may define the current bilateral feuding, raw feelings date back some 150 years to the Mexican-American War, in which Mexico lost half its territory

to the United States.

Clinton will lay a wreath Tuesday afternoon at the monument of the Boy Heroes, six Mexican army cadets who were slain in battle at their academy at Chapultepec near the end of the war.

Clinton was joined by Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Attorney General Janet Reno, drug czar Barry McCaffrey and other top officials. Clinton and his advisers will hold talks with Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo and members of his Cabinet. In addition, Clinton, Zedillo and their wives will take time to visit several tourist attractions in the countryside.

The Cabinet officers of both nations announced agreements for prosecution of money laundering, new provisions to help the border environment and the approval of a long-sought bridge across the Rio Grande at Brownsville.

"Our friendship has a multitude of branches," Albright said, speaking in a hall facing Mexico's Plaza of Three Cultures. "In tending them, we must never allow the many blossoms to be obscured by the scattered thorns."

Mexico City streets were mostly quiet Monday because government offices, banks, schools and many companies closed for the Cinco de Mayo holiday, which commemorates the Mexican victory over invading French troops in 1862.

But several hundred protesters, some shouting "Clinton Idiot," scuffled briefly with riot police in front of the U.S. Embassy on Monday afternoon. There were no reports of serious injuries.

The tensions that U.S. and Mexican officials hoped to avoid were apparent in a letter Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, sent to Clinton last week.

Gramm urged Clinton to pressure Zedillo about the case of Rafael Caro Quintero, a Mexican drug trafficker whose conviction in the 1985 torture killing of U.S. drug agent Enrique Camarena was overturned by a Mexican appeals court last month.

The court's decision, "coming amid the mounting evidence of drug corruption in Mexico, is not reassuring," Gramm wrote in the letter sent to Clinton and faxed Monday to news organizations.

Clinton, who was accompanied on the flight to Mexico by Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, and Rep. Silvestre Reyes, D-El Paso, went directly to his hotel after arriving.

Later, Clinton and Zedillo toured Mexico City's Museum of Anthropology.

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton joined her husband in Mexico City after a two-day tour of the Maya ruins of Uxmal and other sites on the Yucatan Peninsula.

The Dallas Morning News

Dallas, Texas, Tuesday, May 6, 1997



President Clinton is greeted Monday by Mexican Foreign Minister Jose Angel Gurría upon arrival at the presidential hangar of the Benito Juárez International Airport in Mexico City. Associated Press

Clinton opens Mexico visit amid signs of accord

By Kathy Lewis

Washington Bureau of The Dallas Morning News

MEXICO CITY — President Clinton arrived Monday for a state visit amid indications that the two nations have resolved the contentious issue of whether U.S. drug agents should be allowed to carry guns in Mexico.

"We are confident that we can work out a way to protect our people who have to operate in Mexico," said a senior administration official, who requested anonymity.

The Dallas Morning News has learned that an unofficial practice will probably

Deal likely on allowing U.S. agents to carry guns

■ Hillary Clinton tours ruins. 13A

resume: There will be no explicit recognition that agents are carrying guns. As part of the understanding, the Mexican government won't protest the practice.

U.S. law enforcement officials sought official sanction of the gun-carrying policy. But that request provoked criticism in Mexico from those who viewed it as a

breach of national sovereignty.

State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said Secretary of State Madeleine Albright discussed U.S. drug agents' safety with Mexican Foreign Minister Jose Angel Gurría on Monday afternoon. He said they agreed that a way had to be found to ensure the safety of American drug agents working in Mexico. He said they had not agreed on a specific way but were determined to work that out.

Mr. Burns noted that Mr. Gurría said publicly that he wants the Drug Enforcement Administration to see CLINTON on Page 13A.

Clinton arrives in Mexico City for state visit

Continued from Page 1A.

ment Administration in Mexico and that he wants to find a way to keep DEA agents safe.

Mr. Burns said the U.S. government would provide \$6 million to aid Mexico's anti-drug efforts. It will in part be used to help train agents to replace 1,200 officers who were fired after being accused of corruption.

Over the weekend, President Ernesto Zedillo said that he wouldn't consider formally approving the practice of allowing U.S. agents to carry guns for self-defense. He said there would be no further discussion of the issue.

Mr. Clinton said last week that he thought the two countries would be able to resolve the dispute, but he did not specify how.

"We are committed, both of us, to increasing our law enforcement, counterdrug cooperation, and we're committed to the safety of our law enforcement personnel, and we're working with the government of Mexico to make sure we can assure their security," he said in a telephone interview with *The Dallas Morning News*, the *Los Angeles Times* and the *San Antonio Express-News*. "So I feel that we will be able to resolve that."

On the record, U.S. officials have been saying for days that the issue probably would be worked out.

"The real problem is the anxiety on

the part of both systems that the police and the army of their own country be the only agency that enforces laws," said White House drug czar Barry McCaffrey on *Fox News Sunday*.

"That's really at the heart and soul of this. But, at the same time I think both law enforcement institutions are very interested in protecting their own people," he said. "We'll be able to work through this."

After meeting first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton at the airport here, Mr. Clinton visited the Anthropology Museum with Mr. Zedillo. Mrs. Clinton had spent the day sightseeing in Merida.

During Monday's bilateral meetings, the United States agreed to give Mexico four C-26 aircraft for counter-narcotics surveillance, said a Clinton administration official who requested anonymity.

U.S. officials also agreed to expedite shipment of 53 helicopters to Mexico for use in the anti-drug fight, and to give Mexico \$8 million in spare aircraft parts. "We are determined to continue working together," the official said.

U.S. officials Monday also announced cooperative efforts aimed at cleaning up pollution along the border, stepping up educational exchange programs and developing joint projects to protect sensitive forest and park lands. Among the specific propos-

als: A new Los Tomates bridge between Brownsville, Texas, and Matamoros, Mexico, and a revamping of the Nuevo Laredo wastewater treatment plant.

The official Clinton-Zedillo talks begin Tuesday. Mr. Clinton will also meet with Central American leaders in Costa Rica and Caribbean leaders in Barbados before returning to Washington.

"A partnership is emerging between the United States and the Americas based not only on history, geography and culture, but increasingly in shared interest and values and a shared commitment to a common future," said Mr. Clinton as he left the White House.

"More than ever before, we are working with our neighbors on the basis of mutual respect to make a difference on issues that matter most to people in their daily lives."

But Mr. Clinton cautioned that while the trend in the Americas is positive, "clearly the transition is not complete."

Mr. Clinton, who arrived here on Cinco de Mayo, said it was fitting for the trip to begin in Mexico.

"We share one of the broadest and deepest relations of any two nations on earth. Beyond the 2,000-mile border that joins us, beyond the strong bonds of trade that benefit both our people, we must cooperate as never before to

find common solutions to common problems," he said.

As Mr. Clinton flew to Mexico City, high school bands and residents gathered to celebrate the national holiday. Mexican troops defeated French soldiers on May 5, 1862.

Members of the president's Cabinet came early and met with their Mexican counterparts Monday afternoon.

The trip is the first visit of a U.S. president to Mexico City since 1979, when President Jimmy Carter met with Mexican counterpart Jose Lopez Portillo. Mr. Carter stirred up controversy when he joked about his case of "Montezuma's revenge."

Mexico City bureau chief Tracey Eaton and staff writer Alfredo Corchado contributed to this report.

Hillary Clinton tours Mayan ruins in Mexico

She says president would have loved trip

By Laurence Iliff

Mexico City Bureau of The Dallas Morning News

UXMAL, Mexico — Even before arriving on Mexican soil Monday, President Clinton may have already missed the best part of the trip. His wife, Hillary, however, took full advantage of her visit to the magical Mayan world.

Far from the bustle of Mexico City and the inevitable questions over complicated U.S.-Mexico relations, Mrs. Clinton toured the Mayan ruins of Uxmal, standing in awe before the sixth-century pyramid built by a people whose language and customs remain very much alive.

"It's just fabulous," Mrs. Clinton said at the end of her hourlong tour of the site on the Yucatan peninsula. "He [Mr. Clinton] would have loved it. It's certainly one of the highlights of the trip."

The U.S. president, however, will get his chance to feel some of that splendor Wednesday when he tours the pyramids of Teotihuacan just outside of Mexico City.

"You'll be able to see the pleasure on his face," said Mrs. Clinton, lamenting that knee surgery had cost the president the chance to see Uxmal, which requires some climbing.

Accompanied by Mexican first lady

Nilda Patricia Zedillo, Mrs. Clinton peppered her guides with questions about the Mayan world and the way in which Uxmal residents carefully gathered rainwater in a land devoid of lakes, rivers or streams.

"We are very glad to have her here," Ms. Zedillo said of her U.S. counterpart. "It's very important for Mexicans and Latin Americans because for many years we have not had a visit from the president of the United States."

Jimmy Carter, in 1979, was the last U.S. president to visit.

Mrs. Clinton, who arrived Sunday evening, was welcomed by more than 1,000 residents of Merida, who filled a small plaza outside a 300-year old church and dotted the streets along her route from the airport.

She was serenaded by musical groups, dancers, children's choirs and the recitation of Mayan poetry. "I did not know until last evening that Mayan was still spoken," Mrs. Clinton said Monday.

Later in the day, Mrs. Clinton met with Indian women from around the country, who told her they sought economic opportunities in Mexico that would allow their husbands and sons to stay home, rather than immigrate illegally to the United States.



Associated Press

Hillary Rodham Clinton points to a pyramid Monday while talking to Mexican first lady Nilda Patricia Zedillo in Uxmal, Mexico.

"What we want to do is to avoid our men leaving and going north where they face suffering, unemployment

and even rejection," said Rufina Villa Hernandez of Cuetzalan in Puebla state.

THE WORLD



By Greg Gibson, AP

Ever the campaigner: President Clinton and Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo greet a group of children during a presentation Tuesday at the Campo Marte military camp in Mexico City.

U.S., Mexico vow progress on drugs and immigration

By Mimi Hall
USA TODAY

MEXICO CITY — President Clinton and Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo, aiming to foster confidence among angry citizens on both sides of the border, pledged on Tuesday to prove that Mexico and the United States can cooperate in good faith on drugs and immigration.

The two presidents signed a sweeping but vague proposal for both governments to come up with a plan, by the end of the year, to address the drug trade. On immigration, the presidents agreed to new border checkpoints and bridges. Clinton promised to "balance control with common sense and compassion."

During a news conference on the lush grounds of the Los Pinos presidential residence, Clinton repeatedly tried to assuage Mexican anger at recent U.S. crackdowns on illegal immigrants and restrictions on social services that are provided to legal immigrants.

"The issue of immigration raises passions on both sides of the border," he said, defending U.S. efforts to stem the tide of illegal immigrants.

But he also reminded Mexicans that the balanced-budget agreement reached last week with the Republican-led U.S. Congress would restore some benefits to legal immigrants. He promised that the United States will "ensure the human rights of all migrants."

Clinton also reached out on the issue of drugs. "Let's be frank here among friends," Clinton said. "On the American side, we have less than

5% of the world's population and we consume about half the drugs."

Under orders from Zedillo, Mexican officials last week disbanded the country's corrupt anti-drug unit, firing more than 1,000 agents.

As a result of discussions between U.S. and Mexican cabinet-level officials this week, the two countries now have "a shared vision of the magnitude of the problem, and we share the will to combat the problem with all of the resources within our reach," Zedillo said.

Clinton's two-day trip is his first to Mexico during his presidency and the first since he and Hillary Rodham Clinton honeymooned in Acapulco.

In Mexico City, Clinton was well-received by Zedillo and his Cabinet. A group of children waving American and Mexico flags crowded around to shake his hand. But the trip is no honeymoon.

American flags and posters of Clinton, like those that welcome most state visitors, were noticeably absent. Instead, Mexican officials, mindful that protesters were burning American flags, hung red-white-and-blue banners that might have been mistaken for French flags.

And for good reason. A poll in Tuesday's editions of Mexico City's *Reforma* newspaper found that only 36% of Mexicans had a favorable opinion of the United States, down from 62% a year ago.

Clinton's visit Tuesday afternoon to a national monument to Mexican patriotism was clouded in controversy because the monument honors six young cadets killed at

the hands of American troops in 1847.

Clinton said he was going to the monument as a gesture of respect. "President Truman went there as well . . . and I do not believe the president of the United States should decline to go because of what happened between our countries a long time ago."

The New York Times

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 1997



Associated Press

President Clinton and his wife, Hillary, along with President Ernesto Zedillo, reviewing troops during a welcoming ceremony in Mexico City.

Clinton and Mexico Chief Pledge Joint Effort on Border and Drugs

By JAMES BENNET

MEXICO CITY, May 6 — President Clinton and President Ernesto Zedillo wrapped up two days of meetings today by signing joint statements on managing the border and fighting illegal drugs. They emphasized close cooperation and shared goals but proposed no novel strategies or solutions.

In tone and effect, the statements nicely capped a series of small-bore agreements announced since Mr. Clinton arrived here Monday night for the first visit of his Presidency to a Latin American country. Most of the agreements seemed more symbolic than substantive on issues from building bridges over the border to surveying an endangered species of

tiny dolphin in the Gulf of California. They leave unresolved deep differences over specific issues, including whether agents from the Drug Enforcement Administration may carry sidearms in Mexico, as well as other areas including extradition of drug traffickers, and trade, environmental and immigration issues.

But Administration officials said that the agreements, like Mr. Clinton's visit itself, are aimed at cementing a long-term cooperative relationship, and reassuring Mexico that the United States regards it as a respected partner. The visit comes after months of acrimonious exchanges over drugs that have strained relations between the two countries.

Two months ago, the Administration and Congress were battling over whether Mexico deserved "certification," or recognition that it was cooperating to fight drug trafficking. Mexicans regarded that fight as an assault on their sovereignty, and it left some so bitter that Jesús Silva Herzog, the Mexican Ambassador to Washington, still likes to joke that he wants to decertify California for its participation in the drug trade. Dur-

Continued on Page A10

U.S. and Mexico Plan Joint Effort on Border and Drugs

Continued From Page A1

ing the visit, both Mr. Clinton and Mr. Zedillo took pains to underscore neighborliness and play down division.

"No two countries are working together on more important issues, with a more direct effect on the lives of their people, than Mexico and the United States," President Clinton said in a joint news conference with Mr. Zedillo here today.

At a ceremony this morning, Mr. Zedillo pointedly hailed Mr. Clinton as "a friend who respects Mexico as a sovereign nation." And both agreements signed today make recognition of each nation's sovereignty their starting point.

The tenor of Mr. Clinton's visit and of his reception have been strikingly friendly. He has repeatedly urged that both countries change their notion of the border as a dividing line. "We want our border to be our bond," Mr. Clinton said today.

Partly to demonstrate his respect for Mexican culture, Mr. Clinton spent two hours on Monday night with Mr. Zedillo marveling at ancient works on display at the Anthropology Museum here.

Mr. Clinton's visit, said one Administration official, "is more about building a relationship that achieves results than it is about achieving those results today."

Another official said: "The anti-Americanism has increased over the last few months, and we need to deal with that."

Whether the American efforts to placate Mexican sensibilities will produce progress on drugs and immigration remains to be seen. "There aren't any real solutions in here," acknowledged Gen. Barry McCaffrey, director of Mr. Clinton's anti-drug efforts, as he held up a copy of a study called the "U.S.-Mexico Bi-National Drug Threat Assessment" that the two governments released today.

Chapters written by American officials are specific about the extent



Associated Press

President Clinton and President Ernesto Zedillo of Mexico listened to the reading of joint statements at a news conference yesterday in Mexico City. They agreed on cooperation on anti-drug efforts and border issues.

of the demand for drugs in the United States, a factor that the Mexicans have repeatedly complained goes unemphasized. Perhaps in deference to that sensitivity, Mr. Clinton made clear today that drug users in the United States are major contributors to the problem.

"We have less than 5 percent of the world's population and we consume about half the drugs. And we're more than happy every year, American citizens, to give billions of dollars that winds up in the hands of narco-traffickers," he said.

The chapters written by Mexican officials are vague about the problem of Government corruption here, which has not been a subject of prominent discussion during Mr. Clinton's visit. At one point, it does note that some recent cases, as well

as the dismissal last year of 1,200 police officials, "indicate that corruption is widespread in the judicial and law enforcement system."

American officials refused to describe talks over whether American drug agents would be permitted to carry sidearms in Mexico.

Asked about that issue at the news conference, Mr. Zedillo first noted that the anti-drug declaration signed today recognizes "the absolute respect for the sovereignty and territorial jurisdiction of both Mexico and the United States." He then quoted language committing both Governments to "do whatever necessary to insure the protection of the officials in charge of enforcing the law." He had previously ruled out the notion that the agents would carry guns.

American officials would not say

whether that language meant American drug agents would be allowed to carry guns here. But the Mexican Attorney General, Jorge Madrazo Cuellar, said late this afternoon: "We have not reached any agreement on this issue."

Administration officials said that they had also made no progress on the issue of "hot pursuit" — whether the United States could pursue drug shipments by sea or air into Mexico.

Even some of the smaller-scale initiatives went awry, at least for today. On Monday night, the State Department announced that Secretary Madeleine K. Albright would provide \$6 million to help the Mexicans train new drug agents. But Mr. Madrazo said today that he still had not decided whether to accept the money.

Barbados, Awaiting Clinton's Visit Friday, Is All Business, Naturally

By LARRY ROHTER

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados — According to the map and the tourist brochures, this is the easternmost country in the Caribbean. But when Bill Clinton and his staff arrive here on May 9 for two days of meetings with the prime ministers of the English-speaking Caribbean, they will be landing in a place that is not really interested in providing the easygoing, fun-in-the-sun atmosphere for which the region is known.

"Little England" is the nickname that this small island nation 1600 miles southeast of Miami wears with pride, and not just because most people attend the Anglican Church and play cricket, or because the harbor police wear uniforms that date from Lord Nelson's time. In a region that has made a virtual religion of relaxation, Barbados stands out as an island of primness and propriety.

"Letting their hair down is the very last thing ever on the agenda in Barbados," said Knolly Moses, a veteran Trinidadian journalist who runs Pan Media Services, an on-line news agency based in Jamaica. "Discipline and efficiency always come first, and so it can take a bit longer to connect with them precisely because they are so straitlaced and obedient and don't have the same humor and joie de vivre."

To their neighbors, Bajans, as the 260,000 natives of this island are known, are the "black Brits," a term that can be both compliment and criticism. Not only do they come

across as more formal, reserved and inhibited than is generally the rule in the West Indies, but Bajans are seen as more tied to the mother country, its traditions and mores than other former colonies.

"Maybe I am just buying into stereotypes, but I felt they did have a greater connection to England," said Patrine Archer Straw, a Jamaican museum curator who grew up in Britain and recently visited here for

'Pride and Industry' is a nation's motto that's observed.

the first time. "There was a certain quaintness about the place, a staidness, placidity and degree of predictability that you just wouldn't get in Jamaica."

Despite the island's small size and the somewhat claustrophobic atmosphere that comes with a population density of more than 1,500 people per square mile, those characteristics, combined with a well-educated, churchgoing work force and a low crime rate, have made Barbados a prosperous society that is the preferred location for businesses seeking a Caribbean regional headquarter.

"I knew this was the place for us to be," a banker here said only half-jokingly, "when I looked at the national coat of arms and saw that their motto is 'Pride and Industry.'"

But it may also be possible to argue that "this place is really more like the Singapore of the Caribbean," to use the words of a European diplomat here. Not that this island is authoritarian: on the contrary, those in opposition today have been in power in the past, and there is a press that delights in criticizing the Government. The point is that this is also a society that values and emphasizes orderliness, conformity and restraint, even if that means the sacrifice of a degree of personal liberty.

And like their counterparts in Singapore, the various governments that have been in power here in the 31 years since independence have been known to dabble in social engineering.

At the moment, for instance, there is great concern about the incursions that cocaine and marijuana may be making among the youth of Barbados. So a new regulation allows students to be body-searched for possession of drugs any time two teachers agree that such a physical inspection is warranted.

The Government has also taken umbrage recently at the loud reggae and soca music that often blares from vehicles here. Its solution: an edict ordering the removal of all radios from taxis and minibuses, which are the main source of public

transport.

"Oh but they run such a very tight ship, those Bajans," said Royston Hunte, a Guyanese waiter who has worked in New York and Toronto as well as here. "It seems they have a rule to fit any situation you can think of."

At the airport, for instance, the first communication a visitor is likely to encounter is the official notice warning against the importation of "obscene or indecent articles," while at the departure lounge the farewell notice is a proclamation advising that "it is an offense to open duty-free packages before boarding aircraft." In between come the exhortations to tourists about proper attire on the beach and in the streets: "Shoes and tops, please."

When asked what makes their country so different from its neighbors, Bajans proudly note that alone among the Caribbean islands Barbados has always remained under the control of the people who originally settled here: the white colonists and black slaves who began arriving in 1625. That means none of the French, Spanish or Dutch influences visible in places like St. Lucia or Dominica are present, only a homogeneous Anglican culture. Barbados was also exempted from the waves of Indian and Chinese migration that began after slavery was abolished in the 19th century and that have made the race-based politics of nearby Trinidad and Guyana so contentious.

Though nothing in the phlegmatic

response here indicates it, the mere fact that Mr. Clinton is meeting with his Caribbean counterparts here is a triumph for Barbados. After all, it is Lester Bird, the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, who is president of the 15-member Caribbean Community and who, as such, last December formally invited Mr. Clinton to meet with the prime ministers of the English-speaking Caribbean.

But protocol notwithstanding, it would have been a diplomatic embarrassment for all involved to hold a first-ever summit meeting there. Members of the Bird family and Government have been implicated in drug- and gun-running operations, and recent United States Government documents express concern about "a surge in questionable banking operations" in Antigua and describe its justice system as "a weak link in efforts to combat drug trafficking and money laundering."

On the other hand, George Washington actually slept here before he became President. So did Ronald Reagan in 1982, when he met briefly with East Caribbean heads of state and followed it up with a couple of restful "private days" at a resort here.

"Barbados was the safest choice and therefore the logical choice" for a regional summit meeting, a senior official in one Caribbean government explained recently. "After all, we are going there to work, not to have fun."

Mexican Opposition Leaders Get to Confer With Clinton

Brief Visits Are a First for a U.S. President

By SAM DILLON

MEXICO CITY, May 6 — Throughout most of this century, Washington gave such unqualified backing to Mexico's governing party that successive Presidents, from Franklin Roosevelt to George Bush, visited Mexico without so much as acknowledging that other political parties existed here.

A dozen years ago, that policy started to change when John Gavin, the United States Ambassador, visited opposition leaders battling Government-imposed electoral fraud across northern Mexico, a courtesy call that raised howls of protest from the governing Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI.

Today, President Clinton became the first chief executive of the United States to meet with the leaders of Mexico's main opposition parties, a move that seemed to recognize their full legitimacy.

Mr. Clinton's gesture aroused mixed reaction. Some academics and historians characterized his two 15-minute encounters this evening with the opposition leaders as a political landmark. Others called it window dressing on what they said amounted to a campaign swing in favor of President Ernesto Zedillo's PRI, two months before July 6 nationwide balloting in which the party could confront its most serious electoral challenge.

"It's regrettable that as Mexico faces the most crucial elections in our modern history, President Clinton only has half an hour to spend with the opposition," said Enrique Krauze, a Mexican historian. "The United States has spent 70 years being friendly with the PRI. It was the moment to invest more time with the opposition."

Mr. Clinton met this evening at his hotel with the heads of Mexico's

three main parties: Andrés Manuel López Obrador of the leftist Party of the Democratic Revolution, Felipe Calderón of the National Action Party, known as the PAN, and Humberto Roque Villanueva of the PRI.

Immediately after Mr. Clinton met with Mr. Calderón, and was shaking hands with Mr. López Obrador, a reporter asked him why he was meeting with the opposition leaders.

"We support the political reform process in Mexico," Mr. Clinton said. "I do this in other countries I visit — Russia, Israel. I thought it was important."

Mr. Calderón, who went to the

A gesture of support from the U.S. for democracy in Mexico.

meeting accompanied by two members of his party, the Governors of the border states of Chihuahua and Baja California, told reporters outside Mr. Clinton's hotel after the meeting, "The simple fact that Clinton has received the representatives of the most important political parties indicates that political pluralism is inevitable in Mexico."

He said Mr. Clinton had assured him that the United States could work with a Mexican government headed by any political party.

The Zedillo administration did not interfere with Mr. Clinton's private visits with the opposition leaders. But in the streets, the authorities tried to keep dissidents out of view throughout his visit.

On Monday, the police arrested 14 members of a debtors' association trying to stage a hunger strike outside the concert hall that Mr. Clinton was visiting tonight. On Tuesday, men who said they were plainclothes officers detained the leader of a socialist group at his office, hours before he was to lead a street protest, and hundreds of riot policemen dispersed would-be demonstrators along the Paseo de la Reforma, the capital's main boulevard, permitting no groups to gather.

Sergio Aguayo, a political scientist at the Colegio de Mexico, said Mr. Clinton's meetings with the opposition parties, however brief, marked a significant policy shift that would, among other results, reassure investors who might otherwise be jittery about an opposition victory in the July congressional elections.

"Maybe the era of total and absolute support for the PRI has ended," Mr. Aguayo said. "That's not entirely clear yet, because a 15-minute meeting doesn't change a policy that's lasted for seven decades. But it's a sign that Washington thinks these parties have legitimacy."

Jorge Castañeda, author of a book on United States-Mexico relations, said Mr. Clinton's gesture to the opposition was "a fake way of doing democratization" because "Clinton's visit is essentially a campaign visit on behalf of the PRI."

"He comes here and says all these wonderful things about how lucky Mexico is to have a guy like Zedillo," Mr. Castañeda said, "all two months before elections. Imagine if Clinton had visited Britain two months before their elections and had gone around with John Major, saying nice things about him, and in the end took 15 minutes to shake hands with Tony Blair."

A gesture of support from the U.S. for democracy in Mexico.

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The Washington Post

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 1997

Clinton: U.S. Shares Blame For Drug Trade With Mexico

By Peter Baker
and John Ward Anderson
Washington Post Staff Writers

MEXICO CITY, May 6—President Clinton formally opened his first state visit to Mexico today with a concerted effort to ease strained relations, acknowledging that the United States must also shoulder blame for the bilateral drug crisis and pledging to help rebuild Mexico's corruption-tainted anti-drug operations.

"Let's be frank here, among friends," the president said at a joint news conference with Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo. "On the American side . . . we have less than 5 percent of the world's population, and we consume about half the drugs. And we're more than happy every year, American citizens, to give billions of dollars that winds up in the hands of narco-terrorists. That's our big problem."

In both words and symbols, Clinton went out of his way to express respect for Mexico's leadership and national sovereignty, plainly re-

sponding to the bitter resentment in many quarters here over recent attempts in Washington to punish Mexico for not doing more to stem the flow of narcotics across the border.

The drug war dominated the beginning of Clinton's stay here on a day when participants labored to remain as sunny as the Mexican weather. Words like "cooperation" and "partnership" were the descriptions of choice on both sides. With the flourish of a Cold War arms control treaty ceremony, Clinton and Zedillo signed a "Declaration of the Mexican-U.S. Alliance Against Drugs" committing both nations to

See CLINTON, A24, Col. 1



President Clinton and Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo greet flag-waving children during visit to Mexico City.

BY GREG ORSON—ASSOCIATED PRESS

Clinton Acknowledges U.S. Plays Role In Exacerbating Illegal Drug Trade

CLINTON, From A1

escalate their joint campaign to shut down the pipeline of marijuana, cocaine and heroin into the southern United States.

Yet neither the leaders nor the declaration offered many clues to how they would accomplish that. Instead, the three-page document laid out 16 general goals such as improving interdiction efforts and enhancing training programs, and the two presidents assigned their aides to continue meeting and produce a strategy by the end of the year.

Among the more specific goals will be the negotiation of an agreement outlawing firearms trafficking throughout the Western Hemisphere and new extradition rules that would allow drug dealers to be tried in both the United States and Mexico even before they have completed their sentence in one or the other.

The two nations apparently did manage to settle a dispute over the ability of U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agents to carry handguns for their own protection while in Mexico. Although Zedillo said last week he would not allow such sidearms, U.S. officials privately said they reached a wink-and-nod agreement that the ban will not be vigorously enforced.

Clinton's attention to Mexican sensibilities follows a raucous debate back home over his decision to certify that Zedillo's government remains a cooperating partner in the drug war. The arrest of Zedillo's chief counter-narcotics official sparked a revolt in Congress among Republicans and border-state legislators, many of whom considered that the final proof that corruption has overtaken Mexico's law enforcement apparatus. But legislation overturning Clinton's decision ultimately was defeated.

Mexico fired 1,200 police officers in 1 now faces the task of reconstructing its anti-drug agency.

Zedillo praised Clinton as a friend of Mexico and chastised critics "on both sides of our border" who "prefer recrimination rather than constructive cooperation."

"Now we are able to prove that in peace and in respect, in cooperation, Mexico and the United States will be much more successful than through ill will and reproachment," he said during a meeting in Los Pinos, the Mexican White House.

Following meetings with Mexican officials that involved nearly half of his cabinet, Clinton visited the Altar to the Nation, a memorial popularly known as the Boy Heroes Monument because it honors six young cadets who in 1847 chose to die rather than surrender to invading U.S. troops in the Mexican-American War.

By laying a wreath at the monument 150 years later, aides said Clinton was trying to demonstrate his respect for Mexican sovereignty.

In a bow to the increasing role of political opposition in a country ruled by the same party for seven decades, Clinton also broke with tradition by meeting privately with leaders of Mexico's two leading opposition parties, the center-right National Action Party and the leftist Democratic Revolutionary Party.

The meetings came two months before midterm elections in which Zedillo's ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) faces the possibility of losing its majority in Mexico's lower house. Opposition leaders pushed for the meetings to prevent the PRI from using Clinton's visit as an apparent endorsement, and U.S. officials wanted to signal their neutrality in Mexico's domestic politics.

The capstone of the day, though, and indeed the entire three-day trip, was the release by the two presidents of a joint assessment of the threat that drug trafficking and consumption present to both countries.

The 109-page report offers little

new information but is an ambitious effort to take a snapshot of trafficking trends and organizations, street prices, consumption and seizure data for drugs in both the United States and Mexico. Officials said the report, which may be issued annually, will set a benchmark that can be used to judge the success or failure of future efforts to combat the drug problem.

In keeping with Clinton's comments, the report tries to smooth over disagreements by conceding the roles both nations have played in fueling the drug plague.

Mexico, for instance, for the first time acknowledged that drug mafias in its territory control most of the trade of methamphetamine in the United States, and admits its financial system plays a key role in the laundering of drug money.

The United States acknowledged that it is the main conduit of illegal arms into Mexico. More important, the United States fully admitted that its demand for drugs is the key element in fueling the illegal trade and official corruption in Mexico.

At the same time, the document states that "drug trafficking organizations in Mexico are far from exercising political control" and that the illicit drug trade does not have an impact on Mexico's economy. In fact, according to reports from law enforcement investigators, drug trafficking has penetrated the highest levels of government in Mexico, while independent analysts say illegal drugs are the country's top source of foreign currency.

The document also states that "drug-related corruption is not a systemic problem" in the United States, despite growing evidence of widespread complicity of U.S. law enforcement officials with drug traffickers along the border.

Rubin Abruptly Leaves Mexico For Washington

By Clay Chandler
Washington Post Staff Writer

Treasury Secretary Robert E. Rubin abruptly cut short a high-profile trip to Mexico yesterday and returned to Washington to attend to what a spokesman described as "pressing Treasury Department business."

The spokesman, Treasury Assistant for Public Affairs Howard Schloss, said the sudden change in Rubin's schedule was not prompted by financial crises at home or overseas, nor did it reflect any changes in the health of Rubin or his family.

"There is no crisis," Schloss said.

Rubin, who traveled to Mexico City with President Clinton and a delegation of other senior administration officials, was scheduled attend a state dinner last night and deliver a speech at the U.S.-Mexico Chamber of Commerce today. Instead, he returned to Washington last night.

Although he joined the administration from Goldman Sachs & Co., a prestigious Wall Street investment bank with operations and clients around the world, Rubin is famed for his aversion both to foreign travel and public ceremony.

But it is highly unusual for a cabinet secretary to suddenly cancel his participation in a state visit to a major ally—especially one as sensitive as Mexico is to perceived U.S. slights.

U.S.-Mexico relations have been strained recently by the U.S. implementation of tough new restrictions on immigrants and congressional efforts to suspend Mexico's certification as a reliable U.S. ally in the war against illegal drugs.

When the Mexican peso collapsed in 1995, Rubin pushed forcefully for a U.S. financial rescue package that helped the government avert default. When Congress failed to support the administration's original bailout proposal, Rubin found a way to extend to Mexico short-term loans without congressional approval by tapping an obscure fund controlled by Treasury.

Mexico repaid its borrowings from the Treasury earlier this year, ahead of schedule.

U.S., Mexico Reach Accords Meant To Increase Trade Under NAFTA

By Thomas W. Lippman
Washington Post Staff Writer

MEXICO CITY, May 6—The United States and Mexico announced today a package of agreements to resolve lingering cross-border trade disputes and increase commerce under the North American Free Trade Agreement.

By clearing away regulatory disputes and disagreements over agricultural inspections, the agreements should stimulate trade in agricultural products and introduce U.S. investment capital into the Mexican electric power market, officials said.

Mexico is already the United States' third-largest trading partner, with volume approaching \$150 billion a year, and according to White House counselor Thomas F. "Mack" McLarty, the Clinton administration's point man on hemispheric trade, that figure is rapidly heading upward. By 2010, McLarty said today, U.S. trade with Latin America will exceed its trade with the European Union and Japan combined.

President Clinton hailed the agreements as further proof that "NAFTA has worked. There are some people still who assert in the United States that it has not, but it has."

NAFTA is still regularly denounced by organized labor and some prominent members of Congress, but Clinton gave those critics no comfort today. "If you compare what has happened in the last three years with what happened the last time Mexico had some economic distress," he said, "you will see that American exports have fared much better and the Mexican economy has come back much quicker and much stronger and NAFTA is clearly partly responsible for that."

Under one agreement in today's package, Mexico has accepted the reliability of Florida's program to eradicate canker in citrus fruit and will permit imports of Florida citrus. That should produce \$2 million a year in exports "in the near term," according to a White House "fact sheet."

At the same time, the U.S. Department of Agriculture "has concluded that the Mexicali valley is a pest-free area," allowing Mexican wheat to be imported into the United States, the White House said.

The Agriculture Department also has designated the Mexican state of Sonora as "low risk" for hog cholera. "Such a designation will allow for imports of fresh and frozen pork from this region," the White House said.

One issue of particular sensitivity to Mexico that apparently was not resolved is access to U.S. highways for long-haul Mexican trucks, which U.S. officials regard as mechanically unsafe polluters. However, Clinton, Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo and senior officials of both countries said today that they are determined to work as partners on all issues dividing the two countries, including transportation.

Clinton and Mexican President Zedillo Sign Accord to Intensify War on Drugs

MEXICO CITY — In a summit dominated by concerns about drug trafficking and immigration, President Clinton and his Mexican counterpart, Ernesto Zedillo, announced a series of accords aimed at

By Wall Street Journal staff reporters Craig Torres, Dianne Solis and Michael K. Frisby.

improving the often-tense relationship between the two countries.

Cabinet-level working groups reached 11 bilateral agreements on everything from studying endangered species in the Gulf of Mexico, to expanding scholarship programs for Mexicans, to funding water-treatment plants along the U.S.-Mexican border. But the most important issues on President Clinton's first state visit here were drugs and immigration.



Bill Clinton

Both leaders signed a joint narcotics combat plan calling for more U.S. drug agents at the border, broader cooperation on money-laundering investigations and more U.S. funds for aircraft and training of Mexican drug agents. The plan is complemented by a study that describes in detail the nature of the U.S.-Mexico drug problem, laying both blame and praise squarely on both countries. (Related article on page A14.)

President Clinton is the first U.S. head of state to visit Mexico in nearly 20 years. The two leaders used the event to firm up numerous dialogues that have developed between the two countries following the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Also, last night, Mr. Clinton met with leaders of the two Mexican opposition parties, who discussed issues ranging from drug trafficking to economic growth. White House officials acknowledged that the Mexicans also raised concerns about whether the coming elections would be fair. The president urged them to participate and take advantage of the new era of reforms.

Many of the accords reached yesterday simply pushed forward several topics that have already been in the works for months. A year ago, for example, the U.S. and Mexico signed a memorandum of understanding to allow consular access to certain types of immigrants, such as pregnant women and minors. This week's working group agreed to review consular issues, and develop a broader study of immigration issues.

"No two countries are working on more issues with a direct effect on their peoples than Mexico and the U.S.," said President Clinton.

Both leaders indicated that the top-priority problem is drug trafficking, but the effort is complicated by Mexico's sovereignty concerns. For instance, the U.S. State Department offered Mexico \$6 million for its fight against narcotics, but in a news conference Mexican Attorney General Jorge Madrazo said the offer would be "studied to see if it fits within the framework" of the drug-combat accord.

Mexico and the U.S. also failed to specify whether Drug Enforcement Administration agents would be allowed to carry sidearms in Mexico, a longstanding request by the U.S. Last week, President Zedillo emphatically told foreign reporters that there can be "no further discussion" of that request. In yesterday's news conference, officials said an agreement had been reached to protect U.S. drug agents, but neither side would elaborate.

Indeed, the issue of arming agents is so sensitive that National Security Adviser Samuel Berger said that talking publicly about it would only hurt Washington's chances to resolve the issue.

U.S. officials were careful to admit that drug consumption in the U.S. remains a

critical issue in the drug fight. "We recognize that the \$50 billion our U.S. citizens spend on cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, marijuana and other drugs are a major part of the equation whose sum is crime, corruption and death," said Gen. Barry McCaffrey, the U.S. drug czar.



Ernesto Zedillo

On the positive side, the U.S. and Mexico agreed to simplify information transfers in money-laundering cases; a White House spokesman said that an agreement was reached to add DEA agents along the border to work in "task forces" with Mexican counterparts. Similarly, Mexican agents will be crossing the U.S. border more frequently to work with U.S. agents.

Despite glowing public statements about the U.S.-Mexican relationship, White House officials expressed concern about whether the Mexican government can in fact root corruption out of its institutions.

Clinton Fumbles an American Alliance

By EDWARD SCHUMACHER

In December 1994, 34 heads of state meeting in Miami pledged to negotiate a Free Trade Area of the Americas by 2005. Only Cuba, the hemisphere's lone dictatorship, wasn't represented. An extraordinary new era seemed in the making, allowing the U.S. to achieve what presidents from Thomas Jefferson to FDR and JFK to Ronald Reagan have recognized as our paramount interest: to cement free-market democracy throughout the region.

But as President Clinton makes his first official visit to Latin America, the question arises: Why does he seem so intent on snatching defeat from the jaws of victory? The dream of ending the region's cycle of revolutions, interventions and insecurity has steadily slipped as Mr. Clinton has allowed U.S. leadership to be usurped by small-mindedness in this country and challenged by rumblings of resurgent nationalisms to the south.

Reforms' Strength

Part of the irony is that even on narrow pocketbook grounds, Latin America is growing ever more critical to the U.S. The region, which absorbs some 18% of U.S. exports, is our fastest-growing export market. For all the trumpeting of East Asia, it's often overlooked that Brazil's economy is roughly the size of China's, Mexico's the size of South Korea's, and Argentina's the size of Taiwan's.

Contrary to the expectations of many, the international economic crisis caused by the Mexican peso devaluation, just one week after the Miami summit, proved not the weakness of the region's economic reforms, but their strength. Free-market reforms were introduced in the 1980s after two centuries of mercantile statism inherited from the Spanish crown and 50 years of import substitution inherited from Marxism ended in a foreign debt debacle. Out of the ashes of the lost decade grew privatization, deregulation, free trade and other such measures.

The Mexican devaluation sent much of the region into a tailspin. But no government reversed field; indeed, the region has continued liberalizing labor laws, sell-

ing state companies and introducing private pension schemes. Growth in the region returned to 3.5% last year, inflation continued dropping, reaching 11%, and budget deficits averaged only 1.5%, according to the Inter-American Development Bank.

Investors have responded. Private capital flows to the region totaled \$74 billion last year, up 37% from the year before, according to the World Bank. Even more important, the growth of foreign direct investment never wavered through the devaluation shock, reaching \$26 billion last year, up from \$8 billion in 1990.

Despite Mr. Clinton's usual rhetorical power, he has never spun dreams of a united hemisphere.

But all that is not enough. At the popular level, the region is caught in a race between expectations and benefits. Forty percent of the region's population receives only 10% of its annual income, the worst income distribution in the world. Latin America needs growth in the range of 6% to 8% to make serious social headway, but only Chile has consistently been in that league. Growth in Brazil and Mexico is restricted by tight monetary policies designed to wring more inflation from their economies. Across the region, inflexible labor markets, poor education, corruption, shaky judiciaries, ineffective tax regimes and weak financial regulations are among the fundamental bottlenecks.

The risk of a coup is low everywhere, but democracy remains to be fully consolidated. Witness the comic opera events in Ecuador: Last year it elected Abdalá "El Loco" Bucaram, who due to corruption and a failure to meet his promises was summarily ousted this year by a populist Congress ignoring the country's Constitution. Strikes, meanwhile, have grown more tense in Argentina. A left-wing populist is the leading candidate for mayor of Mexico City.

How does the U.S. fit into all this? Two ways. First, many Latin Americans identify capitalism and free markets with the U.S. Provocative U.S. actions—like na-

tivist anti-immigration campaigning—thus provoke popular opposition to free-market democracy. Second, with the world's largest market and the common trade currency, U.S. policies are held up as examples throughout the region.

And so what is the U.S. doing?

The most closely watched signal of U.S. intentions is whether the administration gets "fast-track" authority to add Chile to the North American Free Trade Agreement. Despite its promises to Chile, the administration has not even presented a fast-track bill to Congress. Tired of waiting, the proud Chileans have turned to negotiating

deals with the European Union and Mercosur, a bloc that includes Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Paraguay.

President Bush used trade preferences to bring some stability to the most conflictive part of the hemisphere, Central America and the Caribbean. After Nafta gave Mexican exports even better access to the U.S. and attracted factories away from the Caribbean basin, President Clinton promised parity. Congress, however, has refused to go along.

Mr. Clinton has backpedaled on Nafta, too. Seeking the votes of affected constituencies during last year's election, his administration forced Mexico's tomato growers to raise prices, imposed stiff tariffs on its brooms and restricted its truckers driving across the border.

The Helms-Burton law, designed to target Fidel Castro, has had the opposite effect of reinforcing his support at home while alienating the rest of the hemisphere. The law brazenly gives the U.S. jurisdiction to try foreign companies that use property Mr. Castro's government expropriated from U.S. companies and citizens, even those who weren't citizens at the time. Mr. Clinton thus allows the politically potent Cuban-American community to prevail over free-trade principle, international law and U.S. diplomacy.

Latin Americans resent no other U.S.

policy more than "decertification" of countries not doing enough to combat drugs. The U.S. has the right to react against individual corrupt foreign officials who help allow our children access to drugs. But decertification condemns an entire country, and fails to recognize that we are unable to stop our own demand for drugs, as well as the returning flows of money and arms that terrorize Latin America. As a result, the policy has become counterproductive.

By abdicating leadership, Mr. Clinton has allowed Congress and the assistant secretary of state for narcotics affairs to run our Latin American policy. Brazil has stepped into the vacuum with a managed-trade formula for making Mercosur a bloc that flexes its own muscle as much as it works to unite the hemisphere.

Bean Counter's Approach

Despite Mr. Clinton's usual rhetorical power, he has never spun dreams of a united hemisphere. In selling Nafta, he chose instead a bean counter's focus on the number of jobs that would be created. He was stuck with that definition of the national interest when the Mexican economy collapsed and a cheap peso led to a flood of Mexican imports. Few would deny that Nafta has been a boon for both countries, yet the bean counters continue their short-sighted debate.

Mr. Clinton, who is scheduled to visit Argentina and Brazil in October and attend a follow-up pan-American summit in Santiago, Chile, next year, has said that this will be the year he focuses on Latin America. He might then take a page from Europe. When Spain and Portugal joined the European Community in 1986, the two Iberian countries were developing economically and politically much as Argentina and Chile are today. By including the two countries, the Europeans sought above all to cement Iberian democracy. And look at their success today. To borrow from an earlier epoch, the Europeans had the vision thing, and it was the politics, stupid.

Mr. Schumacher is managing editor of The Wall Street Journal Americas.

Los Angeles Times

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U.S., Mexico Strike Deals on Sensitive Border Issues

■ **Diplomacy:** Clinton visit is occasion for signing of agreements to address drug trafficking, illegal migration.

By ELIZABETH SHOGREN
TIMES STAFF WRITER

MEXICO CITY—On a day full of pomp and optimism, Presidents Bill Clinton and Ernesto Zedillo on Tuesday signed two key agreements—one promising a joint strategy in the war on drugs by the end of the year and another pledging to reduce the vexing problems of crime and illegal migration along the 2,000-mile U.S.-Mexican border.

Despite recent tensions between the two nations over immigration, drugs and other cross-border problems, the presidents stressed the positive developments in the relationship and declared a new era of collaboration in the drug war.

"I believe that this government

is trying to work with us," Clinton said at a news conference on the grounds of Los Pinos, the presidential palace. "And I believe that the chances of our succeeding in dealing with our problems, and the chances of their succeeding in

■ TOUCHY SUBJECT

Presidents sign blunt statement on nations' drug problems. A35

dealing with their problems, are dramatically heightened if we work together."

There were plenty of festivities on the first full day of Clinton's state visit to this capital—his first, and the first by any U.S. president in almost

Please see MEXICO, A34

MEXICO: Presidents Deal With Sensitive Subjects

Continued from A1

two decades. In the morning, he and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton were welcomed with a 21-cannon salute and a parade with marching honor guards, horses pulling antique artillery, and bands playing both nations' anthems. Evening events included an elaborate state dinner.

Clinton and his host heaped compliments on each other. Zedillo acclaimed Clinton as a "good friend" of Mexico; Clinton returned the praise, calling Zedillo a "trusted friend" and admiring his "bold leadership."

Clinton's trip to Mexico is the highlight of a weeklong Latin America tour, which will include a summit with Central American leaders in Costa Rica and a conference with Caribbean leaders in Barbados. Mexico, a back-burner foreign policy concern during the Cold War, has emerged as one of the United States' most important foreign policy priorities.

Demonstrating how integral relations between the United States and Mexico have become, Clinton was accompanied in Mexico City by most members of his Cabinet, who arrived Monday to work with their Mexican counterparts on an array of issues from the environment to trade to bridge building.

"No two countries are working together on more important issues,

with a more direct effect on the lives of their people than Mexico and the United States," Clinton said.

Mexican Foreign Minister Jose Angel Gurria Trevino stressed during a high-level meeting Tuesday that relations between Mexico and the United States have changed from "aloofness to commitment."

At a news conference later, Gurria noted: "There have never been high-level written documents by the presidents of Mexico and the United States on the themes of drugs and immigration in which both leaders had set out their philosophies."

The central issue Tuesday was clearly the two nations' efforts to work together against the flow of illegal drugs across the border.

The United States is the largest illegal drug market in the world—consuming \$49 billion worth a year—and many of those drugs pass through Mexico.

The leaders accepted a report assessing the drug threat to both nations and signed a document declaring a new "Mexican/U.S. alliance against drugs." The report included a concession by the U.S. that the United States is the largest source of illegal arms shipments to Mexico.

Clinton and Zedillo also ordered their respective cabinets to devise a common counter-drug strategy, including implementation plans that are mutually reinforcing.

A contentious issue between the two countries has been a dispute over whether U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agents can carry arms in Mexico. Both Zedillo and U.S. officials said the disagreement had been resolved and the security of law enforcement personnel on both sides will be ensured. Mexico opposes the arming of U.S. agents on its turf as a violation of its sovereignty; both sides refused to specify the mechanics of the agreement.

Mexican Atty. Gen. Jorge Madrazo Cuellar said later that his office is studying ways to provide security to the U.S. agents without violating Mexican sovereignty.

Madrazo stressed that while the meetings were full of promise, much work remains to accomplish the lofty goals. "This isn't magic," he said later. "But no one said this was a magical visit."

Another prickly issue has been the effect of new U.S. immigration and welfare laws on Mexican nationals in the United States. The joint statement on migration signed by Clinton and Zedillo represented an effort by both countries to better manage migration and to increase the dialogue on related issues.

Mexicans are worried that the new immigration laws will lead to mass deportations from the U.S. of illegal immigrants. During the press conference, Clinton made assur-

ances that there will "be no mass deportations and no discrimination."

Recent welfare reforms made legal immigrants ineligible for most forms of federal assistance, but Clinton stressed that under a budget agreement he reached with Congress last week many of those benefits will be restored.

Later in the day, Clinton met with several opposition political figures—the first time a visiting U.S. head of state has had such an opportunity here. Mexico is in political transition to democracy after nearly seven decades of one-party rule. Clinton said he arranged the meeting "because we support the political reform process in Mexico."

He also paid homage to one of the most enduring legends in Mexican history when he stood silently before a wreath at the monument to the Child Heroes.

According to legend, six military cadets wrapped themselves in a Mexican flag and leaped to their deaths when they realized they could no longer stop U.S. Marines from taking Chapultepec hill in Mexico City during the Mexican War in 1847.

Modern research has cast doubt on the story, but it is an emotional one for Mexicans, who are commemorating the 150th anniversary of their defeat by the Americans, and Clinton's homage to the Child Heroes apparently was intended as an act of friendship.



Associated Press

President Clinton, Mexico's Ernesto Zedillo after signing drug pact.

Meanwhile, on Mexico City's streets Tuesday, riot police cordoned off an area around the U.S. Embassy, where dozens of citizen groups had planned an afternoon demonstration.

An opinion poll published by Mexico City's Reforma newspaper Tuesday showed that 48% of the Mexican citizens surveyed had at least a favorable impression of

Clinton, compared with 35% who had negative opinions about him.

Of the United States in general, though, just 37% of respondents said they had at least a favorable view, while 52% said they saw America either unfavorably or very unfavorably.

Times staff writers Mark Fineman, Stanley Meisler and Mary Beth Sheridan contributed to this report.

Chicago Tribune

Wednesday, May 7, 1997

Clinton, Zedillo tiptoe toward easing tensions

By Paul de la Garza

TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

MEXICO CITY—President Clinton and his Mexican counterpart, Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon, set out Tuesday to prove their border is a bond and not a barrier, and they pledged to cooperate in the fight against drug traffickers and illegal immigration.

In his first visit to Mexico, Clinton heaped praise on America's southern neighbor and with Zedillo signed modest measures to lower tensions along the 2,000-mile frontier.

An agreement on narcotics that was long on symbolism and short on details gave the Zedillo and Clinton Cabinets until the end of the year to complete a common drug strategy in 16 specific areas, including money-laundering, extradition and gun-running.

In a heartfelt concession, Clinton acknowledged that the international drug trade is fueled by high U.S. demand for marijuana and cocaine, and that while this illegal

consumption may rend the fabric of American life, the people of Latin America also suffer from the violent grip of drug lords.

"We in the United States know we have to reduce our demand," Clinton said.

Clinton and Zedillo also signed a joint declaration that gives each country the right to guard its borders, so long as it does it legally and humanely. The immigration agreement calls for new checkpoints and bridges, as well as a redoubled effort "to work together on migrant trafficking, protecting the rights of migrants and removing criminal aliens."

The language of the accord was crafted carefully to honor Mexico's concerns that immigrants' rights are violated in the U.S. and an American desire to stanch the flow of illegal immigrants.

"Let us reach across our common frontier to embrace our tomorrows together—to enter the 21st Century as valued partners

SEE MEXICO, BACK PAGE

Mexico turns on charm for Clintons



Underneath the public shows for President and Mrs. Clinton were tensions over immigration and drugs, the latter prompting

him to admit U.S. habits fuel trafficking.



President Clinton and his Mexican counterpart, Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon, walk past U.S. flag-waving children at a welcoming for the American Tuesday in Mexico City. Clinton is popular in Mexico. Reuters photo

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and trusted friends," Clinton said at a welcoming ceremony.

Clinton said he was delighted to be in Mexico, calling the nation's citizens "a great and good people who have given so much to the world."

Throughout a day spent under brilliant skies, words like "respect" and "cooperation" dominated the two presidents' remarks, as each sought to portend the U.S.-Mexico relationship as a partnership of equals that requires shared responsibility to bring bountiful benefits to both.

Clinton's comments also sought to ease tensions within Mexico, where many view the American debate over certifying Mexico as a partner in the war on drugs, as well as the festering issue of illegal immigration, as a challenge to Mexican sovereignty and the legitimacy of its government.

For his part, Zedillo repeatedly called Clinton a "good friend of Mexico," ignoring the fact that this American president was the first in recent memory not to set foot in Mexico during his first term.

Zedillo thanked Clinton for his help during the peso crisis three years ago, when Clinton helped save the Mexican economy by orchestrating a controversial multibillion-dollar loan package. The loan has been repaid.

About a dozen protesters were arrested outside the American Embassy on Monday as Clinton began his weeklong tour of Latin America. On Tuesday, as hundreds of Mexican soldiers guarded the compound, the streets were quiet, although people had plenty to say.

Omar Carbone Garcia, 21, a music student, said he opposed the Clinton visit because of the way Americans treat Mexicans.

"I don't like the idea that the president of Mexico receives Clinton with open arms," Carbone said. "When some of us reach the U.S., they treat us badly."

Stevan Barrera, 45, a carpenter, disagreed.

He sat on a bench in front of the embassy, reading a newspaper in search of work. Barrera said the U.S. president's visit would only strengthen the relationship between the neighbors.

"If there are divisions between two countries on one continent, when will it end?" Barrera said. "Without friendship, you can't have benefits like jobs, tourism, commerce. Just by coming to



With a polite handshake, Zedillo welcomes Clinton at a military presentation in the morning while First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton applauds. AP photo

Mexico, [Clinton] shows himself as a friend of Mexico."

According to U.S. and Mexican officials, that is exactly the image they want Clinton, who enjoys high popularity in Mexico, to convey. They want to show Mexico that the U.S. considers it a drug ally and a valued trade partner.

Indeed, since the North American Free Trade Agreement was implemented in 1994, trade between the two countries has increased more than 60 percent, or \$150 billion a year, Zedillo said. Mexico is America's third-largest trading partner.

Officials on both sides worry that finger-pointing can only aggravate the problems facing both nations, including drug trafficking.

Earlier this year, Mexicans

were outraged when Congress tried to overrule Clinton's decision to certify Mexico as an ally in the drug war.

A push to decertify Mexico gained momentum in Congress after Mexico disclosed that its drug czar, a Mexican army general, had been arrested in a drug scandal.

The latest rift involves the U.S. demand that agents from the Drug Enforcement Administration be allowed to carry firearms in Mexico, a request Mexicans say threatens their sovereignty. Last week, Zedillo rejected the request.

At the joint news conference, Zedillo from the drug declaration statement, which says "the governments will do whatever necessary to ensure the protec-

tion of the officials in charge of enforcing the law."

As he has in the past, Clinton came to Zedillo's defense, reminding reporters that the U.S., with 5 percent of the world's population, consumes half the world's drugs.

"And we're more than happy every year, American citizens, to give billions of dollars that wind up in the hands of narco-traffickers," Clinton said.

Last year, the president added, 200 Mexican law enforcement officials died in the line of duty, "and it seems to me that their lives alone are evidence that we ought to be working to cooperate."

In advance of the Clinton visit, Mexico announced that it was dismantling its main drug enforcement agency and replacing

it with a smaller group of trusted agents.

Despite protests in Mexico against the newly implemented immigration law, Zedillo praised Clinton.

"The Mexican government appreciates the sensitivity of President Clinton in terms of the Mexicans' rights and the dignity of Mexicans in his country," he said.

Clinton addressed a concern of the Mexican people regarding the new law, declaring that there will be no mass deportations.

Tuesday afternoon, Clinton paid his respects at the *Ninos Heroes* monument, which honors teenagers who died in a U.S. invasion 150 years ago. The president also met with members of opposition groups before attending a state dinner at the National Palace.

Chicago Tribune

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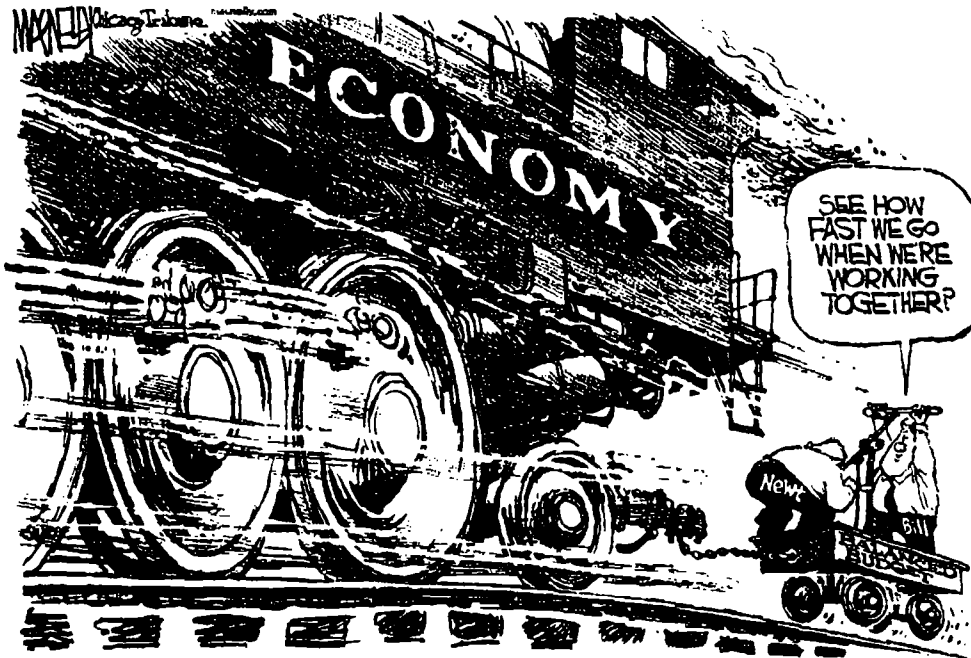
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Wednesday, May 7, 1997

MacNelly's view



Editorials

Boosting democracy in Mexico

While seismologists keep an wary eye on Popocatepetl, the towering volcano outside Mexico City that recently came back to life, political analysts in the Mexican capital are watching, just as intently, the July mayoral election.

Pollsters predict a resounding defeat for the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI. Such a development would shake the political system of Mexico by giving the opposition control of the second most important political post in the country. There are also congressional elections, though the PRI is expected to retain its majority.

For nearly 70 years the PRI has maintained hermetic control of Mexico's government and political life, and the U.S. has not dealt directly with any other political players. But all that has changed during the past few years.

Political assassinations, economic crises, guerrilla insurgencies and a reinvigorated opposition have turned Mexican politics on its head. And the new political scenario is one that can be best managed peacefully through pluralism and inclusion. Instead of the PRI's former tight-lid politics.

During his visit, President Clinton has wisely recognized the changing political equation and held meetings with the leaders of the two opposition parties—a first for an American president. Indeed, continued democratization is in the best interests of both countries. Anything less is likely to lead to political instability and undermine the common agenda in areas

such as trade, investment and the war on drugs.

Ernesto Zedillo, the mild-mannered technocrat who rose to the presidency of Mexico after the PRI-designated presidential candidate was assassinated, initially was dismissed as "the accidental president."

Yet the fact that there is to be a mayoral election in Mexico City demonstrates how far Mexico's political system has opened up under him.

Leading the polls by about 20 points is Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas, the dour leader of the leftist Democratic Revolution Party. In 1988, Cárdenas lost his presidential bid to Carlos Salinas, after some shameless, last-minute electoral fraud by the PRI. And until nine months ago, there were no mayoral elections in the capital: The president simply appointed someone.

Zedillo's chief promise was to break the PRI's symbiotic relationship with the government, which gave it access to unlimited patronage and pork—and a practically bullet-proof advantage at the polls.

Progress has been uneven. For example, the government created an independent electoral commission to organize and oversee the elections, but then the courts or the PRI-dominated congress have undercut or reversed several key reforms, particularly in campaign finance.

The U.S. cannot get involved in the internal politics of Mexico. But Washington can and should publicly support the move toward wider political participation begun by President Zedillo and undergoing its first major test in July.



MICHAEL SNEED

Chicago Sun-Times Wednesday, May 7, 1997

Hillaryville . . .

Dateline: The Shoe Line—First lady **Hillary Rodham Clinton**'s staff was chuckling Tuesday over the poor packing job that left their boss without proper shoes to climb the Maya pyramid in Uxmal, Mexico. "I wore the wrong shoes," Clinton said, pointing to her leather flats. Chirped an observer: "Let's hope no one gets the boot over that little mix-up."

Wednesday, May 7, 1997

WORLD

Chicago Sun-Times

Pacts ease U.S.-Mexico tension

By **TERENCE HUNT**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MEXICO CITY - President Clinton and Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo pledged closer cooperation Tuesday on immigration and drug fighting.

"Our histories and destinies are forever joined," Clinton said.

Clinton and Zedillo signed a declaration committing their nations for the first time to devise a joint anti-drug strategy. In Mexico, drug trafficking is blamed for the murders of more than 200 police officers.

They also signed an agreement designed to better manage the 2,000-mile U.S.-Mexico border

Clinton, Zedillo OK drug, immigration accords

with new checkpoints and bridges and efforts "to work together on migrant trafficking, protecting the rights of migrants and removing criminal aliens."

Clinton said the United States would enforce a new, tougher immigration law but added: "We must balance control with common sense and compassion."

The two agreements were designed to ease U.S.-Mexican tensions, which had reached their highest in years. Zedillo welcomed Clinton as "a good friend to Mexico" and said they had stabilized relations so that they are "based

on respect, friendship and reciprocal benefits."

Clinton placed a wreath at one of the country's most sacred sites, popularly known as the Child Heroes Monument. It honors six young cadets killed in 1847 as the U.S. Army conquered Mexico City.

Earlier, at a welcoming ceremony, military honor guards on horseback rode past Clinton and Zedillo, flashing their swords in salute. The presidents concluded the ceremony by shaking hands with flag-waving children, who tumbled over a rope line in excitement to reach out to them.

Relations between the United States and Mexico are often rocky but they plummeted this year after tough new U.S. immigration laws were enacted and some members of Congress attempted to decertify Mexico as an ally against drug trafficking.

Many in Congress were skeptical of Mexico's intentions after the discovery in February that its anti-drug chief was on the payroll of a major drug trafficker. Moreover, anger over illegal immigration prompted passage of California's Proposition 187, which would deny benefits to illegal immigrants.

Zedillo repeatedly thanked Clinton for showing respect to Mexico.

"It is true that on both sides of our border, there are voices which prefer to turn a deaf ear than to hold an open dialogue," Zedillo said. "They prefer recrimination rather than constructive cooperation."

He said that respect "is the basis of a solid friendship, a long-lasting friendship between the Mexicans and the Americans."

Often ignored during the Cold War, Mexico has moved toward the top of the United States' economic and national security agenda because of its drug problem and its emergence as America's third-largest trading partner.

The Miami Herald

THE FOREMOST DAILY NEWSPAPER OF FLORIDA

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 1997

U.S., Mexico agree to forge anti-drug alliance

By **CHRISTOPHER MARQUIS**
And **ANDRES OPPENHEIMER**
Herald Staff Writers

MEXICO CITY — In a buoyant garden ceremony under a streaming sun, President Clinton and his Mexican counterpart, Ernesto Zedillo, on Tuesday signed what they dubbed a historic alliance in the battle against drugs, committing to draw up a concrete common strategy by year's end.

But in a hint of clouds over that crusade, Mexican Attorney General Jorge Madrazo conceded to The Herald just moments before the announcement that nearly two-thirds of the Mexicans who have applied for jobs at a new anti-drug agency have failed U.S.-assisted lie detector tests.

And despite their assurances of unprecedented cooperation on a 15-point agenda, Clinton and Zedillo looked past each other on sensitive issues: Their joint document made no mention of a U.S. request to allow its agents in Mexico to carry sidearms for self-defense; and Zedillo failed to swiftly accept a \$6 million gift to pay for training of new Mexican drug agents, amid Mexican concerns that the funds might come with too many strings attached.

Clinton, nevertheless, sought to strike a new tone in the drug debate.

"Let's be frank here among

PLEASE SEE MEXICO, 9A



GREG GIBSON / AP

REACHING OUT: President Clinton, accompanied by his Mexican counterpart, Ernesto Zedillo, shakes hands with schoolchildren at the Campo de Marte military parade grounds in Mexico City on Tuesday.

U.S., Mexico sign drug pact

But clouds linger over plans for common strategy

MEXICO, FROM 1A

friends," he told a crowd of Mexican officials and his own Cabinet members gathered on the lush grounds at Los Pinos, Zedillo's residence.

"On the American side, the problems are we have less than 5 percent of the world's population and we consume about half the drugs," he said. "And we're more than happy every year, American citizens, to give billions of dollars that wind up in the hands of narco-traffickers. That's our big problem."

Clinton's remarks, aides said, were aimed at the Mexican public, which in recent months has been increasingly angered by the U.S. process by which it "certifies" allies' performance in the drug war, and by an immigration law recently passed by the U.S. Congress that seeks to speed deportation of illegal aliens and criminals.

A poll published Monday by the Mexico City newspaper Reforma showed that while last year 62 percent of Mexicans had a positive view of the United States, a majority of Mexicans now has an unfavorable opinion.

Clinton's unusual admission highlighted a U.S. hope to persuade average Mexicans that the battle against drugs is a "transnational problem" that endangers their own well-being and can only be solved through cooperation.

"The Mexican problem is that narco-traffickers can destroy the fabric of civil society," Clinton said. "They can undermine the integrity of any society."

As much as his Mexican hosts,

'On the American side, the problems are we have less than 5 percent of the world's population and we consume about half the drugs.'

PRESIDENT CLINTON

Clinton himself determined the atmosphere of his first visit to Mexico as president, arriving on the heels of nearly a dozen Cabinet members — who spent much of Tuesday meeting with counterparts on everything from environmental protection to trade disputes affecting Florida farmers.

Binational negotiations

Rising early for an extravagant military parade, Clinton presided over the binational negotiations until midday. Then, in an emotional ceremony, he lay a wreath at the Altar de la Patria, which commemorates the deaths of several youths who are said to have plunged to their deaths rather than be taken prisoner by U.S. troops in the Mexican-American War.

Clinton later received the leaders of the two largest opposition parties, the center-right National Action Party and the center-left Party for the Democratic Revolution, in addition to the president of the ruling party.

Zedillo, who is politically indebted to Clinton for the

administration's \$20 billion loan rescue package in 1995, and is personally at ease with the U.S. president as a fluent English speaker and fellow Yale graduate, was an enthusiastic host.

Tuesday's agreements, he said, "reflect ... the goodwill of our governments to create a border whose communities are joined by friendship and cooperation, not by conflict."

Florida citrus to benefit

Those accords:

- Expand the current extradition treaty, and press for a hemispheric agreement to outlaw illegal traffic in guns;

- Allow Mexico to trace weapons by granting access to federal U.S. gun registries;

- Ensure the human rights of illegal migrants in the United States, while recognizing the need to ensure peaceful repatriations and combat human smuggling;

- Nearly double the number of Fulbright scholars from both countries, with the result of having nearly 650 students studying and lecturing in the United States and Mexico at any given time;

- Drop barriers to Florida citrus products — which had been barred because of fears of canker disease — paving the way for as much as \$2 million in annual sales;

- Build a new bridge across the Rio Grande between Brownsville, Texas, and Matamoros, Mexico.

- Provide \$170 million in new grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for water projects along the border.

FBI helping Mexico screen agents

By **ANDRES OPPENHEIMER**
And **CHRISTOPHER MARQUIS**
Herald Staff Writers

MEXICO CITY — The FBI is quietly helping Mexico screen all applicants to this country's new anti-drug agency, as the Mexican government tries to rebuild it from scratch after the spectacular arrest of its top official two months ago.

Attorney General Jorge Madrazo said in an interview Tuesday that an FBI team has been providing technical assistance and equipment to screen members of the new Office of the Special Prosecutor for Drugs.

"We have requested the advice of some people of the FBI who specialize in polygraph tests . . . to take a look at the way we are conducting the tests and make suggestions," Madrazo said. "But the people conducting the tests are all U.S.-trained Mexicans."

Madrazo said specialists from Spain, France, Italy and Canada are also providing unspecified "technical assistance."

Top U.S. officials traveling with President Clinton have been vague about the U.S. role in the new Mexican anti-drug agency, refusing to define spe-

cific areas of cooperation. The issue is sensitive in Mexico because of widespread charges in opposition circles that the United States is dictating the country's drug policy.

Mexico's National Institute to Combat Drugs was disbanded last month after its leader, Gen. Jesus Gutierrez Rebollo, and his top aides were fired on charges of having protected a major drug lord. Gutierrez Rebollo is in prison and all of the Institute's employees have been furloughed, pending their screening.

But in a reflection of the difficult task ahead, Madrazo conceded that of the more than 300 would-be agents tested until Friday, only 110 have passed the lie detector tests.

"The rest have been rejected," he said.

Jeffrey Davidow, U.S. assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, said Tuesday that the restructuring of Mexico's anti-drug force is the most important event on the U.S.-Mexico bilateral agenda, and the Zedillo government alone will be responsible for its success.

"When all is said and done, it comes down to what they're going to be able to do," Davidow said. "That's the nature of the beast."

Houston Chronicle

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50 Cents

★★

Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo and President Clinton announced new agreements Tuesday on drug trafficking and immigration. Clinton is expected to focus on economic issues in a speech to the Mexican people today.



Associated Press

U.S., Mexico vow new cooperation

By **NANCY MATHIS**
and **DUDLEY ALTHAUS**
Houston Chronicle

MEXICO CITY — The presidents of Mexico and the United States promised Tuesday to form a new alliance for closer cooperation on controlling narcotics trafficking and immigration.

On drugs, Presidents Clinton and Ernesto Zedillo announced plans to closely track and prosecute money laundering, and they declared that Mexico is willing to consider extraditing its citizens in "exceptional cases."

Drugs, immigration focus of talks

On immigration, Clinton vowed there would be no mass deportations of illegal immigrants, and he pledged to work with Congress to reinstate public assistance for legal immigrants.

But the new cooperation, though touted by both Mexican and U.S. officials as significant, basically committed both countries to agree to reach new agreements on narcotics and immigration, which have proved the most intractable issues in the bilateral relationship.

"I believe that this government is trying to work with us," Clinton said of Mexican efforts to combat narcotics. "And I believe that the chances or our succeeding in dealing with our problems . . . are dramatically heightened if we work together and be honest about our problems but also not deny good-faith efforts when they exist."

Clinton arrived in Mexico on Monday for a two-day state visit, the first here in his administration. The trip comes amid growing bilateral trade

■ Clinton bristles over questions about wife's Whitewater testimony: Page 7A.

but increased Mexican bitterness over U.S. policies on drug trafficking and illegal immigration.

Clinton was expected to focus on happier economic issues, specifically the 3-year-old North American Free Trade Agreement, in a speech to the Mexican people today. He travels tonight to meet with Central American, and later Caribbean, leaders to discuss trade and other issues.

See CLINTON on Page 16A.

Clinton

Continued from Page 1A.

Earlier, Cabinet officers from both nations presented the presidents with the results of a Binational Commission meeting that included U.S. recognition that Mexicali is free from a wheat disease and that the northern Mexican state of Sonora is a low-risk zone for hog cholera. The recognition will allow more Mexican exports of wheat and pork. In return, Mexico agreed to accept more imports of Florida and Arizona citrus.

U.S. officials praised a 97-page assessment about the drug threat to both countries that concluded with what seemed to be common knowledge: that U.S. consumers use a disproportionate share of narcotics and Mexican smugglers provide the bulk of the drugs.

How the promised increase in U.S.-Mexico cooperation plays out remains to be seen. Similar pledges and proposals, later scrapped, have often been left unfulfilled.

Clinton administration officials went out of their way to tout the cooperation and mutual respect between the two countries. Samuel "Sandy" Berger, Clinton's National Security Council adviser, said that the agreements "launch a new era of bilateral cooperation."

"This is a relationship," he said, "that probably has a greater degree of richness and a greater degree of cooperation than any we have."

That professed enthusiasm for working with one another conflicts

with the attitudes of many of the citizens of both countries. Always tinged with stereotypes and mistrust, the relationship has turned brittle in recent months. Polls have found attitudes hardening in the United States toward Mexican immigrants. In Mexico, a new poll in the newspaper *Reforma* found that only 36 percent of those surveyed expressed a favorable view of the United States, down from 62 percent a year ago.

Reforma blamed the soured feelings on the bitter feuding in February over the U.S. Congress' certification of Mexico as a full partner in the war against drugs.

In recognition of those views, the Zedillo government strayed from tradition and refrained from lining Mexico City's streets with U.S. flags for Clinton's visit.

The governments agreed to greater sharing of information know-how to track laundered narcotics money in the Mexican financial system.

Mexico also agreed to "consider and undertake" extradition of Mexicans accused of committing crimes of a "heinous nature." Under this agreement, individuals could be tried on both sides of the border before serving a prison sentence in either.

Mexico in the past has refused extradition of its citizens or has argued that they could only be extradited after serving a sentence in their homeland.

U.S. officials hope to extradite Amado Carrillo Fuentes and other leading Mexican drug traffickers, should they ever be caught.

The U.S. government also agreed

to step up its efforts to stop the illegal trade in weapons into Mexico from the United States and said it would provide equipment and training to Mexican agents to track weapons shipments.

Officials from both governments danced around the question of whether U.S. narcotics agents working in Mexico would be allowed to carry weapons. The question has been a sensitive one here, because many Mexicans see U.S. law enforcement agents working here as an infringement on their country's sovereignty.

U.S. drug czar Barry McCaffery told reporters, "We are committed to protecting law enforcement officials from both nations, and we will do that."

While promising to try to soften the blow of new U.S. immigration laws that took effect April 1, Clinton and his aides defended Washington's right to prevent illegal immigrants from crossing the border or from receiving public assistance once they do.

"I'm proud of our tradition of generous legal immigration," he said at an afternoon press conference. "But we must take effective action to stop illegal immigration."

Other accords were signed dealing with the funding and construction of border wastewater treatment plants, a new bridge at Brownsville and improved border crossings elsewhere. Both Clinton and Zedillo expressed concern for the border environment, which has been heavily damaged by rapid industrialization and population growth on the Mexican side.

Clinton's visit came just two months before congressional, state and local elections across Mexico in which Zedillo's long-ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, faces strong challenges from two leading opposition parties.

The timing has led many Mexicans to suggest that the Clinton administration was favoring the PRI, which has controlled national politics in Mexico since 1929. But some opposition political leaders said they were encouraged by Clinton's decision to meet briefly with opposition leaders Tuesday night.

"He is adapting to the new political realities," said Victor Quintana, a federal congressman and prominent member of the center-left Democratic Revolution Party. "Clinton thinks it better to have these meetings on the eve of the elections, knowing its going to be very difficult for the PRI to win a majority of the congress."

Both presidents clearly prefer to focus on the burgeoning trade relationship.

Clinton and his aides argued that the NAFTA trade accord, which took effect in January 1994 and will be gradually implemented by the year 2009, had helped stabilize the Mexican economy.

Zedillo credited NAFTA with a surge in trade between the United States and Mexico.

"Thanks to these policies of opening up toward foreign countries and the internal liberalization of our economy," he said, "we will now be able to open up a period of sustained growth, dynamic growth."

The Dallas Morning News

Dallas, Texas, Wednesday, May 7, 1997

Drug problem crosses border, Clinton says

U.S., Mexico to seek solution

By Tracey Eaton
and Kathy Lewis

Staff Writers of The Dallas Morning News

MEXICO CITY — President Clinton, trying to soothe hurt and angry feelings in Mexico, on Tuesday strongly denounced U.S. consumption of illicit drugs as a key factor in the two nations' "common" problem.

"Illegal narcotics are not simply a Mexican problem, far from it," he said in a news conference with Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo.

"But neither are they simply an American problem. They are our common problem, and we must find a common solution."

The U.S. and Mexican presidents Tuesday signed a "Declaration of Alliance Against Drugs," requiring

■ Leftist leader visits U.S. 16A

■ Meeting with opposition. 20A

each government to devise a "common counterdrug strategy" by year's end.

Mr. Zedillo said the United States and Mexico now have a shared vision of the magnitude of the problem and a vow to combat it "with all of the resources within our reach."

Mr. Clinton said the two nations are carrying cooperation on drug trafficking, immigration and other sensitive issues "to a higher level" than ever before.

The two leaders also signed an agreement aimed at better managing the nearly 2,000-mile-long border and vowed to work together on
Please see CLINTON on Page 21A.

Clinton tells Mexico drugs 'our common problem'

Continued from Page 1A.

"migrant trafficking, protecting the rights of migrants and removing criminal aliens." In discussing Mexico's drug-trafficking problems, Mr. Clinton also explicitly said the United States shares some of the blame. Mexican officials have complained that some critics in Congress and elsewhere haven't addressed that issue.

"Let's be frank here among friends," Mr. Clinton said. "On the American side... we have less than 5 percent of the world's population, and we consume about half the drugs. And we're more than happy every year, American citizens, to give billions of dollars that wind up in the hands of narco-traffickers."

White House drug czar Barry McCaffrey buttressed those remarks.

He said the United States realizes that the \$50 billion that U.S. citizens spend on illegal drugs is a "major part of the equation whose sum" is crime, corruption and death.

Mexican Attorney General Jorge Madrazo said the "backbone" to the anti-drug fight must be "a significant decrease in the consumption of drugs" in the United States.

Goals of the new drug alliance signed by Mr. Clinton and Mr. Zedillo include cutting narcotics demand, production and distribution; rooting out corruption; seizing drug shipments; strengthening extradition policies and using the il-

licit proceeds of the narcotics trade to help fund the anti-drug fight.

Some drug-trade experts are skeptical that the agreement will have much impact.

"This is pure window-dressing," said Donald Ferrarone, a former official with the Drug Enforcement Administration. "It's a repeat of everything we've seen: The announcement of massive changes, people in the Mexican government making sincere promises. ... But when it's all over, the problem is worse than before."

Mr. Madrazo has conceded that corruption is severe and deeply rooted. But he said Tuesday that "much has been done, much has been accomplished."

Mexican authorities last week announced that they were abolishing their 3-year-old anti-drug institute and replacing it with another counternarcotics agency. The move came two months after the stunning arrest of the anti-drug institute's director, Jesus Gutierrez Rebollo, who was charged with taking payoffs from alleged drug kingpin Amado Carrillo Fuentes.

Agents joining the new drug agency must undergo drug, lie-detector and psychological tests.

"The Mexicans are trying to build a new drug police, and we're going to support their efforts," Mr. McCaffrey said.

Mr. Gutierrez headed the anti-drug institute for less than nine

weeks before his arrest.

At first, Mexican officials "did not believe he was a crook," said a high-level Clinton administration official who requested anonymity. "They had an internal debate over what to do. President Zedillo said, 'Bust him,' and that's what they did."

The Gutierrez arrest created "enormous agony" for both governments, the official said. But since then, the two sides have "made enormous progress."

The idea of Mexican and American police working together is a delicate subject in Mexico. Many Mexicans worry that U.S. police will act on their own, violating Mexican sovereignty.

But U.S. officials say that won't happen. Police and soldiers from each country share intelligence, support and training, but they won't have "any enforcement responsibilities at all" in their neighboring countries.

A 97-page assessment of the drug trade by the U.S. and Mexican governments includes little more than a page on corruption.

Mr. McCaffrey acknowledged that corruption is a threat. But he said he is proud of the joint document, the first of its kind, calling it "a practical guide to moving ahead."

Mr. McCaffrey also said that U.S. and Mexican officials have improved cooperation on such issues as arms smuggling and money laun-

dering. Fifty-seven of the Mexican government's 202 money-laundering investigations are being carried out with help from U.S. authorities.

On the controversial issue of whether U.S. drug agents can carry guns in Mexico, Mr. Zedillo said the anti-drug document included a statement that said the governments will do whatever necessary to ensure the protection of law enforcement officials.

He said that must be translated into practical measures, and it would not be appropriate to discuss specific mechanisms.

"I am sure that President Clinton, nor myself, would ever make public the details which might jeopardize the safety of these people," he said.

Looking out on orange trees and bougainvilleas, the two leaders met on the lawn of the Los Pinos Presidential Palace to sign the drug-fighting and immigration agreements.

"No two countries are working together on more important issues, with a more direct effect on the lives of their people than Mexico and the United States," Mr. Clinton said.

The two leaders also received reports from nearly a dozen members of their cabinets. Officials reported progress on immigration and several border and environmental issues, including a \$170 million U.S. grant for border water projects.

Left unresolved during the meet-

ing was the controversy of Mexican trucks crossing the border into the United States.

"I'm not sure it's going to be resolved any time in the very near future," said White House Chief of Staff Erskine Bowles in Washington.

A provision of the North American Free Trade Agreement to allow trucks from both countries to operate in border states was suspended in late 1995 by the Clinton administration, which cited concerns about the safety of Mexican trucks.

Before attending a performance of the Ballet Folklorico and a state dinner at the National Palace, Mr. Clinton paid a symbolic visit to the monument dedicated to the "child heroes," a group of Mexican cadets who were among the last to perish during the 1847 U.S. invasion of Mexico.

"I'm going there as a gesture of respect," Mr. Clinton said.

"President Truman went there as well when he was here, and it's my understanding that no one has gone there since."

Outside the monument, at Mexico City's Chapultepec park, several hundred Mexicans gathered, hoping to catch a glimpse of the president.

Most said they admired his efforts to heal old wounds with Mexico.

Eduardo Breton, 24, a student, called it "an attempt to bury the past and begin a new relationship."

A few criticized Mr. Clinton.

"If Clinton wants to be our friend, like he says he does, then he should treat our hard-working immigrants better and not deny them safety, education and health care," said office worker Irene Moreno, 50.

Staff writers Laurence Hiff in Mexico City and Susan Feeney in Washington, D.C., contributed to this report.

Clinton meets Mexico's opposition leaders

By Alfredo Corchado

Mexico City Bureau of The Dallas Morning News

MEXICO CITY — President Clinton, in a significant nod to Mexico's growing political vitality, met briefly Tuesday with leaders of the country's two largest opposition parties.

U.S. presidents traditionally have shunned meetings with opponents of the Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, which has ruled the country for nearly seven decades.

But Mr. Clinton met for about 20 minutes each with officials of the PRI and with leaders of the center-right National Action Party, known as the PAN, and the center-left Democratic Revolutionary Party, known as the PRD.

Afterward, the president said the meetings were meant to show support for political reform. "I do this in other countries, Russia, Israel," Mr. Clinton said. "I thought it was important."

The courtesy visits were closely watched in this important political year. Crucial national elections, in which the PRI could lose control of Congress for the first time in its history, will be held in July.

U.S.-Mexico specialists said Mr. Clinton may be anticipating such a shift in the balance of power.

"This is definitely a change, a first, a sign that Washington is finally supporting Mexico's democratic process," said Rodolfo de la Garza, a political science professor at the University of Texas at Austin. "The meeting, I'm sure, will further strengthen the credibility of Mexico's opposition parties and anger the PRI to no end."

Earlier in the day, Mr. Clinton said that Mexico's political and economic reforms offer the country a bright future.

"Mexico is opening democracy's door, embarking on bold economic reforms, decentralizing power and giving new voice to its citizens, communities and regions," he said.

After the meeting, PAN President Felipe Calderon Hinojosa said his discussion with the president was "positive and very amicable."

He said Mr. Clinton "insisted several times that the U.S. government would have no problem if the opposition was to govern Mexico some day."

PRD President Andres Lopez Obrador said he complained to Mr. Clinton about the U.S. government's harsh anti-immigrant policies.

"Our discussions were very frank

Historic visits part of supporting political reform, president says

and clear," Mr. Lopez said. "The president was very tolerant, and he didn't seem bothered at all by our criticism."

U.S. and Mexican officials played down Mr. Clinton's brief visits.

Thomas F. "Mack" McLarty, special U.S. envoy to the Americas, called it "standard procedure."

"We have done that on every state visit in which I have accompanied the president," he said. "It's much more the norm than the exception."

But PAN and PRD leaders say the meeting was anything but normal.

"The United States has always been hypocritical, demanding democracy in Cuba, Afghanistan and China, but not in Mexico," said PRD Congressman Cuauhtemoc Sandoval. "We hope that beginning with this meeting, the situation changes and the United States can have an open and frank relationship with all political parties."

Mr. Calderon, who met with Mr. Clinton along with the PAN governors of Chihuahua and Baja California, said it was important for the party to present itself to the American president as a viable political alternative.

Both PAN and PRD members had vowed to use the opportunity to express their concern over the U.S. drug certification process that many Mexicans consider demeaning and disrespectful and over U.S. policy toward documented and undocumented Mexican immigrants.

Already, about half of the Mexican population is governed by the opposition, with the PAN ruling about 40 percent and the PRD with a little more than 10 percent.

The meeting should also play well with Mexican Americans abroad, whose growing political muscle hasn't gone unnoticed by either Democrats or Republicans. For decades, many Mexican Americans have called on the U.S. government to help level the political playing field in Mexico by recognizing opposition parties.

"This recognition was long overdue," said Tereso Ortiz, president of the nonprofit Dallas-Mexico Casa Guajaluto, an organization that promotes cultural and political awareness in both countries. "This is an important moment for Mexico, one that we're monitoring closely from here."

Mr. Clinton's visit comes at a critical time in Mexico, given the growing strength and influence of opposition parties and independent citizen groups.

But despite political gains, the opposition's role is still limited to the state and local level, with the financial purse strings remaining under the control of the federal government, analysts say.

The PRI, however, is in trouble, after political assassinations, two rebel uprisings, the worst economic crisis in 60 years and charges of drug corruption among high-level military officers and ruling party politicians.

Even once-loyal party-affiliated union members, who once represented the backbone of the PRI, hissed and booed Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo and other party officials during traditional May Day ceremonies last week.

Concerned that unquestioning support for the ruling party may be short-sighted, the Clinton administration is now promoting democracy in Mexico as part of its economic and political development strategy throughout Latin America, said a senior official of the U.S. Agency for International Development who requested anonymity.

Since 1994, U.S. political parties, the National Endowment for Democracy and AID have earmarked nearly \$5 million to Mexico's growing citizen groups promoting democracy.



Associated Press

After taking part in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Monument to the Boy Heroes in Mexico City, President Clinton watches a rifle volley Tuesday honoring the six military cadets who jumped to their deaths rather than surrender to invading U.S. forces 150 years ago.

Clinton appeals for expansion of free-trade area

He hails Mexico, U.S. as partners

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — President Clinton today appealed for free trade throughout Latin America and said the United States and Mexico must defy people who "would throw up walls of protection."

In a direct appeal to the Mexican people, Clinton called the North American Free Trade Agreement a boon to the American and Mexican economies. "We must accelerate the pace of these efforts, to reach more people and more communities," he said.

"We must include more nations in our partnership, so that we can achieve our goal of a Free Trade Area of the Americas," he said.

After soothing the Mexican government in talks on immigration and drugs Tuesday, Clinton addressed hundreds of Mexicans in the National Auditorium beneath a huge Mexican flag.

Clinton, who honeymooned here 22 years ago, sprinkled the

Clinton applauded Mexico for repaying a \$13.5 billion U.S.-engineered rescue package.

speech with lines designed to appeal to the pride of Mexicans, many of whom feel the United States treats them like a second-rate neighbor.

He congratulated the government for "carrying forward bold political reforms" and said the United States and Mexico are true partners on drug-fighting and creating a safe border.

The message was a follow-up to talks Tuesday with President Ernesto Zedillo.

A series of modest agreements on immigration, drugs and trade appeared to defuse tensions between the two governments.

Clinton told cheering Mexicans today that their government has banded with the United States to "seize the opportunities and defeat the dangers of this new time."

-- Illegal narcotics, organized crime and environmental decay.

On immigration, the message was tailored for Mexican and American consumption.



Associated Press

SALUD! President Clinton toasts Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo on Tuesday at the National Palace in Mexico City.

For his constituents back home, Clinton vowed to "take effective action to stop illegal immigrants. We are a nation of immigrant — and of laws. Just as those who obey our laws are welcome, those who break the laws must face the consequences."

For Mexico, he promised a policy that is "fair, generous, safe and orderly."

But the main focus of his remarks was trade.

Arguing for freer trade throughout the Americas, he said U.S.-Mexico trade has increased 60 percent since NAFTA tore down trade barriers in 1994.

However, U.S. trade with Mexico went from a \$1.7 billion surplus in 1993 to a record deficit of \$16 billion in 1996. Critics claim up to 600,000 jobs were lost because companies found cheaper Mexican labor under NAFTA.

Lingering opposition to NAFTA has stalled Clinton's drive for congressional authority to negotiate "fast track" trade deals throughout Latin America.

Fast-track authority would give Clinton the ability to negotiate trade agreements under expedited

and Clinton's record on Mexico have helped ease animosity toward the United States.

"Clinton has done much to counteract hostility against Americans here," said Strack.

Clinton also may have smoothed some ruffled feathers by acknowledging that Mexico's drug scourge is fueled by America's insatiable demand for drugs. "Let's be frank here among friends," he

said on Tuesday, adding that the United States has less than 5 percent of the world's population but consumes about half the illegal drugs.

At a state dinner later, Clinton observed that "Mexico's leaders and political parties are opening the doors of democracy wider than ever."

In return, Zedillo called the relationship between Mexico and

the United States "increasingly broad, increasingly complex, increasingly promising."

On Tuesday, Clinton also squeezed in a 20-minute meeting with Mexican political opposition leaders — the first American president to do so. Asked why he made the gesture, Clinton said, "Because we support the political reform process in Mexico. I do this in other countries."

procedures that require Congress to accept or reject them without amendments.

Clinton's power in this area expired at the end of 1993, and the administration has been unable to gain renewed authority because of an impasse over the president's insistence that he be allowed to include safeguards on worker rights and the environment as part of any new trade agreements. Republicans don't want to give him that broad a negotiating mandate.

Clinton also applauded Mexico for repaying a \$13.5 billion U.S.-engineered rescue package. The payment would not have been as prompt without the benefits of NAFTA, the administration says.

Clinton was carving out time for sightseeing. He was having lunch with Zedillo in the town of Tlaxcala, the site of the oldest permanent Catholic structure in the New World — the San Francisco monastery complex.

Today is Clinton's second full day in Mexico.

Judith Strack, an American who has lived in Mexico City for 20 years, said on Tuesday the trip

Mexican town warms up to Clintons

By Mimi Hall
USA TODAY

TLAXCALA, Mexico — On the last day of his first state visit to Mexico, President Clinton got the welcome he'd been awaiting: Thousands of cheering Mexicans greeted him in this picturesque town 80 miles east of Mexico City.

Hundreds stood on hilltops and rooftops to watch Marine One helicopter touch down on a soccer field about a mile from the town square.

Hundreds more lined the streets, waving U.S. and Mexican flags, cheering, singing and playing guitars to welcome Clinton, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo.

As Clinton's motorcade made its way to the Plaza de la Constitucion, a blizzard of red, white, blue and green confetti fluttered down.

The welcome here, boosted by supporters bused in by the government, was in stark contrast to the reception Clinton received in Mexico City on Monday, when some Mexicans took to the streets in protest. They were angered by tough new U.S. immigration laws and a recent, unsuccessful effort in the U.S. Congress to decertify Mexico as an ally in the war on drugs.

Here in Tlaxcala, however, people seemed genuinely thrilled by the first visit of a U.S. president to their town.

During a tour of the 16th century San Francisco monastery chapel, which boasts the oldest pulpit in the Americas, Clinton said previous presi-

"didn't know what they missing. ... It's extraordi-



By Greg Gibson, AP

Tour: President Clinton, Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo and their wives, Hillary and Nilda, visit the pre-Aztec ruins of Teotihuacan on Wednesday. Aztecs believed the site was 'where men become Gods.'

narily beautiful."

He told the crowd that he and his wife honeymooned in Mexico 22 years ago.

"This is a very romantic city to be in today, and we thank you for that," Clinton said.

Clinton was energized by the enthusiastic reception, and aides said he was feeling better Wednesday, several days after back spasms related to the physical therapy he's receiving for his injured knee. He walked on his crutches along a rope line, shaking hands with scores of townspeople who reached out to touch him and hand him gifts, including fake red roses and Mexican blankets.

One boy, 9-year-old Aldo Herrera Valladolid, hugged his mother and cried after Clinton signed a poster he'd made welcoming the president. Those around him said the boy was overwhelmed with joy and excitement.

Clinton, Zedillo and a small group of local dignitaries also were treated to traditional Tlaxcalteco Indian dancing by performers in spectacular feathered costumes.

White House spokesman Mike McCurry said Clinton was "beaming from one part of Tlaxcala to the other."

Later in the day, Clinton helicoptered to the ancient and

mysterious pre-Aztec pyramids at Teotihuacan. The Aztecs discovered the site, built around 100 B.C., and believed it was where the gods came to create the sun and moon.

The archeological site is known as the place "where men become Gods."

The Clintons and Zedillos toured the area with archeologists in a Volkswagen bus with the top chopped off.

Later Wednesday, Clinton flew to Costa Rica for a summit today with Central American leaders. His week-long trip to Latin American will be followed by a weekend summit in Barbados.

President says NAFTA helps all to prosper

MEXICO CITY — President Clinton extolled the benefits of the North American Free Trade Agreement as good for the U.S. and Mexico on Wednesday, and he urged Mexicans to embrace democratic and economic reforms sweeping their nation.

Wrapping up the official portion of his three-day visit to Mexico, Clinton, in a televised speech, said skeptics who "painted a dark picture of lost jobs and boarded-up factories" were wrong.

He cited a 60% growth in trade between the countries since NAFTA was adopted in 1994 and noted that U.S. exports to Mexico are 37% higher than before NAFTA.

Clinton also said he will fight for passage in Congress of "fast-track" legislation that would speed the establishment of free trade throughout Latin America.

He faces a tough fight: some liberals and conservatives oppose the idea, saying U.S. jobs will be lost as companies build plants in countries with lax labor and environmental standards.

Clinton also reassured Mexicans, that the U.S. will treat Mexico with respect as it works to enforce its immigration and anti-drug laws.

By Mimi Hall

WASHINGTON AND THE WORLD

Trade missions resume with S. America trip

Commerce chief: Selection process was free of politics

By Tom Squitieri
USA TODAY

Commerce Secretary William Daley begins a 10-day trade mission to South America Sunday to boost U.S. markets for telecommunications and energy — and bury lingering questions about the political nature of such trips.

Thirty-one executives from firms that range from giants such as Raytheon Electronic Systems to the eight-employee Sea Sweep Inc. of Denver will go with Daley to Brazil, Argentina and Chile.

Such trade missions came under attack last fall after charges that invitations to join the trips went to businessmen who gave big donations to the Democratic Party.

Daley promised in his confirmation hearings earlier this year to use new methods to ensure that politics and cash didn't decide who got seats.

"We set out the criteria to make sure those on the mission are above questions," Daley said Wednesday. "We feel very comfortable this process has worked well."

Daley created a two-level process to check out business leaders wanting to go on the trip.

Applicants were first reviewed by a panel of five Commerce staffers and one political appointee, Cheryl Brunner. She is the director of the Office of Business Liaison.

That panel evaluated the ap-

plicants to see if their companies and their reasons for making the trip would coincide with the Commerce Department's goals.

Another panel made the final selection. On that panel were three Commerce employees and two political appointees. Daley had no role in deciding who was on the trip. "I think that was important for credibility," Daley said. Some are not so sure.

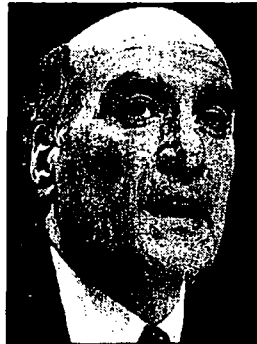
Larry Klayman, who heads a nonpartisan government watchdog group called Judicial Watch, said the guidelines are discriminatory. Judicial Watch has sued the Commerce Department to provide documents related to the Democratic Party fund-raising furor.

"It shows you these so-called guidelines are a sham," Klayman said. "We were concerned at the time they came out that they still allowed political appointees to sit on the panels that made choices."

Klayman applied to go on the trip as a representative of his company, Free Trade Enterprises, which markets imports and exports. He was not selected.

The trip was announced in early April. Details were published in the Federal Register and on the Internet, various home pages, the National Trade Data Bank and a variety of other areas.

Daley and other Commerce officials were concerned the bad publicity surrounding



Daley: Wants trade missions 'above questions'

trade missions would deter applicants. But more than 150 applications were received.

A review of Federal Election Commission records of the 31 people on the trip shows no pattern in political giving.

Three members on the trip, William Swanson and James Carter of Raytheon, and Terence Thorn of Enron Corp. in Houston, each gave \$1,000 to the Clinton-Gore campaign.

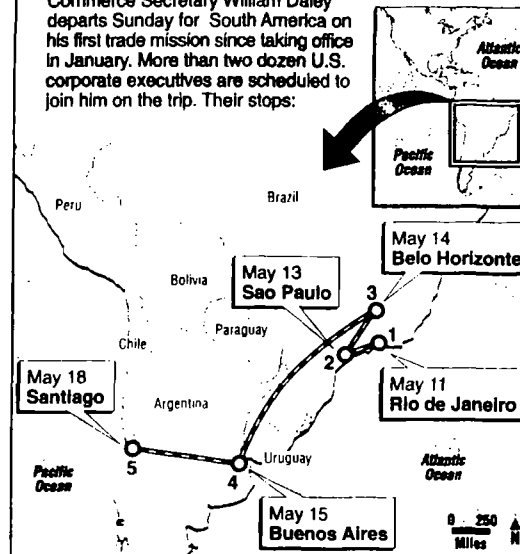
But more people on the trip gave to Republicans. Victor Fryling of CMS Energy Corp. of Dearborn, Mich., gave \$1,000 to Bob Dole's presidential campaign and the Republican National Committee. Byron Kelley of El Paso Energy in Houston gave \$1,000 to Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas.

The growing economies and open markets of Argentina, Brazil and Chile are the reason most executives said they want to be on the trip.

William Mobeck, president of Sea Sweep, says he expects a boom for his 3-year-old compa-

Trade mission stops

Commerce Secretary William Daley departs Sunday for South America on his first trade mission since taking office in January. More than two dozen U.S. corporate executives are scheduled to join him on the trip. Their stops:



Source: Commerce Department

By Grant Jarding USA TODAY

ny. It manufactures an absorbent that picks up oil spills on water and land and does not cause any damage to the environment.

It is his company's first time on a trade mission. "We're looking forward to extensive marketing in Venezuela and Chile, and this fits into our plan," he said.

Another first-time participant is Mark Buechley, president of Cord Communications in Portland, Ore. The company specializes in wireless communications networks.

Seth Buechley, company

vice president, said:

"We are particularly optimistic because their existing communication is so very poor we can go right to the cutting edge, do a leapfrog and bypass a lot of traditional methods."

Paul Smith, chief executive officer of Tenaska International of Omaha, said his company has four likely projects brewing in Brazil in the \$100 million to \$400 million range. The company is involved in power plants and pipelines and "sees the visible support of the U.S. government as very useful in our commercial efforts."

EXECUTIVES ON TRADE MISSION

Ronald Allen; president/CEO, Alenco International; Orlando, Fla.

Donald Black; vice president and general manager for sales and marketing, McDonnell Douglas Corp.; Arlington, Va.

Norman Preston Byers; president, Telos International; Ashburn, Va.

Mark Buechley; president, Cord Communications; Portland, Ore.

J. Joseph Burgess; president/CEO, Ogden Yorkshire Water; Fairfield, N.J.

James Carter; vice president and program manager, Raytheon Electronic Systems; Bedford, Mass.

Steven Crain; senior vice president, business development, Panda Energy International; Dallas

Tom Cook; president, SABRE Decision Technologies, The SABRE Group; Dallas

Aaron Eisendrath-Haelbig; vice president Latin American operations, Intergram International; Englewood, Colo.

Victor Fryling; president, CMS Energy; Dearborn, Mich.

James Gleason; president and chairman, Gleason Corp.; Rochester, N.Y.

Robert Hargrave; chief financial officer, Stewart and Stevenson; Houston

Richard Herring; CEO, EarthWatch; Longmont, Colo.

Jerry Jackson; chairman, Kleinfelder Inc.; San Diego

Thomas Kamm; vice president, Multi Electric Manufacturing; Chicago

Byron Kelley; executive vice president, El Paso Energy;

Houston

Carlos Linares; president, Southern Cone, Lucent Technologies; Coral Gables, Fla.

Derek May; senior vice president, international manufacturing strategy, QUALCOMM Inc.; San Diego

Patrick McNamara; vice president, International Operations; Glenayre Electronics; Blaine, Wash.

William Mobeck; president, Sea Sweep; Denver

John Nash; president, Irwin Financial Corp.; Columbus, Ind.

George Parker; board member and chairman, investment committee; Continental Airlines; Houston

Roberto Peon; president, Latin America BellSouth; Washington, D.C.

J. Doug Pitts; president, Parsons Latin America; Pasadena, Calif.

Dan Przybylski; president, Motorola International; Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Larry Smith; vice president, international sales and marketing, Harris Corp.; Melbourne, Fla.

Paul Smith; CEO, Tenaska International; Omaha

William Swanson; executive vice president, Raytheon Electronic Systems; Bedford, Mass.

James Thomson; president, Consolidated Natural Gas International; Reston, Va.

Terence Thorn; senior vice president, Enron Corp.; Houston

E.J. Walsh; group president, Stone & Webster; Boston

Los Angeles Times

THURSDAY, MAY 8, 1997

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Agence France-Presse

Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo and President Clinton greet crowd in visit to Tlaxcala, near Mexico City.

Clinton Urges Mexicans to Help on Trade, Drugs

■ **Diplomacy:** President accents partnership as he defends NAFTA and emphasizes U.S. respect for southern neighbor.

By ELIZABETH SHOGREN
and MARY BETH SHERIDAN
TIMES STAFF WRITERS

MEXICO CITY—A beaming President Clinton told Mexicans on Wednesday that "our economic integration is inevitable" and urged them to help him fight common scourges such as drugs and defend the North American Free Trade Agreement.

In the most extensive speech of his three-day state visit, Clinton stressed the heightened importance of the partnership with Mexico—the United States' No. 3 trading partner but also its No. 1 provider of illegal immigrants and primary transit point for cocaine. And, apparently seeking to heal recent tensions, he went out of his way to emphasize U.S. respect for Mexico, which is highly sensitive to slights from its powerful neighbor.

The speech was the main event on a day when Clinton also revealed in a visit to some of Mexico's tourist wonders. He was greeted by showers of confetti in the colonial town of Tlaxcala and toured pyramids built by a lost civilization at Teotihuacan outside the capital.

Clinton's first official visit here has largely been overshadowed by the contentious issues of drug trafficking and a U.S. crackdown on illegal immigration. But on Wednesday, he and Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo focused on NAFTA, the 3-year-old trade pact among the United States, Mexico and Canada, urging that it be enlarged to include other democracies in the hemisphere.

Before NAFTA, "many people in both our countries painted a dark picture of lost jobs and boarded-up factories," Clinton told thousands

Please EXICO, A38

PRIDE: Walking a Diplomatic Tightrope

Continued from A38

ing the giant-screen showing of a slick film enshrining the North American Free Trade Agreement as the foundation of a new U.S.-Mexican partnership.

But the U.S. president alluded only briefly to what several analysts here saw as a hidden Mexican agenda—one in which the government and the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, had to walk the same tightrope between Mexican pride and U.S. partnership.

Clinton congratulated Mexico for "bold political reforms" that have made the upcoming July 6 polls for Mexico's lower house of Congress, Mexico City's mayor and half a dozen governorships "the most intensely contested elections in your history."

At a news conference the previous day, though, Clinton dodged a question that many analysts here are asking: After decades of strong U.S. support for Mexico's ruling-party governments, how would Clinton react to an opposition legislative victory this summer?

"Clinton played up the Mexican rhetoric beautifully, but it was pretty thin cover," said Mexican political analyst Federico Estevez. "This is two months from election day here, and this character came down here on a campaign swing for [Zedillo] and the PRI."

For Estevez and other independent analysts, Clinton's dozens of photo opportunities with Zedillo—and the lavish praise he consistently heaped on Mexico's president—served to boost the image of Zedillo's party, which is locked in its tightest electoral battle ever to retain control of the Chamber of Deputies and the capital city.

And on Wednesday, Clinton was flown to Tlaxcala, a traditional PRI stronghold about 50 miles east of the capital, for what resembled a classic ruling-party campaign rally—thousands of "ordinary Mexicans" were bused in by officials, who handed out tiny U.S. flags.

The analysts stressed that Zedillo and the PRI, like the government that the party has controlled for nearly seven decades, had to mix those "photo ops" with a heavy dose of Mexican nationalism for domestic political consumption.

"The Mexican government and the PRI, on the 'Yankee issue,' have to tiptoe around on eggshells, it's true," said Estevez, a professor at Mexico's Autonomous Institute of Technology. That was especially true after a series of bitter disputes recently between Mexico and the United States on the issues of drug trafficking and illegal immigration, he added.

"You really did need a reconcilia-

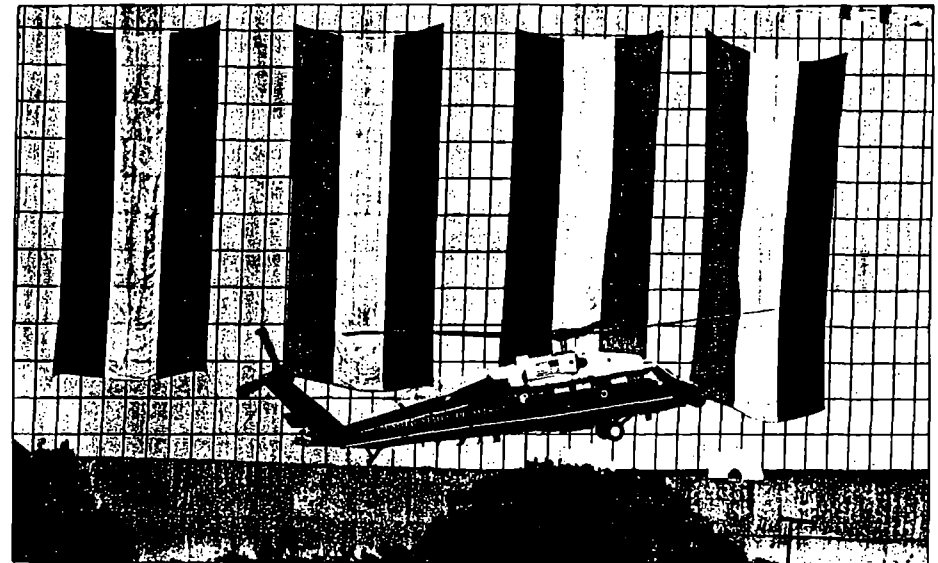
tion chapter in the relationship after the bubbling conflicts of the last few months," he said. "But really—two months before election day?"

The White House flatly denied any political motives. Clearly conscious of the political implications of the trip's timing, though, it arranged for Clinton to meet for 15 minutes each with leaders of three major political parties here, including the PRI. They were the first such meetings ever held, and helped blunt criticism of the visit by the opposition, which has gained vast political ground nationwide during the past two years.

But Clinton's presence did alienate some in Mexico City's society: protesters from the political left, right and center who were consistently stymied in their attempts to stage street demonstrations during the president's stay.

Day after day, hundreds of riot police neutralized groups of protesting teachers, street activists, students and leftists by blocking their access to the U.S. Embassy, Clinton's hotel and elsewhere near the center of town.

"We haven't seen this kind of police repression since 1968"—the year of violent student demonstrations in Mexico City—said a costumed urban activist who is known here as Super Barrio. "The police are doing everything they can to



Reuters

Marine One helicopter takes off near red-white-and-blue banners designed for President Clinton's visit.

repress any voice speaking out against Bill Clinton."

"The police have never treated us like this before," said Minerva Calderon, a protesting teacher. "Usually they respect our right to demonstrate."

In fact, Clinton spent no time at all on Mexico City's streets during a visit of carefully orchestrated, heavily secured events that affected many people's lives in this

sprawling, congested city by creating nightmarish traffic jams. Rather, Clinton focused his speeches, toasts and public events on defusing the causes of the suspicions and misconceptions behind many Mexicans' resentment toward the United States.

He laid a wreath at Mexico City's Boy Heroes monument, which honors six young Mexicans supposedly killed during a U.S. invasion of

this capital 150 years ago—the war that cost Mexico more than half its territory.

After signing agreements with Zedillo on the most contentious issues of immigration and drugs, Clinton told reporters that he had come to help heal the wounds of war and mistrust.

Not once did he comment publicly on the striped banners waving from posts around town.

It Takes a Village to Raise a Rumpus for Two Visiting Presidents

■ **Mexico:** Clinton and Zedillo get a warm welcome in heart of PRI country.

By STANLEY MEISLER
TIMES STAFF WRITER

TLAXCALA, Mexico—For an hour Wednesday, a Mexican official on a loudspeaker exhorted thousands of people in this old colonial town to cry out and whistle and wave their small flags with "pride and emotion and respect and joy" when the presidents of the United States and Mexico arrived together.

The Mexicans followed instructions, and Bill Clinton soon received the warmest and most massive welcome of his three-day state visit to Mexico, his first as president. The enthusiasm prompted Thomas "Mack" McLarty, the president's special envoy to the Americas, to tell reporters: "This is a hometown crowd. . . . You get out in the country, and the people just really make an effort. The people are so warm."

That warmth was reflected when Clinton left the podium and walked with his crutches to the crowds in the central gardens of the Plaza de la Constitucion. Bodies surged and hands reached out to touch him. People handed him gifts—a blanket, a wooden frieze of Don Quixote and dozens of roses.

After 10 minutes of handshaking, the president came across a 9-year-old boy, Aldo, holding up a sheet of paper with welcoming words for Clinton in English. Written in various magic-marker colors, the sheet welcomed the president, called for peace and love, and asked for a remembrance of the visit, perhaps a photo with the president.

Instead, the president autographed the sheet, writing, "Aldo, good work. Thank you, Bill Clinton." When he walked away, the boy and his mother, Patricia Valladolid, hugged each other and sobbed with joy.

The town of Tlaxcala, about 50 miles east of Mexico City, was founded by the Spaniards in 1519. The plaza—with its 16th century cathedral, 16th century government palace and 18th century palace of justice—lend the town a Spanish colonial air. It is so picturesque that scenes for a new version of "The Mask of Zorro," starring Antonio Banderas and Anthony Hopkins, were filmed here a couple of months ago. The producers could not find a site in California that looked more like the U.S. state during its Spanish colonial period.

Tlaxcala is also a stronghold of the Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, which has ruled Mexico for nearly seven decades. That made it an ideal place for the government of President Ernesto Zedillo to whip up a festive welcome for Clinton.

The atmosphere was carnival-like. Half a dozen mariachi bands entertained the crowds. Folkloric dancers, the men wearing hand-carved wooden masks and the women dazzling colored dresses, jumped and twirled in the plaza to the beat of a brass band. Rainbow-colored parasols snapped open against the sun. Mexicans on rooftops threw down confetti when the cars carrying the two presidents made their way to the plaza.

Both presidents wore jackets but no ties. Zedillo, speaking to the crowd, held up two Mexican newspapers. The headlines of one shouted that "Tlaxcala is the center of the world"; the second said in English, "Welcome Bill."

"This is an especially important day for my wife and for me," Clinton, who was accompanied by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, told the crowd, "because we were married about 22 years ago, and we came to Mexico on our honeymoon. And so we always love to come back. And this is a very romantic setting to be in today."



President and Mrs. Clinton greet performers in Tlaxcala during the last day of the couple's Mexico visit.

MEXICO: Clinton Puts Accent on Partnership

Continued from A1

of business executives, officials, intellectuals and others at a ceremony in the capital's giant National Auditorium. "They were wrong. NAFTA is working for America, and it is working for Mexico."

The president's defense of the pact comes as he is seeking greater authority from Congress to negotiate trade accords—part of a drive to bring Chile and other countries into NAFTA.

Clinton also faces a potentially harsh congressional debate this summer when he is due to report on how NAFTA has affected U.S. jobs.

Clinton added that the measure of "the success of our economic partnership [is] in its human impact." He cited improvements in the environment, more secure jobs on both sides of the border and specific benefits such as better health care for Mexican women because lower tariffs have made U.S.-made equipment for mammograms and other tests more available.

Since NAFTA took effect, trade between the neighbors has jumped nearly 60%, continuing a trend of rapidly growing economic integra-

tion that began in the mid-1980s. The economic partnership has been particularly obvious in Southern California.

But vocal critics in both countries have called for changes in NAFTA. While the U.S. government denies claims that the accord has cost hundreds of thousands of American jobs, NAFTA clearly hasn't fulfilled the rosy projections made by advocates. In fact, many analysts say the impact on jobs so far has been slight.

Senior members of Clinton's Cabinet who accompanied him to Mexico acknowledged Wednesday that it would not be easy to expand NAFTA.

Getting "fast-track" authority from Congress to negotiate a bigger trade pact "will be a difficult fight," said Commerce Secretary Bill Daley at a breakfast with business executives.

Clinton returned Wednesday to a theme that has delighted Mexicans—stating that U.S. demand for illegal drugs is a major reason behind the growing narcotics business in Mexico. He called for further cooperation against drug gangs, echoing an agreement he signed with Zedillo on Tuesday.

"My friends, the battle against



Agence France-Press

President Clinton and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton try on masks as they visit the Spanish colonial town of Tlaxcala, Mexico.

drugs must unite our people, not divide them," Clinton said to warm applause.

Mexico is still stinging from a recent U.S. congressional attempt to punish this country for its inability to stem drug trafficking.

Throughout his visit, the U.S. president has poured compliments on Mexico, paying homage to its independence heroes, artists and ancient civilization in an effort to bolster relations.

Zedillo warmly returned the U.S. praise, stating Wednesday that "no one has worked with more determination to press for respect, dialogue and cooperation than Mr. President William Clinton."

Clinton arrived in San Jose, Costa Rica, late Wednesday after leaving Mexico. He is scheduled to hold a summit today with Central American leaders. He plans to finish his weeklong trip in Barbados, where he will meet with Caribbean leaders.

Mexico Walks Tightrope Between Pride and U.S. Ties

■ **Nationalism:** Rhetoric is of equality, respect—even as some fear American influence on coming elections.

By MARK FINEMAN
TIMES STAFF WRITER

MEXICO CITY—Draped beneath the presidential box at the Bellas Artes theater here during the "Concert for William Clinton" on Tuesday night were three thick stripes of red, white and blue that the Mexican government designed for President Clinton's state visit.

The bunting, which flew in place of the Stars and Stripes throughout the Mexican capital this week, stood in sharp contrast to the scene here just last month, when streets were festooned with real Spanish flags to honor visiting King Juan Carlos I of Spain—the nation that ruled over Mexico as colonial master for three centuries.

For many analysts, the ersatz U.S. flag was emblematic of the schizophrenia in Mexico's relations with its powerful northern neighbor.

As Clinton and Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo bent over backward to present themselves and their nations as equals and

partners, that banner represented the narrow path the Mexican government must navigate between the demands of national pride and its interdependence on the far wealthier and more powerful United States—especially just two months before key national elections here that could redraw Mexico's political landscape.

Throughout the three-day visit, Clinton and Zedillo scripted their speeches to address those sensitivities. Clinton used the words "mutual respect" and "partnership" like a mantra to describe a relationship that Zedillo stressed again and again must be based on "national sovereignty."

Inside the National Auditorium on Wednesday, where both leaders spoke to an invited audience of Mexico City's business, political and social elite, the real Stars and Stripes flew as large as the Mexican flag during an event titled, "Present and Future Mexico-United States Relations."

"We seek a peaceful, prosperous partnership filled with respect and dignity," Clinton declared follow-

Please see PRIDE, A39

For Mexicans, Clinton's Visit Is a Serenade

He Even Sings Along With 6-Year-Olds

By JAMES BENNET

MEXICO CITY, May 7 — Midterm federal elections may be approaching here, but no politician has been campaigning harder over the last three days for the trust and approval of the Mexican people than the President of the United States.

And the way Mr. Clinton has waged his exhausting campaign, in the first visit of his Presidency to a Latin American nation, has illuminated much about domestic politics, here and in the United States.

Today Mr. Clinton shook innumerable hands in an ancient village, where his motorcade was drenched in red, white and blue confetti and he sang "Cielito Lindo" along with a crowd of 6-year-olds. He has been dropping more and more Spanish into his public remarks. "Mexico," by this afternoon, had become "MAY-hee-co."

At every opportunity Mr. Clinton has assured Mexicans that the United States respects their country and recognizes that Americans must do more to squelch demand for drugs — themes that are at least neutral if not popular at home.

But Mr. Clinton's eagerness to accommodate Mexican concerns reached its limits on illegal immigration, an issue that roils politics in the United States. Today, in a formal address to the Mexican people here, Mr. Clinton defended a new American immigration law that is unpopular in Mexico and Central America. Tonight Mr. Clinton was scheduled to fly to San José, Costa Rica, for a meeting of Central American leaders.

"We must also take effective action to stop illegal immigration," Mr. Clinton said. "We are a nation of immigrants and of laws. Just as those who obey our laws are welcome, those who break them must face the consequences."

Mr. Clinton's visit seems sure to strengthen the hand of President Ernesto Zedillo, two months before his party could face the most serious challenge to its 70-year dominance of Mexican politics. Today, as Mr. Clinton finished his address, the two Presidents and their wives basked side-by-side in a thunderous ovation — not a bad image for any leader seeking to advertise himself as a respected and popular statesman.

As cameras recorded another scene in the 500-year-old village of Tlaxcala later this afternoon, Mr. Clinton grabbed for hands along a rope line with Mr. Zedillo right beside him. By the time the two Presidents waded in among the singing children, even the famously reserved Mr. Zedillo had begun to grin.

The two Presidents have also had more somber, and for Mexicans deeply symbolic, moments together. On Tuesday Mr. Clinton became the first American President since Harry Truman to visit the monument to the Niños Héroes, or Boy Heroes — cadets who died defending Mexico City against the United States 150 years ago. As a military band played both nations' anthems and 27 cadets fired a volley to honor the dead, the Presidents stood beside a wreath at the site. They did not say a word.

Mr. Clinton said on Tuesday that he was not meddling in Mexican politics. "The judgments in the election are for the Mexican people to make," he said.

Any diplomat, of course, would emphasize common ground, and Mr. Clinton has not aimed his empathy only at Mexicans. Looking ahead to his visit to Barbados later this week, Administration officials are calling the United States a "Caribbean nation," because of its Virgin Islands. And in an interview with Spanish-language networks on Monday, Mr. Clinton even tried to throw a bouquet to the Cubans, noting that Americans admire them for their spirit and "for their baseball playing ability."

But Administration officials said the President was particularly intent on salving Mexicans' pride, bruised by the brawl in Washington earlier this year over whether Mexico was doing enough in the fight against drugs. To that end, Mr. Clinton has over and over stressed his "respect" for Mexico.

In the first applause line of this 23-minute speech here today, Mr. Clinton declared, "We seek a peaceful, prosperous partnership filled with respect and dignity."

In his speech, Mr. Clinton, like Mr. Zedillo before him, argued that the North American Free Trade agreement had greatly benefited both the United States and Mexico. But while he declared that "we must include more nations in our partnership," President Clinton did not elaborate on his plans to bring in Chile, as his Administration hopes to do this year.

"He'll do that in the course of this year," said Michael D. McCurry, the White House press secretary. "At the moment, we're working hard to codify the balanced budget agreement." By 2005, the Administration aims to bring every Latin American nation into a free-trade zone.

Clinton Confronts Two Mexicos, One Prosperous, One Impoverished

By Molly Moore and Peter Baker
Washington Post Foreign Service

MEXICO CITY, May 7—This morning, President Clinton stood in a cavernous auditorium here before thousands of business owners and government officials wearing suits and ties, hailing the economic wonders wrought by the North American Free Trade Agreement of 1993.

This afternoon, he helicoptered 75 miles from the capital to the colonial town of Tlaxcala, where he was greeted by thousands of peasant farmers who make an average of \$3.50 a day—when they can find work—and who were lured to a colorful rally by free food, sweaters and transportation.

"There's no work in my town," said Virginio Maldonado Sanchez, a 60-year-old farm laborer who rode government bus for an hour to Tlaxcala and never got close enough to see anything other than Clinton's passing motorcade. "On days when I can find work, we eat. On days that I don't have work, we barely eat."

Clinton's day of contrasts underscored the economics and the politics of NAFTA at a time when the president is pressing to extend lower trade barriers throughout Latin America. As indicated by statistics rattled off in Clinton's keynote address at the National Auditorium in Mexico City alongside Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo, it is not

hard to find Mexicans who have benefited from the trade agreement. But as his visit to Tlaxcala demonstrated only a few hours later, it is also easy to find those who have not.

Those realities are especially important because they will help define the debate, at home and abroad, as the United States and its hemispheric neighbors move toward enhancing economic ties. Expanded free trade is a central mission of Clinton's first official trip to Latin America, which wrapped up its initial leg in Mexico as he left tonight for Costa Rica.

In the new and improved Mexico born out of NAFTA, according to Clinton, electronics workers have new jobs and better pensions, while hundreds of thousands of women now get mammograms because of American-made medical equipment.

"Many people in both our countries painted a dark picture of lost jobs and boarded-up factories, should NAFTA prevail," Clinton said in his morning speech. "Well, they were wrong. NAFTA is working—working for you and working for the American people."

But along the newly repaired streets of Tlaxcala, the peasants bused to the outdoor event described a different Mexico. They live in a state where one-quarter of all families live on \$1,042 or less a year, where a fourth of the population lives in one-room houses and where nearly a fourth of all homes

have no toilets. And this is one of Mexico's more economically sound states.

"I really hope he understands the real situation," said Claudia, a government secretary who was ordered to attend Clinton's morning speech and did not want to give her last name for fear of reprisal from Mexican authorities. "The problem is, he doesn't see it because he never sees the poor people. He never saw that because the Mexican police don't let him see them."

The effects of NAFTA are hard to pinpoint definitively, in part because it took effect at the same time the Mexican peso crisis erupted. But some things are clear—trade between the two countries has shot up dramatically since the pact was signed, rising nearly 60 percent to \$130 billion last year, making Mexico the third-largest U.S. trading partner and closing last on No. 2, Japan. Yet the slight trade surplus the United States enjoyed with Mexico before NAFTA has now turned into a \$16 billion deficit.

Tlaxcala, the capital of Mexico's smallest state, provided a carefully orchestrated backdrop for Clinton's only encounter with everyday Mexicans, rather than politicians and policy-makers. Spanish colonial buildings that line streets leading to a tree-shaded town square had been freshly painted in pastels by the Mexican government. An announcer



President Clinton, surrounded by security men, waves to crowd in Tlaxcala.

warmed up the thousands of bused-in peasants with detailed instructions on precisely how to cheer and wave the tiny plastic Mexican and U.S. flags they had been given.

"Women should scream; men should whistle!" he exhorted. "Flags should be waved in three arching motions. Show your joyful emotions."

Everywhere Clinton went, he mentioned that he and Hillary Rodham Clinton had honeymooned in Mexico in 1975. In the capital, he said, "Me encanta Mexico"—"Mexico enchants me." In Tlaxcala, he stressed that the partnership be-

tween the two countries "must be pursued in a genuine spirit of respect, equality and dignity."

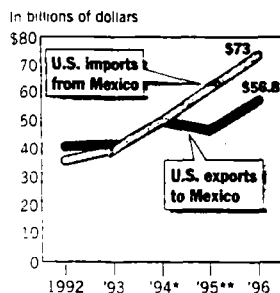
But the state's governor—Jose Antonio Alvarez Lima, a member of Zedillo's ruling party—pulled no punches in his welcoming speech, striking at issues that anger Mexicans.

He urged Clinton to help forge a U.S.-Mexican relationship as "between equals" and voiced "concern for the human rights of our fellow [Mexican] citizens in the United States"—a statement that drew the only spontaneous applause of the rally.

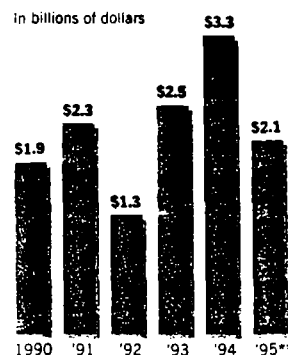
U.S.-MEXICO TIES

President Clinton, on the final day of his visit to Mexico, called for expansion of free trade across the Americas. Here is a look at the two nations' ties.

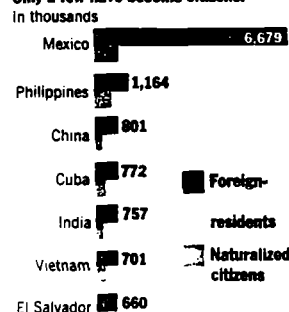
U.S.-Mexican trade has increased sharply since 1992, with a U.S. trade surplus turning into a deficit as Mexican exports surpassed U.S. imports.



The flow of U.S. investment capital to Mexico also increased.



Mexicans dominate among foreign-born residents living in the United States. Only a few have become citizens:



* 1994 was the first year of NAFTA

** Mexico devalued its currency in December 1994, leading to a severe contraction in its economy. That resulted in less purchasing power for most Mexicans (thus lower imports from the U.S.) and cheaper labor and production costs in Mexico (thus higher exports to the U.S.)

SOURCES: U.S. Commerce Department, U.S. Census Bureau

What's News—

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL THURSDAY, MAY 8, 1997

Business and Finance

CHRYSLER REACHED a tentative pact with UAW negotiators that could end a 28-day engine-plant strike, which has cost the company an estimated \$430 million. But several local union officials said they will urge members to vote against the deal, promising an unusual ratification battle. The proposed pact will essentially allow Chrysler to proceed with a previous drive-shaft outsourcing plan.

(Article on Page A3)

Borland filed a lawsuit charging Microsoft with an illegal recruiting blitz, which has lured away 34 Borland workers since 1994 and thwarted the company's financial turnaround.

(Article on Page A3)

Fuji Photo will begin manufacturing film in the U.S. for the first time, making the Japanese company a more formidable competitor of Kodak.

(Article on Page A3)

The FCC took the first major steps toward revamping the \$23 billion of telephone-firm subsidies, but postponed a decision on continuing to subsidize consumers in high-cost areas.

(Article on Page B10)

Productivity soared at a 2% annual rate in the first quarter, the biggest gain in three years. But worker compensation per hour jumped 4.7%, fueling concerns about inflation.

(Article on Page A2)

The Dow Jones Utility Average will have six new stocks out of 15, effective Monday, in one of the biggest changes in the average's 68-year history.

(Article on Page C1)

Stocks surrendered most of their gains for the week, amid sinking bond prices and program-driven stock sales. The Dow Jones industrials tumbled 139.67 to 7085.65. The dollar fell.

(Article on Page C1)

World-Wide

THE SENATE VOTED 89-11 to postpone the cutoff of benefits to legal immigrants.

The action would only delay the scheduled August cutoffs until the end of September, but it marked the first backtracking from last year's overhaul of the nation's welfare programs, and the size of the vote indicates the issue has become a sensitive one for Republicans. The recent budget pact with the White House promises an additional \$10 billion to maintain the benefits over five years, but the cost threatens to provoke a GOP backlash. (Articles on Page A24)

The White House chief of staff, Erskine Bowles, is hinting he is eager to return to private life, possibly after the budget accord takes effect in the fall.

THE ARMY CHARGED its leading enlisted soldier with adultery and assault.

Gene McKinney, a 22-year veteran who holds the title of Sergeant Major of the Army but who was suspended in February, will be investigated by a senior officer who will determine whether he should be court-martialed. Three Army women and one sailor have filed 18 charges of sexual misconduct against him, saying they took place between October 1994 and March of this year. "I have done no wrong," McKinney told reporters.

A drill sergeant at a Missouri base was convicted of consensual sex with a recruit, but acquitted on more serious charges. He faces seven years in prison.

SWITZERLAND SERVED as the Nazis' main bankers, an official U.S. report says.

Eleven federal agencies reviewed 15 million pages of documents on efforts to recover more than \$600 million in gold looted by Germany in World War II. The report lashes out at Switzerland's "obdurate" and "legalistic" defense of its wartime dealings, "regardless of the moral issues also at stake." Sweden, Portugal and Turkey also "profited handsomely" from cooperation with Hitler's regime, it says. (Article on Page A4)

A top Commerce Department aide wouldn't rule out the possibility of the U.S. calling for reopening the postwar negotiations on repatriation of assets.

Mobutu left Zaire for nearby Gabon, and many think his 32-year reign is over. Diplomats say top generals or their families have left the country. Meanwhile, residents of Kenge, 120 miles east of Kinshasa, reported a battle with hundreds of casualties. Rebels say UNITA forces from Angola have joined Mobutu's soldiers. (Article on Page A18)

Oppenheimer & Co. is in talks to be bought by PNC Bank for up to \$500 million in cash, stock and options, people familiar with the matter say.

(Article on Page C1)

The FDA approved Premier Laser Systems' Centauri, the first laser for hard-tissue dental work like removing decayed tissue and filling cavities.

(Article on Page B1)

Donna Karan posted an 87% drop in quarterly net, adding to its woes. The fashion house's stock has lost more than half its value since a 1996 IPO.

(Article on Page B1)

Three top officials of AT&T's wireless-services unit quit to form a joint venture with their former boss, Craig McCaw, a wireless-services pioneer.

(Article on Page B13)

Honda is suing Republic Industries, alleging that the company seeks to control as much as 20% of the Japanese auto maker's U.S. sales volume.

(Article on Page B6)

Bre-X's stock was delisted by the Toronto Stock Exchange as Canadian police met to coordinate their inquiry into the firm's Busang property.

(Article on Page A4)

J.P. Morgan joined its individual and institutional asset-management units and named Ramon de Oliveira to head the combined operation.

(Article on Page B13)

Markets—

Stocks: Volume 497,577,380 shares. Dow Jones industrials 7085.65, off 139.67; transportation 2594.42, off 9.25; utilities 223.94, off 4.05.

Bonds: Lehman Brothers Treasury index 6599.97, off 44.16.

Commodities: Oil \$19.63 a barrel, off five cents. Dow Jones futures index 159.81, up \$6; spot index 156.54, up 0.17.

Dollar: 124.97 yen, off 0.41; 1.7191 marks, 1.0044.

Clinton cited free trade as a centerpiece of his Latin American policy, but didn't say when he will ask Congress to renew his authority to negotiate trade accords on an expedited basis. The president praised Nafta at an appearance with Mexico's Zedillo. Clinton is due in Costa Rica today for a regional summit. (Article on Page A2)

A Bosnian Serb was convicted of war crimes and crimes against humanity by a U.N. tribunal, but cleared of charges of murdering Muslim prisoners in northwest Bosnia in 1992. Sentencing is July 1. The verdict is the first in an international war-crimes trial since the World War II era.

The Oklahoma City bombing jury heard testimony from 27 phone-company workers as the prosecution tried to link McVeigh to calls made with a prepaid phone card he allegedly bought through a right-wing magazine. Prosecutors say the phone records trace his movements leading to the attack.

Two AIDS studies show new combination treatments rapidly reduce virus levels 99% in tonsils, lymph nodes and other favorite hiding places, but after six months a slower decline begins. One study offers the statistical projection, but not the medical certainty, that elimination would take three years.

Cockroaches are a major cause of a surge in asthma cases among inner-city children, a big federally sponsored study indicates. Researchers found that children who are allergic and exposed to the insects are three times more likely to be hospitalized as children who aren't. (Article on Page B10)

South Africa's former defense chief told the commission investigating apartheid-era crimes he never ordered political assassinations but admitted covert operations against black opponents. Magnus Malan said he is seeking forgiveness, not a legal pardon.

An ex-Navy intelligence analyst pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit espionage in a plea agreement over charges he passed secrets to South Korea. Three more serious charges were dropped, but he still faces a 10-year term and \$250,000 fine.

Clinton Lauds Nafta but Steers Clear Of Timetable for Fast-Track Trade Bill

By MICHAEL K. FRISBY

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

MEXICO CITY — President Clinton cited free trade as a centerpiece for his Latin American policy, but didn't say when he would propose fast-track legislation, which would boost trade in the region.

At the National Auditorium here, both Mr. Clinton and Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo praised the North American Free Trade Agreement, saying it helped lift Mexico from economic chaos. But while Mr. Clinton has talked repeatedly about expanding Nafta, he can't negotiate any new trade pacts without the fast-track legislation, delayed in the face of political flak from liberal Democrats. White House officials say privately that the measure, which allows the president to negotiate trade pacts that Congress can approve or reject but not amend, is expected to go to

Capitol Hill by the end of summer.

Clearly, Mr. Clinton believes trade pacts can help other countries in the region. "We must accelerate the pace of these efforts to reach more people and more communities," he said. "And we must include more nations in our partnership so that we can achieve the goal we set out: a free trade area of the Americas."

But inside the White House, there is sharp contrast between how fast-track legislation is being handled compared with the Nafta fight four years ago. Then, a warroom was set up that included top Clinton aides. Now, Chief of Staff Erskine Bowles holds meetings, but the only person following up is Robert Kyle, an official at the National Economic Council.

And Democrats say Vice President

Please Turn to Page A10, Column 1

Clinton Lauds Nafta in Mexico

Continued From Page A2

Gore, a likely presidential candidate, isn't keen on picking a fight that would tick off labor. The unions, which generally oppose trade pacts, are a key voting and organizing bloc in Democratic presidential primaries.

House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt, a potential Gore opponent in 2000, is only willing to support fast track if it includes language that would force countries to abide by certain labor and environmental standards. But Republicans won't go along with it, and neither will most of America's trading partners. While the White House has dropped a proposal to include labor and enforcement, it still hasn't submitted any legislation.

Meanwhile, Mr. Clinton's speech yesterday, touting the uniqueness of the U.S.-Mexico relationship, was well-received. Mexicans saw the visit as a just reward for being good neighbors — staying in the Nafta fight despite domestic opposition and supporting political and economic reforms in the face of financial collapse.

"Four years ago, together, we led the fight for Nafta," Mr. Clinton said. "Many people in both our countries painted a dark picture of lost jobs and boarded-up factories should Nafta prevail. Well, they were wrong. Nafta is working — working for you and working for the American people."

While critics in the U.S. may insist that Nafta loses more jobs than it creates, there isn't much debate here.

The Mexican government says that last year, U.S.-Mexican trade reached a record \$140 billion, compared with the pre-Nafta level of \$86 billion in 1993. Mexico's exports to the U.S. grew by 17%, helping to boost the nation's GDP by 5.1%. And 900,000 Mexican jobs were created in the past 16 months.

More telling is the reaction from the PRD, the left-leaning opposition party that was among Nafta's strongest opponents. Now it talks of changing the pact, not dismantling it. In a meeting with Mr. Clinton on Tuesday, the PRD touted changes to create a wider distribution of wealth between the two nations.

Final day in Mexico is a winner for Clinton

Despite frank words,
he earns applause

By Paul de la Garza
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

MEXICO CITY—Earnestly courting Mexican public opinion right to the end of his three-day visit, President Clinton turned on the charm again Wednesday in parting remarks, winning repeated applause as he reiterated the importance of the relationship between Mexico and the U.S.

"Our partnership ... is fundamental to the future of the American people and the Mexican people," Clinton said. "To succeed, the partnership must be rooted in a spirit of mutual respect."

Clinton revisited issues that have divided the two nations, including disputes over drug trafficking and immigration, and he talked about the benefits of free trade to both countries. But it was his personal touch that thrilled his audience of 10,000 at the National Auditorium.

In opening his speech, the chief executive brought down the house by uttering three words in Spanish: "Me encanta Mexico" ["I am enchanted by Mexico."]

Clinton also recounted how, 22 years ago, Mexico had stolen the hearts of two newlyweds—he and his wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton, on their honeymoon.

"I was embarrassed to clap every two seconds, but I did," said Jeanette Broussi, a spokeswoman for Mexico's Foreign Ministry. "When he said, 'Me encanta Mexico,' everybody got on their feet and started clapping. We're suckers for that kind of stuff."

Delal Baer, an expert on Mexico at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, declared the Clinton trip a success. She said his visit Tuesday to the *Ninos Heroes* monument was particularly clever.

The monument honors teenagers killed in a U.S. invasion of the city 150 years ago.

"How do you hit a president who's bending over backward to communicate respect?" Baer asked. "He took the wind out of the sail of the nationalist wave building there."

Before Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo and Clinton spoke Wednesday, the lights were dimmed in the auditorium for a 15-minute video touting the successes of the North America Free



AP photo

President Clinton and Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo (left) join a group of waving children in the town of Tlaxcala on Wednesday during the final hours of the American chief executive's visit to Mexico.

Trade Agreement, which opened trade between the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

The video showed various Mexican and American workers and business people and echoed scenes out of George Orwell's book "1984," a frightening portrait of a totalitarian society.

With shots of Mexico and the U.S., including a Mexican-owned printing plant in Sparta, Ill., splashing on a giant screen, the video stressed that, since its birth in 1994, NAFTA has done nothing but good.

Critics have charged NAFTA has cost the U.S. as many as 600,000 jobs because of cheaper labor in Mexico. For Mexico, NAFTA has meant the creation of an estimated 1 million jobs, Clinton said.

He added that in three years trade between the U.S. and Mexico, America's third-largest trading partner, has grown nearly 60 percent and that exports to Mexico are 37 percent higher than before NAFTA.

In the past few months, tension between the two neighbors has grown over the issues of drugs, illegal immigration and trade, but Zedillo said NAFTA has helped make such disputes manageable.

The trade deal, Zedillo said, "is helping us know and understand each other better, it's helping us respect and listen to each other with greater attention. We have dialogue and negotiate more openly, more constructively and with more cooperation."

Zedillo said nobody has done more to better U.S.-Mexican relations than Clinton. In 1995, after



Reuters photo

Touring a crafts market in Tlaxcala, President and Mrs. Clinton try on a pair of traditional masks.

the collapse of the peso, the U.S. president helped put together a multibillion-dollar loan for Mexico, which the Mexicans repaid ahead of time. On Wednesday, Clinton congratulated Mexico for repaying the loan, a gesture that received thunderous applause.

"You have endured punishing setbacks," Clinton said. "America is proud to have worked with you from the beginning, enlisting international support for a loan package that safeguarded hundreds of thousands of jobs in both our countries and calmed emerging markets throughout Latin America and the world."

Pointing to the benefits of NAFTA for both countries, including benefits to the environment, Clinton said more nations must be included in free-trade agreements in the Western Hemisphere so everyone can prosper.

He said that is why he is working with Congress to expedite such agreements and why he is visiting Latin America twice over several months. He left Mexico late Wednesday for Costa Rica to meet with other leaders.

On Tuesday, the two presidents signed declarations pledging to intensify the war on drugs and cooperate on border migration problems; on Wednesday, Clinton returned to those subjects.

Every year, he said, drugs kill 14,000 Americans and cost the U.S. \$70 billion in crime, prisons and lost work. Every year, he said, police arrest 1 million people on drug charges. The U.S., he said, must stem its demand for drugs.

"We must face this curse together because we cannot defeat it alone. My friends, the battle against drugs must unite our people, not divide them."

Some Mexicans have labeled the new immigration law, which cracks down on illegal immigrants, as racist, but Clinton said the U.S. must protect its borders. There are an estimated 2 million undocumented workers from Mexico in the U.S. Last year, Clinton said, 160,000 Mexicans emigrated to America, "bringing their talents, energies and aspirations."

"They played by the rules, and we must make sure our system treats them fairly and gives them the chance to live up to their hopes and dreams," Clinton said. "We are a nation of immigrants and of laws. Just as those who obey our laws are welcome, those who break the laws must face the consequences."

WORLD

Children crowd around President Clinton and Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo Wednesday in the town of Tlaxcala. After their Mexico trip, the president and Hillary Rodham Clinton were headed to Costa Rica.



GREG GIBSON/ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. demand for drugs ignites Mexico's woes, Clinton says

BY TERENCE HUNT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MEXICO CITY—President Clinton on Wednesday put much of the blame for Mexico's drug corruption and violence on America's demand for cocaine and marijuana.

"The battle against drugs must unite our people, not divide them," Clinton said.

Speaking to Mexicans who filled the National Auditorium, the president acknowledged that Americans are the world's biggest consumers of narcotics.

"The money we spend on illegal drugs fuels narco-traffickers who, in turn, attack your police and prosecutors and prey on your institutions," he said. "We must fight this curse together because we cannot defeat it alone." For Mexicans, his message was welcome respite from attacks in Washington on their country's scandal-ridden effort to combat illegal drugs.

Clinton and Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo also fired back at critics of the 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement. "Many people in

both our countries painted a dark picture of lost jobs and boarded-up factories should NAFTA prevail," Clinton said. "Well, they were wrong."

Ending two days of fence-mending before traveling to Costa Rica, Clinton said, "We seek a peaceful, prosperous partnership, filled with respect and dignity."

With his official business done, Clinton flew by helicopter to Tlaxcala, a 500-year-old town 50 miles outside Mexico City. Thousands of people jammed the narrow street along his motorcade route and the air swirled with red, white and blue confetti thrown from rooftops.

"President Clinton is a good friend of the Mexicans because he respects them," Zedillo said. "He now understands what he has known for a long time—that we Mexicans are a proud people."

Mexicans were outraged earlier this year when members of Congress waged an unsuccessful drive to strip Mexico of its status as an ally in the drug war and of the funds that accompany certification. Mexicans also were unhappy about tougher laws on immigration and welfare which would have taken away benefits from most legal aliens in the U.S.

INTERNATIONAL

Clinton touts NAFTA in Mexico

By Kathy Lewis

Washington Bureau of The Dallas Morning News

MEXICO CITY — President Clinton said Wednesday that critics of the North American Free Trade Agreement have been proved wrong, but he warned that protectionist tendencies remain in Mexico and the United States.

"Many people in both our coun-

■ Editorial.

30A

tries painted a dark picture of lost jobs and boarded-up factories should NAFTA prevail. Well, they were wrong," Mr. Clinton said.

On the final day of his state visit, Mr. Clinton used a major address to talk about free trade, to praise Mexico's recovering economy and to reaffirm that he seeks a "peaceful, prosperous partnership" with Mexico.

He called for a united, not a divided, front in dealing with the "curse" of drugs and other difficult issues that stem from a shared 2,000-mile border. He also sought to reassure concerned Mexicans about new U.S. immigration laws.

And he encouraged citizens of both countries to view their inevitably intertwined lives as a positive challenge and not a negative entanglement.

"With our long border, rich history and complex challenges, Mexico and the United States have a special responsibility to work together to seize the opportunities and defeat the dangers of this time," Mr. Clinton said.

Despite his positive report card on NAFTA, polls back home show that many Americans still have doubts about it. In addition, key Democrats on Capitol Hill remain skeptical about expanding it and the issue already is being discussed in terms of presidential politics for the year 2000.

"In both our countries, there are some who throw up walls of protection to ward off the challenge of



Associated Press

President Clinton takes in the sights in Tlaxcala on Wednesday with guidance from Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo.

change," Mr. Clinton said.

"But more and more, people here and in the United States and throughout the Americas understand that openness, competition and the flow of ideas and culture can improve the lives of all our people."

Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo joined Mr. Clinton in touting NAFTA, saying it consolidated Mexico's position as the United States' third largest trading partner and as "its most dynamic partner."

Both Mr. Clinton and Mr. Zedillo cited the benefits of NAFTA. But critics point out that U.S. trade with Mexico went from a surplus in 1993 to a deficit of \$16 billion last year. Administration officials attribute that to the 1994 financial crisis in Mexico.

Despite Mexico's peso devaluation, Mr. Clinton said, trade between the two nations has grown nearly 60 percent since the agreement was enacted three years ago. U.S. exports to Mexico are 37 per-

cent higher than before the agreement, he said.

He also praised Mr. Zedillo for "keeping to the path of reform and the blueprint of NAFTA" and said that course lessened the impact of Mexico's recession.

But Mr. Clinton acknowledged that "real hardships" remain despite Mexico's "remarkable turnaround."

"You have endured punishing setbacks, but America is proud to have worked with you from the very beginning," he said.

When Congress balked, Mr. Clinton used his executive authority to produce a bailout package. In January, Mexico paid the loan off early.

Mr. Clinton said more nations should be included in the partnership to create a Free Trade Zone of the Americas. The administration has not yet presented a proposal to Congress for fast-track authority that would be needed for expansion.

The president wants to proceed

with expanding free trade to Chile. But disputes remain in Congress over whether the authority would be limited to trade matters or would include environmental and labor issues.

Fast-track authority allows presidents to negotiate comprehensive trade agreements. Congress would approve or reject the agreement rather than dealing with specific aspects of it.

Mr. Clinton ventured Wednesday to the picturesque town of Tlaxcala, where Mexican onlookers in buildings showered his motorcade with red, white, blue and green confetti, reflecting the colors of both nations.

He concluded his first presidential visit to Mexico with a sightseeing tour of the pyramids in Teotihuacan and then a brief visit to the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City. He planned to fly Wednesday night to Costa Rica, where he will meet with Central American leaders on Thursday. He also will confer with Caribbean leaders in Barbados before returning to Washington.

For two days, Mr. Clinton emphasized that the United States shares in the blame because of the demand for illicit drugs.

"We must face this curse together, because we cannot deal with it alone. My friends, the battle against drugs must unite our people, not divide them," he said Wednesday.

His visit created some traffic and commerce problems, and some residents of Mexico City said they would be glad to see him go.

Mercedes Mejia, a taco stand owner in the financial district, said the traffic snarls cost her money.

"My business is down by more than 60 percent because people can't get through here," said Ms. Mejia, pointing to the empty tables at her eatery. "If Mr. Clinton had stayed here for a week, he would have put a lot of us out of business."

Staff writer Enrique Rangel contributed to this report.

Clinton praised on Mexico trip

By Tracey Eaton
and Laurence Iliff

Mexico City Bureau of The Dallas Morning News

MEXICO CITY — President Clinton pulled it off, crutches and all. He swept into Mexico and charmed his way through elegant dinners, photo sessions and speeches, all without coming off as the great gringo savior from El Norte.

Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo scored some points of his own. He cozied up to Mr. Clinton, but not too much, jealously guarding his country's sovereignty and declaring that he wants U.S.-style free markets "but with heart and a human face."

That's the view of many U.S. experts in assessing the results of Mr. Clinton's Mexico visit.

"This whole trip was about symbols," said Delal Baer, a U.S. scholar who studies Mexico. "It was about changing the atmospherics of the U.S.-Mexico relationship."

"Since January, we had been in a downward spiral with accusations and recriminations coming from both sides," she said. "This visit was the circuit breaker. You can't get anything done when the atmosphere is charged with lightning bolts."

But while many analysts in the United States praised Mr. Clinton for what they saw as a flawless performance, many Mexicans remained ambivalent about his visit.

"The popular view in Mexico is that the United States is forcing Mexico to carry out America's economic agenda," said Julio Faesler, a candidate for federal deputy from the conservative National Action Party, or PAN.

Others say it's simply a matter of clout. The United States is a powerhouse, one of the strongest nations in the world — and Mexico is stuck in a humiliating subordinate role.

That idea came out in some of the recent editorial cartoons in Mexico City's *Reforma* newspaper. One cartoon showed Mr. Zedillo — legless and pushing himself around on a little cart — welcoming Mr. Clinton, on crutches after his recent knee injury.

Mexico's intellectual elites are particularly outspoken about Mr. Clinton, calling him a defender of Mexico's antiquated political system, run by the same party for nearly seven decades.

"I think Clinton's visit was aimed at strengthening President Zedillo," said Jose Antonio Crespo, an author and political analyst in Mexico City.

His theory is simple: The U.S. and Mexico are tied by politics and trade. But Mr. Zedillo is having trouble gaining wide public support in Mexico, so Mr. Clinton came to lend a



Associated Press

President Clinton, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo (left) greet people Wednesday in Tlax-

cala. "This beautiful city built nearly 500 years ago reminds us that some things aren't meant to change," Mr. Clinton said.

hand.

The idea that Mr. Clinton and Mr. Zedillo conspire as part of some grand plan seems wacky to many Mexico watchers in the United States. But it's standard fare in Mexico, where the government's longtime penchant for secrecy and deception has a way of spawning countless conspiracy theories.

Many other Mexicans are more interested in getting through another day of tough times than spinning such theories.

"Sure, Clinton bailed us out, but we're still poor," said Juan Dominguez, 44, a Mexico City street sweeper.

As he sees it, the U.S.-engineered \$50 billion bailout of Mexico in early 1995 was like borrowing high-interest money from a loan shark. "And we're still paying," he said.

A poll by *Reforma* and seven other newspapers indicates that Mexicans are deeply divided in their view of the United States. It said that 51 percent of those surveyed had either a bad or very bad opinion of the United States. Only 37 percent had either a good or very good view.

But U.S. analysts say Mr. Clinton handled the potentially volatile politi-

cal environment like a pro.

"He did a first-rate job with what could have been a diplomatic catastrophe," said George Grayson, a government professor at the College of William and Mary in Virginia.

"Clinton has been the best president in the world with regard to Mexico. He has avoided the land mines that far too many official visitors to Mexico have stepped on. He has treated Mexico as a partner."

Mexican Foreign Minister Jose Angel Gurría said the ultimate success of the Clinton visit comes down to intangibles — how the two presidents interact and what kind of "feeling" the American leader takes with him when he leaves.

"There is no substitute for personal interaction," he said.

Also important, he said, is that Mr. Clinton mingle with ordinary Mexicans, which he did Wednesday in Tlaxcala, a colonial city about 70 miles east of Mexico City.

"This beautiful city built nearly 500 years ago reminds us that some

things aren't meant to change," said Mr. Clinton to the cheers of some 2,000 townspeople.

Then he and Mr. Zedillo stepped down from a platform and went into the street to greet people.

At one point, Mr. Clinton autographed a sign that was held up by Aldo Herrera, 9. The boy and his mother hugged each other and started crying after the president walked away.

"To me he seemed very warm, very human," said Teresa Martinez, a university professor. "You get the feeling that he is sincere when he says he wants to be our friend."

Delfino Techachal, a retired teacher, agreed. "I think he really feels what we are going through in these difficult times and wants to help. And I think that will result in concrete actions, like helping us create more jobs in Mexico so our people don't have to leave."

Anh Do, a free-lance journalist in Mexico City, contributed to this report.

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EDITORIALS

MEXICO VISIT

We should meet challenges as allies, not enemies

President Clinton and his counterpart Ernesto Zedillo of Mexico finally faced harsh realities Tuesday. In signing joint statements on immigration and drugs, the two leaders openly addressed undeniable problems. But in opting for a cooperative approach, they deserve kudos for calming a binational relationship that in recent months has been steeped in contentiousness.

For his part, Mr. Clinton rightly acknowledged that the United States bears a share of the blame for drug trafficking because of demand here. But he was also correct to dig in his heels on the issue of border management. Mexico should grasp that only by closing the back door to illegal immigration will the United States be able to leave open the front door to generous legal immigration.

Though unaddressed by either leader, Mr. Clinton's visit — his first to a Latin American country as president — also had a specific political dimension. He sought to give Mr. Zedillo and his ruling party a boost in anticipation of critical midterm congressional elections in July. But traditional issues on the binational agenda naturally took center stage. Among them:

• **TRADE.** As the third-largest trading partner of the United States, Mexico last year imported \$76 billion worth of goods

from north of the border, of which over \$2 billion originated in the Dallas area. Before departing Mexico on Wednesday, Mr. Clinton sought to hold out the promise of more prosperous days ahead for Mexico.

• **DRUGS.** Both governments must act as allies in the fight against drug lords. In this regard, the Zedillo government deserves credit for dismantling its discredited National Drug Institute and organizing a new drug crime-fighting unit. For its part, the U.S. has announced it is earmarking \$6 million to help enhance Mexico's law enforcement capacity in fighting drugs.

• **IMMIGRATION.** The Mexicans fear that new U. S. immigration initiatives may actually curtail illegal immigration. In particular, Mexico fears the loss of \$4 billion in annual remittances. Yet illegal immigration is, by definition, illegal. Tuesday's statement that both countries will enhance border patrolling to challenge illegal immigration is good news.

Often filled with tension, the U.S.-Mexico relationship has been described as the marriage of two countries in which there is no possibility of divorce. That's largely true, which means the principles for a good marriage could help future relations: work as partners in an atmosphere of mutual respect.

CLINTON IN MEXICO



We Back Clinton On Trade Fast Track, Says Blanco

(AP) — Commerce Secretary Herminio Blanco said yesterday that Mexico would strongly support President Bill Clinton's push for fast-track negotiations towards a free trade agreement for the Americas.

In an interview with AP-Dow Jones, Blanco said Mexico was in favor of a trade deal that would include all the nations of Latin America. He noted that Mexico already has bilateral or multilateral agreements with numerous Central and South American countries.

"We believe and we have the evidence to prove that free trade has helped Mexico," Blanco said.

Blanco said a region-wide agreement would most likely include the same general principles that govern the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which Mexico, the US and Canada signed in 1993. It came into being in January 1994.

Blanco said the success of NAFTA has convinced Mexico to pursue additional trade accords.

Mexico is currently negotiating free

trade deals with the European Union and several Central American countries. It has free trade agreements with Chile, Bolivia, Colombia, Venezuela and Costa Rica.

In a speech earlier at Mexico City's National Auditorium, Clinton urged the dismantling of trade barriers throughout Latin America.

The region-wide deal was first proposed in December 1994 at the Summit of the Americas in Miami, with an anticipated start date of 2005.

Blanco said Mexico has learned that reciprocal trade agreements are effective ways of promoting exports and creating jobs.

"Our final goal is to have an agreement with the entire continent, with the same rules, the same principles. That would be the most convenient situation for our businesses," Blanco said. "We are of the position that the negotiations should begin as soon as possible."

Mexico's trade with the US has risen sharply since NAFTA started in 1994.

Intellectuals Endorse Visit

(Notimex) — Mexican intellectuals yesterday endorsed the Clinton visit, saying it offered an opportunity to review relations between the two nations.

Writer Carlos Fuentes said that Clinton has arrived in Mexico at an opportune moment since bilateral relations must adopt "a more serious and elevated tone in keeping with the emergence of new and unprecedented problems."

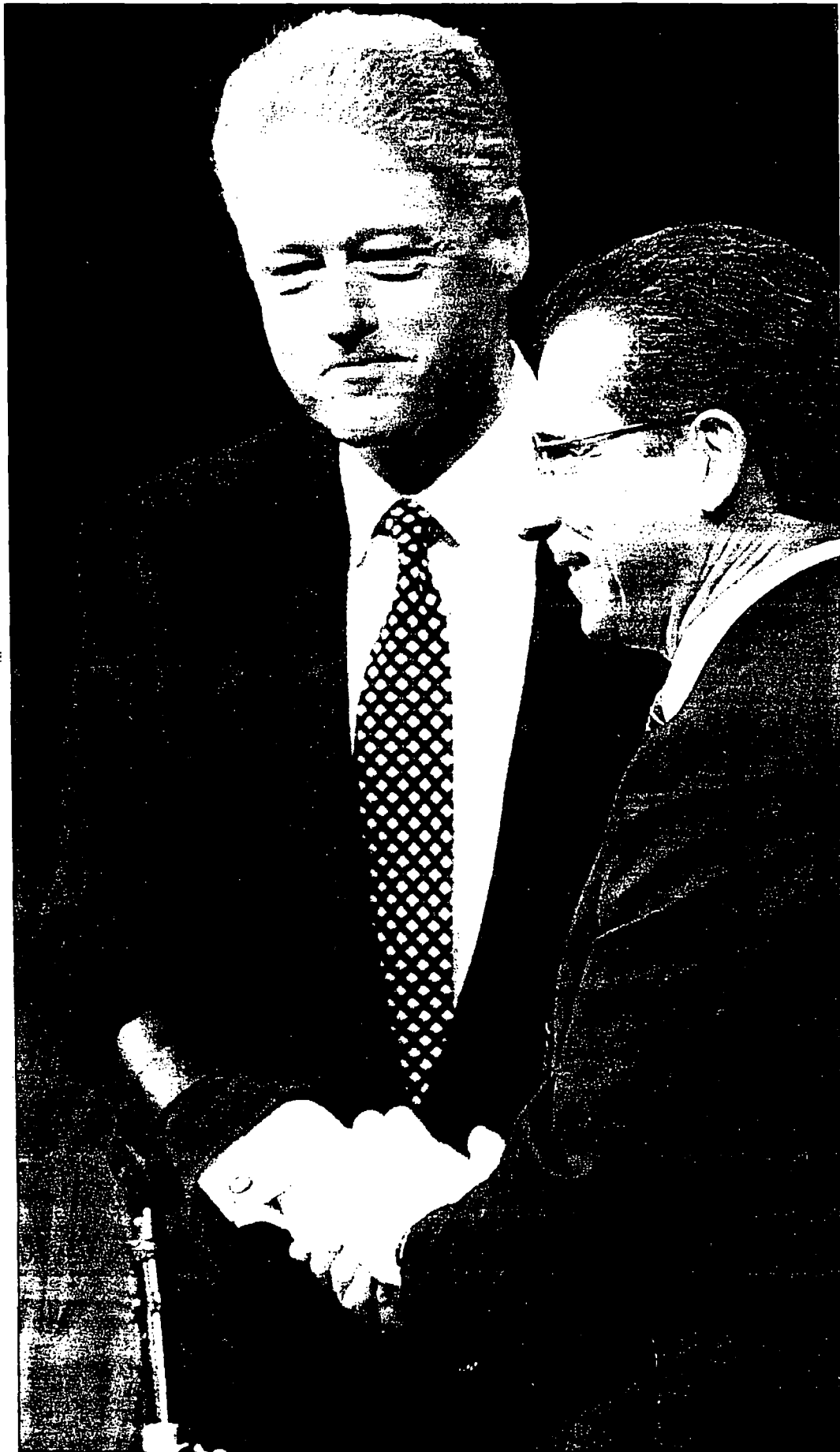
Mexico has powerful reasons for dealing with drug trafficking and the position of Mexican immigrants in the United States because these are difficul-

ties shared by both nations which are "inevitable neighbors."

Historian Enrique Krauze said that Clinton's visit should lay the foundations for a more sincere and closer relationship between the two countries in their handling of problems like drug trafficking.

The US government must assume a mature attitude towards issues like democracy, and act as no more than a simple observer of Mexico's political development, especially the forthcoming elections of July 6, he said.

CLINTON IN MEXICO



MICROTOPRESS

The two presidents established a warm personal relationship.



President Clinton, above, reaches out to well-wishers in Tlaxcala. Below, President Zedillo explains the significance of the pyramids to Clinton and First Lady Hillary. Mrs Zedillo looks on.





ANALYSIS

Breaking The Lightning Bolts

Visit Rated Triumph For Clinton – And Zedillo

BY TRACEY EATON AND LAURENCE ILIFF
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

President Clinton pulled it off, crutches and all. He swept into Mexico, charmed his way through elegant dinners, photo sessions and speeches all without coming off as the great gringo savior from El Norte.

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That's the view of many US experts in assessing the results of Clinton's Mexico visit.

"This whole trip was about symbols," said Delal Baer, a US scholar who studies Mexico. "It was about changing the atmospherics of the US-Mexico relationship."

"Since January, we had been in a downward spiral with accusations and recriminations coming from both sides," she said. "This visit was the circuit breaker. You can't get anything done when the atmosphere is charged with lightning bolts."

But while many analysts in the United States praised Clinton for what they saw as a flawless performance, many Mexicans remained ambivalent about his visit.

"The popular view in Mexico is that the United States is forcing Mexico to carry out America's economic agenda," said Julio Faesler, a candidate for federal deputy from the conservative National Action Party (PAN).

Others say it's simply a matter of clout. The United States is a powerhouse, one of the strongest nations in the world, and Mexico is stuck in a

humiliating subordinate role. That idea came out in some of the recent editorial cartoons in Mexico City's Reforma newspaper. One cartoon showed Zedillo legless and pushing himself around on a little cart welcoming Clinton, on crutches after his recent knee injury.

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José Antonio Crespo, an author and political analyst in Mexico City. His theory is simple: The US and Mexico are tied to-

gether by politics and trade. But Zedillo is having trouble gaining wide public support in Mexico so Clinton came to lend a hand.

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Mexican Foreign Relations Secre-

tary José Angel Gurría said the ultimate success of the Clinton visit comes down to intangibles: how the two presidents interact and what kind of "feeling" the American leader takes with him when he leaves Mexico. "There is no substitute for personal interaction," he said.

Also important, he said, is that Clinton mingle with ordinary Mexicans, which he did yesterday in the town of Tlaxcala, a colonial city about 70 miles east of Mexico City. "This beautiful city built nearly 500 years ago reminds us that some things aren't meant to change," said Clinton to the cheers of some 2,000 townspeople.

Then he and Zedillo stepped down from a platform and went into the street to greet people.

At one point, Clinton autographed a sign that was held up by Aldo Herrera, 9. The boy and his mother hugged each other and started crying after the president walked away.

After Clinton left, some of those in the crowd said the American president seemed warm and caring, in contrast to their own officials, who are often stiff and formal.

"To me he seemed very warm, very human," said Teresa Martínez, a university professor. "You get the feeling that he is sincere when he says he wants to be our friend."

Delfino Techachal, a retired teacher, agreed. "I think he really feels what we are going through in these difficult times and wants to help. And I think that will result in concrete actions, like helping us create more jobs in Mexico so our people don't have to leave."

Anh Do, a freelance journalist in Mexico City, contributed to this report.

A Contrast In Political Honeymoons

British System Offers Incoming Leadership Time To Dig In

By Rupert Cornwell

How familiar it all seems, in this heady political spring of 1997. Many and deliberate are the parallels between Tony Blair and Bill Clinton at the dawn of their respective eras: the replacement of the stale and old by modernity, novelty and youth, the cultivated informal styles, last Friday's walk down a Downing Street that was a miniature Pennsylvania Avenue on Inauguration Day, 1993. But one similarity, thus far at least – Blair is avoiding the serial disasters that came close to destroying the Clinton Presidency at its very start.

"Hit the Ground Running," they all promise. But those of us who were there will never forget the stumbling, pothole-strewn birth of Clinton's America. It was Murphy's Law made flesh. The tone was set even before he entered the White House, as the President-elect struggled to form his Administration. Then came Nannygate and the quest for a female Attorney General who had paid social security contributions for her domestic staff, a requirement satisfied only by the third candidate. There then followed the quite unnecessary distraction over a campaign promise on gays in the military. Finally, there was an ill-conceived economic stimulus package suggesting that this New Democrat was at heart an

old-fashioned tax-and-spend liberal. One way and another, the first 100 days of Clinton felt like the last days of Major.

To be fair, not every problem was self-inflicted. With the sole recent exception of Alec Douglas-Home in 1963, British prime ministers enjoy honeymoons. So, once, did American presidents. Not, however, Bill Clinton, who inspired then – and still does – a hatred in some quarters matched only by that felt for Richard Nixon. But he did make matters worse for himself. He appeared undisciplined and undignified, oblivious to the fact that he was not only head of government, but also head of state, someone who should not take to TV to reveal whether his taste in underpants runs to boxers or briefs. In a word, the "bubble", that invisible aura of high power, refused to click shut around him.

By contrast, love him or loathe him, Blair has no "bubble" problem. Already, after less than a week in Downing Street, he appears every inch a prime minister. The manifesto and a bland campaign gave few hostages to fortune, while everyone seems to know exactly what he's doing. At the weekend, Chris Smith nimbly avoided a gaffe on the Elgin Marbles. Then came the swift sign-up to the European Social Chapter, and Gordon Brown's stunning coup over the Bank of England and interest rates. That's hitting the ground running.

Helping Labor, of course, are the in-built safeguards peculiar to the British system. Parliamentary government ensures that a potential prime minister has long since learned the r (even the

much-mocked Douglas-Home, in fact yielded to few in his experience of government and the inner workings of the Conservative Party). Despite his youth, Blair has been an MP for almost 14 years.

Remember too that, compared to an American president, a British prime minister is an elected dictator. The former must deal with a Congress that even when controlled by his own party is fiercely jealous of its constitutional role as a separate branch of government. In Britain, on the other hand, the prime minister automatically commands a majority in Parliament, over whom his powers of patronage are huge. Permanent civil servants wait to help him at every turn. If he knows what he wants to do, he can do it. Clinton, by contrast, had never experienced Washington politics at the sharp end, and his arrogant and untried staff knew everything about campaigning but next to nothing about governing.

At this point, however, the paths of Blair and Clinton start to converge. The Prime Minister, we are told, wants to run a presidential administration, in which 10 Downing Street becomes the White House, command and control center for all government dealings with the media. If so, then beware. It won't work.

Arguably the gravest error of the untested Clintonites was to lock a door. It connected the White House press room with the corridor leading to the office of the White House spokesman. Never – even during the worst days of Watergate – had it been closed. Bill Clinton inherited a press corps at least as well disposed toward him as the lobby is to Blair, but at a

stroke he lost it. The aim was to control the news; instead, he achieved the opposite. Thus the fierce and hostile coverage of embarrassments such as the sacking of the White House travel office staff and Whitewater, as well as that 250 dollar haircut aboard Air Force One on the tarmac at Los Angeles airport, which was portrayed as a regal whim that paralysed West Coast air traffic for hours.

Now it is hard to imagine Tony Blair, so disciplined and anything but raffish, causing such public inconvenience. But is it a coincidence that just as Clinton promised the "most ethical Administration in history", so the Prime Minister yesterday read the riot act on sleaze to his new MPs? The very standards Blair sets make him doubly vulnerable to even small transgressions by his followers or himself.

But, if in these next few weeks, the machine should come off the rails, let Blair look across the Atlantic. The art of politics is not so much avoiding mistakes, as not making the same one twice. Bill Clinton's first two years were an excruciating job-training course, culminating in the Republicans' mid-term sweep of Congress. But by 1995, finally, the "bubble" snapped tight, and in November last year Clinton won a second term in a canter. Let Tony Blair be so lucky in 2002, or whenever he calls the next election. Today's balmy honeymoon will be a distant memory. If mistakes are inevitable then he should make them quickly – and learn from them.



The Fruits Of The Clinton Visit

With the main business of his trip behind him, President Clinton was yesterday visiting the Teotihuacan pyramids and Tlaxcala. Time, then, to review the fruits of the first visit to the capital by a US president in the best part of two decades. The main points were contained in the accords on drug-fighting and migration signed by Presidents Clinton and Zedillo on Tuesday. Neither accord goes much beyond statements of good intent; we have yet to see how they will be put into practice.

The omens, nevertheless, are undoubtedly positive: To begin with, there is the obvious rapport that the two leaders established. Clinton and Zedillo were scheduled to have 45 minutes of private conversations at the official residence of Los Pinos on Tuesday; in the event, they got on so well that the talks were prolonged for twice as long. Wherever they went together, they looked relaxed and at ease with each other. Absent were some of the petty tensions that have marred personal relationships between previous presidents of the United States and Mexico. To paraphrase what Margaret Thatcher once said after meeting with Mikhail Gorbachev, they looked like two leaders who could do business together.

And it was clear that Mexican diplomacy — despite criticism at home and the raucous opposition of a vocal minority in the United States — has had a positive impact. This emerged in statements from Clinton and his drug czar, General Barry McCaffrey, both of whom emphasized the enormous responsibility borne in the drug fight by the nation that is easily the world's leading consumer. And the emphasis throughout was on cooperation, not confrontation. So, though the certification process remains in place, two of the most important messages that our Foreign Relations Ministry has been trying to convey have clearly got through to those in power in Washington.

There were several demonstrations during the visit. This is something that clearly leaves Clinton unfazed — after all, only a totalitarian regime can guarantee an absence of protests. "It happens everywhere I go," Clinton told reporters before leaving for Mexico.

What was significant this time, however, was that the demonstrations were relatively small, particularly in view of the emotions that had been stirred up beforehand over US measures on immigration and drugs. We could be going out on a limb here but, though anti-American sentiments are far from dead in Mexico, they do appear to be on the wane — at least in their more irrational form.

By "irrational" we mean the sort of slogans bandied about by the dissident teachers from Oaxaca in their demonstration. We have every sympathy with the teachers' cause. Their role is vital and their salaries miserable. But to say that "American imperialism" is to blame for their low wages beggars our belief and, we suspect, that of most Mexicans.

Increasingly, virulent anti-Americanism appears to be confined to those on the left who are stuck in a timewarp and those on the right who want to use it as a shield against the rapidly strengthening winds of democracy. Significantly, while Clinton was paying us a visit, the left's principal opposition figure, Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas, was in New York wooing an American audience. And, whatever else might be said about Cárdenas, nobody would question his nationalist credentials.

The instant street poll we published yesterday was, of course, far from scientific, but we suspect that it reflected the growing view that the old equation between nationalism and anti-Americanism is being broken. In the words of one of those we questioned, Luis Alberto Martínez, "the best way to confront difficulties is through dialogue and cooperation." The two presidents couldn't have expressed it better themselves.

Mexico City Times

pyright © Mexico City Times

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Break Walls Of Division Says Clinton

*Zedillo Identifies Conquest Of Poverty
As Challenge Of Next Century*

By Robert Randolph

Mexico and the United States must break down walls dividing the continent and create a free trade zone in the Americas, President Bill Clinton said yesterday.

In an address to hundreds of distinguished guests in the capital's National Auditorium, Clinton said the nations and the region "stand at a crossroads."

The three-year-old North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) that binds Mexico, the United States and Canada has brought great benefits in prosperity, environmental protection and labor conditions, he said.

"Four years ago, together, we led the fight for NAFTA. Many people in both our countries painted a dark picture of lost jobs and boarded up factories. They were wrong." The US president said he is pushing Congress to give him "fast-track" authority to extend the treaty to the rest of the Americas.

"We must accelerate the pace of these efforts, to reach more people and more communities," he said. "In both our countries, some would throw up walls of protection to ward off the challenge of change."

Clinton wrapped up his two-and-a-half-day state visit to Mexico last night. Although he and First Lady Hillary Clinton honeymooned in the country, the trip is the first here since he took office in 1992. He concludes his trip with visits to Costa Rica and Barbados, where meetings are planned with other heads of state.

Speaking with Clinton yesterday, President Ernesto Zedillo said the century is ending with "encouraging signs" in democracy, human rights and the free market.

But the greatest challenges of the next century, he said, will be the conquest of poverty and inequality.

"In order to begin winning that battle, Mexicans have been carrying out a deep transformation," he said.

Clinton congratulated Mexico for "carrying out bold political reforms."

"Democracy is hard work ... but it is worth the effort, for it has produced more opportunity for people to make the most of their lives than all of its rivals."

Later, the two presidents travelled to the colonial town of Tlaxcala, capital of one of the country's poorest states.

With a crowd of several hundred cheering and waving flags of both countries in the central square, Clinton said

the centuries-old buildings surrounding him proved that "even in times of change" some things – like family and hard work – were meant to last.

The two presidents then travelled to the northern fringe of the capital, for sightseeing at the pre-Columbian Teotihuacan pyramids.

Most political analysts agree that, while Clinton's visit has produced few important concrete results, it has helped improve goodwill between the two countries, especially at the presidential level.

Comments by the presidents and cabinet-level officials have emphasized cooperation after relations between the two countries were strained recently by drug scandals and tough new US immigration policies implemented in April.

The Binational Commission signed 11 agreements in areas ranging from the environment to money laundering. Commerce officials also agreed to lower tariffs for some products that have been the focus of trade disputes.

The highlights of the visit were presidential declarations committing the countries to work together to solve migration and drug problems.

But perhaps the most notable aspect has been the lack of reaction it has caused among residents of Mexico City – except for anger over the clogged and closed roads it has precipitated.

"He's an important person, but it's not fair," said Fernando Méndez, who manages a restaurant along the capital's main thoroughfare, Paseo de la Reforma. "There was no business yesterday because Reforma was closed off."

Thousands travelling by subway at rush hour yesterday morning under the National Auditorium cursed and then shrugged as the train skipped the stop due to security measures for Clinton.

Huge deployments of police along Reforma passed the day yesterday without putting down a single demonstration. "Today was expected to be hell for us but it wasn't," one sergeant said.

Political observers remarked that Clinton would have met with huge anti-American demonstrations if the visit had taken place 20 years ago.

Only a few, small demonstrations took place Monday and Tuesday.

Further reports, pages 3 and 11
Editorial comment, page 8

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When In Mexico, Wear A Mask – US First Couple Show How It's Done



US President Clinton and his wife Hillary try on conquistador masks in the market at Tlaxcala yesterday, the last day of their visit to Mexico.

Don't Send Weld To Mexico, Says Helms

By Glen Johnson

BOSTON (AP) – While Gov. William F. Weld has begun brushing up on US-Mexican relations, some conservative Republican lawmakers say they plan to oppose his upcoming appointment as US ambassador to Mexico.

The strongest statements have come from Republican Sen. Jesse Helms, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which will have to approve the nomination of Weld, a more moderate Republican.

Helms has been quoted twice as saying the Clinton administration should not even forward Weld's name for consideration.

"You can figure out why I'm saying that," Helms told *The Boston Globe*. His office refused comment yesterday. The Clinton administration has confirmed it plans to name Weld ambassador to Mexico, though the nomination has not been formally announced.

US Reps. Mark Souder and John Mica oppose Weld's nomination on the grounds that he is soft on drugs. The two point to his support of allowing mari-

juana use for medical reasons, as well as needle exchange programs for heroin addicts.

"I can't think of a worse place for him to be, other than drug czar, than ambassador to Mexico," Souder told an Indiana newspaper, the *Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette*.

Unlike Helms, however, Souder and Mica have no vote on Weld's nomination.

Weld's press secretary, Rob Gray, said, "We have no comment other than the governor looks forward to the confirmation process."

The White House and State Department will likely arrange a meeting between Weld and Helms after President Clinton returns from his trip to Latin America and formally announces Weld's appointment, Weld aides say. The announcement could come as early as next week.

During a meeting with reporters on Tuesday, Weld said he has already started working on his knowledge of Mexico and US-Mexican relations.

"I read up a little bit over the weekend," he said.



The two presidents pause for reflection at the Teotihuacan pyramids.

José González / Mexico City Times

The Miami Herald

THE FOREMOST DAILY NEWSPAPER OF FLORIDA

THURSDAY, MAY 8, 1997



GREG GIBSON / AP

TOUR STOP: Presidents Clinton and Zedillo are greeted by children in the Mexican town of Tlaxcala on Wednesday. The relaxed atmosphere during Clinton's visit reflects Mexican changes in attitudes toward the United States. **Analysis, 21A.**

Central America nervous over U.S. immigration plan

By GLENN GARVIN
Herald Staff Writer

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica — When President Clinton sits down this morning with the five presidents of Central America, he'll be armed with statistics on drugs, open skies, intellectual property and a long list of other U.S. diplomatic initiatives. Across the table, no one will care. The Central American agenda can be covered in one word: immigration.

"There is nothing more important for us right now," a Nicaraguan diplomat said. "The new U.S. immigration laws are giving us economic problems and politi-

cal problems. Clinton has to understand that."

The U.S. crackdown on illegal immigration leaves the five countries facing two devastatingly unanswerable questions: how to stretch their economies to fit 700,000 new arrivals, the potential number of Central American deportees estimated by the INS; and how to replace around \$2 billion a year that those people have been sending home from their American jobs.

But the presidents will almost certainly go home from today's meeting empty-handed, at least

PLEASE SEE IMMIGRATION, 24A

One issue for Clinton: immigration

IMMIGRATION, FROM 1A

when it comes to immigration. Even if he wanted to help, Clinton's hands have been tied by a U.S. Congress that has turned almost unanimously hawkish on the whole subject of immigration.

"All they're going to get is words and promises and hot air, nothing concrete," one State Department official said.

Clinton signaled as much Wednesday in Mexico, where he offered critics of U.S. immigration policy little more than rhetorical flourishes.

"To maintain an immigration policy that is fair, generous, safe and orderly, we must also take effective action to stop illegal immigration," he said. "We are a nation of immigrants, and of laws. Just as those who obey our laws are welcome, those who break the laws must face the consequences."

In Mexico, where immigration issues with the United States are old hat and drugs are the focus of the moment, Clinton's words went relatively unchallenged. But brushing off the Central Americans will not be so easy.

"We know that the subject of immigration is a very difficult one for the United States," said Emilio Alvarez Montalvan, the Nicaraguan foreign minister. "We know it has created a burden of social assistance that many politicians in the southern United States think is too great."

"But we have a situation here that must be accepted as reality — not only in words, but in specifics. It is in the interest of both sides to arrive at an agreement."

Nonetheless, the six-page document that Clinton and the Cen-



KENT GILBERT / AP

WELCOME: Costa Rican children wave Nicaraguan and Costa Rican flags during the arrival of Nicaraguan President Arnoldo Aleman.

tral American presidents are expected to sign today reportedly contains nothing of substance on immigration, merely a pledge to hold ministerial-level talks.

Even wringing that much from the United States required three weeks of intensive shuttle diplomacy between Costa Rican Foreign Minister Fernando Naranjo and Jeffrey Davidoff, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs.

"The main object has been to make it soft enough to suit the State Department," one senior Central American official said. "To get them to sign, we've had to reduce the subject of immigration to a practically subliminal level."

Clinton did make one promise

on immigration during his visit to Mexico: "There will be no mass deportations." He'll repeat it here today. Presidential spokesman Mike McCurry said Clinton intends "to reassure the presidents of Central America that there will not be some hysterical effort to engage in mass deportations."

It's a message U.S. officials throughout the region have been trying to send for several weeks, with little success. Newspapers in El Salvador and Nicaragua, the countries facing the gravest economic risks from the new U.S. policy, are filled almost daily with shrill headlines about deportees tossed out on airport runways in San Salvador and

Managua, a few cents in their pockets and their U.S.-born children marooned in Miami or Los Angeles.

"This story is making good copy for a lot of people, but the numbers just aren't there," said one American official, who noted that only about 400 Nicaraguans were deported from the United States in 1996 — about the same as the year before. More Nicaraguans than that were expelled from Mexico and Costa Rica.

But even if the fears of mass deportations are exaggerated, the Central American countries have genuine cause for alarm over the economic consequences of deportations. INS figures show that four of the top eight countries contributing to the flow of illegal aliens into the United States are in Central America. If somehow all were apprehended and sent back, economies all over the isthmus could be thrown into chaos.

The threat of deportations is regarded as a potentially lethal crisis for Nicaragua's woeful economy. But even though the other Central American economies are stronger, they face great potential blows.

In El Salvador, the remittances of 350,000 illegal aliens in the United States are believed to amount to \$1.25 billion, 12 percent of the gross national product and larger than the revenues of all the country's exports combined.

Guatemala could face as many as 165,000 deportees.

"Nobody really knows how much money they send home," a diplomat there said. "But you can bet it dwarfs what the country gets in foreign aid."



Latin Free Trade 'Top Of Clinton Agenda'

US Officials
Pledge Boost

By Alejandro Alonso

Senior US officials visiting Mexico City with President Clinton yesterday reaffirmed his commitment to promoting trade liberalization throughout the Americas.

"There's no doubt that Latin American policy is at the forefront of the Clinton Administration," said Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who took part in the Mexico-US binational commission meeting earlier this week. "We all, the entire Cabinet led by President Clinton, believe very strongly that the future lies in a strong hemispheric relationship."

During a breakfast organized by the American Chamber of Commerce in Mexico, several US officials highlighted the economic achievements of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and spoke of expanding free trade and economic liberalization to rest of the hemisphere. US Attorney General Janet Reno and US Ambassador to Mexico James Jones were present at the event.

"This is a very critical time for us, for ties between Mexico and the US have grown closer than ever before, and much of it is founded upon the vision which we all share for a prosperous growing economy which is built on open and fair trade," said US Secretary of Commerce William Daley.

"NAFTA was the first step, and it has been the right first step. Now the challenge is to help fulfill the collective goal of this region's 34 democracies for a free trade of the Americas by 2005. It is my intent to make sure that the Commerce Department is an energetic supporter of greater hemispheric integration in the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas (FTAA)," the official added.

According to Daley, US automakers have exported 20 times as many cars and trucks to Mexico as in pre-NAFTA days. He added that US agricultural exports benefited significantly as Mexico's import license system gave way to tariffs. Last year US exports to Canada and Mexico were larger than exports to any area of the world, including all of Europe, he said.

So far this year roughly 80 percent of the growth in US exports has been within North America, with US exports to Mexico and Canada now supporting more than 2 million jobs. At least 300,000 jobs have been added since NAFTA was implemented, he added.

Daley said that achievement of a hemispheric free trade zone remains at the top of Clinton's agenda. "We see the Free Trade Area of the Americas as the next logical step. This is a process that is most important obviously to the President and those of us in the Commerce Department." But the main challenge was to keep the momentum going, Daley added.

"Regrettably the lack of fast track provides cover to those in the region who favor a go-slow approach or seek a weakened FTAA. We need to be in the game or the US runs the risk of competing from a very disadvantageous position," he added.

Fast track authority would allow the president to negotiate international trade agreements that could only be either approved or rejected by Congress, but not modified.

The US hopes that the continent's trade ministerial meeting in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, next week will establish a basis for progress in negotiations on the FTAA. The White House Western Hemisphere trade representative Peter Allgeier said on Tuesday that the ideal procedure would be to propel negotiations by giving representatives suggestions.

"The US, Mexico and Canada, and most of the rest of the hemisphere, would like negotiations to begin in March of 1998 in Santiago during the next Summit of the Americas. Mercosur (the trade bloc formed by Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Paraguay) prefers to go slowly, but market access negotiations involving 34 countries, each with their own rules, expectations and priorities, will be a long and complicated process, so we need to get moving," Daley noted.

Albright declined to comment on whether current negotiations between Mexico and the European Union could represent a problem for President Clinton's agenda.

Meanwhile, Thomas McLarty, Counselor to the President and Special Envoy to the Americas, added that Clinton's agenda for Latin America also acknowledges social and political issues.

"We must be very vigilant to ensure the benefits of growth reach across all of our societies. It is our responsibility to make sure that democracy delivers," he said. "It is particularly symbolic and appropriate that President Clinton begins this journey here in Mexico, our neighbor, our partner and our friend."

Albright denied that Clinton's administration had "discovered" Latin America in its second term. "The Summit of the Americas (Miami, Dec. 1994) was a commitment to an ongoing and robust relationship. In the near future we are dedicating a great deal of our resources to Latin America," she said.

For Mexicans, Clinton's Visit Is a Serenade

He Even Sings Along With 6-Year-Olds

By JAMES BENNET

MEXICO CITY, May 7 — Midterm federal elections may be approaching here, but no politician has been campaigning harder over the last three days for the trust and approval of the Mexican people than the President of the United States.

And the way Mr. Clinton has waged his exhausting campaign, in the first visit of his Presidency to a Latin American nation, has illuminated much about domestic politics, here and in the United States.

Today Mr. Clinton shook innumerable hands in an ancient village, where his motorcade was drenched in red, white and blue confetti and he sang "Cielito Lindo" along with a crowd of 6-year-olds. He has been dropping more and more Spanish into his public remarks. "Mexico," by this afternoon, had become "MAY-hee-co."

At every opportunity Mr. Clinton has assured Mexicans that the United States respects their country and recognizes that Americans must do more to squelch demand for drugs — themes that are at least neutral if not popular at home.

But Mr. Clinton's eagerness to accommodate Mexican concerns reached its limits on illegal immigration, an issue that roils politics in the United States. Today, in a formal address to the Mexican people here, Mr. Clinton defended a new American immigration law that is unpopular in Mexico and Central America. Tonight Mr. Clinton was scheduled to fly to San José, Costa Rica, for a meeting of Central American leaders.

"We must also take effective action to stop illegal immigration," Mr. Clinton said. "We are a nation of immigrants and of laws. Just as those who obey our laws are welcome, those who break them must face the consequences."

Mr. Clinton's visit seems sure to strengthen the hand of President Ernesto Zedillo, two months before his party could face the most serious challenge to its 70-year dominance of Mexican politics. Today, as Mr. Clinton finished his address, the two Presidents and their wives basked side-by-side in a thunderous ovation — not a bad image for any leader seeking to advertise himself as a respected and popular statesman.

As cameras recorded another scene in the 500-year-old village of Tlaxcala later this afternoon, Mr. Clinton grabbed for hands along a rope line with Mr. Zedillo right beside him. By the time the two Presidents waded in among the singing children, even the famously reserved Mr. Zedillo had begun to grin.

The two Presidents have also had more somber, and for Mexicans deeply symbolic, moments together. On Tuesday Mr. Clinton became the first American President since Harry Truman to visit the monument to the Niños Heroes, or Boy Heroes — cadets who died defending Mexico City against the United States 150 years ago. As a military band played both nations' anthems and 27 cadets fired a volley to honor the dead, the Presidents stood beside a wreath at the site. They did not say a word.

Mr. Clinton said on Tuesday that he was not meddling in Mexican politics. "The judgments in the election are for the Mexican people to make," he said.

Any diplomat, of course, would emphasize common ground, and Mr. Clinton has not aimed his empathy only at Mexicans. Looking ahead to his visit to Barbados later this week, Administration officials are calling the United States a "Caribbean nation," because of its Virgin Islands. And in an interview with Spanish-language networks on Monday, Mr. Clinton even tried to throw a bouquet to the Cubans, noting that Americans admire them for their spirit and "for their baseball playing ability."

But Administration officials said the President was particularly intent on salving Mexicans' pride, bruised by the brawl in Washington earlier this year over whether Mexico was doing enough in the fight against drugs. To that end, Mr. Clinton has over and over stressed his "respect" for Mexico.

In the first applause line of this 23-minute speech here today, Mr. Clinton declared, "We seek a peaceful, prosperous partnership filled with respect and dignity."

In his speech, Mr. Clinton, like Mr. Zedillo before him, argued that the North American Free Trade agreement had greatly benefited both the United States and Mexico. But while he declared that "we must include more nations in our partnership," President Clinton did not elaborate on his plans to bring in Chile, as his Administration hopes to do this year.

"He'll do that in the course of this year," said Michael D. McCurry, the White House press secretary. "At the moment, we're working hard to codify the balanced budget agreement." By 2005, the Administration aims to bring every Latin American nation into a free-trade zone.

WORLD&NATION

■ CLINTON IN MEXICO

Much of drug blame falls on Americans

MEXICO CITY — In a nation weary of U.S. criticism, President Clinton put much of the blame for Mexico's drug corruption and violence on America's demand for cocaine and marijuana. "The battle against drugs must unite our people, not divide them," Clinton said Wednesday.

Speaking to a cross section of Mexicans who filled the cavernous National Auditorium, the president acknowledged that Americans are the world's biggest consumers of narcotics: "The money we spend on illegal drugs fuels narco-traffickers who, in turn, attack your police and prosecutors and prey on your institutions."

"I know the hardship and sacrifice this has caused," Clinton said, citing the 200-plus Mexican law officers who died last year in drug violence. "As terrible as this toll is, the price of giving up and giving in would be higher."

Houston Chronicle

Thursday, May 8, 1997

A flag-waving reception



Associated Press

Residents of the town of Tlaxcala, 50 miles outside of Mexico City, line the streets as President Clinton's car passes by Wednesday.

Much left unsaid in Clinton's Mexico trip

By **DUDLEY ALTHAUS**
Houston Chronicle Mexico City Bureau

MEXICO CITY — President Clinton's state visit to Mexico, which ended Wednesday night, was a 50-hour blitz of happy talk and folkloric photo opportunities.

Clinton and Mexican President

Analysis

Ernesto Zedillo used the visit to promote free trade and gloss over the many significant differences between their countries.

As Clinton flew off to Costa Rica to talk trade with other regional leaders, what remained unsaid and

what was left undone helped define his Mexico visit.

Clinton never publicly mentioned Mexico's human rights situation, which many advocates say continues to deteriorate while Zedillo's government struggles with social unrest.

Clinton never visited the countryside, where worsening poverty has

launched two armed uprisings in the past 40 months and has spawned immigration to the United States.

Clinton never talked in public about the U.S. government's long support of the Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, which has controlled Mexico's national politics

See CLINTON on Page 20A.



Associated Press

President Clinton waves with first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, right, and Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo, left, while surrounded by school-

children in Tlaxcala, Mexico, Wednesday. The Clintons toured the 500-year-old colonial town during their state visit.

Clinton

Continued from Page 1A.

for 68 years and faces severe challenges in elections in two months.

Clinton never uttered in public the name of former President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, who worked closely with Clinton to make the North American Free Trade Agreement a reality. Salinas left Mexico in disgrace in 1995 amid economic collapse. His brother, Raul, was arrested on charges of corruption and masterminding the murder of a top ruling-party official.

Instead, Clinton's message stayed relentlessly upbeat. What played in the Mexican media was a fiesta of grinning images and positive platitudes.

Mexico is on the right track, Clinton and Zedillo cooed. Business is good and is going to get better, thanks to the 3-year-old NAFTA treaty, which will abolish all trade barriers between Mexico, the United States and Canada by 2009.

Happier days are coming for Mexico's working-class majority.

"We seek a peaceful, prosperous partnership filled with respect and dignity," Clinton told about 10,000 well-heeled bureaucrats, business leaders and diplomats packed into the plush National Auditorium in Mexico City.

"Many people in both countries painted a dark picture of lost jobs and boarded-up factories should NAFTA prevail," he said. "Well, they were wrong. NAFTA is working — working for you and working for the American

people."

As president, Zedillo unofficially heads the ruling party, which faces the possibility of widespread defeat in congressional, state and local elections here July 6.

"I congratulate the Mexican people for carrying forward bold political reforms that will lead in July to the most intensely contested elections in your history," Clinton said.

Although Clinton did meet with opposition party leaders and his administration professed neutrality in the upcoming elections, Zedillo and the PRI clearly benefited most from the visit, an analyst said.

"He came on a campaign swing for the (PRI)," political scientist Federico Estevez said of Clinton. "That's all it was."

"He met with the opposition to cover his bets," he said. "But Washington's policy really hasn't changed. Better the devil you know."

Despite the best bilateral efforts to keep things as sunny as possible, darker symbols hovered.

The Cabinet ministers and staff of the Binational Commission met Monday at the Foreign Ministry building at Tlatelolco, the ancient plaza where in 1968 troops massacred hundreds of unarmed anti-government protesters.

The hall where Clinton delivered his speech Wednesday is the same in which supposedly pro-government union members broke ranks May 1 to jeer Zedillo and ruling-party labor bosses, complaining of sinking wages and a lack of jobs.

Clinton and Zedillo, with their wives, toured the Teotihuacan ruins outside Mexico City later Wednesday,

near where suspected leftist guerrillas repeatedly attacked Mexican army posts earlier this year.

Like the patriarch of a dysfunctional family, Clinton worked hard to soothe a relationship strained by bickering over narcotics enforcement and the rising tide of illegal immigration. Mutual respect was the byword; common interest, the mantra.

Ever sensitive to criticism from the United States, Mexicans were angered this year by a contentious debate in Congress on Mexico's commitment to fight drug smuggling and by a new U.S. immigration law that seeks to deport more illegal immigrants.

Clinton pledged again Wednesday to maintain an immigration policy that "is generous, fair, safe and orderly." He did say, however, that his administration would continue trying to staunch illegal crossings at the border.

Clinton also repeated his theme that both Mexico and the United States share the peril caused by the narcotics trade. "The battle against drugs must unite our people," Clinton said, "not divide them."

But human rights advocates worry that the increased focus on narcotics enforcement will continue to lead to official abuse and an increasing role of the Mexican military in law enforcement.

As the presidential party watched indigenous dancers perform at the ruins, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright met quietly at a Mexico City hotel with 15 leading Mexican human rights advocates.

They expressed concerns for what they called a worsening human

rights situation in an increasingly unstable country, and they urged Albright to persuade the Mexican government to make substantial improvements.

"The instability worries the government a lot," Mariclaire Acosta, a prominent human-rights worker here, told Albright in a letter. "Nevertheless, it appears you are more worried about controlling the symptoms of the crisis in Mexico than its causes."

In another letter sent to Clinton last week, David Fernandez, a Roman Catholic priest and human rights activist, said: "U.S. policy in Mexico is, in some instances, having a negative impact on human rights."

A report attached to his letter said: "If human rights are not taken seriously in Mexico, we are likely to see an increase in confrontations between the authorities and an increasingly discontented civil society."

"While the regime can be applauded for its economic successes, the levels of (human rights) violations reflect the entrenched nature of abuse and impunity that exists within the Mexican government."

On a trip to Tlaxcala, during which much of the colonial city was cordoned off by security forces, the Clintons and Zedillos were serenaded by mariachi bands and cheered by well-rehearsed crowds of working-class Mexicans bused in by the government.

"Thank you, Mexico," Clinton said in his short speech in Tlaxcala. "Thank you for a wonderful visit."

Chronicle reporter Nancy Mathis contributed to this story.

The Miami Herald

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Clinton's fresh start

Though they tried, the presidents of Mexico and the United States could not disguise the transparency of the deal for better relations that they struck at the end of the first leg of President Clinton's first visit to Latin

America and the Caribbean. It was akin to sprinkling a teaspoon of sugar atop a bittersweet dish.

Sweetening was needed, however, as a means to relieve the tension — often unspoken unofficially — that has characterized relations between these close neighbors, both recently and historically. The joint statement pledges closer cooperation in fighting drugs and in dealing with border issues. Though many key issues remain unresolved, the agreement signals a different, hopeful, strategy.

It contrasts sharply, for instance, with the arrogant tone that the United States struck just a few months ago when it condemned Mexico (and deservedly so) for being overrun by drug barons. President Ernesto Zedillo likewise refrained from characterizing its wealthy northern neighbor as a meddling behemoth.

Instead, each conceded a smidgen of inescapable reality: Mexico acknowledged that "corruption is widespread in [its] judicial and law enforcement system." And President Clinton admitted that the United States's appetite for illegal drugs drives the market. "We have less than 5 percent of the world's population, and we consume about half the

IN MEXICO

The U.S. and Mexican presidents forge bonds of friendship but tiptoe past tough issues on Clinton's first Latin-Caribbean trip.

drugs," he said.

Left unresolved were deeply divisive issues regarding immigration policy, trade, extradition of drug dealers from Mexico for trial in this country, Mexico's policy forbidding U.S. drug agents to carry guns in Mexico, and the time bomb of Mexico's wrenching poverty. Nor did either president dare touch the fig leaf that covers, but doesn't hide, the hypocrisy of U.S. policy that certifies Mexico as a drug-fighting ally and castigates Colombia's equally sincere efforts.

Because so much was left on the table, it would be easy to say that the Mexican trip achieved nothing of substance. That would be a mistake. Obviously, the point of Mr. Clinton's visit was to make peace and establish bonds. If that leads to a future in which Mexico and the United States recognize the dependence of each on the other and the need for mutual respect, then Mr. Clinton inched slowly toward that goal.

Although their messages were superficial and largely symbolic, the friendliness between Mr. Clinton and the U.S.-educated Mr. Zedillo was genuine. Both are young, reform-minded, and pragmatic.

Taken at face value, this first leg of Mr. Clinton's journey — he's to be in Costa Rica today — is an incremental move toward building trust and working as partners. It would have been folly to expect more, and failure had the visit achieved less.



President Clinton passes by some mariachi musicians in Tlaxcala where thousands of people jammed the narrow streets of the 500-year-old town to greet him. AP Photo

Clinton places blame on U.S. for Mexico's drug corruption

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — In a nation weary of U.S. criticism, President Clinton put much of the blame for Mexico's drug corruption and violence on America's demand for cocaine and marijuana. "The battle against drugs must unite our people, not divide them," Clinton declared Wednesday.

Speaking to a cross section of Mexicans who filled the cavernous National Auditorium, the president acknowledged that Americans are the world's biggest consumers of narcotics: "The money we spend on illegal drugs fuels narco-traffickers who, in turn, attack your police and prosecutors and prey on your institutions."

"I know the hardship and sacrifice this has caused," Clinton said, citing the 200-plus Mexican law officers who died last year in drug violence. "As terrible as this toll is, the price of giving up and giving in would be higher."

For Mexicans, his message was welcome respite from attacks in Washington on their

country's scandal-ridden effort to combat illegal drugs.

Clinton and Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo also addressed critics of the 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement.

"Many people in both our countries painted a dark picture of lost jobs and boarded up factories should NAFTA prevail," Clinton said. "Well, they were wrong."

Ending two days of fence-mending before traveling to Costa Rica, Clinton said, "We seek a peaceful, prosperous partnership, filled with respect and dignity." He recalled his honeymoon in Mexico nearly 22 years ago and pronounced himself charmed all over again. "Me encanta Mexico," Clinton said, "I am enchanted by Mexico."

With his official business done, Clinton flew by helicopter to Tlaxcala, a 500-year-old town 50 miles outside Mexico City. Thousands of people jammed the narrow street along his motorcade route and the air swirled with red, white and blue confetti thrown from rooftops.

Clinton takes on drug blame

Mexicans welcome admission

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Ending two days of fence-



AP photo

President Clinton reaches out into the crowd Wednesday at the Mexican town of Tlaxcala as Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo (at bottom left) accompanies him. Thousands jammed the narrow streets of the town, 50 miles outside Mexico City, to greet Clinton.

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"President Clinton is a good friend of the Mexicans because he respects them," Zedillo told

the throngs in a town square lined by American and Mexican flags.

"He now understands what he has known for a long time — that we Mexicans are a proud people."

Unable to resist the lure of the crowd, Clinton moved slowly on crutches along a rope line to shake hands and sign autographs.

Clinton pledges closer ties to Caribbean nations

By Terence Hunt
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados — President Clinton signed modest drug-fighting and trade agreements Saturday with Caribbean leaders, who have been irritated by Washington's diminishing interest since the end of the Cold War. Clinton pledged "a deeper process of Caribbean cooperation."

The three-hour meeting, billed as the first U.S.-Caribbean summit, included pointed reminders that the region has felt neglected. Clinton said the U.S. commitment was "as deep as the waters that link our shores."

Jamaican Prime Minister P.J. Patterson, the chairman of the Caribbean Community, declared: "No relationship, however valuable, will endure forever if taken constantly for granted. . . . In the closest of families, difficulties are bound to arise from time to time."

On a prickly trade issue, Caribbean nations complained they have lost tens of thousands of jobs because of the benefits Canada and Mexico enjoy under the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Clinton promised to ask Congress for NAFTA-like tariff preferences on Caribbean textiles, leather goods and other products currently excluded from duty-free treatment under the Reagan-era Caribbean Basin Initiative.

Patterson expressed pleasure at the president's "firm and unequivocal commitment." Clinton said he made clear "that all I could do was ask the Congress" for the legislation, noting that there is opposition in both parties to expanded trade. He said he believed Congress would be inclined to approve the legislation.

Caribbean leaders were angered last week by a U.S.-sought ruling from the World Trade Organization against special trade preferences given by the European Union to Caribbean banana imports. Some small island nations that rely on the banana trade with Europe said the ruling could wipe out their economies.

"For many of our countries, bananas (are) to us what cars are to Detroit," said Patterson, quoting Prime Minister Vaughan Lewis of St. Lucia.

Clinton said the United States supports duty-free access to the

EU market for Caribbean bananas — but will continue to oppose preferences that give European marketing and distribution firms an advantage over U.S. companies. He said the United States was targeting "a discriminatory European system, not Caribbean bananas."

The president pledged to transfer Air Force surveillance aircraft to Caribbean nations to crack down on narcotics trafficking, gunrunning and alien smuggling.

With one-third of U.S.-bound cocaine and marijuana passing through the Caribbean, the United States has been pressing leaders here to crack down on drug trafficking and money laundering. Caribbean leaders have complained the United States has not given them the resources they need.

The meeting concluded with upbeat assessments.

"History will recall this summit as having forged a new and a lasting bond between the people of our nations and those of the United States of America," Prime Minister Owen Arthur of Barbados said.



Associated Press

EAGER FOR A GLIMPSE: Hundreds of children wait for the motorcade carrying President Clinton and Caribbean leaders to pass. The summit was held Saturday in Barbados.

MARYLAND



AP photo

No more crutches: President Clinton arrives at Andrews Air Force Base on Monday, sporting a hand-carved cane given to him in Mexico last week. He had been using crutches in his recovery from a major knee injury he suffered March 14.

CAPITAL ROUNDUP

10A • TUESDAY, MAY 13, 1997 • USA TODAY

HOME AGAIN:

President Clinton, sporting a new white cane, returned to the White House after a week-long trip to Mexico, Costa Rica and Barbados. Clinton's doctors gave him the OK to abandon the crutches he's used since a knee injury in March. Among issues he faces this week are the juvenile crime bill that the House passed without features he wants and fine-tuning the balanced budget accord.



By J. Scott Applewhite, AP

Clintons at White House: President's cane was a gift from Mexico

CHICAGO DEFENDER - Tuesday, May 13, 1997

People

At The Wire

(From Defender wires)

Clinton returning from tour

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados — After a week of meeting leaders in Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean, then a day of relaxation in Barbados, President Clinton is “feeling great” and ready to head home.

Spokeswoman Mary Ellen Glynn says the president was “really beat” following his week of meetings, but adds his day of sitting poolside Sunday and talking with his wife and reading “did him a world of good.”

Commentary

Backstairs at the White House

CHICAGO DEFENDER - Tuesday, May 13, 1997

Clinton cracks 'em up in Mexico

by Helen Thomas

(Thomas is White House reporter for the United Press International news service.)

WASHINGTON (UPI) — President Clinton had serious business on his agenda when he arrived in Mexico City but that didn't stop him from making his first stop into a running comedy routine with Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo as his guide. Clinton spent nearly two hours touring the National Museum of Anthropology immediately upon his arrival in the country at the start of an eight-day Latin American swing. As the sightseeing wore on, the eager U.S. visitor grew what companions described as a bit punchy.

Spotting a statue of a heavily tattooed male with a gaping mouth and sagging, pierced earlobes, Clinton remarked: "Dennis Rodman." Amid pre-Columbian statues, he saw one with a somewhat similar face and pointed out, "Look, there's my ancestor — his nose is too big."

And after being told by a curator that a display of misshapen human skulls was due to the Mayan practice of purposely compressing the heads of their children, Clinton aide Bruce Lindsey wondered aloud about the effect that would have on early childhood development.

On that, Clinton remarked: "It depends whether you read to them and sing to them while you're squeezing their heads." With chuckles all around over their glib references to his recent White House conference on the educational needs of young children, Clinton proceeded to imagine aloud the words of a mother to her child: "I'm squeezing your head. I love you. I'm squeezing your head because I love you."

The comedy actually began the moment Air Force One landed in Mexico City, even before the president managed to hobble with his crutches off the plane.

The Mexicans had prepared an honor guard of soldiers on the tarmac, and placed a red carpet toward the front of the plane to catch the president's first steps on Mexican soil. But before Clinton could work his way down the stairs of his 747 jetliner, a flurry of activity broke out among the assembled Mexican officials, while two workers were hastily dispatched to roll up the small piece of carpet, barely 10 feet in length, run it over to the honor guard, and unroll it in front of the first dozen or so soldiers in line.

U.S. officials involved in trip preparations had no immediate explanation for the slightly awkward display of last-minute indecision, although one described hours of agonizing debate covering such possibilities as the carpet being sucked into the blades of departing helicopters.

But the planners apparently failed to anticipate that the decidedly modest length of carpeting would have left the crutch-dependent Clinton stepping off the other end — right at the point of a storm grating. Although the last-minute switch meant the president had to walk a few yards on black tarmac before setting foot on cloth, he did so safely, and the tradition of a red-carpet — or red placemat — welcome had been preserved.

Ever since first daughter Chelsea Clinton made the surprise announcement last week that she would be attending Stanford University, speculation has been rampant about the reasons for her decision.

Asked for her opinion, a personal aide to the first family said the No. 1 reason for her choice was her fervent desire for privacy: Stanford is far from Washington, and has a reputation for protecting its celebrity students.

But the aide described an agonizing choice for Chelsea, but said Chelsea as being particularly anxious to remove herself from the oppressive orbit of East Coast politics that would have accompanied her to such schools.

Having a Wonderful Time . . .

Image: George Bush, globe-trotting foreign-policy President; Bill Clinton, domestically focused stay-at-home President. The reality, however, is that homeboy Bill has flitted about almost as much as cosmopolitan George. And with his first visit to Latin America last week, Clinton surpassed his predecessor. But in the First Lady frequent-flyer contest, peripatetic Hillary wins by many a mile over Barbara Bush, who was a veritable domestic shut-in. A comparison of the foreign trips each has headed:



The First Couple try on masks in Mexico

PRESIDENT	COUNTRIES VISITED	FAVORITE SPOTS	VISITS	MAIDEN VOYAGE	CONSPICUOUS SKIPS	COMMON STOP
BILL	36	Russia, Italy, France, Israel, Canada	3	Canada	China	Costa Rica
GEORGE	35	France	4	Canada	Israel	Costa Rica
FIRST LADY						
HILLARY	33	South Africa	2	Norway	Russia	Costa Rica*
BARBARA	2	Canada	2	Canada	The world	Costa Rica

*Hillary only made it there with Bill last week

MAY 10TH 1997

POLITICS THIS WEEK



Visiting Mexico, President Clinton signed accords on drugs, money-laundering and border co-operation, but was reminded that proud Mexicans value their sovereignty. He flew on to meet Central American leaders, who want NAFTA-like free trade, and, later, Caribbean ones, who doubt its value to them.

reflects a sharp deterioration in Arab-Israeli relations and growing Arab concern at the thought of Binyamin Netanyahu's finger on a nuclear button. Israel's acceptance of the 1993 Oslo peace agreement, they argue, was at least partly due to Yitzhak Rabin's realisation that Israel could not for ever ensure that its enemies were denied nuclear weapons. But the peace process supposed to defuse the wider conflict remains far from complete. Shuddering away from the exchange of fearful threats, these softer-nosed Israelis urge a strong infusion of American diplomacy. This week, on top of a meeting between Yasser Arafat and President Ezer Weizman, the tireless Dennis Ross was back, trying.

Mexico

Awkward guest

MEXICO CITY

ONE principle has long ruled American policy towards Mexico: don't rock the boat, and if some fool in it does, help the captain (even if he is the fool) to bail it out. For decades that has meant turning a blind eye to the monkey-tricks of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party, the PRI. In the peso crisis of 1995 it meant—not for the first time—a fat package of financial aid as well. That package was Bill Clinton's work. But is the American president, a visitor this week, ready to change his country's ways?

Maybe. Mr Clinton did all that is normal in such a visit, signing accords on drugs, money-laundering, border co-operation and much else, speaking kindly of his hosts and their country, even honouring its heroes from a lost war with his own 150 years ago. But also, to the irritation of PRI bosses, awaiting uneasily July's voting for



We're still buddies, Ernesto

The smaller neighbours

SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA

AS BILL CLINTON waxed poetic in Mexico about the benefits—and hoped-for expansion—of the North American Free-Trade Agreement, Mexico's smaller neighbours were listening carefully. Mr Clinton was due in Costa Rica, and later in Barbados, to meet the leaders of Central America and the Caribbean. Both regions have worries about trade, and NAFTA is one of them.

Both areas have privileged access to the United States' market through the Caribbean Basin Initiative. But NAFTA, opening doors to their rivals in Mexico, has removed most of the privilege. Trade with the American market, and worldwide investment aimed at it, have gone Mexico's way. So? The Central Americans, who have embraced free-marketry and—less zealously—trade integration among themselves, want a free-trade accord, NAFTA-like but even more comprehensive. That will take time, and Mr Clinton—unexpectedly—raised at once the thorny issue of labour rights. But, as a portent, most countries were expected to sign an open-skies airline accord with him on May 8th.

In contrast, Caribbean governments

find little for them in free trade. They have just seen the World Trade Organisation uphold a complaint, backed by the United States (among others), against the European Union's special access for Caribbean bananas—a vital issue for some islands. Their tiny economies are already awash with American goods: They would love to claw back some sort of special status, offering privileged access for their exports—and protection at home.

The United States has more reasons than trade theory or mere goodwill to listen to both regions. Two of their main exports to it are (mainly Colombian) drugs and their own poor migrants. They are mostly ready to co-operate on drugs, but want a less one-sided approach; only now has Jamaica agreed even to a diluted version of the "shiprider" accords accepted by others in the Caribbean to aid American patrols. On migration, both regions are worried by new American laws, which they fear may lead to mass deportations (not least, of criminals). And their argument is crude but true: be nice to our goods, and so boost our economies—or, law or no law, you will find our job-seekers coming instead.

Congress and the mayoralty of Mexico city, he insisted on private meetings with the heads of all three main parties—which, of course, included the two chief opposition parties, the leftist PRD and the conservative PAN. Even the democracy-loving Jimmy Carter, the last American president to visit Mexico city, did not seek as much.

The meetings set off a flurry of speculation. Without American backing, argues Jorge Castaneda, an expert on its relations with the United States, "the PRI would not have lasted beyond 1988"—the year when Carlos Salinas won the presidency in an election whose count (let alone conduct) many believed rigged. As Federico Reyes Heróles, a pollster, notes, ordinary people in Mexico know who stands behind the PRI: asked who holds most power there, many respond "the president", but still more "the United States."

Felipe Calderon, leader of the PAN, used his meeting with Mr Clinton, he said, to "make clear in an election year that the PAN is a real option for an alternation of power." The meeting with the PRD was less amiable: Manuel Lopez Obrador, its head, said, "You can't talk of a friendly relationship when Mexicans' human rights are being violated in the United States." "A bit more nationalistic and populist" was the patronising description used by Mr Clin-

ton's spokesman. Yet that the meeting happened at all was an advance.

Or was it? Mr Castaneda says that the visit has had the result of bolstering President Ernesto Zedillo and the PRI just before July's voting. Whether by design or chance is another question. But why else, ask cynics, would an American president plan the first such trip in nearly two decades at so helpful a moment?

Yet Mr Clinton's visit did come at a time when Mexico is moving towards open democracy. Its new electoral code, while imperfect, is far better than the old one. In total, opposition parties now govern nearly half of all Mexicans at state and local level. Even the PRD's Cuauhtémoc Cardenas, the loser in 1988, this week said that egregious fraud of the sort that cost him the presidency then is unlikely this year. True, the reason he offered was the risk it would pose to foreign investment, not any sudden rush of virtue. But even that implies that foreigners will no longer blithely accept electoral fraud as the Mexican norm.

It now appears that the United States is ready to believe that no longer the PRI but democracy may be the best guarantor of stability in Mexico. Yes, says James Jones, Mr Clinton's soon-to-depart ambassador: "It doesn't matter to us who wins."

MEXINGTON

Excelentísimo Clinton

MEXICO dressed herself up for Bill Clinton this week. She put on a parade of cavalry and glinting swords and ornamental cannon; she hid her blemishes behind a thick layer of security goons, who kept poor people out of sight. Mr Clinton, on his first visit to Mexico as president, responded gallantly. He praised Mexico's majestic past and her dynamic future; he lauded her writers and archaeological treasures; he rejoiced in her political and economic reform. And, like a proud woman, Mexico was delighted to be respected as an equal. During the two days of the visit, President Ernesto Zedillo kept on saying how important it was that Mr Clinton looked upon Mexico as a "sovereign nation" (unlike some gringos, went the subtext). "Thank you, Excelentísimo Clinton," he said glowingly.

For once, Mr Clinton's flattery was meant sincerely. Over the past four years, over NAFTA, anti-drugs co-operation and the emergency loan for Mexico when its currency collapsed, he has taken huge risks for his southern neighbour. This week he came to Mexico with further tokens of devotion. Half the members of his cabinet were there with him, to negotiate a range of agreements with their Mexican counterparts. There was a deal on sewage processing, so that Mexican waste would no longer sully San Diego's beaches. There was a pact to reduce agricultural trade barriers, consolidating the work of freeing trade that NAFTA began. On immigration and drugs, the two thorns in Mexican-American relations, there were promises of new understanding.

All this is a far cry from 1976, when Henry Kissinger visited Mexico with ill-concealed reluctance, and spent his time there lecturing bemused officials on the East-West balance. A country that seemed peripheral to the grand stratagems of the cold war now seems, in the words of a top Clinton adviser, the very model of what post-cold-war policy is about. Mr Kissinger's master stroke—his biggest risk and his greatest achievement—was to lead Nixon to China. The equivalent for Mr Clinton is backing Mexico through hard times.

By cutting trade barriers and saving Mexico from financial crisis, America has made possible a fine flowering of links between the two countries. Mexico has long been America's third trading partner, after Canada and Japan: since NAFTA came into force three years ago, American exports to Mexico are up 36%, and imports have jumped 80%. When Mexico defaulted on its debt in 1982, it set off a financial crisis across Latin America that lasted until the end of the decade. This time Mexico has repaid America's emergency loan three years ahead of schedule.

Mexico offers threats as well as opportunities, and here too it exemplifies post-cold-war diplomacy. The security threats of the new era include drugs: and most of the illegal drugs entering America come through Mexico. They include immigration: Mexicans account for over half of the 5m illegal immigrants in America, though more than 100,000 Mexicans move to America legally each year. And they include pollution: with 2,000 miles of

common border, Mexico's air, water and sewage is bound to affect America's environment in a big way.

None of these modern threats can be dealt with unilaterally. But co-operation between Mexico and America is tricky. This is why Mr Clinton's gallantry is so necessary to soothe old wounds. And yet it is difficult to suppress doubts about how far the gallant's power actually extends, doubts which go to the heart of America's diplomacy after the cold war. The ten cabinet members there in Mexico were proof that the new foreign policy is, increasingly, domestic policy. This makes it more sensitive. Ordinary voters were willing, by and large, to leave the cold war's geostrategists to wrestle with the evil empire; but they are less trusting on issues that affect them directly, such as drugs. This difference means, in turn, that Congress meddles a lot more in what used to be the president's prerogative.

That is awkward, especially for relations with a touchy country like Mexico. The creation of NAFTA ought to have been an unmitigated plus for Mexican-American relations. Instead, the ratification debate set off some vicious criticism of Mexico as a third-world slum, criticism zealously amplified by Mexico's prickly press. Equally, the peso bail-out should have been a triumph; but Congress opposed helping Mexico so fiercely that Mr Clinton had eventually to go behind its back. Mr Clinton's backing for Mexico's drugs war was the same story: it was an occasion for Mexico-bashing in Congress yet again.

Up to a point, Congress's shrill anti-diplomacy is inevitable: America's foreign allies will have to develop thicker skins. But some congressional meddling is avoidable; it is the result of laws that curtail the president's elbow-room in foreign policy, and in general these are a bad idea. Some wise heads in Congress know this: two bills in the House propose to undo legislation passed in the 1980s, which limits the president's freedom to choose how far to co-operate with Latin governments' efforts to fight drugs. But drugs are not the only problem; and few members of Congress are willing to cut back their meddling across the board.

This week, after Messrs Clinton and Zedillo had given a sun-drenched press conference in the garden of Mexico's presidential mansion. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas could be found following the crowd that filed back to the car park, scrambling up grass banks and over rose shrubs in elegant high-heels. Did she sympathise with the House bills to return drugs policy to the president? Yes, she did. Did she have reservations about the Helms-Burton law, which ties the president's hands on Cuba policy? Ah well, in this case she did not. And what did she think about the War Powers Act, which took away the president's right to declare war without recourse to Congress? It should be revised to restrict the president's power still more tightly, the senator declared. Congress is not about to relinquish its say in foreign policy: which means that Mr Clinton's gallantry in Mexico will be tempered by ruder voices that trundle in his wake.



Novedades



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La Conchita por fin fue transformada, gracias a la visita de Nilda Patricia Velasco y Hillary Clinton [A 6]

REVISARAN EL TRATADO DE EXTRADICION

México y EU firman alianza contra drogas



Los presidentes Ernesto Zedillo y Bill Clinton saludan a niños que acudieron al Campo Marte, en donde el mandatario mexicano dio la bienvenida oficial a su colega estadounidense.

Fotos: Javier Sánchez y Carlos Ramos

Novedades



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Foto: Javier Sánchez

Avenida Juárez y otras importantes vialidades de la ciudad fueron cerradas ayer sorpresivamente con motivo de la visita de Bill Clinton, lo que causó grandes congestionamientos e irritación ciudadana.

Paraliza al DF el cierre de calles

La breve estancia del presidente William Clinton en el Distrito Federal provocó ayer la "violación de derechos constitucionales" y caos vial, debido al las extremas medidas de seguridad impuestas por miles de guardianes del orden, opinaron irritados ciudadanos.

En el Ángel de la Independencia, centenares de policías trataron de impedir una manifestación en contra de la visita de Clinton y arrestaron al menos a tres personas por lanzar consignas antiestadounidenses.

Miles de policías tendieron un férreo cordón de seguridad, que abarcó varias cuerdas circundantes al Ángel, Palacio Nacional y el Palacio de Bellas Artes.

Algunos automovilistas y ciudadanos tardaron más de tres horas para llegar a su destino, por lo que demandaron que esa excesiva seguridad utilizada en cuidar al presidente norteamericano se empleara mejor para combatir al hampa.

➤ Información en la página [A 6]

Ayudarán a formar la nueva policía mexicana antinarco

Los presidentes Ernesto Zedillo y William Clinton firmaron ayer una Alianza México-Estados Unidos contra las Drogas, y se declararon unidos para combatir este mal con todos los recursos a su alcance y con respeto absoluto a la soberanía y jurisdicción territorial de las dos naciones.

Los dignatarios también suscribieron una Declaración Conjunta sobre Migración, ceremonia en la que Clinton garantizó que "no habrá deportaciones a gran escala".

La firma de los documentos se llevó a cabo en la hondonada de la residencia oficial de Los Pinos, después de la Sesión Plenaria de Conclusiones de la XIV Comisión Binacional México-Estados Unidos.

La Declaración de la Alianza incluye un acuerdo para negociar un Protocolo al Tratado de Extradición que permita, bajo condiciones y circunstancias apropiadas, que individuos sean juzgados en ambos países antes de completar sus sentencias en cualquiera de ellos.

En rueda de prensa, Barry McCaffrey dijo que Estados Unidos ayudará a las autoridades mexicanas a establecer una nueva policía antidrogas, completará la entrega de 73 helicópteros, entrenará a los aviadores mexicanos y compartirá pruebas e información de inteligencia.

➤ Información en la página [A 5]

Novedades



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La soberanía no se negoció: Zedillo

Clinton promete no dañar a inmigrantes mexicanos

El presidente Ernesto Zedillo afirmó ayer que la nueva alianza de México con Estados Unidos "no significa de ninguna manera una revisión del concepto de soberanía". En conferencia de prensa conjunta con su colega Bill Clinton, el mandatario mexicano aseguró que "al contrario", la nueva relación con la Casa Blanca, enmarcada en la "Declaración de Alianza contra las Drogas" y una Declaración Conjunta sobre Migración contienen en su primer artículo la mención al "respeto absoluto a la soberanía y la jurisdicción" de ambas naciones.

En diversos actos, Clinton y Zedillo establecieron una nueva relación basada en el diálogo y en el respeto mutuo.

Por la mañana, en el Campo Marte, Clinton y su esposa Hillary recibieron una cálida y colorida bienvenida de su anfitrión Ernesto Zedillo, quien lo llamó "un buen amigo de México".

En su respuesta, Clinton señaló que en los albores del nuevo siglo, los dos países tienen "aspiraciones en común y debemos seguir trabajando por un objetivo común".

Luego de la firma de los acuerdos, el mandatario estadounidense aseguró que su gobierno no tiene interés alguno en dañar a los inmigrantes mexicanos, y recalcó que en el siglo XXI la frontera común será el principal vínculo entre ambos países. "El gobierno estadounidense instrumentará la nueva ley de inmigración de forma justa y humana", prometió.

Por la noche, Zedillo ofreció un banquete de Estado en honor de los Clinton, en el Patio de Honor de Palacio Nacional. Durante la cena, el presidente estadounidense dijo ante Zedillo: "aunque las dificultades no le son aún extrañas a muchos de sus compatriotas, los pasos que usted está dando y la cooperación que estamos forjando sientan las bases para una prosperidad duradera".

Bill Clinton recibió primero a Calderón

El presidente William Clinton dijo ayer, ante los dirigentes nacionales del PAN, PRD y PRI, que su gobierno no tendrá "problemas ni prejuicios" en su trato con México en caso de una alternancia en el poder surgida de un proceso electoral democrático y limpio. El mandatario se comprometió a ver con respeto e interés las próximas elecciones de México, y se congratuló por los avances democráticos alcanzados con la reforma electoral.

Primero recibió a Felipe Calderón Hinojosa, quien le leyó y entregó una carta "mesurada", así como una serie de propuestas para una mejor relación bilateral.

Andrés Manuel López Obrador le leyó y entregó personalmente una carta donde expresa su rechazo a la prepotencia, racismo, xenofobia, explotación salvaje, hostigamiento policial y abuso financiero en contra de mexicanos.

El último en entablar conversación con Clinton fue Roque Villanueva, quien tuvo que esperar más de 50 minutos para hablar sólo 20.

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BIENVENIDA OFICIAL EN EL CAMPO MARTE

Zedillo destaca amistad de Clinton hacia México

Mexicanos y estadounidenses comparten los valores de justicia, democracia y libertad, declara

Por RAUL HERNANDEZ y JUAN HERNANDEZ

Los presidentes Ernesto Zedillo y William Clinton advirtieron ayer que las diferencias y relaciones complejas existentes entre México y Estados Unidos, sólo podrán superarse a través de la cooperación, el diálogo y la negociación, con pleno respeto a la soberanía de cada país.

Durante la ceremonia de bienvenida que ofreció el titular del Ejecutivo mexicano a su colega estadounidense en las instalaciones del Campo Marte, los mandatarios coincidieron en que ambos países ingresarán al Siglo XXI como "estimados socios y fieles amigos", situación que los guiará hacia la prosperidad, seguridad y la paz.

Acompañados por sus respectivas esposas, Nilda Patricia Velasco y Hillary Rodham, ante miembros de sus gabinetes e invitados especiales, los estadistas coincidieron en que mexicanos y estadounidenses cada día aprenden más que el respeto mutuo y la coordinación de esfuerzos son esenciales para enfrentar mejor problemas como el tráfico de drogas, armas y personas.

"Los desafíos son enormes, pero también lo es nuestro sentido de decisión", dijo Clinton.

Luego de que la banda de guerra entonó los himnos nacionales e hizo sonar con siete cañones 21 salvas de honor, el presidente Zedillo admitió que a la vista de un nuevo siglo, las relaciones entre ambas naciones son más intensas y más complejas, pero también más provechosas y promisorias para mexicanos y norteamericanos.

Al inicio de su intervención, el Presidente mexicano hizo un amplio reconocimiento a su homólogo y amigo Bill Clinton, quinto presidente norteamericano que realiza una visita de



Foto: AFP

El mandatario estadounidense William Clinton es recibido en el Campo Marte por el titular del Ejecutivo mexicano, Ernesto Zedillo, mientras sus respectivas esposas aplauden, ayer.

Estado a la capital del país, y el primero después de 20 años. Recordó que "el presidente de los Estados Unidos es un buen amigo que respeta a México como nación soberana" mismo que aprecia la grandeza de nuestro pasado histórico y el potencial de su desarrollo.

"El presidente Clinton ha fortalecido el entendimiento que nos une como vecinos; que ha impulsado las relaciones productivas que nos unen como socios comerciales y que ha vigorizado los vínculos de amistad que unen a nuestros pueblos", subrayó Ernesto Zedillo.

Agradeció que el mandatario de la Unión Americana practique el diálogo y la cooperación para atender los problemas comunes a ambos países: "El tiempo y los resultados han dado la razón al presidente Clinton en su política de respeto y a amistad hacia México".

¡Saludos amigos...

Al agradecer el emotivo recibimiento, durante el cual se efectuó un majestuoso desfile de la Guardia de Honor, integrado por elementos del Ejército Mexicano y cadetes de las es-

cuelas de Marina, Fuerza Aérea y del Colegio Militar, Bill Clinton pronunció, en español antes que nada, luego de saludar al mandatario mexicano y a su esposa: ¡Saludos, amigos...!, palabras que arrancaron un aplauso de los invitados a la ceremonia.

Ya en su discurso, Clinton expresó su satisfacción por encontrarse en México, porque "es una nación rica en historia, cultura y belleza, y sobre todo un magnífico y bondadoso pueblo que le ha otorgado tanto al mundo".

El estadista de la Unión Americana reconoció que México está abriendo sus puertas de la democracia, al adoptar una audaz reforma económica, descentralizando el poder y otorgándole nueva voz a sus ciudadanos, comunidades y regiones.

Admitió que el éxito de las empresas mexicanas es importante también para Estados Unidos. Nuestras patrias, dijo, comparten más que una frontera común, desafíos y oportunidades comunes: progresar hacia el futuro.

Afirmó que en los albores del siglo XX México y Estados Unidos cosechan los frutos

de su labor, al abrir sus respectivas economías para asegurar un futuro estable y mejor para todos.

Al final de su intervención, William Clinton destacó la gran vitalidad del pueblo de México, tras señalar que el futuro de nuestro país se encuentra acunado en las manos de su gente. En este sentido y antes de concluir citó al escritor Carlos Fuentes: "La grandeza de México es que su pasado está siempre vivo".

Nuestras historias y destinos estarán unidos para siempre, finalizó.

Cena de gala

En la noche, durante la cena de Estado ofrecida por el presidente Ernesto Zedillo y su esposa Nilda Patricia Velasco en el Patio de Honor de Palacio Nacional, Clinton dijo que México y Estados Unidos quieren trabajar juntos para afirmar los cimientos de una prosperidad duradera. El mandatario se congratuló de que los líderes y los partidos políticos de nuestro país "están abriendo -más que nunca- las puertas de la democracia".

Ante poco más de 500 invitados, entre ellos Gabriel García Márquez, Carlos Fuentes, el líder del PAN, Felipe Calderón, y Enrique Krauze, el dignatario estadounidense manifestó el deseo de "trabajar juntos para que nuestra frontera sea una región de crecimiento, para combatir la enfermedad y las amenazas de la droga, del crimen organizado y la corrupción".

Antes, el presidente Ernesto Zedillo destacaría que mexicanos y estadounidenses comparten la fe en los valores de justicia, democracia y libertad.

Después, pediría un brindis por la salud del presidente Clinton y esposa Hillary, y por la prosperidad del pueblo norteamericano.

En su turno, el presidente estadounidense externó su beneplácito por encontrarse en suelo mexicano, "en un momento en que esta lucha está logrando otro paso enorme hacia adelante".

Sin embargo, aclaró que el renacer de la libertad no es sólo cuestión de mejorar los sistemas políticos. "También debemos luchar para que nuestros ciudadanos no padezcan de necesidad ni de hambre; para que sean libres de los

peligros que trae nuestra nueva era, y para que tengan la libertad de aprovechar al máximo sus vidas".

Clinton señaló que la asociación que su país busca con México "es una que hará progresar ese tipo de libertad aquí y en todas las Américas". Reafirmó que su país quiere trabajar con México para mejorar el aire y el agua que compartimos, y contar con una frontera próspera. "Podremos tener éxito porque hemos forjado una relación tan ancha y tan profunda como cualquiera que exista en este planeta y hoy hemos logrado grandes progresos hacia esa meta".

A su llegada a Palacio Nacional, procedentes del Palacio de Bellas Artes, donde disfrutaron de la gran música, el matrimonio Zedillo mostró los murales de Diego Rivera a la pareja Clinton.

Poco después de las 22:00 horas, se dirigió al Palacio Nacional para encabezar la cena de gala.

El actor español radicado en territorio norteamericano, Antonio Banderas, acapó la atención poco antes de iniciar la cena. Lo mismo ocurrió con García Márquez y Carlos Fuentes, quienes estuvieron en la mesa con el ex secretario de Relaciones Exteriores Bernardo Sepúlveda.

Por la tarde, en la conferencia de prensa conjunta con el presidente Zedillo, William Clinton había dejado en claro que la decisión de las elecciones del próximo 6 de julio en nuestro país, "es una decisión que está en manos del pueblo mexicano".

"Y todos nosotros, que apoyamos la democracia, los derechos humanos, vamos a apoyarlos", abundó.

A su vez, Ernesto Zedillo puntualizó que en este momento no hay una razón de peso, "desde el punto de vista mexicano", para revisar el contenido del Tratado de Libre Comercio de Norteamérica.

"Considero que el Tratado de Libre Comercio se ha desempeñado claramente conforme a los objetivos que nos trazamos los tres países participantes: así lo acreditan las cifras del comercio entre ambas naciones", dijo el gobernante mexicano.

BIENVENIDA OFICIAL EN EL CAMPO MARTE

CONCLUSIONES DE LA BINACIONAL

México y EU impulsarán "visión más civilizada" de la frontera

Por RAUL HERNANDEZ ARCOS y
JUAN HERNANDEZ URBAN

Al presentar las conclusiones de la XIV Reunión Binacional México-Estados Unidos, el secretario de Relaciones Exteriores, José Ángel Gurría, dijo que en los acuerdos que se firmaron se contemplan medidas para detectar transacciones financieras ilícitas, la construcción y ampliación de puentes y la creación de infraestructura y mecanismos de enlace fronterizos.

De igual forma, se prevé la protección de los recursos naturales y la fauna, el intercambio educativo y cultural y la aviación.

Estos resultados, dijo, son un signo de una relación madura de ambas naciones, basada en el respeto recíproco. En seguida presentó los resultados más sobresalientes:

En materia de cooperación fronteriza, destacan la puesta en marcha del Programa Ambiental Frontera XXI; la inauguración de las plantas binacionales de tratamiento de aguas de Nuevo Laredo y San Diego; la entrada en operación de dos nuevos puertos fronterizos y el acuerdo para iniciar la construcción de un tercero.

Informó que se acordó impulsar una nueva visión, más humana y civilizada, de nuestra frontera común con nulas al siglo XXI.

El funcionario mexicano dijo que el Grupo de Comercio e Inversión realizó una amplia evaluación del Tratado de Libre Comercio. Admitió que en este punto existen, como es lógico e inevitable, algunos diferendos, los cuales están siendo abordados de acuerdo con las reglas establecidas por el propio Tratado.

No obstante, agregó, el saldo arroja re-

sultados muy positivos y demuestra que el Tratado está funcionando bien.

Apuntó que en materia financiera, la cooperación ha sido excepcional, como lo demuestra el apoyo otorgado a México y su pago anticipado. Lo mismo puede decirse del trabajo que se realiza en materia de lavado de dinero.

En el Grupo de Agricultura, se constataron importantes avances, como la liberación de trabas a las exportaciones de tomate, aguacate, trigo y productos porcícolas mexicanos, así como cítricos y cerezas de los Estados Unidos. Se avanza también en lo referente a la exportación de productos avícolas.

En el Grupo de Pesca, manifestó Gurría, la prioridad fue promover conjuntamente las medidas que habrán de permitir la reanudación de las exportaciones de atún mexicano.

En cuanto al Grupo de Transporte, señaló que se lograron avances que conducirán a la apertura de nuestras fronteras en esta materia, según lo previsto en el Tratado de Libre Comercio.

Sobre las telecomunicaciones, dijo que se destacan acuerdos en materia de servicio satelitales, que bien pueden convertirse en modelos de cooperación hemisférica.

En el Grupo de Energía, informó que los trabajos giraron en torno a las oportunidades de inversión que se abren a partir de los programas de reestructuración, principalmente en los sectores eléctrico y petroquímico.

En materia educativa, expresó que el Grupo Bilateral presentó avances en materia de educación al migrante, atención a personas discapacitadas, educación para adultos, la bilingüe y la educación a distancia.



Foto: AP

Clinton acepta el brindis ofrecido por el mandatario mexicano por la salud de aquel y de su esposa Hillary, y por la prosperidad del pueblo de Estados Unidos.

Clinton responde abruptamente a pregunta sobre el caso Whitewater

"Si ustedes no saben, yo no puedo ayudarlos", dice a la prensa

El presidente de Estados Unidos, Bill Clinton, de visita oficial en México, respondió abruptamente a una pregunta sobre el escándalo Whitewater. "No y no", dijo cuando le preguntaron si las nuevas versiones surgidas en la investigación del notorio caso de bienes raíces en Arkansas representaban nuevos problemas para su esposa Hillary Rodham Clinton.

El tema salió a relucir en una conferencia de prensa con su colega mexicano, el presidente Ernesto Zedillo, debido a informes del consejero independiente del caso, Kenneth Starr, quien dijo que la primera dama había cambiado una declara-

ción jurada que difería de las declaraciones de otros testigos. "Ustedes han estado observando el caso durante años, y si ustedes no saben, yo no puedo ayudarlos", agregó Clinton, cuando se le pidió que fuera más explícito.

Sin embargo, el mandatario decidió luego discutir el asunto con los periodistas un poco más, tal vez percatándose de que su brusquedad podría provocar titulares de prensa desfavorables. "No quise ser poco serio. Lo que quise decir fue que yo no estoy al tanto de ninguna discrepancia. Punto. No tengo conocimiento de ninguna", señaló Clinton.

El mandatario estadounidense subrayó, una vez más, que el negocio sobre bienes raíces tuvo lugar hace casi 20 años y que en circunstancias semejantes cualquiera puede tener problemas a la hora de recordar datos o aspectos específicos.

Madrado aclara que aún no se aceptan los 8 mdd para la PGR

Por RAUL HERNANDEZ ARCOS

Al concluir los trabajos de la Reunión Binacional México-Estados Unidos, el procurador general de la República, Jorge Madrazo Cuéllar, afirmó ayer que los logros alcanzados en la lucha contra el narcotráfico entre ambos países no ha sido una cuestión mágica, sino de entendimiento mutuo, principalmente para avanzar en los puntos donde no se ha llegado a un 100 por ciento de acuerdo.

En conferencia de prensa, celebrada en el Campo Marte el término de los trabajos de la Reunión Binacional, Madrazo Cuéllar dejó en claro que la decisión del gobierno estadounidense de otorgar ocho millones de dólares a la PGR para apoyar a la nueva Fiscalía Especial en la Lucha Contra las Drogas "no estaba prevista ni negociada" en la agenda de trabajo del Grupo de Contacto de Alto Nivel, sino que fue un gesto de la secretaria de Estado, Madeleine Albright.

Añadió que aún no ha sido aceptada esta cooperación millonaria debido a que se tiene que estudiar dentro del marco de los documentos que ayer se suscribieron, y ver si es posible su aceptación dentro de estos principios.

"La declaración de los Presidentes recoge como punto sustancial y primario el respeto absoluto de soberanía de México, pero al mismo tiempo, este principio tiene que armonizarse con el hecho de buscar mecanismos por parte de los gobiernos nacionales para brindar seguridad a los agentes de otros países que realicen un trabajo de investigación en territorio nacional", indicó.

Madrazo Cuéllar manifestó que México y los Estados Unidos comparten una gran responsabilidad en la lucha contra el narcotráfico y en el abatimiento del consumo de estupefacientes, responsabilidad que surge de su propia e intensa vecindad y de la nítida identificación del verdadero enemigo común, lo que nos debe colocar necesariamente e inexcusablemente en una relación de aliados.

La formulación del Diagnóstico Conjunto México-Estados Unidos sobre la Amenaza del Fenómeno de las Drogas, producto del trabajo empeñoso del Grupo de Contacto de Alto Nivel establecido entre los dos países, y que ayer fue entregado en manos de los Jefes de Estado, es inequívoca expresión de que se habla en el mismo idioma en esta lucha.

miércoles 7 de mayo de 1997

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Clinton en México

LA visita de Estado del presidente William Clinton a México contribuyó a disipar el clima de tensión que prevaleció a lo largo de 1996 -año electoral en ese país- y que alcanzó su expresión más aguda hace algunas semanas, a raíz de las presiones en el Congreso estadounidense para "descertificar" a México.

Para el señor Clinton la relación bilateral debe estar definida por el respeto pleno a la soberanía de los dos países y la buena fe. "En el siglo XXI -dijo- queremos que nuestras fronteras sean nuestro vínculo... basado en el intercambio del comercio y de las personas, de los seres humanos, a través de las fronteras, y manteniéndonos fieles al Estado de Derecho". Queremos, añadió Clinton en la cena ofrecida en su honor, construir una relación adecuada con México, que propicie la prosperidad del país.

Por su parte, el presidente Ernesto Zedillo reconoció en su ilustre visitante a un amigo que respeta a México como nación soberana. "El presidente Clinton es un buen amigo, que ha fortalecido el entendimiento que nos une como vecinos; que ha impulsado las relaciones productivas que nos unen como socios comerciales; que ha vigorizado los vínculos de amistad que unen a nuestros pueblos".

En la Declaración Conjunta, sobre el tema de la migración se reconoce el derecho soberano de cada Estado a legislar y aplicar sus leyes de acuerdo con sus intereses, pero sin contravenir las normas del derecho internacional.

Bajo esta luz, es inobjetable la política estadounidense de desalentar la inmigración ilegal y fomentar la legal, pero también lo es el reclamo mexicano, que en la Declaración fuera adoptado por ambos países, de privilegiar las consultas y acciones bilaterales sobre las unilaterales y garantizar el respeto a los derechos humanos de los migrantes.

Es notorio que la visita del presidente Clinton contribuyó a restablecer la mutua comprensión y la amistad entre las dos naciones. Ojalá que los hechos concretos de la vida diaria refrenden la voluntad política de los presidentes.

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Excesos de "seguridad"

NADIE puede negar que la seguridad del presidente Clinton y su comitiva durante su estancia en nuestro país, es un asunto de la más alta prioridad. Bastaría imaginar las consecuencias que pudiera tener para nuestro país el más leve riesgo para la integridad física del Mandatario del país más poderoso de la Tierra para aceptar que la garantía a su seguridad es un asunto del más alto interés nacional.

No se puede aceptar, en cambio, que el cumplimiento de esa delicada misión justifique excesos como los que se dieron ayer en la Ciudad de México, que a lo largo del día tenía el aspecto de una urbe en estado de sitio. El Estado Mayor Presidencial, el Ejército Mexicano y la Secretaría de Seguridad Pública de la capital invadieron con centenares de elementos las calles por donde habría de pasar el presidente Clinton, los recintos a los que acudiría, como el Palacio de Bellas Artes, y el hotel en el que se hospedó. Todo ello sin contar con la presencia discreta, pero evidente, de personal de seguridad estadounidense.

A lo largo del día, el tráfico de la ciudad quedó desquiciado, sobre todo en las arterias que confluyen en la zona donde se realizaron las actividades presidenciales, lo que se tradujo en la elevación de los índices de contaminación y en molestias a los habitantes capitalinos. Aún no se ha aclarado si los retiros, aprehensiones y violencia que sufrieron distintos grupos de manifestantes fueron necesarios y apegados a la ley.

Pero quizá lo más grave sea que un despliegue masivo de distintas corporaciones policiacas y militares como el que tuvo lugar ayer en la capital de la República, entorpezca en vez de ayudar al objetivo central de proteger la vida y la seguridad del Presidente que nos visita y su comitiva.

Por lo demás, esos excesos no pudieron pasar inadvertidos para los visitantes. ¿Contribuyeron a la imagen de un país democrático y de leyes que queremos construir los mexicanos? ¿Ayuda en algo dar un espectáculo tan penoso de sumisión?

PROTEGEN CON GRUESOS CRISTALES ANTIBALAS AL PRESIDENTE DE EU

Comandante olvida apellido del huésped

Por JUAN HERNANDEZ

Protegido con gruesos cristales antibalas, el presidente William Clinton dio respuesta al mensaje de bienvenida de su homólogo Ernesto Zedillo, quien lo designaría como "un buen amigo de México".

En el estrado púrpura, en lo que parecía una vitrina que extremaba las medidas de seguridad, el dignatario norteamericano había recargado su par de muletas sobre la madera del pódium.

Y ahora se encontraba erguido, las manos fuertemente apoyadas sobre el atril, dirigiendo la mirada hacia las tribunas del Campo Marte, que por segunda ocasión vestía sus mejores galas en la recepción de un mandatario.

Sobre él estaba la mirada atenta de Hillary Clinton, con vestido verde pistache, tocada con un sombrero de palma, y una blanca flor de tela sobre el pecho.

A la izquierda de la primera dama norteamericana, el presidente Zedillo esbozaba una sonrisa de aprobación y junto a él, su esposa Nilda Patricia, luciendo un traje rosa de dos piezas, con zapatos beige de fina tela.

La mañana era clara y soplaban un viento fresco. En el estrado se instalaron banderas tricolores y la insignia norteamericana de sus barras y estrellas. En los momentos en que habla el presidente estadounidense, una racha de aire tira la bandera nacional.

Un coronel del Estado Mayor Presidencial acude a levantarla y ya no la soltamos más. Después de los mensajes, un incidente: el comandante de la columna que acude raudo hasta el pie del estrado a solicitar autorización para iniciar el desfile

en su honor olvida el apellido del gobernante norteamericano.

"Pido autorización señor William 'J' Presidente de los Estados Unidos Americanos".

Y en las tribunas instaladas para la prensa se escucha: "¡Lo van a arrestar!".

En el desfile participan unos 600 elementos del Heroico Colegio Militar, de la Heroica Escuela Naval Militar, y del Colegio del Aire.

Como en la bienvenida oficial a los reyes de España, Juan Carlos de Borbón y doña Sofía, nuevamente son exhibidos los caballos "percherones", arrastrando artillería del siglo XIX.

De todos lados penden, enlazadas, las banderas de México y los colores del lábaro patrio estadounidense, rojo, blanco y azul. A ambos lados de las tribunas se han instalado las banderas de las barras y la estrella, junto con la insignia nacional.

La ceremonia de bienvenida, que iniciaría poco después de las nueve de la mañana con la llegada del presidente Clinton y su esposa, se prolonga por espacio de 50 minutos.

Hay sonrisas en los dignatarios, lo mismo que en los miembros de las dos comitivas. José Ángel Gurriá se ufana de que el presidente Clinton haya traído "media Casa Blanca".

El presidente Clinton se había tardado cinco años en venir a México, pero ahora llegaba con todo y con-todos.

En el Altar a la Patria

Otro momento significativo de la visita del presidente norteamericano se dio en la visita al Monumento a la Patria.

A las 14:40 horas, bajo el pl... el sol,



Foto: Carlos Ramos

Los presidentes William Clinton y Ernesto Zedillo en el Monumento a los Niños Héroes.

Clinton acudió a este sitio acompañado del presidente Zedillo. Al monumento rendido a los héroes que defendieron a la patria de la invasión norteamericana.

El mandatario depositó en el mármol una ofrenda floral con la bandera estadounidense. Hubo un minuto de silencio y salvas. La breve ceremonia culminó con la entonación de los himnos de México y Estados Unidos.

Antes de trasladarse a Chapultepec, en la conferencia de prensa, Clinton fue interrogado sobre la visita que efectuaría luego al Monumento a la Patria.

"El presidente Truman hizo lo mismo

cuando visitó México, y entiendo que nadie ha ido desde entonces, pero creo que otros Jefes de Estado visitan ese lugar regularmente y no creo que el Presidente de los Estados Unidos no debe ir por lo que ha ocurrido entre nuestros países hace muchos años".

Señalaría que los Estados Unidos tratan de cerrar las heridas con aquellas naciones con las que ha librado guerras, incluso en épocas recientes como sucede con Vietnam.

Hoy, el dignatario continuará su periplo en Tlaxcala y Teotihuacán. Ayer, fue la política, este miércoles lo dedicará a la cultura.

Hillary Clinton elogia programas de planeación familiar

Vecinos de La Conchita presenciaron una milagrosa transformación de su colonia

Por SALVADOR CASTAÑEDA S.

Hillary Rodham Clinton afirmó ayer que México es un excelente ejemplo en el continente en materia de planificación familiar, gracias al trabajo conjunto del Gobierno y el sector privado, lo que se traduce en mayor bienestar para las familias mexicanas.

Acompañada de la señora Nilda Patricia Velasco de Zedillo, la esposa del presidente William Clinton visitó las instalaciones donde se desarrollan los programas juveniles de la Fundación Mexicana para la Planeación Familiar (Mexfam), donde presenció la representación teatral sobre el tema, titulada "El beso que embaraza", en la colonia La Conchita, de la delegación Alvaro Obregón.

Ante funcionarios estadounidenses que le acompañan en sus recorridos, padres de familia, jóvenes y vecinos en general de La Conchita, Hillary Clinton manifestó que México representa uno de los casos de mayor éxito del hemisferio, y especificó que la tasa de crecimiento poblacional ha disminuido del 8 por ciento al 3 por ciento hoy en día, lo que da oportunidad a las familias de cuidar y educar mejor a sus hijos y darles oportunidades a los jóvenes de cara al futuro.

Bajo una enorme "carpa" blanca colocada en unas canchales deportivas, elogió las acciones emprendidas por los mexicanos en materia de planificación familiar, ya que estas llegan a cubrir al 90 por ciento de la población mexicana.

Expuso que mediante estos programas se otorga salud primaria a la gente, igual que a través de las orientaciones sobre el Sida, por lo que México debe sentirse orgulloso de su desempeño por su liderazgo que garantiza que su población tenga la información necesaria para proteger su salud.

Al apreciar dichas acciones, la primera dama de EU comentó que podrá llevarse lecciones en vivo a su país, que también enfrenta problemas en materia de planificación familiar. "Espero que continúe el éxito del programa y que nosotros podamos aprender las lecciones de México", asintió.

Ahí, la Primera Dama estadounidense hizo notar la necesidad de implicar a todos los sectores: gobierno, iniciativa privada y a las organizaciones no gubernamentales para resolver el problema social, "que nos afecta a todos", de la natalidad indiscriminada, la transmisión de enfermedades sexuales y la poca información con respecto al síndrome de inmunodeficiencia adquirida (Sida).

Al término de su discurso presenció la obra de teatro callejero "El beso que embaraza", que relata las vicisitudes de una adolescente por falta de información ante la inminencia de su sexualidad.

Posteriormente, ambas damas recorrieron las instalaciones del Centro Social La Conchita, asentado en la delegación Alvaro Obregón, donde les mostraron los diferentes



Foto: AP

Hillary Rodham Clinton y Nilda Patricia Velasco de Zedillo asistieron al Museo Rufino Tamayo, donde compartieron el almuerzo con 26 destacadas mujeres.

trabajos que ahí se realizan, desde bordados hasta electro-mecánicos.

Sorpresa de residentes

Por su parte, los habitantes de la colonia La Conchita no daban crédito a sus ojos: en tan solo siete días gran parte del vecindario quedó transformado, incluyendo sus instalaciones deportivas, en una acción que no se había logrado en diez años.

Este martes los vecinos de la populosa zona se explicaron todo al ver llegar a Hillary Clinton, la primera dama del país más poderoso del mundo, a la humilde zona, considerada como una de las de mayor índice de drogadicción en el Distrito Federal.

Tres enormes "carpas" blancas, contrastantes con las sencillas viviendas, fueron colocadas ex profeso para el evento llevado a cabo en las canchas de baloncesto de La Conchita. Hasta hace una semana las canchas de "basquet" estaban deterioradas. Las canastas estaban maltratadas y el descuido de las demás áreas de esparcimiento era notorio.

Se sembraron árboles, se colocaron luminarias, se cambió en su totalidad la malla ciclónica que circunda los campos, se pintaron bardas, se instalaron modernos botes de basura, en fin, el lugar sufrió una transformación casi mila-

grosa, radical, ante la visita de la esposa del presidente estadounidense.

En esta zona, considerada de alto riesgo por autoridades delegacionales, el panorama se transformó casi de un momento a otro. Ahora ya se cuenta con los señalamientos adecuados en las calles, las guarniciones de las banquetas fueron pintadas de amarillo.

Quizá los niños fueron los más beneficiados con la efímera visita de la abogada Hillary Clinton, pues ya cuentan con juegos infantiles, que no dejaron de utilizar luego de que la distinguida visitante salió del lugar.

El delegado político, Manuel Díaz Infante, a quien pocos vecinos de la colonia conocían personalmente, también estuvo presente en el acto que reunió a funcionarios de alto nivel de la Unión Americana.

Decenas de patrullas policíacas hicieron su aparición, tres o cuatro camiones del Ejército, elementos del Estado Mayor Presidencial, agentes policíacos, cuerpo de bomberos, una ambulancia, todo un aparato de seguridad para la visitante.

De las 10:50 a las 12:00 horas, Hillary Clinton convivió con los habitantes de escasos recursos económicos. Conversó con ellos y estrechó manos amistosas.

Después del "milagro" en La Conchita, sus habitantes tienen temor de que todo regrese a ser como antes.

Visita al Museo Rufino Tamayo

Más tarde, las señoras se dirigieron al Museo Rufino Tamayo, donde 26 destacadas mujeres les esperaban para compartir el almuerzo, entre ellas la presidenta de la Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos, Mireille Roccatti; la oftalmóloga Lulú Olulani de Gurria; Hildegard Menhert de Silva Herzog; Olivia Barclay Jones; Donna MacLarty; la arquitecta Sara Topelson; las escritoras Sara Sefcovich y Angeles Mastretta, y la productora teatral Fela Fábregas.

Antes, recorrieron las salas donde están expuestas permanentemente las obras que el artista legó al museo que lleva su nombre, así como de Pablo Picasso, Francis Bacon, Joaquín Torres García e Isamu Noguchi.

Al término, caminaron por el Bosque de Chapultepec hacia el Museo Nacional de Antropología e Historia, donde la señora Clinton no sólo expresó su interés sino que hizo algunas referencias, sobre todo de las culturas Olmeca y Tolteca.

ALIANZA CONTRA LAS DROGAS

Negociarán términos de la extradición temporal

Grupo de Contacto elaborará estrategia conjunta basada en el respeto a la soberanía y jurisdiccionalidad

Por JUAN HERNANDEZ URBAN

Los presidentes Ernesto Zedillo y William Clinton firmaron ayer la Alianza México-Estados Unidos Contra las Drogas, por medio de la cual ambos países se declararon unidos en el combate a este mal con respeto absoluto a la soberanía y a la jurisdicción territorial de las dos naciones.

Paralelamente, los dignatarios suscribieron la Declaración Conjunta Sobre Migración. El presidente William Clinton se comprometió a que "no habrá deportaciones a gran escala".

Al mismo tiempo, el Mandatario estadounidense aseguró que está decidido a ayudar a México para que aproveche su máximo potencial económico y social, pues dijo que, en última instancia, "ésta es la mejor forma de devolver a la gente la confianza para que en el futuro se encuentre en su hogar".

Después de la firma de los documentos, el presidente Zedillo fue interrogado sobre si hubo acuerdo para que los agentes de la DEA que operan en nuestro país puedan llevar armas para su protección. Respondió que la Alianza recién firmada establece que "los gobiernos harán lo necesario" para asegurar la protección de los funciona-

rios encargados de aplicar la ley.

"Este principio y esta recomendación que hemos dado a nuestros gobiernos deben traducirse en medidas prácticas que, obviamente, estén de conformidad con ambos puntos (de respeto a la soberanía y a la jurisdicción territorial)", indicó.

Añadió que "sería impropio" hacer referencia a los mecanismos específicos con los cuales, dentro del principio de respeto a la soberanía, se les pueda dar protección a los mencionados agentes. "Yo estoy seguro que ni el señor presidente Clinton ni un servidor haríamos públicos detalles que pudieran afectar la seguridad de estas personas".

En conferencia de prensa, Zedillo dijo que los términos de la Alianza de Estados Unidos y México contra las Drogas de ninguna manera significan una revisión del concepto de soberanía. Por el contrario, agregó, el primer principio que mutuamente reconocemos ambos países es: "el respeto absoluto a la soberanía y a la jurisdicción territorial tanto de México como de Estados Unidos".

La firma de los documentos se llevó a cabo en la hondata de la residencia oficial de Los Pinos, después de la Sesión Plenaria de Conclusiones de la XIV Comisión Binacional México-Estados Unidos. Posteriormente, los mandatarios ofrecerían una conferencia de prensa.

Los presidentes Zedillo y Clinton instruyeron a sus respectivos gabinetes, a través del Grupo de Contacto de Alto Nivel para el Control de Drogas, que elaboren una estrategia antinarcóticos común, la cual será informada a finales de este año.

Mientras tanto, los gobiernos de México y de Estados Unidos dieron a conocer un estudio conjunto sobre la naturaleza del consumo de drogas ilícitas en ambos países, y el grado en el que el narcotráfico y sus delitos conexos afectan nuestras sociedades.

"México y Estados Unidos están de acuerdo en la magnitud del problema en ambos países y tienen la determinación de combatirlo con todos los recursos a su alcance", destaca la Declaración de la Alianza.

Este documento contiene 16 acciones, entre las que sobresalen el acuerdo de los dos países de negociar un Protocolo al Tratado de Extradición que -en apego al sistema legal de cada nación- permita, bajo condiciones y circunstancias apropiadas, que individuos sean juzgados en ambos países antes de completar sus sentencias en cualquiera de ellos.

México y Estados Unidos también acordaron mejorar sus capacidades para interrumpir los flujos terrestres, aéreos y marítimos de drogas.

Asimismo, contempla reducir la demanda de drogas ilícitas a través del fortalecimiento de esfuerzos educativos y de difusión pública,

particularmente en aquellos enfocados hacia la juventud.

El resto de las acciones de la Alianza Contra las Drogas son las siguientes:

- Ambos países reducirán la producción y la distribución de drogas ilícitas, particularmente de la marihuana, las metanfetaminas, la cocaína y la heroína.

- Orientarán los esfuerzos de procuración de justicia en contra de las organizaciones criminales y de aquellos que faciliten sus operaciones en ambos países.

- Fortalecerán la cooperación bilateral y la coordinación de políticas en materia de procuración de justicia, y asegurarán la protección de los funcionarios encargados de aplicar la ley.

- Procurarán que los fugitivos sean procesados, de manera expedita, con apego al debido proceso legal, y que sean incapaces de evadir la justicia en un país huyendo al otro o permaneciendo en él.

- México y Estados Unidos identificarán las fuentes y detendrán el tráfico ilegal de armas de fuego.

- Trabajarán conjuntamente con el propósito de concluir un acuerdo hemisférico para proscribir el tráfico ilegal de armas de fuego; incrementarán las capacidades de sus instituciones democráticas para combatir y eliminar el potencial de corrupción del tráfico ilegal de drogas; y mejorarán sus capacidades para interrumpir los flujos terrestres, aéreos y marítimos de drogas.

- Pondrán en marcha programas de capacitación y de cooperación técnica para garantizar que el personal antinarcóticos desarrolle las capacidades necesarias, y para que se desempeñe con el nivel más alto de integridad y profesionalismo.

- Fortalecerán y facilitarán el intercambio de información y de evidencias para procesar y condenar a criminales y detener el tráfico de drogas, y garantizarán la seguridad y el uso apropiado de información y evidencias.

- México y Estados Unidos aplicarán de manera más efectiva las leyes y reglamentos existentes para detectar y penalizar el lavado de dinero en ambos países, y fortalecerán los intercambios bilaterales y multilaterales de información, así como las experiencias obtenidas en el combate a este fenómeno.

Por último, el documento refiere que la estrategia antinarcóticos en el marco de la Alianza, así como los respectivos planes para su aplicación, deberán concluirse hacia finales de este año.

"De manera previa -indica el documento- nos reuniremos nuevamente con los respectivos miembros de nuestro gabinete con el objetivo de resolver temas pendientes y de revisar el avance en la cooperación".

ALIANZA CONTRA LAS DROGAS



Foto: AFP

El presidente de México, Ernesto Zedillo, da la bienvenida oficial a su colega estadounidense William Clinton a la llegada de éste al Campo Marte, ayer.

Zedillo y Clinton establecen las bases de una relación respetuosa

El mandatario de EU aboga por que "la frontera sea vínculo" entre ambas naciones

En su discurso con motivo de la presentación de conclusiones de la XIV Reunión de la Comisión Bilateral México-EU, el presidente Ernesto Zedillo resaltó la importancia que ambos gobiernos otorgan a la relación bilateral. "Se trata de una relación geográfica y económicamente extensa, social y culturalmente intensa. A través de nuestra frontera se da un promedio diario de casi un millón de cruces legales y se producen intercambios comerciales, que el año pasado significaron casi 150 mil millones de dólares", apuntó.

Añadió que por su extensión, por su complejidad y por su dinamismo, la frontera refleja las oportunidades, "la diversidad y los retos de dos vecinos orgullosos de su identidad y de su esfuerzo".

Indicó que a ambos lados de la línea divisoria se está trabajando para que la relación entre mexicanos y estadounidenses esté fundada en el respeto, la amistad y el beneficio recíproco. "Este intenso trabajo se expresa en cientos de reuniones anuales entre representantes de ambos gobiernos y en cientos de acciones a las que ambos gobiernos federales otorgan una alta prioridad", dijo.

Respecto a los acuerdos alcanzados en la Binacional, destacó que se fundamentan en principios como el respeto a la soberanía nacional y la igualdad jurídica de los Estados, la solución negociada de las diferencias y la procuración de mecanismos eficaces de cooperación, la protección de la salud y la seguridad de las familias, la multiplicación de oportunidades para todo hombre y mujer y el desarrollo pleno de ambos países en un marco de paz, democracia y justicia.

"Ciertamente a ambos lados de nuestra frontera persisten voces que prefieren la incomprensión antes que el diálogo fran-

co, que prefieren la recriminación antes que la cooperación constructiva. Una tarea muy importante que compartimos es persuadir aquellas voces con resultados efectivos y con acuerdos sustantivos como los que hoy estamos logrando. Hoy demostramos que en la paz y el respeto, en el derecho y la cooperación México y Estados Unidos logran más, mucho más que en el encono y el reproche", declaró.

Agregó que poco a poco y consistentemente se van imponiendo la visión de largo aliento, las actitudes constructivas, el diálogo y, sobre todo, el respeto mutuo. "Hoy el respeto es la base de una amistad firme y duradera y nos anima a aprovechar nuestras coincidencias para trabajar más en beneficio de dos grandes pueblos: el pueblo de México y el pueblo de Estados Unidos", puntualizó.

A su vez, Clinton dijo en su alocución que en el siglo XXI, "queremos que nuestras fronteras sean nuestro vínculo; queremos que ese vínculo esté arraigado en un compromiso mutuo, basado en el intercambio del comercio y de las personas, de los seres humanos, a través de las fronteras, y manteniéndonos fieles al estado de derecho".

Respecto a los narcóticos, reconoció que Estados Unidos tiene que reducir su demanda y señaló que su administración ha destinado el mayor presupuesto en toda la historia de Estados Unidos para la lucha contra el narcotráfico.

Admitió igualmente que en su país está aumentando tremendamente esta tasa de uso de drogas entre los jóvenes menores de 18 años.

En lo tocante a la migración, expresó que su gobierno no tiene interés alguno en dañar indebidamente ni inmerecidamente a ninguno de los inmigrantes mexicanos, y destacó que hoy en día sabemos que hay más de 20 millones de estadounidenses que tienen antecedentes hispanos. "Pero nosotros tenemos que hacer cumplir nuestras leyes al nivel de la frontera; pero hacerlo en una forma humana y justa", puntualizó.

ALIANZA CONTRA LAS DROGAS

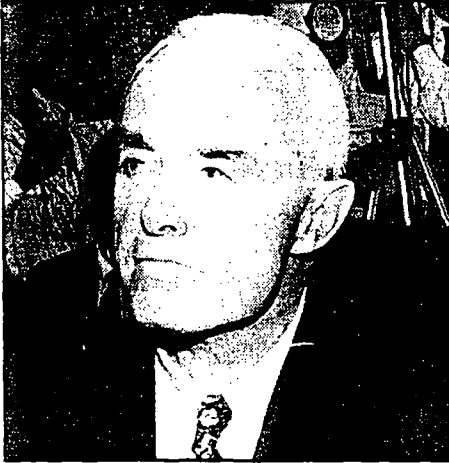


Foto: Esteban López

El "zar antidrogas" de EU, Barry McCaffrey, dijo que la solución al problema del consumo "no serán los ejércitos, ni las policías, sino las familias, maestros, sacerdotes y vecinos".

McCaffrey elogia el programa mexicano contra las adicciones

El coordinador de la política estadounidense contra las drogas, general Barry McCaffrey, reconoció que el poder adquisitivo de la sociedad de su país ha provocado el incremento de los problemas del narcotráfico. Asimismo, destacó que el programa contra las adicciones que instrumenta México es el adecuado, "ya que se finca en los valores familiares".

Dijo que la solución final al problema del consumo "no serán los ejércitos, ni las policías, sino las familias, los padres, maestros, sacerdotes y vecinos, comprometidos con la lucha contra las drogas".

McCaffrey acudió al Centro de Integración Juvenil localizado en la colonia Condesa, acompañado por el secretario de Salud, Juan Ramón de la Fuente, para conocer el trabajo del Gobierno de México en contra de las adicciones.

Ahí el titular de la Secretaría de Salud sostuvo que el programa de México contra el narcotráfico precisa que la solución a este cáncer social es una concepción integral. Por ello, debemos abordar conjuntamente el problema del consumo, demanda, tráfico y producción, acotó. (Por HECTOR ARCEO)

DECLARACION CONJUNTA SOBRE MIGRACION

Clinton trabaja para "mejorar" aspectos de la ley migratoria

México y EU coordinarán esfuerzos para proteger los derechos de los migrantes

Los presidentes Ernesto Zedillo y William Clinton estamparon su firma en la Declaración Conjunta sobre Migración, en el cual reafirmaron su compromiso de fortalecer la cooperación bilateral para la administración del fenómeno migratorio.

En conferencia de prensa, Clinton anunció que trabajará con el Congreso de su país para mejorar algunos aspectos de la controvertida nueva ley migratoria estadounidense. Al preguntársele en qué consistirían las modificaciones y si éstas beneficiarían a los mexicanos ilegales en los Estados Unidos, el gobernante indicó: "Estoy trabajando con el Congreso en esto, pero espero que comprendan que como es un tema tan emocionalmente sensible, mientras no tengamos una visión completa, ¿para qué dar más detalles sobre el particular y poner en peligro la posibilidad de éxito?".

Dijo visualizar cuáles son los problemas potenciales de la ley. Sin embargo, estableció: "Apoyo la ley básicamente y la volvería a firmar mañana, de ser necesario, porque nos da la capacidad de controlar mejor nuestra frontera, remover a los inmigrantes ilegales de los lugares de trabajo. Lo

que me preocupa son las divisiones indebidas de familias".

En la Declaración Conjunta sobre Migración, ambos mandatarios se comprometieron a intensificar el diálogo y redoblar esfuerzos para alcanzar los siguientes objetivos:

- Proteger los derechos de los migrantes e impulsar enérgicamente la procuración de justicia en casos de denuncias de acciones ilegales por parte de los migrantes y las comunidades fronterizas.

- Asegurar la instrumentación de procedimientos seguros y ordenados para la repatriación de migrantes.

- Formular y aplicar nuevas medidas para reducir la violencia a lo largo de la frontera y proteger de los peligros de cruzar terrenos desérticos y montañosos a víctimas inocentes de los traficantes.

- Combatir el tráfico de migrantes y la falsificación de documentos, y con ese propósito desarrollar mecanismos eficaces de intercambio de información y cooperación, con pleno respeto a la soberanía de cada país.

Ernesto Zedillo y William Clinton instruyeron a las dependencias competentes, mexicanas y estadounidenses, a presentar un informe en el plazo de un año, a través de la Comisión Binacional, de los logros alcanzados para una mejor administración del fenómeno migratorio.



Foto: AP

Los presidentes de Estados Unidos y México saludaron a niños mexicanos, durante la recepción oficial que tuvo lugar en el Campo Marte.



Foto: Javier Sánchez

Por la noche, los matrimonios Clinton y Zedillo disfrutaron de un concierto en el Palacio de Bellas Artes.

REUNIONES HISTORICAS A DOS MESES DE ELECCIONES

EU está dispuesto a trabajar con la oposición, dice Clinton

Descarta problemas y prejuicios si triunfa un partido distinto al PRI

Por RAUL HERNANDEZ ARCOS

El presidente William Clinton afirmó ayer ante los dirigentes nacionales del PAN, PRD y PRI que Estados Unidos no tendrá "problemas ni prejuicios" en su trato con México ante la eventualidad de que surja la alternancia en el poder en México, a través de un proceso electoral democrático y limpio.

El Mandatario de la Unión Americana dijo, según fuentes cercanas a la delegación estadounidense, que Washington "no tendría problemas para trabajar con un Congreso opositor, siempre que éste emerja de un proceso democrático".

Al recibir, en reuniones privadas por separado y con traducción simultánea, a los dirigentes del PAN, PRD y PRI, Felipe Calderón Hinojosa, Manuel Andrés López Obrador y Humberto Roque Villanueva, respectivamente, en uno de los salones del Hotel Presidente Intercontinental, el Presidente estadounidense se congratuló por los avances democráticos alcanzados por México, con base en su reforma electoral.

Respecto al problema de la migración, Clinton dijo que la clave para resolver de fondo y largo plazo este asunto es generar un desarrollo estable en México.

Antes de iniciar las pláticas con cada uno de los dirigentes políticos, quienes tuvieron que hacer juntos antesala de 45 minutos en el lobby del hotel, Clinton se tomó las fotos.

El primero en sostener esta reunión, "histórica" para los partidos de oposición, fue el líder del PAN, Felipe Calderón Hinojosa, quien leyó y entregó a Clinton una carta "medurada", así como una serie de propuestas para una mejor relación bilateral México-Estados Unidos,



Foto: Carlos Ramos

El dirigente nacional panista, Felipe Calderón, y el presidente estadounidense, Bill Clinton, mantuvieron una reunión de 17 minutos.

y aclaró que fue un encuentro positivo y muy amable.

En la entrevista, de tan sólo 17 minutos, Calderón Hinojosa le hizo saber -según dijo- que el PAN, con 57 años de existencia, es el partido democrático más antiguo de México y que tiende a gobernar a todos los mexicanos.

El panista reclamó a Clinton trato digno, en condiciones de igualdad y reciprocidad para México, y expresó su convicción de que se pueden alcanzar nuevas etapas de desarrollo si se sabe aprovechar la vecindad con Estados Unidos.

Luego, el líder perredista Andrés Manuel López Obrador, en un encuentro tenso con Clinton, expresó el rechazo del PRD al Gobierno de Estados Unidos, también a través de una misiva que leyó y entregó personalmente, por sus políticas migratorias y de narcotráfico, así como por la prepotencia, racismo, xenofobia,



Foto: Carlos Ramos

El presidente de Estados Unidos, Bill Clinton, conversó 22 minutos con el dirigente nacional del PRD, Andrés Manuel López Obrador.

explotación salvaje, hostigamiento policial y abuso financiero en contra de mexicanos.

La reunión con López Obrador duró 22 minutos -la más larga de los tres encuentros de los dirigentes partidistas con Clinton-, y se llevó a cabo al mismo tiempo que Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas, candidato perredista al gobierno del DF, pronunciaba un discurso ante el Centro de Estudios Estratégicos e Internacionales y Americas Society, de Washington y Nueva York.

López Obrador calificó de muy importante esta entrevista, y externó que el presidente Clinton fue muy respetuoso y atento a los planteamientos del PRD.

Afirmó que el Mandatario de la Unión Americana se comprometió a mantener un diálogo permanente con los perredistas e informó que la secretaria de Estado, Madeleine Albright, sostendrá este miércoles una reunión con grupos sociales de México y de or-



Foto: Carlos Ramos

Una entrevista de 20 minutos sostuvo el presidente Bill Clinton con Humberto Roque Villanueva, dirigente nacional del PRI.

ganizaciones no gubernamentales para tratar el asunto migratorio.

Negó haber tratado con Clinton el tema de las elecciones federales de México, "ya que es un asunto que sólo compete al pueblo mexicano".

Finalmente, el último en entablar conversación con Clinton fue el líder nacional del PRI, Humberto Roque Villanueva, quien tuvo que esperar más de 50 minutos para hablar sólo 20. El priista negó haber hablado con el Jefe del Ejecutivo estadounidense acerca de un compromiso político.

"Venimos con todo respeto a presentar puntos de vistas de los problemas de México, como es narcotráfico y la migración, que se vinculan con ese país".

Afirmó que Clinton tiene un gran conocimiento de la realidad mexicana y el deseo de que juntos afrontemos el reto de la globalización económica.



Foto: AP

Una mujer perteneciente al grupo de deudores de la banca, que protestaba cerca de la embajada de Estados Unidos, fue cargada por policías y alejada del lugar. La vigilancia en torno a la representación diplomática fue estricta.



Foto: Carlos Ramos

Bill Clinton, en la residencia oficial de Los Pinos.



Foto: AP

El presidente Clinton escucha con atención una pregunta sobre el caso Whitewater, durante la conferencia efectuada en Los Pinos.

Oscuro panorama espera a Clinton en Centroamérica

CUANDO el presidente Bill Clinton se reúna con los presidentes de Centroamérica y del Caribe a fines de esta semana, encontrará que han cambiado algunas de las premisas económicas básicas. Hace unos cuantos años, pese a las advertencias de muchos economistas, los políticos latinoamericanos y de Washington supusieron que el sólo crecimiento económico se encargaría de sacar adelante incluso a los latinoamericanos más pobres. Muchas personas les creyeron. Y no hicieron más.

El crecimiento ha sido demasiado lento y en Latinoamérica, que tiene la brecha más grande del mundo entre ricos y pobres, los logros han ido principalmente a los ricos, que han comprado demasiados teléfonos celulares y muy poco arroz.

Debido a la desigualdad y al alto crecimiento demográfico, hay más gente pobre en Latinoamérica que antes. Las reformas de mercado han eliminado muchas políticas desastrosas y obstáculos burocráticos para alcanzar el crecimiento a largo plazo y posiblemente el alivio a largo plazo para los pobres.

Pero los gobiernos latinoamericanos ahora se están dando cuenta de que incluso con la aplicación de las economías de mercado, necesitan políticas sociales firmes y sistemas educativos y de salud más fuertes para reducir la pobreza a una escala amplia. El Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (BID) ahora se está concentrando en tales programas. Clinton mencionará la pobreza, pero el problema merece más énfasis que el que recibirá.

Las economías latinoamericanas han crecido tres por ciento al año en esta década, un contraste bienvenido ante la drástica caída durante la crisis de la deuda de los años 80. Pero muchos olvidan que desde la Segunda Guerra Mundial hasta 1980, Latinoamérica creció 5.5 por ciento anualmente. Su constante crecimiento de la población requiere de un crecimiento económico de por lo menos seis por ciento.

El panorama no es uniformemente oscuro. Numerosos países han reducido la pobreza desde 1990, principalmente al contener la inflación, que es lo que más golpea a los pobres. Brasil es el éxito más reciente. Pero este es un dividendo que sólo se desembolsa una vez. Para sostener la baja en los niveles de pobreza, los países bien harían al copiar el ejemplo de Chile.

Chile no sólo ha gozado de un crecimiento constante sino que ha procedido a atacar la pobreza de diversas formas que el mercado no puede. Entre sus iniciativas impor-

tantes se encuentran las reformas al sistema de educación, que incluye énfasis especial en una mejor preparación escolar en primaria para los niños pobres. Bolivia también ha aplicado reformas importantes. La seguridad social es ahora más accesible a los pobres, y los nuevos bancos se especializan en créditos muy pequeños.

Otras naciones han sido menos innovadoras. En general, los países latinoamericanos necesitan invertir mucho más de lo que han hecho en salud básica y en educación primaria, las cuales han sido olvidadas en favor de las universidades y hospitales urbanos modernos que ayudan en su mayoría a las clases medias. Deben concentrarse asimismo en las mujeres y niñas, quienes son las más pobres. Muchas reformas necesarias, tales como ampliar el acceso al crédito o a títulos de tierras, cuestan muy poco.

Esas reformas podrían beneficiar también a Estados Unidos. Los latinoamericanos de clase media tendrían menos posibilidades de emigrar. Mientras más opulenta se vuelva la gente, tiene más posibilidades de comprar exportaciones estadounidenses. Estados Unidos actualmente exporta más a Centroamérica que a Europa oriental o a la antigua Unión Soviética en su conjunto.

Clinton escuchará la próxima semana quejas de los dirigentes que han mirado con desaliento cómo Estados Unidos cambió su comercio e inversión a México después de firmar el Tratado norteamericano de Libre Comercio (TLC). El Banco Mundial estimó que el Caribe podría ver cómo México se apodera de una tercera parte de sus exportaciones a Estados Unidos. Clinton debe renovar los esfuerzos en el Congreso para dar a las exportaciones del Caribe la misma entrada a Estados Unidos de la que goza México.

Asimismo Estados Unidos tiene 20 millones de dólares en deudas atrasadas a un fondo especial del BID que financia los proyectos contra la pobreza en los cinco países más pobres de Latinoamérica. El Congreso debe desembolsar rápidamente este adeudo.

Clinton tiene mucho de que hablar durante su gira, incluyendo la inmigración, protección ambiental y el tráfico de estupefacientes. Pero debe darse tiempo para hablar sobre el combate a la pobreza. Washington desempeñó un papel importante para persuadir a Latinoamérica en la aplicación de reformas de libre mercado. Ahora puede promover eficazmente una segunda ola de reformas para ampliar el beneficio del mercado a los pobres.

Editorial de The New York Times.

Raúl Benítez Manaut

Clinton en México: seguridad nacional o no

¿Es o no México estratégico para Estados Unidos? Si lo es, ¿por qué tardó cinco años en visitar nuestro país el presidente Clinton? Primero fue a Manila y Sydney, con quien Estados Unidos tiene el 10 por ciento del comercio que el de México y además están demasiado lejos para representar desafíos a su seguridad nacional.

En el discurso del presidente Clinton hay falta de correspondencia con sus acciones diplomáticas. La Cumbre de las Américas, que se diseñó principalmente para impulsar la idea de continentalizar el libre comercio, no fue correspondida ni con tratados de libre comercio con otros países de América Latina, ni con acciones de buen entendimiento con el vecino con el que sí se ha firmado un tratado.

Cuando se presentó la crisis del peso mexicano en diciembre de 1994, Clinton apoyó el rescate financiero con un gran paquete -o ayudó a que no se dirigiera el peso al abismo-, sin embargo, después el presidente Clinton afirmó que el paquete tenía tantas condiciones (las facturas petroleras de por medio) que más que apoyo fue un gran negocio.

Después, las recurrentes crisis producto del incremento del narcotráfico han llevado a tensionar los nexos entre los dos países, de tal modo que se habla de nuevo intervencionismo o de una conflictiva relación donde el narcotráfico puede envenenar el comercio o el espinoso tema de la migración.

Estados Unidos está interesado en que la economía de México se establezca, no sabemos si para hacer buenos negocios con nuestra casi gratuita mano de obra, o para retener a los mexicanos que cruzan la frontera. La migración no es bien vista porque genera problemas de transculturización, grupos sociales marginados, aumento de la delincuencia y problemas sociales originados en el racismo muy difíciles de evitar.

En términos de comercio, se habla de un gran flujo. La propaganda transmite la idea de que el TLC es un

éxito rotundo. El problema es que el comercio es intrafirmas y las empresas transnacionales que lo realizan necesitan importar casi la misma cantidad de insumos para poder exportar los productos. No se difunde al resto de la economía la ventaja comparativa y, en cambio, se está en un proceso de destrucción sin precedente de la manufactura mexicana. Esto generará más desempleo, por lo que, lógicamente, habrá más mexicanos intentando cruzar la frontera. ¿Es o no un problema de seguridad nacional para Estados Unidos esto?

Sin duda, el tema de la seguridad es el más delicado. Va de la cooperación en la guerra contra el narcotráfico hasta la voluntad porque cambie la tradición mexicana en materia de relaciones militares. México tiene una doctrina defensiva y no permite la salida de tropas sin declaración de guerra. Sólo salen nuestros oficiales a educarse al extranjero y como observadores en ejercicios militares. La participación del ejército en misiones como el narcotráfico, ya hemos visto sus fisuras con el caso Gutiérrez Rebollo y Estados Unidos no confía en la PGR. En eso hay un callejón sin salida, pues nadie confía en la PGR y en el ejército la adopción de la misión del narcotráfico como propia es de alto riesgo. Además, valdría la pena conocer los resultados de la guerra contra las drogas en el territorio de Estados Unidos para saber si también allá esa guerra se va perdiendo (lo más seguro es que sí). ¿Qué pasa con el "lavado" de dinero?, se impondrán medidas de control sólo en México, o también México podrá supervisar las transacciones y depósitos en territorio norteamericano.

Una relación madura, de fin de siglo, tiene que sostenerse en la cooperación, pero no en una cooperación asimétrica que puede ser simplemente unilateral -porque sería intervención-, reconociendo vulnerabilidades y fortalezas de ambos lados de la frontera y conociendo los límites para no herir ni susceptibilidades, ni que se dé fuera de lo que indica nuestra Constitución.

¡Bienvenido señor Presidente!

7 de mayo de 1947

Si algún cambio radical en el gobierno podemos señalar, el mayor de todos debe situarse en la absoluta unidad que existe entre el poder público y el pueblo, incomparablemente más fuerte, sólida, sincera y visible que en ninguna otra época de nuestra historia independiente. Esta unidad existía desde hace tiempo, prácticamente desde el término de la campaña electoral pasada. Pero si alguna duda pudiera caber, hoy tiene que rendirse culto a la evidencia. El viaje del señor Presidente de la República a Estados Unidos ha consumado la obra. Se ha logrado, por fin, esa anhelada corriente de simpatía solidaria entre el régimen y la nación, pero no únicamente en la propaganda y en las proclamas, sino en la realidad de las conciencias.

Cuando el señor licenciado Alemán partió hacia al país del norte comenzó a florecer esa solidaridad. Unos, los más, seguros de que el prestigio mexicano crecería con cada paso y con cada discurso; otros, los menos,

con un poco de zozobra por lo que pudiera pasar, todavía bajo la impresión de una prolongada historia que se empeñó en hacer que los mexicanos vieran en Estados Unidos un constante peligro potencial.

Pero todos, optimistas y pesimistas, siguieron en su pensamiento y con su buena voluntad al viajero. Nunca como en estos días se ha sentido en el ambiente la afectuosa y cálida presencia de un pueblo junto al jefe de su gobierno.

Por eso, por haber cumplido con alto decoro, como mexicano y como jefe de mexicanos, su misión el pueblo todo: obreros, campesinos soldados, estudiantes, empleados, industriales, todos, le decimos: ¡Bienvenido a la patria, señor Presidente! Porque vuelve a México no sólo sin tener absolutamente nada de que pudieran recelar los mexicanos, sino porque supo sentirse representante de toda la hidalga dignidad y de toda la sinceridad de estas tierras.

Amador Prendes

Antonio Gazol Sánchez

Sobre la "buena" marcha de la economía de EU

LAS cifras más recientes informan sobre la buena salud de que goza la economía norteamericana, lo que también puede ser una buena noticia para el resto del mundo, particularmente para aquella parte del mundo (¿esta?) cuyas relaciones comerciales, tecnológicas y financieras con Estados Unidos son más intensas.

Los datos sobre crecimiento del valor de lo producido durante el primer trimestre de 1997 en un medio de inflación bajo control y la disminución del índice de desempleo han provocado una ola de optimismo cuyo ambiente fue aprovechado por el presidente Clinton para anunciar un principio de acuerdo del ejecutivo con las dos corrientes partidarias de su congreso en el sentido de llegar al ansiado equilibrio presupuestal en 2002. Nueva inyección de optimismo, aun sin detenerse a pensar que en ese año el señor Clinton ya no será presidente y que, según dicen los que conocen a fondo el proyecto, no se ha tomado en cuenta la considerable cantidad de personas que habrán de jubilarse antes de esa fecha y que después de la misma seguirán demandando fondos públicos sin obligación de contribuir a su financiación.

Sea como fuere, el hecho es que hoy las cosas pintan bien para la economía de Estados Unidos, independientemente de que subsistan dudas en relación con el futuro inmediato de las tasas de interés. La junta bimensual de la Reserva Federal del próximo 20 de mayo despejará alguna de las incógnitas. Pero podríamos ir por partes. De un lado, el Departamento de Comercio anunció que durante el periodo enero-marzo de este año el PIB de Estados Unidos creció a una sorprendente tasa anualizada de 5.6%, lo que constituye el mayor crecimiento trimestral de los últimos 9 años y cuyas bases de impulso fueron el aumento en el consumo privado y el aumento en los inventarios. Por supuesto que no faltaron analistas particulares que vieron en estos datos alguna amenaza de eso que se ha dado en llamar "sobrecalentamiento" de la economía.

A esta cifra sucedió la anunciada por el Departamento de Trabajo que ubica al desempleo en un nivel de 4.9%, el más bajo de los últimos 23 años, lo que para más de un observador significa que, contra lo que muchos suponían, la economía norteamericana sí está en condiciones de crear empleos, sin acelerar la inflación porque lo notable es que, de acuerdo con la misma fuente, ha descendido el salario por hora. En esta ocasión, al menos hasta el momen-

se han producido las reacciones que habitualmente ocurren cuando se da a conocer este indicador en cuanto al nerviosismo que genera entre los inversionistas que, en ese descenso, suelen percibir barruntos de dificultades en los mercados financieros. La responsable de la estadística laboral se apresuró a aclarar que las cifras de un solo mes son insuficientes para sustentar cualquier conclusión definitiva. Se debe seguir con cuidado el índice de referencia y no tanto por los temores (fundados o no) de los financieros, sino porque sus componentes son reveladores de aspectos de fondo: por ejemplo, la creación de desempleos durante el mes anterior se dio en el comercio, la sanidad otros servicios y el sector público, pero se registraron disminuciones en la industria, la construcción y los sectores de trabajo temporal.

De manera casi simultánea, un grupo privado que periódicamente elabora un índice de índices señaló que el efecto combinado de los diez principales indicadores arroja un aumento de 0.1%, que es el más bajo en lo que va del año y que sustenta el pronóstico de una desaceleración de la economía para el futuro inmediato. A ello, de darse, podría contribuir la aparentemente incontrolable fortaleza del dólar con su consecuente efecto negativo en el ritmo de las exportaciones y su impacto dinamizador de las compras externas.

Y es en esta parte donde pueden empezar las dificultades. En su reciente reunión de primavera los ministros de Finanzas del Grupo de los 7 advirtieron de los riesgos de que los tipos de cambio no reflejen la realidad de las economías y que se utilicen mecanismos artificiales para fortalecer algún signo monetario. La reacción de los mercados ante la advertencia fue precisamente la contraria a la deseada, lo que hace suponer que persistirá el déficit comercial norteamericano con todo y sus efectos en la economía internacional. Además, ese dólar fuerte a contracorriente de lo que podría derivarse del resultado de sus relaciones comerciales con el exterior despliega una sombra de duda sobre el anunciado programa de reducción, hasta su eliminación del desequilibrio presupuestal interno.

El mantenimiento de un dólar fortalecido sigue siendo el objetivo de la Reserva Federal porque lo que eso significa es que está en condiciones de retirar más mercancías del mercado, que "vale" más frente a las demás cosas, pero esta concepción no es compatible con las obligaciones que impone una economía cada día más globali-

EL HERALDO DE MEXICO

DON GABRIEL ALARCON CHARGOY
FUNDADOR

AÑO XXXII

México, D.F., jueves 8 de mayo de 1997

GABRIEL ALARCON V.
PRESIDENTE Y DIRECTOR GENERAL

NUM. 11330

Respeto y cooperación, acuerdan Clinton y Zedillo



TLAXCALA.- William Clinton, presidente de Estados Unidos, y su esposa Hillary juegan con máscaras de cartón, típicas del estado, durante una visita hecha al mercado de esta capital. Los visitantes mostraron un gran interés por la riqueza de nuestras artesanías. (AFP)

Harán una frontera de vecinos prósperos

Creamos una economía sólida, Admite el jefe de la Casa Blanca
señala nuestro Mandatario la interdependencia binacional

Por Jesús Saldaña H.

Al advertir que el mayor desafío que enfrentaremos en el siglo XXI será ganar la batalla contra la pobreza y la desigualdad, el Presidente Ernesto Zedillo afirmó también que México y Estados Unidos están dispuestos a construir una frontera que sea la línea divisoria entre dos naciones soberanas y vecinos prósperos, no entre las oportunidades y las carencias.

Por ello -continuó- los mexicanos hemos venido realizando una muy profunda transformación para alcanzar el éxito en esa lucha a favor de los jóvenes y los adultos, para las mujeres y los ancianos, para las familias y las comunidades que, con toda razón, exigen ser parte del progreso y acceder al bienestar, y lo hacemos con un espíritu solidario y un afán de superación.

Así lo expuso el Mandatario durante la conferencia sobre el Presente y el Futuro de las Relaciones México-Estados Unidos que, con la asistencia del presidente estadounidense William Clinton, se llevó a cabo en el Auditorio Nacional, y añadió que para eso estamos construyendo una sólida economía de mercado con corazón y rostro humano, con sensibilidad social, que apoye eficazmente a los más necesitados.

Luego indicó que el siglo XX terminará con signos alentadores, pero que el que se avecina implica grandes retos para vencer la pobreza y la desigualdad, por lo que también estamos edificando un país de leyes y de justicia, y que con los ideales políticos y la participación de todos los mexicanos estamos consolidando una democracia plena que a todos beneficie.

Sigue en la página 12-A

William Clinton, presidente de Estados Unidos, advirtió que su gobierno respaldará una asociación pacífica con México, llena de respeto y de dignidad, en pos de la prosperidad, la democracia y la libertad, porque nos guste o no, cada vez somos más interdependientes y porque la integración económica es algo inevitable, lo que convertirá a nuestra frontera en vibrante fuente de crecimiento.

También dijo que ambas naciones tienen la responsabilidad de trabajar juntas para aprovechar las oportunidades y derrotar los peligros de esta época; de luchar contra el deterioro ambiental, el crimen organizado y el narcotráfico, problema éste que afecta en especial a su población, que consume un tercio de la cocaína mundial que pasa por territorio mexicano. Esta lucha nos debe unir, no dividir, indicó.

Clinton también hizo destacar que está seguro de que esa asociación con México será fructífera en vista del esfuerzo y del éxito obtenido por el gobierno del Presidente Ernesto Zedillo en la magnífica recuperación económica, lo que le valió el respeto y la admiración de todo el mundo, en especial cuando pagó los préstamos que le hicieron para superar la crisis, actuando con gran visión y valor.

Durante la conferencia sobre el presente y el futuro de las relaciones México-Estados Unidos, en el Auditorio Nacional, el jefe de la Casa Blanca insistió en la necesidad de trabajar juntos en vista de las dificultades que tenemos, y actuar con decisión, porque podemos cruzar el puente que nos divide histórica, cultural y geográfica-

Sigue en la página 11-A

Respeto y cooperación, acuerdan Clinton y Zedillo

Viene de la página 1-A

De esa manera, las dos naciones compartimos una nueva actitud de sumar esfuerzos para multiplicar oportunidades mutuamente provechosas, de encauzar nuestras diferencias en el diálogo para superarlas, de avanzar hacia un progreso más equilibrado y justo para nuestros pueblos y un desarrollo que no riña con un medio ambiente sano.

Por ello, insistió, hemos reafirmado la voluntad de nuestros gobiernos de construir una frontera que nos acerque a mexicanos y estadounidenses, y lo haremos con respeto, con diálogo, con cooperación, que son claves en la nueva relación bilateral, apuntó el Jefe del Ejecutivo ante unas 6 mil personas que asistieron al evento, en el que se proyectó un video sobre los resultados del Tratado de Libre Comercio.

En especial, mencionó que para impulsar esa cooperación, ese diálogo y respeto, nadie ha trabajado con más decisión que el presidente Clinton, que ha sabido conciliar el interés legítimo de su país con el respeto a la soberanía de México y el respaldo solidario a los mexicanos, con una gran visión de estadista, para avanzar hacia el entendimiento y la colaboración.

"Esta visita del presidente Clinton -añadió- marca un paso muy importante en la construcción de una relación a la altura de la historia de las dos naciones soberanas y orgullosas, y a la altura de las aspiraciones de dos grandes pueblos, y confirma que la relación entre México y Estados Unidos está llamada a ser un apoyo fundamental para acometer los desafíos de un nuevo siglo más exigente."

De igual manera, confirma que todo lo que podamos hacer a ambos lados de la frontera para consolidar esa relación beneficiará a las generaciones futuras de mexicanos y estadounidenses, y continuará a edificar para ellas un mundo donde puedan vivir mejor. Ese -enfaticó- es el espíritu que ha manifestado el presidente Clinton en cada momento de su visita a nuestro país.

Zedillo también dijo que si con América Latina nos hermanamos una historia de luchas afines y raíces similares, también estamos orgullosos de formar parte de América del Norte, tierra de civilizaciones esplendorosas, y porque ha sido suelo fértil para el despliegue de capacidades del ser humano, donde se conjuga el dinamismo de la iniciativa individual con la solidaridad comunitaria para un potencial de progreso único en el mundo.

Pero advirtió, además, que si en el continente americano la libertad ya ha florecido como democracia, ahora debe florecer como prosperidad, razón por la que hemos abierto las puertas al libre comercio, componente dinámico y decisivo de las relaciones entre las naciones modernas, amplias e intensas, y como uno de los más poderosos motores de desarrollo capaz de transformar los retos en oportunidades, la desigualdad en equidad, y las injusticias, que son fuente de conflicto, en bases justas de armonía y cooperación.

Ese será el espíritu que anime a nuestro país en la Cumbre de las Américas que se celebrará el año próximo en Chile, con base en la positiva experiencia que nos ha dejado el TLC, que nos ha permitido un mayor intercambio de pro-

ductos, por lo que compartimos una nueva actitud de aliento a las iniciativas productivas y de confianza en la complementariedad de nuestras economías, lo que nos ayudará a competir más vigorosamente en los mercados mundiales.

Zedillo subrayó la importancia de cooperar en la lucha contra el narcotráfico y la solución de los problemas migratorios, a partir del respeto a la soberanía nacional, sobre la base de la responsabilidad compartida y mediante la efectiva aplicación de la ley, como lo hemos hecho los mexicanos, a favor de nuestra sociedad.

Discurso pronunciado por el Presidente Ernesto Zedillo: Excelentísimo señor William Clinton, presidente de los Estados Unidos de América;

Muy distinguida señora Clinton;

Señoras y señores:

Los mexicanos nos sentimos profundamente satisfechos de la muy grata visita del presidente Clinton a nuestro país.

En esta tan valiosa jornada hemos conversado sobre las preocupaciones comunes de ambos pueblos y hemos acordado decisiones para que nuestra relación contribuya a la prosperidad de mexicanos y norteamericanos, y para que cada una de las dos naciones contribuya a consolidar lo realizado en nuestro siglo.

Pese al terrible drama de las guerras y a la persistencia de la pobreza y el dolor humano, el siglo XX terminará con signos alentadores. Es alentador el avance extenso y firme de la democracia y de gobiernos representativos y responsables ante el pueblo; es alentador el reconocimiento de la primacía de los derechos humanos, las libertades ciudadanas y la participación social; es alentadora, asimismo, la inmensa gama de oportunidades que la educación, el conocimiento, la ciencia y la tecnología ofrecen a las mujeres y a los hombres, a las familias y a las comunidades, y también es muy alentadora la creciente percepción del potencial que tiene la economía de mercado, así como del dinamismo económico, social e, incluso, cultural que imprime el libre comercio.

Con estos signos alentadores estamos en el umbral de un nuevo siglo, de un siglo que, sin duda, será de asombrosos avances, pero igualmente de grandísimos desafíos, el mayor de ellos será el vencer la pobreza y la desigualdad.

Si las generaciones del siglo XX han ido ganando la batalla por los derechos humanos, la libertad individual y la democracia, en el siglo XXI debemos ganar, clara y definitivamente, la batalla contra la pobreza y la desigualdad, debemos ganarla para los jóvenes y los adultos, para las mujeres y los ancianos, para las familias y las comunidades que con toda razón exigen ser parte del progreso y acceder al bienestar. Para comenzar a ganar desde ahora esa batalla, los mexicanos hemos venido realizando una muy profunda transformación.

Con el esfuerzo tenaz de los mexicanos estamos sentando las bases firmes de un crecimiento para el bienestar y la equidad. Estamos construyendo una sólida economía de mercado, pero cualquier economía de mercado, ésta debe ser un medio al fin. Por eso, queremos y lograremos los me-

Respeto y cooperación, acuerdan Clinton y Zedillo

xicanos una economía de mercado con corazón y con rostro humano, con sensibilidad social; una economía de mercado que sirva para apoyar eficazmente a los más necesitados.

Con la tradición jurídica de los mexicanos y con una nueva cultura de apego a la ley estamos construyendo un país de leyes y de justicia, y con los ideales políticos y la participación de todos los mexicanos estamos consolidando una democracia plena.

Con el espíritu solidario y el afán de superación de los mexicanos estamos abriendo más oportunidades para las mujeres y los hombres de nuestra patria. Los mexicanos estamos muy orgullosos de nuestras raíces culturales y de nuestra diversidad social, pues nos han hecho una nación distintivamente única y han forjado nuestro carácter, nuestra sensibilidad y nuestra capacidad.

México es una nación orgullosa de su pertenencia a América Latina, porque nos hermanan una historia de luchas afines, una lengua de recia y bella vitalidad, así como las más altas miras para un porvenir de prosperidad y de justicia.

Los mexicanos también estamos hondamente orgullosos de formar parte de América del Norte, porque ésta es tierra de civilizaciones esplendorosas, porque ésta ha sido siempre tierra fértil para el despliegue de las capacidades del ser humano, porque en esta tierra se ha conjugado el dinamismo de la iniciativa individual con la solidaridad comunitaria para un potencial de progreso único en el mundo.

Este gran continente nuestro ha sido tierra abierta a la libertad. Nuestra generación tiene hoy la responsabilidad de reafirmar y consolidar ese viejo espíritu de libertad de nuestras tierras, a través de la libertad de intercambios, de la libertad de comercio. Si en el continente americano la libertad ya ha florecido como democracia, ahora debe florecer como prosperidad.

Los mexicanos estamos convencidos de que el libre comercio abre fecundos caminos para el mutuo conocimiento de los pueblos, para el intercambio y el enriquecimiento cultural. Concebimos el libre comercio como un componente dinámico y decisivo de las relaciones entre las naciones modernas, de relaciones libres y abiertas, amplias e intensas. Concebimos el libre comercio como uno de los más poderosos motores de nuestro tiempo para el desarrollo, para un desarrollo capaz de transformar los retos en oportunidades, para un desarrollo capaz de transformar la desigualdad en equidad, para un desarrollo capaz de transformar las injusticias que son fuente de conflicto en bases justas, de armonía y cooperación.

Por eso, México ha saludado y ha asumido la iniciativa de establecer una gran área de libre comercio en el continente desde los primeros años del siglo XXI, y nos proponemos impulsar esa iniciativa en la cumbre que celebraremos el año próximo en Santiago de Chile. México tiene la honda convicción de que ese paso será decisivo para promover más eficazmente el desarrollo con paz y justicia. Esa convicción es la que ha animado a México a abrir su economía, primera y simultáneamente, hacia Latinoamérica y hacia América del

Norte.

En los últimos años México ha promovido el libre comercio y ha hecho un gran esfuerzo para que cada avance y cada acuerdo sea provechoso para quienes lo suscriben. Un ejemplo en la región, en el hemisferio y en todo el mundo es el Tratado de Libre Comercio de América del Norte. Gracias al TLC México se ha consolidado como el tercer socio comercial de Estados Unidos y, además, como su socio más dinámico.

Desde el establecimiento del TLC los intercambios comerciales entre nuestros dos países se han incrementado más de 60 por ciento, alcanzando el año pasado un valor cercano a los 150 mil millones de dólares.

Gracias al TLC México exporta hoy a los Estados Unidos más que Taiwán, Singapur y Corea del Sur combinados, y también gracias al TLC, Estados Unidos exporta hoy a México más que a Alemania y a Inglaterra juntos y más que a todo el conjunto de América Latina. Lo más importante es que el Tratado está significando nuevas oportunidades de inversión y más, muchos más empleos en ambos lados de la frontera.

Al anticiparse en la negociación y suscripción de acuerdos de libre comercio México ha dado prueba de la visión y la madurez con que asume sus relaciones en el mundo del siglo XXI, y también da prueba de la confianza que tenemos los mexicanos en nuestro potencial de desarrollo y de la decisión con que asumimos las transformaciones para las exigencias del futuro.

El libre comercio está contribuyendo a edificar una relación más intensa y ordenada entre los países de América del Norte y está propiciando un más sólido entendimiento entre sus gobiernos.

Al igual que en otras regiones, el libre comercio se está convirtiendo en el punto de partida para generar una nueva actitud más positiva, más constructiva. Ahora compartimos una nueva actitud de aliento a las iniciativas productivas y de confianza en la complementariedad de nuestras economías, nos avida a competir más ventajosamente en los mercados mundiales.

Ahora también compartimos una nueva actitud de sumar esfuerzos para multiplicar oportunidades mutuamente provechosas, de encauzar nuestras diferencias en el diálogo para superarlas, de avanzar hacia un progreso más equilibrado y justo para nuestros hombres y mujeres, para los trabajadores y para las empresas, de lograr un desarrollo que no riña con un medio ambiente sano.

El TLC está contribuyendo a que nos conozcamos y nos comprendamos mejor, a que nos respetemos y nos escuchemos con mayor atención, a que dialoguemos y negociemos con una disposición más abierta, más constructiva y de mayor cooperación. Esa disposición ya influye positivamente en el tratamiento de preocupaciones compartidas, se refleja en acuerdos y acciones comunes para remediar y mejorar el medio ambiente, para promover actividades productivas y proteger derechos laborales, para facilitar el cumplimiento de normas fiscales y aduanales, para impulsar el desarrollo

de nuestras telecomunicaciones, para fomentar el intercambio y la cooperación educativa y cultural, tecnológica y científica.

La actitud de respeto y la disposición al diálogo están permeando, incluso, el tratamiento de los problemas que más nos afligen. Uno de ellos es el tráfico de drogas. Es muy satisfactorio que en el marco de la visita del señor presidente Clinton hayamos suscrito una declaración para la Alianza de México y Estados Unidos contra las drogas.

A partir del respeto a la soberanía nacional, sobre la base de la responsabilidad compartida y mediante la aplicación efectiva de la ley, nos hemos comprometido a dar un nuevo ímpetu a una lucha que es por la salud de nuestra población, especialmente de nuestros jóvenes; una lucha que es por la integridad de nuestras instituciones; una lucha que es por la seguridad de las familias, de nuestras comunidades, de nuestras ciudades.

De igual modo, en esta visita del presidente Clinton hemos suscrito una declaración conjunta sobre migración. La declaración expresa el compromiso de ambos gobiernos de atender la migración como un enfoque integral que comprende medidas para fortalecer el respeto a la ley y a los derechos de los migrantes.

Hemos reafirmado la voluntad de nuestros gobiernos de construir una frontera que acerque a nuestros pueblos, que sea la línea divisoria entre dos naciones soberanas, no entre la prosperidad y la pobreza, que sea la línea divisoria entre dos vecinos prósperos, no entre las oportunidades y las carencias.

Esa es la frontera que queremos para los mexicanos y los norteamericanos del siglo XXI y la edificaremos con respeto, con diálogo, con cooperación, todas estas claves en la relación nueva entre México y los Estados Unidos.

Y en estos años, quiero decirlo con absoluta convicción y sinceridad, nadie ha trabajado con mayor decisión para impulsar ese respeto, ese diálogo y esa cooperación que el señor presidente William Clinton.

El presidente Clinton ha sabido conciliar el interés legítimo de su país con el respeto a la soberanía de México y el respaldo solidario a los mexicanos. El presidente Clinton ha demostrado su gran visión de estadista al trabajar para el futuro de la relación entre nuestros países, para que avance sobre las bases de respeto y el diálogo, del entendimiento y de la cooperación.

A la vista del siglo XXI nuestra relación tiene nuevos retos, el reto de saber equilibrar lo inmediato con el largo plazo, el reto de respetar las formas distintas de ser y de sentir de nuestros pueblos y a la vez lograr una cooperación constructiva y eficaz, activa y permanente.

México y Estados Unidos comparten una relación de largo plazo que debemos cultivar entre todos para que fructifique en una convivencia afortunada para todos.

Esta visita del presidente Clinton marca un paso muy importante en la construcción de una relación a la altura de la historia de dos naciones soberanas y orgullosas, y a la altura de las aspiraciones de dos grandes pueblos.

La visita del presidente Clinton confirma que la relación entre México y Estados Unidos está llamada a ser un apoyo fundamental para acometer los desafíos de un nuevo siglo más exigente, para librar y ganar las batallas por una sociedad, un hemisferio y un mundo más prósperos y más justos, y confirma también que todo lo que cada uno de nosotros pueda hacer a ambos lados de la frontera para consolidar esa relación habrá de beneficiar a futuras generaciones de mexicanos y norteamericanos; habrá de contribuir a edificar para ellos una región, un hemisferio y un mundo donde puedan vivir mejor. Ese es el espíritu que ha manifestado el presidente Clinton en cada momento de su visita a nuestro país, ese es el espíritu que estoy seguro compartirá él ahora con todos nosotros.

Muchas gracias.

Admite el jefe de la Casa Blanca la interdependencia binacional

Viene de la página 1-A

mente, gracias a la noble visión de Juárez de respeto y de paz.

A la conferencia asistieron el propio Zedillo y las señoras Nilda Patricia Velasco de Zedillo y Hillary Rodham Clinton, así como los integrantes del gabinete mexicano y representantes del gobierno y del Congreso de Estados Unidos, quienes primero presenciaron un video sobre los avances y los resultados del Tratado de Libre Comercio.

En su exposición, Clinton dijo que la democracia ha barrido todos los países, salvo uno de las Américas (Cuba), dándole a la gente una voz y un voto en su futuro, y que décadas de lucha han llevado al camino de la estabilidad y la paz, hacia los mercados libres y de la búsqueda por la justicia social y un desarrollo más sano.

Todo es parte del cambio, un cambio "eléctrico" que en ninguna parte del hemisferio se manifiesta con más vigor que en México, a cuyo pueblo felicitó por emprender reformas políticas audaces que lo llevarán a una contienda electoral más intensa en su historia, en el próximo, en una lucha por la democracia que requiere una ardua labor y que debe defenderse todos los días.

Por ello, Estados Unidos siempre apoyará el triunfo de la democracia para todo el hemisferio, porque somos interdependientes -aunque este fenómeno tenga algunos aspectos negativos- y porque la integración económica es inevitable, lo que ha generado valiosos instrumentos como el TLC que, a pesar de sus detractores, ha funcionado para todos los firmantes.

El TLC, indicó, ayudó también a aminorar el impacto de la recesión en México, ante la cual Zedillo respondió con visión y valor en lugar de decir "qué mala suerte" cuando asumió el cargo, lo que permitió una acelerada recuperación y el reingreso a los mercados de capital mundiales en sólo siete meses, frente a siete largos años que siguieron a la crisis de 1981-1982.

Por eso, dijo que su país siente orgullo de trabajar al lado de los mexicanos, pero que los avances no deben ser sólo en las cifras, sino también en el desarrollo de sus pueblos, por lo que esa asociación, como la del TLC, debe extenderse a otras naciones, impulsando la educación, el comercio y la defensa del ambiente.

Se congratuló además de tener en el primer equipo de sus colaboradores a muchos mexicano-estadunidenses, lo cual refleja su interés y respeto por quienes cruzan la frontera de manera legal, pues tan sólo en

1996 un total de 160 mil mexicanos ingresó legalmente a territorio estadounidense, llevándose consigo su talento, su energía y sus aspiraciones.

Por ese motivo, dijo, nos aseguraremos que el sistema los trate con justicia y les dé la oportunidad de cumplir sus sueños y sus esperanzas, y mantendremos una política de inmigración que sea justa, generosa, segura y ordenada, pero que también frene los flujos ilegales, porque quienes no respeten las leyes deben atenerse a las consecuencias.

De las drogas insistió en que es un flagelo que debemos combatir juntos, pues en su país cada año matan a 14 mil personas y significan un gasto de 70 mil millones de dólares por crímenes, pensiones, trabajos perdidos, cuerpos mutilados y vidas arruinadas, en tanto que los agentes arrestan a un millón de personas por ese problema.

En consecuencia, la batalla contra las drogas tiene que unir a nuestros pueblos, no dividirlos, ya que constituye una gran amenaza y es la fuente más cruenta de violencia -como ha dicho el Presidente Zedillo- ya que en Estados Unidos se ha duplicado también el uso de los estupefacientes entre la gente de alrededor de 18 años de edad.

Clinton indicó que esa lucha se dará conjuntamente con base en el respeto mutuo y el sentido común en el próximo siglo, haciendo resaltar el esfuerzo de México para erradicar ese mal al reordenar la institución encargada de combatir el narcotráfico, frente al cual, sentenció, tendremos que combatir y no apuntar con los dedos, sino unirnos las manos.

Clinton, día 2: del Calendario Azteca a la Pirámide del Sol

Por Joaquín López-Dóriga V.

TEOTIHUACAN.- Ernesto Zedillo y William Clinton se despidieron ayer aquí, al pie de la Pirámide del Sol. Antes habían recorrido la Calzada de los Muertos, espacio milenario donde, cuentan, los hombres se convertían en dioses, que no fue el caso.

Eran dos hombres, sí, poderosos pero tan de carne y hueso que por la mañana, cuando aparecieron de la oscuridad de entrecajas para salir al prosenio del Auditorio Nacional y se encendieron las luces, el presidente de Estados Unidos, asombrado, le comentó al Presidente de México:

-Oh! what a magnificent hall..!

-Y eso que te traje a uno de los pequeños... -le bromeó Zedillo como no queriendo la cosa.

Era el mejor escenario para una reunión apabullante a la que asistieron los más destacados hombres de este país en el plano de los negocios, de la política, de los medios de comunicación, de las iglesias, de la política, de los cuadros dirigentes del Gobierno Federal, del cuerpo diplomático, sesión de mañana, matiné, pues, donde se habló del presente y el futuro de las relaciones entre los dos países.

La jornada anterior había terminado tarde, muy tarde.
Sigue en la página 16-A

EL HERALDO DE MEXICO

DON GABRIEL ALARCON CHARGOY
FUNDADOR

GABRIEL ALARCON V.
PRESIDENTE Y DIRECTOR GENERAL

AÑO XXXII

México, D.F., jueves 8 de mayo de 1997

NUM: 1



EL PRESIDENTE Zedillo mostró a su colega estadounidense la zona arqueológica de Teotihuacan. Más tarde, Clinton y su esposa viajaron a Costa Rica. (AP)

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La cena, servida para 600 personas en el patio de la Casa de Gobierno, acabó pasada la medianoche, cuando el día de trabajo cumplía ya 16 horas. Clinton empezaba a arrastrar un poco los pies y resentía el cansancio con un dolor en la espalda, precio de la posición.

Pero la cena fue, como dijeron, un éxito. Ya adentro, claro. Porque el llegar fue un ejercicio de paciencia y suerte, como fue el caso de la función de Bellas Artes, dos horas antes.

Y como comentaría ayer Zedillo, él no hace las listas de invitados y por el trabajo que tiene sólo se encarga de indicar algunos de los que si quiere que asistan.

Este fue el caso de Carlos Fuentes y Gabriel García Márquez, amigos, comentó, de Clinton, que los conoce muy bien, que los ha leído y que los cita con frecuencia en sus discursos.

En un momento de la cena, Zedillo le comentó que había invitado a Antonio Banderas y a su esposa, Melanie, porque Felipe González se lo había pedido.

¿Está aquí Felipe, en la cena? le preguntó.

No, está en México, pero no en la cena. Yo voy a cenar con él mañana (anoche), pero hoy no vino.

¿Y vino Melanie? insistió por la esposa de Banderas.

¿Vino ella? le preguntó.

Lo que tú no sabes, le confió Clinton, es que Melanie fue de las primeras que hizo campaña por mí allá en 1991.

Luego la pareja saldaría a los Zedillo y a los Clinton, como también Carlos Fuentes con Silvia, su esposa, Gabriel García Márquez y su señora.

A la cena también fue Thalia.

Debí haber ido a la cena del presidente Fidel Ramos, de Filipinas, que llega el lunes, comentó refiriéndose a una carta confidencial que le envió el mandatario filipino por allá de noviembre del año pasado, en la que le informaba el éxito que había tenido la artista mexicana y le anexaba recortes de periódicos. Cuando Thalia fue a Manila se le dio tal trato que una noche fue invitada por el presidente Ramos y su esposa a una cena familiar en la casa de gobierno.

Comentó que había surgido una gran información con motivo de la visita, que lo confirmó desde que vio el grosor de la síntesis que recibe cada mañana.

Era así, de este tamaño, dijo separando las palmas de las manos, y todavía dice "síntesis", dijo irónico.

Eso sería una licencia de García Márquez, apuntó Carlos Almada, su portavoz.

No te metas con Gabo. Menuda la armó en Zacatecas. Yo creía que alguien como Gabo ya podía darse esos lujos, hacer un broma, y vieron la reacción de los académicos? Si era una guasa. Yo no, imagínese como Presidente, marcó su sana distancia con la academia y con las audiencias del lenguaje.

Cuando se le mencionó lo apretado de los horarios y las "colgadas" que se dieron los dos presidentes en las conversaciones privadas, dijo que eso es lo más rico, lo más importante de las visitas de Estado, las conversaciones privadas, donde los estadistas no están viendo el reloj.

Entró Lieban con una tarjeta y una asistente del presidente Clinton para decirnos del tiempo, pero ese es problema de ellos, por lo cortos que ponen los tiempos para estas conversaciones.

Después referiría que en esas conversaciones se tocan, básicamente, los mismos temas que en público, pero con un mensaje más llano.

Si hablamos, por ejemplo, de Centroamérica y el Caribe. Clinton comentó que es una zona estratégica para ellos y Zedillo le dijo que para México, al igual que el Caribe, también, y le habló de la reunión que a partir de anoche tendría en Costa Rica con los presidentes centroamericanos.

Zedillo le reiteró la importancia de esta región y el sentir que existe allá, donde se sienten olvidados luego de ser el escenario de la última confrontación armada de la Guerra Fria, que terminando ésta, parecieran olvidarse de ellos y los dejaron con las minas, con todo lo que deja una guerra.

En las conversaciones privadas no trataron el caso de Cuba, pero en la cena de Palacio, la noche del martes, sí salió el tema, aunque no con Clinton sino con el diputado de California Xavier Becerra, coordinador del "caucus" hispanico.

El representante se le acercó al Presidente de México y le habló, dijo, en nombre del Congreso de Estados Unidos, y en esa tesitura quería hablar con Zedillo de un tema que no había surgido: Cuba. En el coro en torno del Presidente había algunos otros legisladores estadounidenses y por un momento percibí que aquello se podría complicar y él quedar en medio de una discusión partidista.

-Lo que yo le quiero decir a nombre de los legisladores americanos es que respaldamos cien por ciento su política hacia Cuba, dijo el diputado por California. Zedillo lo miró sin dejar mostrar su asombro y el legislador continuó. -También quiero decirle que en el Congreso de Estados Unidos admiramos su actitud hacia el gobierno cubano, insistió el coordinador del caucus hispanico cuando ya Zedillo pasó a otro tema.

Acababa la cena y pasada la medianoche empezaban a apagar las luces de Palacio Nacional, espacio que Zedillo está dispuesto a recuperar después de años de desdén en aras de la seguridad y la comodidad de todos.

Por la mañana, a eso de las 9 y media los automóviles buscaban acercarse al Auditorio Nacional, donde se efectuaría el encuentro Presente y Futuro de las Relaciones México-Estados Unidos.

El evento estaba anunciado para las 10 y media, pero la cita era una hora antes, por eso de los acomodos. Y como todos eran importantes...

Al centro, en la primera fila se guardó el espacio para las comitivas y las esposas de los presidentes, detrás el gabinete. Luego los hombres de negocios más conocidos, y los dueños de los medios y los directores de periódicos. A la derecha, según se entra, en las dos primeras filas el gabinete ampliado. Detrás los subsecretarios y los oficiales mayores. Entre unos y otros, en la tercera fila, dos dirigentes de partidos políticos: Humberto Roque Villanueva, del PRI, y Felipe Calderón, del PAN.

¿Qué parejita, les dijo alguien.

Es la pluralidad, respondió el priista.

¿Qué pasó? reclamó el panista, serio. ¿Cómo que pareja?!

Bueno, entonces ¿qué pasó? les dijeron y eso pareció dejarlos satisfechos.

Por el sonido local, el Baygón, que se hacía chiquito en los anuncios hasta que se hizo, desesperado, insistía y hasta se enojó porque nadie le hacía caso a sus llamados "para tomar sus lugares".

¿Usted que está en el pasillo, se le pide muy seriamente que pase a su lugar, clamaba inútilmente.

A las 10 y media se empezaron a apagar las luces y corrió película, un corto de impecable producción titulado "México y Estados Unidos, vecinos y amigos", que el Presidente Zedillo vio la semana pasada, cuando aún no se "insertaba" el testimonio de Bill Gates, el hombre más rico del mundo, elogiando el progreso de México.

Por allí pasaron, en dos idiomas, casi simultáneos y a veces en tres, con las versiones francesas de los canadienses, personajes como Paul A. Samuelson, Premio Nobel de Economía, quien calificó al TLC con nueve y dieces, con "A" y "B" basado en el sólido avance y en sus resultados en el corto plazo.

Luego pasaron en el video como "hacedores del NAFTA", algunos empresarios: el inevitable Juan Gallardo, que quiere ser presidente del Consejo Coordinador Empresarial; Claudio X. González, que también la busca aunque habría de dejar la cómoda posición de presidente del influyente Consejo Mexicano de Hombres de Negocios y se removerían muchas cosas; el doctor Jacobo Zaindender, seguidos de empresarios de Estados Unidos y Canadá, que fue cuando el corto alcanzó tres voces.

El señor Mario Spatz, director general de Deli Bon Inc., reconoció que sus paisanos son muy competentes bebedores de cerveza. "Et qu'est-ce qu'il y a mieux pur accompagner une bière que la guacamole avec des nachos?" (¿Es que hay algo mejor para acompañar una cerveza que el guacamole y los nachos?) Cerraron con una mezcla inimaginable: Octavio Paz, Premio Nobel de Literatura, y Salma Hayek, actriz que al citar a un presidente dijo, en inglés, claro, y a Clinton, también claro: "We don't share the same past, but we share the same future". (No compartimos el mismo pasado, lo que es, por fortuna, ciertísimo, pero sí el mismo futuro).

En lugar de Fin o The end, acabaron con el logotipo de la Secofi. La gente aplaudió y encendieron las luces. Era como la matiné, nadie sabía qué más, esperaban a los presidentes y sólo quedó el silencio que fueron matando los murmullos y el desconcierto: nada, nadie, ninguno, el escenario aún vacío.

Se anunció el arribo de las señoras Zedillo y Clinton, a las que acompañaba Lieban Sáenz. Les recibieron con un aplauso, se sentaron, apagaron las luces y corrió otro corto sobre los tres países, en tres pantallas, con asombrosas ediciones y sonido perfecto. La matiné seguía. Este filme terminó con un atardecer, ¿o era amanecer?, sol amarillo, ¿sol azteca? Subieron las pantallas y bajaron las banderas. Anunciaron a los dos presidentes, entraron y fueron encen-

diendo las luces.

Fue cuando Clinton, admirado, comentó que era un escenario magnífico y Zedillo le bromeó: Y eso que éste es de los pequeños.

Se escucharon los himnos, se sentaron y el mexicano pasó al lugar central para leer su participación. Clinton batalló con sus audífonos hasta que un ayudante le llevó otros. Le preguntó con las cejas y le mostró el índice. OK.

Zedillo reiteró lo que ha sido su programa de gobierno, lo reivindicó como el mejor, remitió a los resultados, recordó el pasado, las otras crisis, valoró el rol de Clinton en la nueva relación, insistió en el tema respeto y soberanía, en el de cooperación y diálogo y luego dejó el escenario al visitante, que habló de Morelos y de Hidalgo, del cruce de camino, hoy como entonces, de la democracia, de la libertad, la cooperación, el progreso y el respeto.

Enseguida hizo suyo el apotegma de Juárez y habló de hoy: narcotráfico - "debemos de dejar de apuntarnos con el dedo para darnos la mano", de migración - "somos una nación de inmigrantes pero también de leyes; los que las cumplen son bienvenidos, los que no, deben ser sancionados", y de economía - "se equivocaron los que apostaron contra el TLC; estaban equivocados" - dijo, para luego hablar de lo que fue la crisis de México y de un Zedillo que en lugar de decir "qué mala suerte" decidió encararla y ha sido tan exitoso que en un año México está de regreso.

Después invitaron a las primeras damas a subir al escenario, se tomaron la foto y dejaron el escenario.

Unos momentos después el presidente Clinton abordaba el helicóptero Sikorski Marine One, del United States Marine Corps, para viajar a Tlaxcala donde le esperaba la fiesta. Tras Clinton despegó otro helicóptero igual, el Marine Two, y luego otros dos, ya pintados de verde militar, los cuatro traídos desde la base Andrews, en las afueras de Washington, al igual que las limusinas blindadas y las camionetas igualmente acorazadas en las que se desplazó en Tlaxcala y en esta ciudad de dioses.

En Tlaxcala miles de personas le esperaban en la plaza. Primero llegó Zedillo, que había viajado en el TPH-01 de la Fuerza Aérea Mexicana, un aparato Puma de fabricación francesa, acompañado por Nilda Patricia, y después Clinton. Se reunieron en el interior del palacio de gobierno, una edificación del siglo XVI que ha sido de todo: alcaldía, alhóndiga y casa real.

Salieron a la plaza sobre un templete, hablaron a la gente. El gobernador José Antonio Álvarez Lima les dio la bienvenida y luego caminaron sobre la alfombra de aserrín y arena. Clinton le miró como diciéndole si saludaban a la gente, lo que le tiene prohibido el Servicio Secreto.

Unos metros si quieres le dijo Zedillo y que Clinton, contra todo va queriendo. Entonces su personal de seguridad, que ya se había relajado, pareció enloquecer. ¿Su presidente entre la gente?

Y así fue, avanzó entre un alud de manos y rostros, colores, olores y sudores. Se detuvo frente a una anciana de 74 años y Guadalupe Pérez, desde su rostro surco de arrugas, le dio la bendición. Clinton apretó las mandíbulas e inclinó la cabeza.

¿Qué multitud! Le había dicho a Zedillo cuando llegó a la plaza y la vio atiborrada.

¿Cómo la vio? le preguntaron a Zedillo.

No, el presidente Clinton está encantado; los que andan un poco nerviosos son los de su seguridad. No están acostumbrados a esto pero, con esta gente, puede resistirse.

¿Qué, hoy cerró el pueblo para que viniera tanta gente? le comentó Clinton a Álvarez Lima.

No, así es aquí. Cada vez que viene el Presidente la gente se asoma - le explicó como explica las cosas este gobernador de Tlaxcala.

Llegaron hasta el atrio de San Francisco, la primera Catedral de América, data de 1527, donde se encuentra el primer púlpito desde el que por primera vez se dijo el Evangelio; donde llegaron los primeros 12 misioneros franciscanos que arribaron con Hernán Cortés en 1519; espacio donde aún guardan el Cristo del Conquistador que, cuentan, trajo el extremeño como regalo; con el primer baptisterio de tierra firme donde hicieron cristianos a los tres niños y los educaron en la fe cristiana y que, luego mártires, beatificaría el Papa Juan Pablo II el 16 de mayo de 1990: Cristóbalito, Antonio, nieto de Xicoténcatl, y su pajeito Juan, muertos estos dos últimos cuando iban hacia Oaxaca, a evangelizar con los dominicos.

En el atrio, pues, la verbera, los bailables, el copal, los concheros, la imagen indígena del Arcángel Gabriel. Luego los niños del coro y los Clinton llevando el ritmo con los hom-

bros, con la cabeza, con aplausos. Cantaban La Negra y el Cielito Lindo cuando un ayudante de la Casa Blanca se subió y le comentó por lo bajo que sería conveniente que subiera al escenario con los niños para saludarlos.

¿Pasamos? le preguntó a Zedillo.

¿Pasamos! le contestó.

Y pasaron escoltados por Nilda Patricia y Hillary. Saludaron a los niños, se retrataron con ellos y cuando iban bajando Clinton propuso subir de nuevo para tomarse unas fotos con el grupo. Se pusieron al frente y como Zedillo viera que tapaba a los infantes, y a las infantes, claro, pasó a dos o tres enfrente y Clinton lo siguió. Luego pasaron más y más, Clinton retrocedió y siguió la fiesta.

Abajo, un corpulento agente del Servicio Secreto empujó a un fotógrafo enviado de Washington. Este se hizo para atrás, tomó vuelo y le atizó un empujón que le hizo perder el equilibrio. El agente de seguridad quiso golpearle, pero se le adelantó con enorme telefoto. Entonces se arrancó el audífono y al grito de *yusonahubich*, le retó a golpearse fuera, *morderlo quer*. El fotógrafo le volvió a atizar con el telefoto y todo se disolvió cuando los presidentes bajaron del templete.

Antes, un joven que luego resultaría niño de 12 años, Moisés Galicia, había cantado vestido de charro aquella de "yo me muero donde quiera". Al terminar se retrató con los dos mandatarios.

Cantas muy bonito le dijo Zedillo.

Pues apóyeme para presentarme en la capital le pidió.

Cuando iban hacia la primera Catedral de tierra firme un niño de Ocotlán le llamó.

¿Pst, pst, Presidente.

¿Qué pasó! le saludó.

Yo soy de Ocotlán, mi teléfono es el 2-35-70. Háblame cuando puedas - dijo y Zedillo siguió. Al rato se le volvió a aparecer. ¿Qué! ¿Me vas a hablar o no? ¿Sí o si?

Claro que sí.

A ver, ¿qué número? le retó.

Al 2-35-70. ¿Ah, verdad!.

Bueno, pero dame también tu teléfono por si no me llamas, que yo te llame.

Al llegar a la puerta del museo, que en un tiempo, y por mucho, fue el claustro de esta primera Catedral, se acercaron los encargados. Los sacerdotes diocesanos Francisco Rodríguez Lara y Gonzalo Arenas Fernández. Zedillo vio que uno de ellos se abría el alba, la sotana blanca, y se echaba la mano al bolsillo interior, una y otra vez hasta que le dijo: "Señor Presidente, quiero pedirle un consejo. ¿Cómo ve usted si le pido una firma al presidente Clinton para que me den mi visa de Estados Unidos?" y le mostró el pasaporte que guardaba en el pecho.

No, hombre!, eso no le va a servir de nada. Mejor le pido a alguien de la cancelería que nos ayude.

No, por eso. Yo le dije que le iba a pedir consejo - dijo mientras se guardaba el pasaporte y se abrochaba.

Ya dentro del claustro el gobernador había preparado un comilon del que si Clinton sale con vida, se acordará siempre, como se acordaba, le comentó a Zedillo, de que sólo en una comida de Yelisin había visto tantos platillos.

Aver había chiles en nogada de Puebla, barbacoa de Tlaxcala, huachinango a la veracruzana, crepas de huitlacoche de Morelos, camarones al pulque de Hidalgo, pipián verde del Estado de México, tlacoyos, fideos secos, pierna de puerco adobada de Jalisco, ensalada de nopales, frijoles refritos, ensalada potosina, arroz a la mexicana, tamales oaxaqueños, huauzontles de Xochimilco y escamoles.

Clinton atacó diez de los 15 platillos y todavía le entró a los escamoles.

No, resultado de los míos - confesó Zedillo, muy competente también a la hora de sentarse a este quehacer, comer. En la comida estuvo presente el obispo Jacinto Guerrero Torres, José Guadalupe Romero Barba, primer párroco, decano y capellán, todo en una sola persona, fue el que le presentó el libro para que lo firmaran.

En helicóptero, de nuevo cada quien en el suyo, viajaron hacia esta región. Los aparatos se posaron a un costado, el norte, de la Pirámide del Sol. Con Zedillo iban Gurria, Luis Téllez, Rafael Tovar y de Teresa. Los recibió el gobernador César Camacho Quiroz, acompañado por su esposa y una camioneta llegaron hasta la cara sur de la Pirámide de la Luna. Allí se detuvieron y luego avanzaron sobre la Calzada de los Muertos, cuando ya llovía.

Y se despidieron al pie de la Pirámide del Sol.

La visita había comenzado con el pie del Calendario Azteca. Por la noche, el Presidente Zedillo cenaba en Puerto Vallarta con su amigo el ex presidente del gobierno español, Felipe González, de visita privada en México.

EL HERALDO

DE MEXICO

DON GABRIEL ALARCON CHARGOY
FUNDADOR

GABRIEL ALARCON V.
PRESIDENTE Y DIRECTOR GENERAL

AÑO XXXII

México, D.F., jueves 8 de mayo de 1997

NUM: 11339

CONFIDENCIAL

Por Leopoldo Mendivil

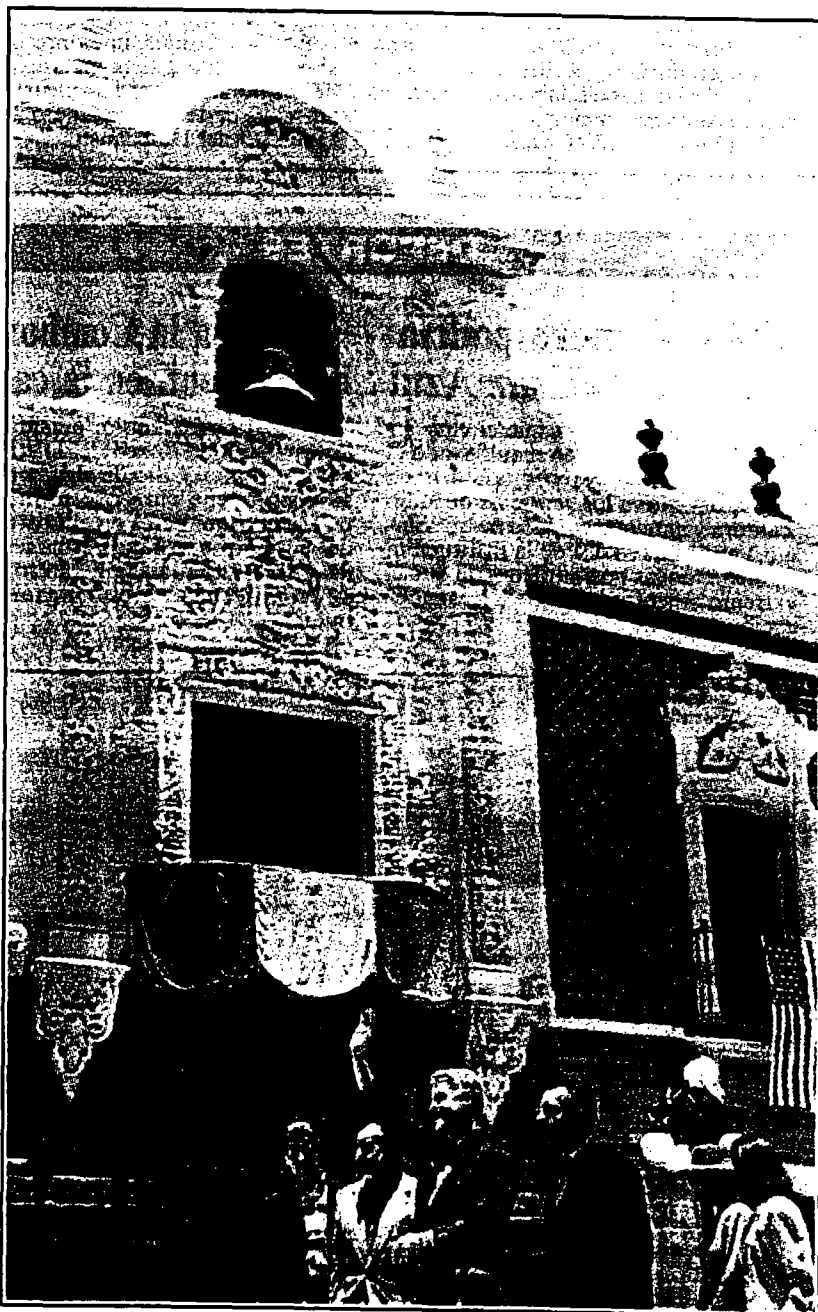
ASUNTO: ¿POR QUE..?

Lic. Carlos Salinas de Gortari:

Si de acuerdo con las cifras usted no estuvo equivocado con su promoción económica principal, entonces, ¿por qué dejó el país en el borde de la crisis?

Las cifras a que me refiero, provenientes del Banco Mundial, el Fondo Monetario Internacional, el Departamento de Comercio estadounidense, la Secretaría de Comercio y Fomento Industrial y el Instituto Nacional de Estadística, Geografía e Informática son las siguientes:

-Entre 1986 y 1996 las exportaciones se quintuplicaron e hicieron de
Sigue en la página 16-A



TLAXCALA.- Los presidentes Ernesto Zedillo y William Clinton cruzaron a pie la Plaza de la Constitución de esta ciudad. Los mandatarios fueron recibidos cálidamente, con música y adornos en las principales avenidas. (AFP)

Confidencial

Viene de la página 1-A

México el décimo exportador mundial y el primero en América Latina.

-De 1994 a 1996 nuestras exportaciones crecieron 23 por ciento anual promedio, por encima de Corea del Sur, Hong Kong, Taiwán y Singapur.

-En 1991, México exportó a Chile productos por valor de 124 millones de dólares y en 1996 la cifra se elevó a 688 millones de dólares, gran parte de ellos en automóviles, computadoras y vehículos de carga.

-En 1996 las ventas mexicanas, principalmente de automóviles, medicamentos, computadoras, cables para electricidad, productos químicos y fibras sintéticas a Bolivia, Colombia, Venezuela y Costa Rica superaron los mil millones de dólares.

-Respecto del intercambio entre Canadá y México, en 1996 alcanzó 4 mil millones de dólares, 38 por ciento superior al de 1993, con lo que nuestro país se volvió el primer proveedor latinoamericano del mercado canadiense principalmente en automóviles, computadoras, motores, cables para bujías y televisores.

-En cuanto a Estados Unidos, nuestro comercio bilateral se elevó en 65 por ciento durante los tres últimos años y sólo en 1996 significó más de 140 mil millones de dólares. Esto ha hecho de México el socio comercial más dinámico de Estados Unidos al incrementar sus exportaciones en 83 por ciento. En 1996 México exportó a Estados Unidos más que Francia y Reino Unido juntos y más que Corea del Sur, Hong Kong y Taiwán en conjunto.

-En 1993 México fue el principal proveedor de Estados Unidos en 673 rubros. Para 1996 lo fue de mil 124. En el sector acerero pasó del octavo al cuarto sitio, por encima de Taiwán, Brasil y Corea del Sur; en automóviles, del cuarto al tercer lugar desplazando a Alemania y en el textil, del quinto al segundo sitio, sobre Hong Kong, Taiwán y Corea del Sur.

-En cuanto a recepción de inversión extranjera directa, de los países en desarrollo sólo China supera a México.

-Finalmente, en 1993 el número de exportadores mexicanos fue de 21 mil 477, y para 1996 la cifra se elevó a 31 mil 860; esto es, un incremento de 48.3 por ciento.

-Todo esto ocurrió, licenciado Salinas, a partir de que comenzaron a operar los tratados de Libre Comercio que su gobierno impulsó, y el crecimiento de nuestro comercio exterior no fue limitado ni por la crisis financiera y económica que estalló a escasos días de concluida su administración.

Ayer, durante la reunión *Presente y Futuro de las Relaciones México-Estados Unidos* que convocaron los presidentes Zedillo y Clinton, con la participación de todo el poder económico, político, social y comunicacional del país, se realizó un acuerdo de los principales logros alcanzados exclusivamente por los dos países, además a consecuencia del TLC norteamericano, y estoy seguro de que

la aplastante mayoría de los asistentes al Auditorio Nacional nos acordamos de usted. En lo personal lo recordé con la pregunta que al principio le hice, y repito:

¿Por qué, si no estuvo equivocado en su promoción económica principal, dejó al país en el borde de la crisis?

¿Por qué si había atado ya tan importantes instrumentos para el desarrollo mexicano, soltó otros de carácter financiero que provocaron la bárbara retracción en que a pesar de los éxitos exportadores nos encontramos?

La respuesta está en el título del seminario internacional que la Fundación Colosio inicia hoy: "Globalización con Justicia Social" y en "una economía de mercado con corazón y rostro humano" que, afirmó ayer Zedillo, los mexicanos estamos ahora instrumentando. Eso fue, licenciado Salinas, lo que usted olvidó... **DEJE ME CONTARLE QUE...**

... (Señor presidente Clinton, qué bueno que vino; pero qué bueno que ya se fue... Atentamente... Los sufridos conductores y peatones capitalinos)... Con escasas horas de diferencia, Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas fue refutado y públicamente exhibido por Andrés Manuel López Obrador... Anteayer, el candidato perredista al gobierno capitalino encabezó sendos *supermitines* en Washington y Nueva York, como si también quisiera ganar las alcaldías de las capitales política y financiera estadounidenses -con representantes del gran capital estadounidense, y ahí externó algunas de las críticas que integran su plataforma política, contra el Gobierno y parte de la sociedad mexicana; pero por la noche, luego de entrevistarse aquí con Clinton, el dirigente nacional perredista dijo a la prensa que no había abordado problemas internos con el mandatario estadounidense "porque los platos sucios se lavan en casa"... Cosas de campaña, ni modo; si *Alfredo del Mazo* en alguna medida discrepó de *Humberto Roque Villanueva* en relación al tema *Salinas de Gortari*, los perredistas se pueden permitir también algunas licencias... Y ya de regreso en la sede real de su campaña, durante el encuentro que *Cárdenas* tuvo ayer con estudiantes politécnicos alguien le preguntó si los agresores del panista *Carlos Castillo Peraza*, anteayer en la Facultad de Ciencias Sociales de la UNAM, eran seguidores suyos... "No respondió", lo que pasa es que quien por todos lados busca pleito, lo encuentra"... Una mentirijilla que como nueva licencia se permitió el perredista, pues el CEU es elemento activo de su partido y de su campaña, pero lo cierto es que el encuentro en Ciencias Políticas realmente fue una plurimanifestación de intolerancias... Lo mejor, ciertamente, es que los políticos se manifiesten franca y honestamente como son, y en esto seguramente el panista llevaría las mejores cifras en las encuestas, porque se ha peleado con gente de los medios, con electores, con estudiantes y aparentemente con uno que otro miembro de su propio partido que le ha tratado de aconsejar

sobre mejores formas de hacer campaña... Lo cierto es que si a principio de abril *Felipe Calderón Hinojosa* ya se mostraba seriamente preocupado ante el curso que tomaba la campaña panista por el gobierno capitalino -entre otras cosas porque por ocuparse del electorado en general, *Castillo Peraza* estaba descuidando el voto duro de su partido en el DF-, no dudemos que a un mes y días se encuentre inmerso en el terror total cada vez que escucha los noticieros radiofónicos, ve los de televisión o lee los diarios... Ni modo, a pesar de todo, la voz del pueblo panista parece no ser la voz de Dios... Al dirigente blanquiazul le queda el consuelo de que la selección de candidato fue obra de los delegados que votaron por *Castillo Peraza*... Quizá algunos piensen que tanta democracia los empachó... Sin embargo, *don Carlos* volvió a respirar serenamente ayer luego de su encuentro con las comunidades del ITAM y de la Universidad del Valle de México, donde lo trataron de una manera totalmente distinta... La decencia revivió; las buenas maneras también; las preguntas a tono igualmente, en grado tal que en ambas instituciones le ofrecieron formar grupos de apoyo a su campaña... O sea que *Calderón* tenía razón con lo del voto duro; ahí está la respuesta... Monseñor *Jerónimo Prioste* ha comentado con algunas personas de su confianza que México, y en especial Cuernavaca, son los lugares donde piensa pasar el resto de su vida, seguramente porque en ningún otro lugar tiene tantos conocidos, y de tanta importancia, como aquí, pero principalmente porque México fue la cima de su obra diplomática... Pero antes de que eso ocurra, el ya pronto exnuncio deberá salir del país y dejar el espacio libre a su antecesor, quien cuando llegue a presentar sus cartas credenciales al Presidente Zedillo, deberá ser el único... Ya después de que se procese su jubilación, el hacedor de las relaciones restauradas entre México y la Santa Sede podrá realizar su proyecto... Las más sentidas y sinceras condolencias a *Marcia Ollivier* y a sus hijos... Descansen en paz *Mauricio E. Ollivier Faure*... Esta noche, la Cámara Japonesa de Comercio e Industria de México, A.C., conmemorarán con una cena, a la que asistirán el Presidente de la República y su gabinete, así como parte importante de la comunidad económica mexicana que participa en la 21 Reunión Empresarial México-Japón, el centenario de la migración japonesa a nuestro país... *Alejandro Carrillo* no pretende ser el vocero ni del Presidente, ni del Gobierno Federal, ni de la Secretaría de Gobernación... Simplemente desea cumplir con su nombramiento de coordinador de Comunicación Social del Gobierno de la República... Espléndido, el documental producido por la Secretaría de Comercio y Fomento Industrial sobre el TLC con que ayer arrancó la reunión *Presente y Futuro de las Relaciones México-Estados Unidos*, pero será una pena si el país entero no lo conoce... Vale, y mucho, su transmisión abierta...

El PRI ha permitido el "estrepitoso" avance de la oposición, acusa Fidel

Viene de la página 1-A

gentes de las federaciones estatales de Hidalgo, Morelos, México, Michoacán, Durango, entre otros.

Con ellos habló sobre las campañas políticas y los acontecimientos ocurridos el pasado 1 de mayo durante la ceremonia conmemorativa del Día del Trabajo, que encabezó el Presidente Ernesto Zedillo en el Auditorio Nacional.

Sobre las campañas, Fidel Velázquez dijo a sus principales colaboradores que es inaudito permitir que avance la oposición, ya que es notorio que han aprovechado los espacios que los priistas han abandonado; sin embargo, hizo un reconocimiento a la labor que Humberto Roque Villanueva viene haciendo al frente del partido.

"No es posible que hasta en los vagones del Metro el PAN tiene más presencia, y eso que yo no viajo en él; ¿dónde están los recursos para impulsar esas campañas?", preguntó.

Pidió a su Comité Ejecutivo trabajar con el electorado, realizar campañas de penetración y de más acercamiento, porque consideró que se han abandonado los espacios políticos.

En su silla de ruedas, molesto y por momentos cuestionador de la situación política, económica y social que se vive, Fidel Velázquez reprochó a los priistas y al Gobierno el hacer una guerra sucia contra el movimiento obrero organizado.

Los asistentes a la reunión, principalmente Juan S. Millán, José Ramírez Gamero, Joaquín Gamboa Pascoe, entre otros, fueron críticos en sus comentarios, pues reconocie-

ron que no se ha trabajado en forma para salvaguardar la posición del sector obrero, lo que ha hecho que la oposición aproveche para hacerse camino.

A esto, Fidel Velázquez les señaló que la única forma de salir adelante es trabajando y no hacer caso a los ataques que se han dado a raíz de su ausencia al frente de la Confederación de Trabajadores de México (CTM).

Posteriormente, en conferencia de prensa expuso la necesidad de reformar la Alianza para el Crecimiento, porque no está funcionando, o de lo contrario hacer otra. "La Alianza no debe dedicarse a perder el tiempo en discusiones vanas que no benefician a nadie", subrayó.

Consideró que el balance de la Alianza en lo que va del año "es negativo", porque el sector patronal no trabaja, por lo que debe atribuirse un trabajo intenso y "agotador" para que este balance sea positivo.

En cuanto a la reunión que tuvo con los integrantes del Comité Ejecutivo de la CTM -y a la que no asistieron Leonardo Rodríguez Alcaine, quien estuvo en los eventos de William Clinton; Abelardo Carrillo Zavala, quien se encuentra de gira por Europa; y Javier Pineda Serino, quien asiste a una reunión de vivienda en Costa Rica- dijo que fue para trabajar por la central obrera en lo social, en lo político y en lo económico, para hacer una campaña sobre estos temas.

En materia económica, anunció que la CTM protestará enérgicamente porque los precios siguen elevándose y los salarios reduciéndose, y agregó que si no se presentó el 1 de mayo fue "porque no quisieron".



UNA CONSTRUCCION de madera, plástico y diversos desechos sirven como vivienda a un grupo de indigentes en el cruce de Diagonal 20 de Noviembre y Bolívar. Entre sus habitantes se encuentran varios infantes. (Foto de J. Ramírez Meza)

EL HERALDO DE MEXICO

GABRIEL ALARCON CHARGOY
FUNDADOR

GABRIEL ALARCON V.
PRESIDENTE Y DIRECTOR GENERAL

AÑO XXXII

México, D.F., jueves 8 de mayo de 1997

NUM: 11339

El TLC ya es fructífero, considera EU

La alianza bilateral contra el narco dará resultados este año, prevén

Por Joaquín Roura Quiñones

A 41 meses de iniciado, el Tratado de Libre Comercio (TLC) en América del Norte es una realidad que funciona y ha cumplido con los propósitos trazados, y por ello el gobierno de Estados Unidos reafirma su disposición de consolidarlo, patentizaron los secretarios de Estado, Madeleine Albright, y de Comercio, William Daley.

Coincidieron en que el acuerdo comercial de su país con México y Canadá ha abierto significativas oportunidades de intercambio, mejorado operaciones y generado empleos, a grado tal que 80 por ciento del crecimiento exportador de la Unión Americana ha sido precisamente en esa región.

Además, compartieron el deseo de que México y su país robustezcan aún más su vínculo comercial e insistieron en que la recíproca colaboración será la clave para un gran futuro común.

Barry McCaffrey, director de la Oficina de Política

Nacional sobre el Control de Drogas, elogió la alianza formalizada aquí por ambos gobiernos para combatir el narcotráfico, cuyos resultados empezarán a fluir este mismo año, y reconoció que la estructura familiar mexicana ha permitido contrarrestar aquí la penetración de las drogas.

Mediante una aportación de 300 pesos *per cápita*, 550 socios de la Cámara Americana de Comercio de México tuvieron ayer una oportunidad irrepetible: desayunar con el *staff* de William Clinton, escuchar de cerca a los hombres -y mujeres- del presidente, saber las perspectivas del reducido círculo ministerial que lleva a la práctica los dictados de la Casa Blanca.

No importaron la madrugadora cita ni el sortear los férreos dispositivos de seguridad; muchos llegaron antes del amanecer y no eran las 6 de la mañana cuando bebían despertadores cafés en las afueras del salón

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El TLC ya es fructífero, considera EU

Viene de la página 1-A

"Castillo", en el hotel habilitado como temporal y efímera residencia del presidente más poderoso del planeta.

Y es que la ocasión no era despreciable. Además de la Albright, de Daley y McCaffrey, concurrían a la misma mesa la procuradora general Janet Reno, el consejero presidencial Thomas "Mack" McLarty y el embajador saliente James Jones. A última hora no asistió el encargado de la cartera del Tesoro, pero sí estuvieron los de Agricultura y del Transporte.

Antes de las 7 y tras minuciosas revisiones caninas y personales debajo de la sillería y entre los cortinados, se permitió el acceso al salón y a las mesas ya servidas que de inmediato fueron abordadas por los comensales, representativos de 85 por ciento de la inversión directa estadounidense en nuestro país.

Pero tuvo que pasar casi una hora para que los miembros del gabinete presidencial visitante bajaran de sus respectivas suites y se sentaran en el sitio de honor.

Tras una breve alocución de bienvenida del embajador Jones aderezada con el infalible chiste muy al estilo americano, el primero en hablar fue el "zar" antidrogas McCaffrey, el mismo que antes de retirarse de la milicia fue el oficial más condecorado y el general de cuatro estrellas más joven del ejército de Estados Unidos.

Aseguró que no hay sociedad al margen del flagelo de las drogas, a las que califica como la amenaza número uno en el mundo y por ello ratificó que su gobierno enfrenta ese reto sistémico, que también se refleja en tráfico de armas y corrupción.

Tenemos la convicción de apoyar los esfuerzos de combatirlos en toda la región y por ello es elogiada la seria estrategia que se acaba de formalizar con México", apuntó quien en su hoja de servicios incluye haber sido comandante de la División de Infantería que en la Guerra del Pérsico -o Tormenta del Desierto- atrapó a la guardia republicana iraquí en el valle del río Eufrates.

Ahora, vestido de civil y sonriente, mencionó que su batalla actual es librar a 68 millones de jóvenes estadounidenses de los peligros de la droga, aunque aceptó que 3 millones 600 mil compatriotas suyos sufren tal adicción y de ellos, un millón 400 mil consumen cocaína.

Argumentó que por la experiencia adquirida en la dirección hoy a su cargo, ha constatado que la presencia de las drogas en Caracas, Río de Janeiro y Bogotá es más intensa que en Miami, Detroit o San Diego.

William Daley, responsable del Comercio de Estados Unidos, manifestó después que los lazos con México son más estrechos y que el acuerdo aplicado en Norteamérica en 1994 es el primer paso para lograr el Tratado de Libre Comercio de las Américas, previsto para el año 2005.

Dijo que las exportaciones estadounidenses hacia nuestro país han crecido 21 por ciento y que el tratado comercial ha sembrado notables beneficios a las dos naciones.

Luego, "Mack" McLarty, amigo personal y asesor de Clinton, quien además es su enviado a las Américas, recordó que México es vecino, socio y amigo de Estados Unidos, al tiempo que insistió que el TLC constituye la piedra angular entre ambos pueblos.

Al exponer el enfoque que su amigo Bill otorga al hemisferio, el que fuera jefe del gabinete de la Casa Blanca advirtió que la democracia en la región debe verse en la práctica y apuntó que para su gobierno es interés de seguridad nacional comprometerse con sus vecinos democráticos.

Finalmente el "plato esperado", Madeleine Albright, la mujer fuerte de la administración Clinton, llegó a la trinchera y apenas para abrir boca sintetizó el papel que la Unión Americana juega en el concierto mundial después de la Guerra Fría y en vísperas de la nueva centuria.

Refirió que busca su integración internacional median- te los principios básicos de democracia, mercados abiertos y las reglas de la ley bajo una convivencia pacífica. A fin de entender, distribuyó a todas las naciones en cuatro grupos de importancia y en el más preponderante situó a los países de América Latina, excepto a una -Cuba-, cuyo nombre omitió pero que todos los presentes identificaron.

Ratificó lo dicho la víspera por los presidentes Zedillo y Clinton respecto a su compromiso de combatir y ganar la batalla contra las drogas, la corrupción y el crimen, además de que hizo notar a la comisión binacional, que acordó tender puentes para mejorar la cooperación en propósitos comunes.

Vestida de un intenso rojo, la primera mujer que ocupa la Secretaría de Estado, la que además de hablar el francés y el checo y entender ruso y polaco es madre de tres hijas, ponderó los principios democráticos y el respeto a los derechos humanos en México. Calificó a éste como el inicio de un capítulo en la relación que guardan ambas naciones.

La brevedad persistió en el resto de la sesión y con precisión cronométrica vino la clausura. Se tomaron las fotografías de grupo para el recuerdo y después, las despedidas. Apenas eran minutos después de las 9 de la mañana y los periodistas mexicanos y estadounidenses que habían sido citados dos horas antes salieron a desayunar.

Enfoques

Conversaciones bilaterales México-EU



Madeleine Albright, secretaria de Estado

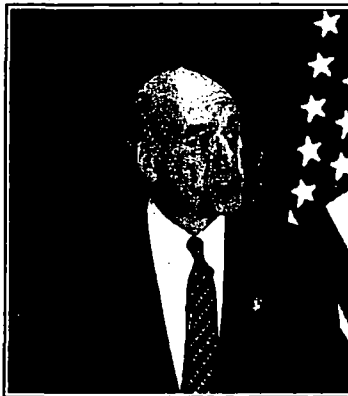
"NADA HACE MAS por el liderazgo estadounidense y nada hará más para resolver los complejos problemas entre México y EU, que una saludable economía creadora de empleos y ascendente. Ustedes conocen mejor que nadie las oportunidades abiertas por el TLC. Ha creado trabajos en ambos lados de la frontera".



Barry McCaffrey, "Zar" antidrogas

"MÉXICO TIENE una estructura familiar que ha permitido contrarrestar la penetración de las drogas, pero no existe sociedad alguna que pueda permanecer al margen del problema.

Tres y medio millones de estadounidenses sufren por las drogas y 1.4 millones consumen cocaína".



Thomas "Mack" McLarty, consejero

"EN ESTADOS UNIDOS es interés de seguridad nacional comprometerse con sus vecinos democráticos.

México es nuestro vecino, socio y amigo, y el Tratado de Libre Comercio es la piedra angular para nuestros países y debemos trabajar en una sociedad basada en el respeto común".



William Daley, secretario de Comercio

"EL TRATADO de Libre Comercio sí ha funcionado y cumplido con los propósitos trazados... 80 por ciento del crecimiento de las exportaciones de Estados Unidos ha sido precisamente en América del Norte y las ventas a México han aumentado 21 por ciento", dijo el secretario de comercio estadounidense.

Se han reducido 50% las exportaciones de ganado a EU

Por Olga Moreno Solís

Resulta oportuno iniciar la ampliación de los puntos de cruce de ganado en pie en la frontera norte, para que estén operando cuando se normalicen las exportaciones a Estados Unidos, las que en este ciclo 96-97 se han reducido a menos de 50 por ciento, comparativamente al ciclo pasado, dijo a este diario Enrique Salinas, coordinador general de Salud Animal de la Confederación Nacional Ganadera.

A la fecha, informó, se cuenta con 9 puntos de cruce a lo largo de los más de 3 mil kilómetros de la frontera norte, que se localizan en Nuevo Laredo, Reynosa, Piedras Negras, Acuña y Santa Tere-

sa, Ciudad Juárez, Agua Prieta, Nogales y Mexicali.

Enrique Salinas destacó que la tuberculosis bovina es una de las enfermedades que ha causado las mayores restricciones a las exportaciones de ganado al vecino país, y se refirió al convenio del sector agropecuario y al compromiso de abrir nuevos puntos de cruce del ganado, que forma parte de los 11 que fueron suscritos por México y Estados Unidos con motivo de la visita a México del presidente Clinton.

Hizo hincapié que afortunadamente el precio del ganado ha reaccionado en lo

que va del año, pero el problema es que los potreros y los corrales de engorda están prácticamente vacíos. En parte, por la prolongada sequía que obligó a desalojar los ranchos; a la falta de créditos para repoblarlos y a que no había incentivos para endrogarse por la baja del precio de la carne en Estados Unidos.

Por lo que se refiere a la tuberculosis bovina, explicó que hay un grupo de estados -Sonora, Coahuila, Nuevo León, Tamaulipas, Durango y Yucatán- con muy buen nivel sanitario y se les reconoció un "Status en Base 2" de la campaña contra esta enfermedad, a base de monitoreo

técnico que realiza un comité binacional, siendo los únicos autorizados para exportar directamente sus animales al vecino país.

El ganado de las otras entidades tiene que llegar a los cruces de los estados reconocidos por su alta calidad sanitaria y ahí permanecen de 60 a 90 días, dependiendo de las condiciones de los animales, y hasta entonces se les pone el "arete azul de exportación" del estado en el que se les manejó durante este tiempo.

Si posteriormente se detecta que llevan garrapata, el responsable es el estado fronterizo, aseveró Enrique Salinas.

Enfoques

Zedillo y Clinton visitaron la zona
arqueológica de Teotihuacán
Camacho Quiroz llevó obsequios a los visitantes

Por Jesús Saldaña II.

TEOTIHUACÁN.- Los Presidentes de México y Estados Unidos, Ernesto Zedillo y Bill Clinton, respectivamente, fueron recibidos en este lugar por el gobernador del Estado de México, César Camacho Quiroz, quien los acompañó a recorrer la zona arqueológica desde la pirámide de la Luna hasta la del Sol, pasando por la calzada de los Muertos.

El mandatario mexicano, quien vino con su esposa María Eugenia San Martín de Camacho, llegó a las 15:45 horas, y una hora y media más tarde aproximadamente, hicieron lo mismo el primer Magistrado y el Jefe de la Casa Blanca, quienes a bordo de una camioneta descubierta se trasladaron hasta esos sitios.

Los dos Jefes de Estado llegaron con sus respectivas esposas, Nilda Patricia Velasco de Zedillo y Hillary Rodham Clinton, así como un reducido grupo de cercanos colaboradores, entre los que figuraban los embajadores Jesús Silva Herzog y James Jones.

Durante su recorrido escucharon las explicaciones que hicieron Eduardo Matos Moctezuma, antropólogo; José Jesús Torres Murillo, coordinador administrativo de la zona arqueológica de San Juan Teotihuacán, y Enrique Nalda Hernández, secretario técnico del Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia.

Ambos mandatarios recorrieron por espacio de una hora la zona arqueológica, y presenciaron los pocos vestigios encontrados hace dos semanas en el lugar, así como el mural Del Jaguar, pintura hecha en el año 150 antes de Cristo.

César Camacho Quiroz llevó una campana de plata fabricada por los artesanos de San Felipe del Progreso y un tapete de Temoaya fabricado en Metepec, como obsequios para el visitante estadounidense y dijo que para el Estado de México era un motivo de alegría recibirlo en ese lugar que tiene un gran significado para la historia de nuestro país.

La camapana, dijo, estaba coronada por un Árbol de la Vida, una de las expresiones artísticas más sorprendentes de los habitantes de Metepec, poblado cercano a Toluca, la capital de la entidad, y en su extremo superior llevaba una paloma de la paz.

El tapete de Temoaya, explicó el gobernador del Estado de México, significa un gran trabajo para los artesanos, pues el mismo tiene cerca de 100 mil nudos por metro cuadrado. Está hecho a mano y mide dos metros, lo cual indica que en su confección los artesanos tardaron seis meses.

Después de recorrer esa zona arqueológica, Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de León y William Clinton, acompañados de sus respectivas comitivas regresaron a la Ciudad de México en punto de las 18:20 horas en helicópteros de la Fuerza Aérea norteamericana.

Antes los dos Presidentes y sus comitivas habían estado en Tlaxcala donde asistieron a una verbena y una comida en su honor.

Llama Clinton a continuar la amistad México-EU

Determinante para el futuro, la asociación de ambas naciones, afirmó

Por Alfredo Velasco y Ubaldo Morales, enviados

TLAXCALA.- El presidente estadounidense William Clinton hizo un llamado para seguir construyendo con base en el respeto mutuo de la dignidad de nuestros pueblos, la asociación y la amistad que existe entre México y Estados Unidos, pues ello, afirmó, es un factor determinante para el futuro de ambas naciones.

Y expresó: en los próximos años nuestros países deben trabajar juntos para conservar las cosas que queremos y cambiar las cosas que debemos.

En su oportunidad, el Presidente Ernesto Zedillo sostuvo que el mandatario estadounidense "es un buen amigo de los mexicanos porque respeta a México: porque está trabajando muy fuerte para que los dos países podamos construir, siempre con respeto a nuestra soberanía, un mejor futuro para los mexicanos acá de este lado de la frontera, y para los norteamericanos al norte de la misma".

En lo que constituyó una de sus últimas actividades durante la visita de Estado que efectuó a nuestro país.

William Clinton estuvo en esta entidad para responder a la invitación del Presidente Ernesto Zedillo, y en compañía de su esposa Hillary Rodham Clinton, el mandatario estadounidense constató la calidez del pueblo tlaxcalteca, la profundidad de sus raíces culturales, y lo esplendoroso de la arquitectura colonial plasmada en bellos monumentos de los siglos XV al XVIII.

Al dirigir unas palabras a la concurrencia que se dio cita para saludarlo en la Plaza Principal del estado, William Clinton hizo resaltar la importancia del trabajo conjunto de México y Estados Unidos para brindar mejores trabajos a su gente, mejor atención médica para las familias, una educación completa para niños y niñas, "y también para derrotar a los enemigos que acechan a todos".

El mandatario extranjero afirmó además que aun en las épocas de los grandes cambios, algunas cosas son duraderas, como lo son nuestro patrimonio, nuestro amor por la familia, por la comunidad, por la dedicación al trabajo, "así como nuestro respeto por la tierra que tenemos la bendición de habitar".

Sin distraer su vista de las nubes de banderitas de México y Estados Unidos que eran agitadas en el aire por

los tlaxcaltecos, Clinton manifestó que en este nuevo siglo que estamos por comenzar, "queremos trabajar por nuestras comunidades, por nuestros pueblos y sobre todo para nuestro futuro".

Inmediatamente después, el visitante agradeció las muestras de afecto que recibió durante su estancia de dos días en territorio nacional, y añadió que el pueblo de México le ha dado personas muy importantes a su país.

Y refirió: dos miembros de mi gabinete, dos miembros de mi gobierno, miembros del Congreso de Estados Unidos y muchos hombres exitosos en esa nación, tienen sus raíces aquí en México. Ellos se sienten orgullosos de ello, y nosotros también nos sentimos orgullosos de ellos y de su trabajo.

Ante funcionarios del gobierno mexicano, el presidente de Estados Unidos refrendó su compromiso de seguir trabajando junto con México "con orgullo, en nuestra herencia, en nuestro patrimonio, como socios".

A su vez, el Presidente Zedillo, quien estuvo acompañado de su esposa Nilda Patricia Velasco de Zedillo, dijo estar contento de que William Clinton estuviera en nuestro país, porque por una parte se han alcanzado acuerdos muy importantes, y por la otra, el mandatario estadounidense ha conocido mejor a México.

Y estableció: nosotros los mexicanos somos un pueblo muy orgulloso porque tenemos historia, y gracias al trabajo de todos los habitantes, un gran futuro.

Posteriormente, el mandatario mexicano explicó las razones del porqué invitó a Clinton y su esposa Hillary a Tlaxcala. Dijo que aquí está una parte muy entrañable de nuestra cultura; pero lo hice sobre todo, porque aquí hay un pueblo extraordinario del cual como Presidente, como mexicano, me siento muy orgulloso.

Antes de los mandatarios, habló el gobernador José Antonio Álvarez Lima, quien después de dar la bienvenida a sus distinguidos visitantes afirmó que en esta parte de México vive una sociedad plural y democrática, cuyo único patrimonio es el trabajo, y con él se construye una vida mejor.

Al dirigirse al presidente estadounidense, el mandatario estatal dejó en

claro que los mexicanos queremos con Estados Unidos relaciones amistosas, sinceras y maduras. "de igual a igual".

"Nuestra demanda es por más y mejores oportunidades de educación y oportunidades de empleos. No puedo dejar de mencionar también nuestra preocupación por los derechos humanos de nuestros paisanos en Estados Unidos. El respeto entre los países sólo se da con el respeto entre las personas", puntualizó.

Concluido el acto en la Plaza de la Constitución, los presidentes Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de León y William Clinton se trasladaron en compañía de sus esposas al ex convento Franciscano donde alguna vez también estuvo Hernán Cortés. Ahí, los mandatarios y sus acompañantes disfrutaron de una verbena popular en la que se interpretaron canciones tales como "Cielito lindo", "Viva México" y "Guadalajara".

También se escenificó una danza prehispánica en que habitantes atados con máscaras de tigre y cisne dieron una muestra de la riqueza cultural de esta región y del país entero.

De ahí, la comitiva se trasladó al Museo Regional de Tlaxcala donde el Presidente Zedillo y su esposa ofrecieron una comida privada a sus huéspedes, quienes degustaron platillos tradicionales como el pipián, arroz, nopales, escamoles y, de postre, dulce de tejocote.

Una hora y algunos minutos después de haberse iniciado la comida privada, el Presidente Ernesto Zedillo salió acompañado de su esposa Nilda Patricia Velasco de Zedillo rumbo al campo deportivo que fue habilitado como helipuerto en esta ocasión, para trasladarse a Teotihuacán, último sitio que visitó ayer el mandatario estadounidense y su esposa.

William Clinton salió minutos después del Museo Regional y por iniciativa propia se enfiló hacia la Parroquia del Sagrario de Catedral de Nuestra Señora de la Asunción, donde se ubica el primer bautizmal que existió en toda América, y cuyo padrino fue Hernán Cortés. Ahí, el mandatario recibió una rápida explicación de la historia de la parroquia y posteriormente emprendió su viaje hacia la zona Arqueológica de Teotihuacán.

Enfoques

Libre, presunto saboteador de la visita de Clinton

Por Xavier Rojas Lázaro

Con las reservas de ley fue puesto en libertad el empleado del Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes, quien fue detenido el pasado martes por amenazar públicamente con interferir los actos conjuntos que realizarían los Presidentes de México y de Estados Unidos. Mientras tanto, la Procuraduría General de Justicia del Distrito Federal continúa la investigación sobre el presunto sabotaje a la visita del mandatario estadounidense.

Al respecto, el director de la Policía Judicial del Distrito Federal informó que durante la vigilancia que se estableció en las inmediaciones de los lugares que visitó William Clinton se detuvo a 27 personas como presuntas responsables de diversos ilícitos.

Entre ellas se encuentran 14 personas que encabezaron Genaro Fernán-

dez Noroña y Teodoro Palomino, a quienes se les detuvo en posesión de una pistola calibre .22, y por ello se les puso a disposición de la Procuraduría General de la República para que proceda a su consignación ante las autoridades penales correspondientes.

Sobre la liberación de Enrique Benettes Chávez, la Procuraduría General de Justicia del Distrito Federal informó que se determinó su libertad luego de conocer la denuncia de hechos contra esta persona, ante la posibilidad de configurarse delitos que se persiguen de oficio, por la indebida obstaculización de las actividades conjuntas del Presidente Ernesto Zedillo y del mandatario de Estados Unidos de América.

Benettes Chávez en sus declaraciones ministeriales admitió que realizó

una llamada telefónica a su concubina María Francisca Moreno Sánchez "para acordar la manera en que manifestarían su repudio e inconformidad ante la visita de Estado del presidente estadounidense e interferir en dichas actividades".

Como se dio a conocer en su oportunidad, Enrique, quien es empleado de limpieza de Bellas Artes y adscrito a la sección IX del SNTE, fue detenido el 6 del presente mes a las 15 horas en la esquina de Eje Central Lázaro Cárdenas y Avenida Juárez.

Luego de las averiguaciones iniciadas a las 17:25 horas del martes, ayer a las 13:30 horas, con las reservas de ley se determinó la libertad de Enrique Benettes; pero se aclaró que las investigaciones continúan según lo expuesto en la integración del acta que se inició.

EDITORIAL

Visita exitosa

EXTRAORDINARIAS, es el calificativo que puede darse tanto a la visita del presidente de Estados Unidos, William Clinton, como a la reunión binacional, conformada por funcionarios de alto nivel de ambas naciones, celebradas en esta ciudad.

A pesar de que, con toda razón, había cierto temor de que las cosas no salieran tan bien como resultaron, todo transcurrió de acuerdo a lo previsto y puede hablarse de que todos los temas de la agenda fueron tratados a fondo y con satisfactorios resultados.

La visita de William Clinton y su esposa Hillary fue exitosa, porque el trato amable que les dio, no sólo el gobierno sino los habitantes de la ciudad, fue lo que corresponde a un amigo, que no hay duda de que el mandatario estadounidense ha actuado como tal ante México, en los momentos en que más se requería demostrarlo.

Los acuerdos logrados mostraron gran equidad y respeto mutuo, sobre todo en cuanto a la alianza para que ambos países combatan de común acuerdo el narcotráfico y dejen, de ahora en adelante, de acusarse de alentar este ilícito negocio; es ésta

una de las más positivas soluciones que se ha dado para combatir este mal.

Quizá uno de los más sobresalientes puntos que públicamente haya aceptado el presidente Clinton es que Estados Unidos consume el 50 por ciento de las drogas que produce el mundo, porque significa que por primera vez se reconoce que la mayor responsabilidad es de ellos. Ahora no se trata de echarse la pelota unos a otros, sino de que pueblos y gobiernos, de ambos lados de la frontera, pongan su mejor esfuerzo para combatir el narcotráfico y su consecuente actividad, que es la del lavado de dinero.

Otro de los más importantes puntos es el de asegurar que habrá reformas legales que otorguen a los inmigrantes, de todo origen, un trato humano, con respeto a su integridad física y moral. Siendo estos dos puntos los que han motivado fricciones importantes entre legisladores y población de ambas naciones, ahora serán superadas frente a la posibilidad de combatir sus causas y efectos de manera coordinada.

Puede considerarse, y con razón, que ésta ha sido una de las visitas presidenciales más exitosas de todos los tiempos.



"Necesitamos ayudar a nuestros socios comerciales a crear instituciones democráticas que promuevan el respeto a los derechos humanos"
MADELEINE ALBRIGHT

Buscará EU ampliar TLC

Por Yadira Mena
y Rossana Fuentes-Borain

LA PRIORIDAD EN MATERIA COMERCIAL PARA EL gobierno de Estados Unidos estará en conseguir la aprobación de la autoridad del "fast track", que le permita extender los acuerdos comerciales a otras regiones.

Para ello, es necesario dar a conocer los resultados positivos del Tratado de Libre Comercio de América del Norte.

En lo anterior coincidieron William Daley, secretario de Comercio de Estados Unidos; Thomas McLarty, consejero del Presidente William Clinton y enviado especial a las Américas y Madeleine Albright, secretaria de Estado, quienes hablaron ante miembros de la Cámara Americana de Comercio en México (AmCham).

América Latina se ubicará en el primer plano de la agenda de EU, coincidieron. Por ello, la visita que realiza Clinton es la primera de otras tres que efectuará en los próximos doce meses.

El vocero del Presidente Clinton, Mike McCurry, dijo por su parte que la comunidad de negocios estadounidenses quiere moverse rápido para conseguir la extensión del "Fast Track" en el Congreso de los Estados Unidos y abrir el TLC al resto de Latinoamérica.

McCurry comentó a la prensa de su país -que acompañó al Presidente Clinton en la gira por México- que será una de las prioridades de su jefe sacar en el curso del año la autoridad del Congreso, para negociar por la vía rápida la extensión del TLC al resto de Latinoamérica.

Agregó que "será muy importante" que Clinton llegue a Santiago de Chile en 1998 con las herramientas para poder continuar la construcción de una nueva zona comercial hemisférica.

William Daley, secretario de Comercio, apuntó que la administración Clinton realiza un estudio sobre los efectos del TLC y aunque todavía no se ha concluido, los primeros resultados muestran que se cumplieron los objetivos de poder ampliar y proteger las exportaciones de EU a México y Canadá.

"El año pasado las exportaciones para México y Canadá fueron mucho más grandes que para cualquier área del mundo, incluyendo la Cuenca del Pacífico y Europa", destacó. A partir del primero de enero de 1998, dijo, cerca de dos terceras partes del intercambio comercial entre

CRONICA

PERFORMANCE PARA EL TLC

Por Lourdes Morales

LOS HOMBRES DE LAS CORBATAS DE seda y peinados engomados, al igual que los que diariamente sudan con los auriculares en la mano en pleno piso de remates, fueron a escuchar al "buen amigo de México", como se le dio por llamar al presidente Bill Clinton.

Sallieron radiantes: los dólares, dijeron, regresan a México. Los días en que las acciones de las empresas mexicanas eran sinónimo de "vendan" quedaron atrás. Ahora, explicó el presidente de EU -que se expresaba con el bastón de mando en la mano, bajo la cándida mirada de Hillary- "la gran visión de Zedillo" y claro está, el crédito por 50 mil millones de dólares que EU promovió para su socio, lograron sacar al País de la crisis en solamente siete meses.

"En sólo unos meses su economía creció 5 por ciento y seguirá creciendo", auguró el mandatario. Estallaron los aplausos.

En lugares privilegiados: Claudio X. González, presidente de Kimberly Clark de México; Juan Gallardo, de la Coece; Jaime Alatorre, pre-

sidente del Consejo Mexicano de Inversión; José Méndez, de Promex, y el abogado estrella del Consejo Mexicano de Hombres de Negocios: Agustín Santamarina.

De socio a socio, se habló de las bondades del acuerdo comercial a través del performance del TLC, acompañado por un video trilingüe a todo color y a tamaño cuasi-natural. ¿Las controversias? "Todas son conocidas, todas tienen su proceso de solución", comentó Gallardo, una de las voces del video-TLC.

A Clinton le tendieron a lo largo y ancho de su visita un largo tapete rojo. De nada importó el caos vial sobre Reforma, que a las nueve de la mañana fue bloqueada para que los vehículos lujosos de los invitados pudieran circular a las afueras del Auditorio Nacional.

A muchos les sorprendería encontrarse, hora y media después, con que sus autos estacionados en el carril de baja habían desaparecido.

¿A dónde se los lleva joven?
-Pues depende. Algunos nomás donde no estorben; otros, al carrilón de Tacubaya.

México y EU estarán libres de aranceles, lo cual "es un logro impresionante".

Refirió que impulsarán negociaciones para establecer una zona de libre comercio de las Américas para el año 2005.

Madeleine Albright dijo que la política orientada hacia América Latina está al frente en la agenda de la administración. Calificó a EU como la "nación indispensable" que requiere de socios, ya que "no puede hacer todo solo".

"Necesitamos ayudar a nuestros socios comerciales a crear instituciones democráticas que promuevan el respeto a los derechos humanos", recaló.

De ahí que es necesaria una fuerza conjunta para luchar y ganar la batalla contra el narco, el crimen, la corrupción y el tráfico ilegal de armas, abundó.

Thomas "Mack" McLarty, consejero

de Clinton, manifestó que el proceso de revisión del TLC será importante para lograr la autoridad del "fast track", necesario para conducir la política comercial para América Latina y para el mundo.

"Lo que tenemos que reconocer es que las exportaciones de EU hacia Canadá y México están en un punto sumamente alto y nuestra participación de mercado en México ha crecido", dijo.

"Para México, el Tratado también ha significado el incremento de sus exportaciones y representa una piedra angular en su proceso de recuperación".

En el evento estuvieron también James Jones, embajador de EU; Dan Clickman, secretario de Agricultura, Julio A. de Quesada, presidente del Consejo de Administración de Citibank y actual presidente de la AmCham.

► **Analistas:** La visita de Clinton no trajo acuerdos importantes, y "ni siquiera impactó los mercados" (40A)

► **Agrio debate en Washington:** cuestionan los 'efectos positivos' del Tratado entre México, EU y Canadá (40A)

► **Afirman que hay consenso** para que se libere en la región el mercado de los energéticos (40A)



"Necesitamos ayudar a nuestros socios comerciales a crear instituciones democráticas que promuevan el respeto a los derechos humanos"

MADELINE ALBRIGHT

Buscará EU ampliar TLC

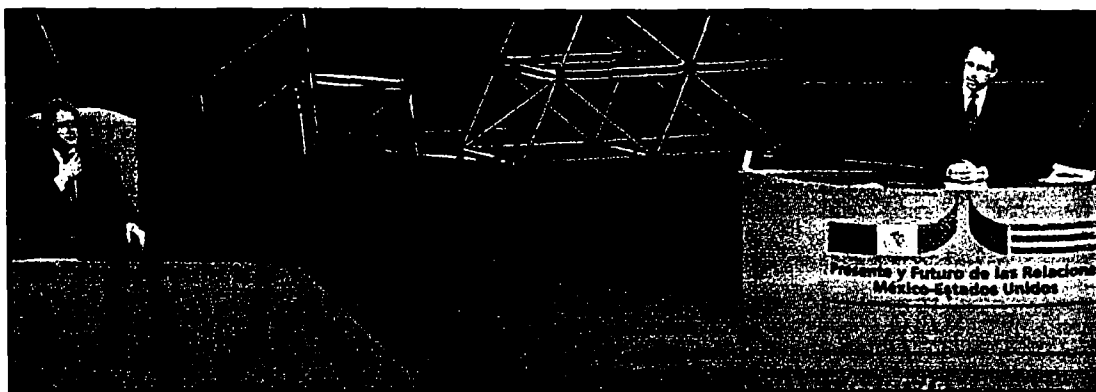


Foto: RETOMEX/Luis Jorge Galegos

Clinton y Zedillo. En el último día de la Binacional, con el Auditorio como escenario.



Foto: AP

Rubin y Ortiz. En comercio "nada nuevo", según analistas.

"Como experto en economía, debo calificar el TLC con nueves y dieces, con base en las sólidas evidencias"

Paul A. Samuelson
Premio Nóbel de Economía

"Ha sido provechoso para los agricultores de EU; ha sido provechoso para México"

Dean Kleckner
American Farm Bureau
Federation

"Servirá como modelo para entrar a otros mercados"

Calman J. Cohen
Presidente del Emergency Com-
mittee for American Trade



Foto: RETOMEX/Luis Jorge Galegos

Emilio Azcárraga Jean.

"Este es apenas el principio"

Claudio X. González
Director General de Kimberly Clark

"Los canadienses adoran los mangos, están fascinados con las papayas y, como ustedes saben, son buenos bebedores de cerveza. Y qué mejor que acompañar una cerveza que guacamole... con nachos"

Mario Spattz
Director General de Deli Bon Inc.,
Canadá

"El TLC ha marcado un cambio en las políticas de los tres gobiernos; nos dio confianza en invertir en México"

Stephen L. Baum
Presidente y jefe ejecutivo de
San Diego Gas and Electric Co.

"Los beneficios que he recibido son muchos; muchas, las satisfacciones"

Noel Castro
Empleado de Delphi Sistemas (GM)

"El TLC es una iniciativa de enorme visión y responder a un reto de esa naturaleza requirió de un gran valor"

Juan Gallardo Thurlow
Presidente del Consejo de COECE

Como resultado del TLC estamos planeando ampliar nuestro negocio de flores naturales y aumentar en un 30 por ciento el número de empleos para fines de este año.

Alan Wlodyky
Jefe de Producción
Flavor Fresh USA (UNIMARK)

El TLC ha traído para el país y para las empresas que así lo ven, una ampliación de mercado. Ya no debemos pensar en 90 millones de habitantes, sino en más de 300 millones de habitantes.

Ing. Luis Berrondo.
Presidente de Mabe

Nos sentimos orgullosos de que Nemark (subsidiaria de Grupo Alfa) sea una empresa que esta exportando y que esta teniendo éxito en el mercado internacional.

Sr. Gerardo Rivera.
Secretario General
del Sindicato de Nemark.

'No se firmaron acuerdos económicos importantes'



Destacan analistas que la visita del presidente Clinton no impactó ni en los mercados

Por Felipe Gazzón

AUNQUE LA VISITA DE BILL CLINTON Y Robert Rubin a México reiteró la voluntad de diálogo y cooperación entre ambas naciones, no derivó en la firma de importantes acuerdos en materia económica y financiera, ya que no había nada importante previsto, coincidieron analistas.

Por ello, la visita no impactó en los mercados financieros, coincidieron Héctor Chávez, economista en jefe de Santander Investment y Carlos César Llaguno, analista de Casa de Bolsa Value.

Carlos Martínez-Ulloa, director de Ingefin, señaló que la principal señal de la visita del presidente de Estados Unidos para los inversionistas externos estriba en que la administración Clinton mantiene su apoyo real para la economía mexicana.

Detalló que por cuestiones de pragmatismo, Estados Unidos apoya a México, ya que todo lo que sucede aquí



Héctor Chávez. Nada concreto en Reunión Binacional.

afecta a Norteamérica. Por ello, durante la crisis mexicana de 1994-95, la administración Clinton instrumentó un paquete de apoyo financiero para el país.

El apoyo financiero de Estados Unidos le permitió a México salir a los mercados de capital en mejores condiciones que muchos otros países en desarrollo. Entonces la visita de Clinton emite a los inversionistas la señal de que continuará el apoyo, por lo que México permanecerá como sinónimo de garantía de pago.

Por su parte, Daniel Martínez Va-

lle, coordinador de asesores del subsecretario de Hacienda, Martín Werner, precisó que en las conclusiones de la Reunión Binacional se destacó el avance favorable de las economías de México y Estados Unidos, gracias en parte al TLC.

Los grupos de trabajo para los temas económicos y financieros, integrados por hasta 60 miembros, detectaron los futuros obstáculos de ambas economías, dijo. Estados Unidos deberá encontrar, en el largo plazo, una manera adecuada para financiar sus programas de salud y bienestar social.

Para México será importante elevar el ahorro interno y la inversión para elevar en el largo plazo el nivel de vida de la población.

Señaló que México y EU aprovecharon la oportunidad para reafirmar su compromiso de buscar nuevos caminos para mejorar la efectividad de los servicios aduanero y fiscales.

En la Binacional se ratificó el Acuerdo de Intercambio de Información Fiscal pactado entre ambos países desde 1989, por lo que a partir de este año México proporcionará a EU información relativa a los pagos realizados por residentes mexicanos a residentes estadounidenses. Las autoridades de Estados Unidos ya proporcionan esta información a México.

También se automatizará el comercio aduanero, lo que permitirá simplificar y agilizar el flujo comercial entre ambas naciones.

Apoyan libre mercado de energía

Acuerdan México y EU consolidar el Comité Técnico Bilateral de Energía que operará en Norteamérica

Por Luis Carriles

ESTADOS UNIDOS Y MÉXICO APOYARÁN LA CREACIÓN de un mercado de energía de Norteamérica que será reforzado con las importaciones mexicanas de electricidad, expresó Alfredo Phillips Greene, coordinador de la Unidad de Promoción de Inversiones de la Secretaría de Energía.

Informó que la mesa de energía de la reunión bilateral no discutió los temas de la frontera del Golfo de México, la privatización de la petroquímica, los cambios en las tarifas eléctricas y aran-

cel al gas natural de importación.

"El tema de petroquímica no se tocó en la agenda bilateral, ni dentro de las reuniones formales ni en las pláticas informales que sostuvieron los secretarios", expresó.

Aclaró que estos temas seguramente se trataron en otras mesas porque, si bien inciden en el sector, no son temas propios del mismo, por lo que estuvieron fuera de la agenda bilateral de energía.

Indicó que ambos gobiernos coincidieron en que es necesario incrementar el análisis técnico del mercado petrolero internacional y en cuanto a México, hizo énfasis en diversificar los destinos de las exportaciones petroleras.

Lo que se obtuvo de la reunión fue la consolidación del Comité Técnico Bilateral de Energía, que de mayo a octubre próximo trabajarán los temas de creación de bases de datos del mercado de energía de Norteamérica, la detección de oportunidades de negocios, la inversión

que se pueda encontrar y un mayor intercambio académico y tecnológico.

En conferencia de prensa, Phillips Greene señaló que el tema de la reducción acelerada del arancel del gas natural se platicó de manera "cándida" en una reunión informal que sostuvieron los ministros de Energía de ambos países.

Agregó que es responsabilidad de los empresarios de Estados Unidos y de México solicitar a sus respectivas autoridades la desgravación acelerada para la importación sin arancel del gas natural, en el caso de México será a mediados de este mes cuando se cierre la convocatoria para las solicitudes de desgravación arancelaria.

Indicó que uno de los principales intereses que tienen los inversionistas es la importación de energía eléctrica excedente de Estados Unidos, por lo que habrá una explicación más detallada sobre los contratos de interconexión y porteo de la Comisión Federal de Electricidad.

Cuestionan éxito del Tratado

Por Maribel González

REFORMA/Corresponsal

WASHINGTON.- EN UN DEBATE SOBRE EL TLC efectuado ayer en esta capital, los críticos del acuerdo aseguraron que convirtió a México en una plataforma de exportaciones a Estados Unidos con mano de obra barata, mientras que los defensores del convenio comercial advirtieron que un potencial retiro de EU del mismo tendría repercusiones "desastrosas".

El debate tuvo lugar en el National Press Club y participaron, a favor del TLC, Ira Shapiro, negociador de la Representación de Comercio Exterior, y Sidney Weintraub, economista del Centro para Estudios Estratégicos e Internacionales. En contra del Tratado estuvieron la congresista demócrata de Ohio, Marcy Kaptur y el presidente del Economic Policy Institute, Jeff Faux.

Shapiro reconoció que durante 1993, en el debate previo a la aprobación del TLC, ambas partes exageraron.

Resaltó que la economía americana está en plena expansión, con el desempleo a menos del 5 por ciento. "Si el TLC hubiera tenido esas consecuencias negativas que los críticos sugieren, ¿cómo es que estamos creciendo y somos la economía más competitiva del mundo?", planteó.

Dijo que de haberse rechazado el pacto, no existiría base para la cooperación con México.

La congresista Kaptur destacó que este tipo de tratado "no es marco para el desarrollo y tampoco creo que promueva las reformas democráticas".

Cuestionó la justicia del TLC, cuando General Motors es el mayor empleador del sector privado en México y en las líneas de ensamblaje los trabajadores ganan 70 centavos de dólar por hora. "No pueden comprar los carros que ellos mismos producen", dijo.

'Es dinamita política'

WASHINGTON.- LA CONGRESISTA demócrata de Ohio, Marcy Kaptur, advirtió ayer que de no renegociar el Tratado de Libre Comercio y arreglar sus defectos, es "dinamita política" tanto para México como para Estados Unidos, y acusó al presidente Bill Clinton de tener miedo a conocer la realidad.

"El presidente no quiere saber, creo que tiene miedo de mirar detrás de la puerta, prefiere ignorar la situación y no habla directamente sobre el tema que sabe que es muy delicado. De alguna manera, está en un estado de negación, pero no puede negar los hechos", declaró.

La legisladora, una declarada crítica del TLC y autora del proyecto del ley "Rendición de Cuentas del TLC" que ya cuenta con los votos de 77 congresistas, comentó que había escuchado que Clinton recorrería ciertas ruinas en México.

"Me pregunto qué ruinas... Hay muchas poblaciones de México arruinadas por el tratado, millones de trabajadores en México perdieron sus trabajos y los salarios se han reducido a la mitad desde la apro-

bación del TLC, pero a nuestro gobierno no le importa y a su gobierno tampoco le importa", manifestó.

Estableció que el tratado no es el modelo correcto para el libre comercio hemisférico y hay que corregirlo de forma que sirva para que los tres países miembros, México, Estados Unidos y Canadá, puedan elevar el nivel de vida de sus pueblos.

Kaptur dijo que en México, como resultado del TLC, millones de personas han resultado desplazadas en el sector agrícola. "Y a nadie le importa. Bueno, a mí me importa y estoy segura que hay gente en México a la que le importa".

Argumentó que "en nuestro país los trabajadores que están perdiendo sus trabajos y a los que están colocando en situación de enfrentamiento con los trabajadores de México, reciben un trato igual a que si fueran invisibles, como si no estuvieran. Lo que estamos diciendo es que esta gente que está pagando el precio por el TLC tiene el derecho a que se le escuche", argumentó la legisladora.

For Maribel González/Corresponsal

"Es una cuestión de justicia. Hemos creado un escenario mucho peor del que existía en México", consignó Kaptur.

El experto del Centro para Estudios Estratégicos e Internacionales esgrimió que la economía de Estados Unidos está casi en su capacidad tope de empleo total, lo que significa que no se pueden crear muchos empleos más sin crear inflación. "No veo como se pue-

de argumentar que se pierden trabajos cuando estamos casi en empleo total", dijo Weintraub.

"Hay que participar en el mundo y retirarnos, como proponen algunos críticos del TLC, lo cual sería desastroso", estableció.

Para Faux el tema es cuáles son las reglas, y el problema con el TLC "es que las reglas no son equilibradas".

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL AMERICAS.

Clinton habla de más TLC, pero no da fechas

POR MICHAEL K. FRISBY
Redactor de THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

MEXICO— El presidente de Estados Unidos, Bill Clinton mencionó el libre comercio como el tema principal de su política para América Latina, pero no dijo cuándo presentará al Congreso el proyecto de ley que le otorgaría facultades especiales para negociar tratados comerciales con otros países, lo cual

PERSPECTIVAS

podría generar más pactos comerciales en la región.

Tanto Clinton como el presidente mexicano Ernesto Zedillo alabaron el Tratado de Libre Comercio (TLC), al decir que ayudó a México a salir del caos económico. Pero mientras que Clinton ha hablado una y otra vez sobre la expansión del TLC, aún no ha presentado la legislación de *vía rápida* para su aprobación, debido a las críticas políticas que enfrenta por parte de los demócratas liberales del Congreso.

Aunque Clinton maquilló algunas discrepancias sobre inmigra-

ción y las políticas contra el narcotráfico, estaba claro que ambos gobiernos apoyan el TLC.

"Hace cuatro años, juntos, lideramos la batalla por el TLC", dijo Clinton. "Mucha gente en los dos países pintó un panorama oscuro, de pérdida de empleos y fábricas cerradas si el TLC prevalecía. Pues, se equivocaron. El TLC funciona, funciona para ustedes y para los estadounidenses".



Bill Clinton

El discurso de Clinton en el Auditorio Nacional, promocionando el carácter único de la relación entre EE.UU. y México, fue bien recibido. Los mexicanos percibieron la visita como un premio justo por ser buenos vecinos, por no haberse retirado de la batalla del TLC ante la oposición nacional y apoyado las reformas políticas y

económicas en medio de un colapso financiero.

Aunque los críticos en EE.UU. insisten que el TLC elimina más empleos de los que genera, no hay mucho debate respecto al tema.

El gobierno mexicano dice que el año pasado, el comercio entre EE.UU. y México alcanzó un récord de US\$140.000 millones, un aumento del 64% en comparación con el nivel anterior al TLC, de US\$86.000 millones en 1993. Las exportaciones de México a EE.UU. crecieron en un 17%, lo que ayudó a impulsar el PIB del país en un 5,1%. En los últimos 16 meses, se crearon 900.000 empleos en México.

Todavía más revelador resulta la reacción del Partido de la Revolución Democrática (PRD), el partido izquierdista de la oposición que estaba entre los más fuertes opositores al TLC. Ahora hablan de cambiar el acuerdo, no de desmantelarlo. En una reunión con Clinton el martes, el PRD promocionó cambios para crear una distribución más amplia de riquezas entre los dos países.

Está claro que Clinton cree que los acuerdos comerciales pueden ayudar a otros países de la región. "Debemos acelerar el ritmo de estos esfuerzos para alcanzar a más personas y más comunidades", dijo. "Y debemos incluir a más países en nuestra asociación para que podamos lograr la meta que nos propusimos: una zona de libre comercio de las Américas".

Pero en la Casa Blanca, hay un fuerte contraste sobre cómo se está manejando la legislación de *vía rápida* —que permite al presidente negociar acuerdos comerciales que el Congreso puede aprobar o rechazar, pero no modificar— en comparación con la batalla del TLC hace cuatro años. En esa época, se creó un grupo para la batalla que incluía altos asistentes de Clinton. Ahora, el jefe de gabinete Erskine Bowles celebra reuniones, pero la única persona que les da seguimiento es Robert Kyle, un funcionario del Consejo Nacional Económico de EE.UU.



'TARDARÁ EN CAMBIAR IMAGEN'

LA REUNIÓN EMPRESARIAL MÉXICO-JAPÓN, QUE INICIA HOY, BUSCA AFIANZAR LA INVERSIÓN NIPONA; PRETENDE PROMOCIONAR LA IMAGEN DEL PAÍS, GOLPEADA POR LA CRISIS DEVALUATORIA

POR YADIRA MENA

ESTE JUEVES INICIA LA XXI REUNIÓN EMPRESARIAL México-Japón, que tiene entre sus objetivos afianzar la inversión de la nación asiática en el país, sobre todo en el sector automotriz, así como en el eléctrico y el electrónico.

En el transcurso de la reunión, funcionarios mexicanos expondrán los alcances del programa de estabilización macroeconómico, con el fin de alentar la confianza de los inversionistas nipones.

La promoción de las exportaciones de empresas mexicanas que tengan productos o servicios de clase mundial también será eje de la reunión, que se enmarca en una fecha muy significativa, al conmemorarse el centenario de la migración japonesa. Debido a ello, los lazos culturales también estarán presentes.

Por ese motivo, REFORMA platicó con Tomás González Sada (TGS), presidente del Comité México-Japón del Consejo Empresarial Mexicano para Asuntos Internacionales (CE-MAI) y con Nobuhiko Kawamoto (NK), responsable de la relación Japón-México, y también presidente de la compañía Honda.

¿Cómo se encuentran las relaciones México-Japón en estos momentos?

NK.- Existen buenas relaciones, aunque no encuentro que exista una etapa de madurez mutua.

Yo diría que en estos momentos ambas partes están tratando de profundizar su comprensión, sobre todo ahora que la situación económica de México se ha estabilizando.

¿Qué mensaje necesita darle la comunidad empresarial mexicana a Japón?

TGS.- Como consecuencia de la crisis económica hubo pérdidas importantes en este renglón para Japón, y ahora deben conocer cuál es la situación de México, en donde se

les presente un escenario estable en que puedan invertir con seguridad.

Los mexicanos para incrementar las ventas hacia aquella región necesitan continuar con los principios básicos que se realizan para hacer negocios con cualquier otra parte del mundo. Es indispensable el conocimiento del mercado, atender a las necesidades del cliente y conocer los canales de distribución, así como el cumplimiento de los estándares de servicio y vender productos a precios competitivos.

¿Las condiciones de inversión en México son propicias para la instalación de empresas japonesas?

NK.- Entendemos que hay un avance bastante importante de las inversiones directas en Japón a México, aunque no se refleja en las estadísticas, ya que muchas de ellas se realizan a través de sus filiales en Estados Unidos. Mi interpretación acerca de la coyuntura actual es que debe reafirmarse el compromiso para lograr mayor avance en cuanto a las inversiones.

Actualmente no existe una difusión satisfactoria en el sector manufacturero del Japón acerca de la situación actual de México, a pesar de que ha mejorado. Este escenario prácticamente no se conoce.

En este sentido no se puede negar que existe una brecha de la realidad de lo que es México y la percepción que se tiene, y para cambiar esta imagen se tardará tiempo.

¿Cuál es la agenda de la reunión empresarial?

TGS.- Los preparativos se empezaron a realizar desde hace cinco meses. Las reuniones plenarias comenzaron a celebrarse desde 1961 y tienen verificativo cada dos años en promedio, además ahora coincide con la celebración de la primera migración japonesa a México, que se llevó el 10 de mayo de 1897,

hace 100 años.

¿Existe la posibilidad de que las exportaciones mexicanas sean apoyadas por créditos del Eximbank de Japón?

NK.- Esta situación no existe por el momento, pero en la medida en que se intercambien opiniones es posible que se otorguen este tipo de créditos.

¿Cuál es la presencia actual de empresas japonesas en México?

TGS.- A finales de 1996 se encontraban cerca de 320 empresas con capital japonés instaladas en el país, lo que representa cerca de 2.4 por ciento del total de compañías extranjeras ubicadas en México.

La mitad de las empresas se localizan en industria manufacturera, una cuarta parte en actividades de comercio, y el resto en empresas financieras y de servicios.

¿Cuáles son las oportunidades que existen para incrementar los flujos comerciales?

TGS.- Las dos economías se complementan, porque Japón es un país que tiene mucha fuerza financiera, tecnología y sistemas de manufactura muy avanzada, pero en cambio no tiene una gran población y un gran territorio. En cambio México tiene una población joven y se requiere la fuerza financiera de Japón.

Actualmente los líderes empresariales mexicanos tienen mayor educación y pueden desarrollar asociaciones exitosas. Cada vez más los empresarios nacionales implementan los sistemas de calidad japoneses y un buen número ha podido conseguir la certificación de ISO 9000.

¿Cuáles son las oportunidades que se abren para el mercado nipón con el TLC?

NK.- México es miembro del Tratado de Libre Comercio de Norteamérica, pero a largo plazo a este Tratado se sumarán otras naciones de Sudamérica.

De esta manera México puede ser el núcleo en el continente americano, por otra parte, se dice que el próximo siglo será para el Pacífico. De esta manera México y Japón pueden jugar un rol muy importante en sus regiones en el siglo XXI.

¿Cuál ha sido históricamente el desempeño de la relación comercial?

NK.- Históricamente el flujo comercial no ha sido de gran envergadura, pero hay un crecimiento de las importaciones que Japón realiza de México, sobre todo de productos manufacturados y no sólo de materias primas. Se importan productos con valor agregado, lo cual es un cambio. Ahora lo importante es lograr que se asegure la estabilidad y confianza mutua.

TGS.- El intercambio comercial entre México y Japón se ubicó en 1996 en 5 mil millones de dólares. Las compras de México de productos japoneses alcanzaron un valor de tres mil 800 millones de dólares, lo que representó un 4 por ciento de las importaciones totales del país.

Mientras que las exportaciones mexicanas a Japón se ubicaron en mil 200 millones de dólares, lo que representa poco más del uno por ciento de las exportaciones nacionales.

La situación actual es de un desbalance, ya que las exportaciones japonesas a México son más del triple que las de México a Japón.

Adicionalmente el crecimiento del comercio ha sido errático, por ejemplo, en 1990 nuestras importaciones fueron de mil 500 millones de dólares y las exportaciones se ubicaron en mil 400 millones de dólares, lo que representaba un comercio equilibrado.

Sin embargo, en 1994 Japón exportó productos a México por un valor de 3 mil 812 millones de dólares y nosotros sólo alcanzamos los 988 millones de dólares.

¿Qué medidas se realizan para atraer el turismo de Japón?

TGS.- Existe un enorme potencial en este campo, pero es necesario mejorar el área de los servicios en este sector. De los 14 millones de turistas japoneses, sólo 40 mil visita México. Fortalecer a la industria es fundamental y también otorgar una mayor seguridad.

Buscan mayor cooperación

Los días 8 y 9 de mayo se llevará a cabo la XXI reunión empresarial entre México y Japón, cuyo objetivo será fortalecer los lazos comerciales y de cooperación entre las dos naciones. La Cámara Japonesa de Comercio e Industria de México informó que paralelamente se llevará a cabo la conmemoración del Centenario de la Migración Japonesa.

Entre los invitados especiales a los festejos destaca la presencia del Presidente, Ernesto Zedillo. Coinversiones, alianzas estratégicas y asociaciones tecnológicas serán tema de reflexión entre empresarios. Las áreas de oportunidad se encuentran en el turismo, petroquímica, asociaciones tecnológicas, petroquímica, construcción y servicios financieros.

Mostrar los resultados alcanzados por el programa de estabilización en México será un punto básico para lograr la confianza de los inversionistas extranjeros, ya que la percepción en la nación nipona no concuerda con la realidad macroeconómica del país.

El aprovechar las fortalezas y debilidades de las dos naciones como economías complementarias es el gran reto. México necesita de la tecnología y fortaleza financiera de Japón, en tanto México ofrece grandes áreas de oportunidades de inversión y la posibilidad de acceder a otros mercados a través de los tratados de libre comercio suscritos. Durante las reuniones de trabajo también se destacarán las posibilidades que tienen las empresas mexicanas para exportar a Japón, al contar con la experiencia de las comercializadoras desarrolladas por el país del sol naciente.



Clinton en México

Positivo el encuentro personal entre mandatarios

SERGIO FLORES DE GORTARI

CUANDO estas líneas salgan a la estampa, el huésped de elevado rango, habrá continuado su viaje hacia Costa Rica y otras latitudes de Latinoamérica inscritas en su gira oficial, y tal vez pocos sucesos originan tantas opiniones encontradas, como la presencia de un mandatario estadounidense en territorio mexicano. Las animadversiones tradicionales de unos, contra lo estadounidense: los resentimientos cercanos de otros, ofendidos en el presente; la posición de la izquierda recalcitrante y frente a cualquier expresión imperialista, los críticos contumaces del gobierno y la disidencia en general, suelen lanzar sus anatemas públicos y oponerse a la realización del encuentro con nuestro titular del Ejecutivo en turno, y lo califican de entreguismo y de abyección. No podía ocurrir en esta ocasión, nada distinto y como atravesamos momentos difíciles en la relación entre ambas naciones, lo que suele ser frecuente, las diatribas han proliferado, al grado de rayar en algunos casos, en la maledicencia intencionada.

El colmo, como muestra de rechazo, ciertos grupos se propusieron exhibirle problemas internos, miserias y debilidades que a su juicio el gobierno mexicano no ha resuelto, como los deudores de la banca, con la bandera de reprobación a la violencia y racismo en el país del norte, o tratar de ganar la simpatía del visitante para sus aspiraciones respecto del Distrito Federal, a título de defensa de la democracia, asuntos todos que en el contexto más elemental de respeto mutuo y de soberanía, no le conciernen.

Me duelo, de la situación y de los compatriotas, nuestras divisiones y pugnas intestinas, en todo tiempo, siempre nos llevaron a perder lo más por lo menos, en lugar de presentar hacia el exterior una sola cara, la solidez de la unidad nacional, aun cuando se mantengan diferencias de pensamiento, cuya confronta, el diálogo y la concertación de voluntades, nos correspondan exclusivamente a los nacionales y en nuestro ámbito propio, por tanto, nos conducimos, mal.

Clinton como funcionario y como hombre, merece una recepción digna. ¿Dónde se encuentra la proverbial hospitalidad mexicana?, pero por mucho más. Recojo en este punto, la voz siempre autorizada de alguien que además vive hoy de cerca la experiencia de la relación en nuestro país. El embajador en Washington, Silva Herzog, expresó que México se dispone a recibir a Clinton como "un buen amigo", asumió una posición determinante en la ratificación del Tratado de Libre Comercio y en la crisis económica sufrida por nuestra patria, se aprestó a facilitar un paquete financiero de respaldo, contra las objeciones del Congreso norteamericano. En igual forma, decidió certificar la cooperación mexicana en la lucha contra el narcotráfico (no juzgó su pertinencia). Desde luego que los temas más candentes, están representados por ese renglón, tanto como por las relaciones comerciales y las cuestiones migratorias.

Silva Herzog señala bien, que el presidente norteamericano llega a un país en transición económica, política y social, con relaciones cuya riqueza e interdependencia económica, política y cultural generada hacen que probablemente sea "la más importante" que tiene Estados

Unidos con el mundo.

Por su parte, las agencias estadounidenses difundieron el sentir de Bill Clinton, de buena relación con México y con el Presidente Zedillo, y su intención de hacer todo lo posible para que su país se constituya en un buen vecino y socio del nuestro. En declaraciones posteriores del sábado, el mandatario norteamericano puntualizó que, su visita no sería un viaje de reconciliación, porque no existe el distanciamiento que lo demande. Reconoció los desacuerdos, como aspectos "normales para la construcción de un futuro común", y advirtió que a su juicio los mexicanos no podremos mantener una sociedad libre, democrática y ordenada, si los narcotraficantes llegan a controlar grandes porciones del territorio y asimismo que sabe habrá tensiones derivadas de la intolerancia de su país, incrementada hacia la migración ilegal.

Nadie podría suponer resultante de la visita, la solución de los problemas cruciales en nuestras relaciones actuales, pero sí pueden tenderse puentes para aumentar la mutua comprensión, y facilitar si no la búsqueda de remedios radicales, fórmulas diversas de avenimiento, atemperantes de los perfiles más agudos.

El encuentro entre personas siempre es valioso, aun con las investiduras que ostentan. Entrar en relaciones vivas con otro ser humano, actualiza el hecho fundamental de la existencia, para comunicarse en una esfera común a ambos que excede el campo de cada uno, más que la suma de sus dos circunstancias. Es propicio para hacerse partícipes de ideas, sentimientos, soluciones, sugerencias, intereses, cargas de energías positivas, motivos e información. Despertarse simpatía mutua y afecto, condiciones que indudablemente son contribuyentes a la creación de vínculos personales y a la mejor disposición para impulsar y apoyar desde sus respectivos sitios, la emisión de políticas y adopción de medidas tendientes a desaparecer o aminsonar los causas de conflicto.

La comunicación y cordialidad entre las dos primeras damas anticipada en un día al inicio de la visita oficial del presidente, con la invitación de la señora de Zedillo a la de Clinton para arribar a Yucatán, y recibir el agasajo cálido de aquella sociedad, conocer de su folclor y arqueología, otro evento de gran trascendencia para acceder a la buena voluntad de las partes.

Hillary Clinton no sólo es esposa del presidente, está calificada como una de las diez más importantes abogadas en los Estados Unidos y fue lidereza del movimiento feminista de los 60.

La XIV Reunión Binacional México-Estados Unidos, de celebración simultánea, se ha convertido en el foro para la revisión cuidadosa y profunda de la agenda bilateral, en trece grupos de trabajo con funcionarios del más alto nivel y capacidades de los dos países, en cada mesa. Nada mejor para el desarrollo de estas jornadas que desde ahora el presidente Clinton y señora esposa, se hayan, bien impresionados de México y acrecentada su disposición para prestar todo el apoyo de su parte, a fin de que las cosas vayan mejor, en beneficio de nuestros respectivos pueblos. ¡Enhorabuena por su visita señor presidente y señora de Clinton!



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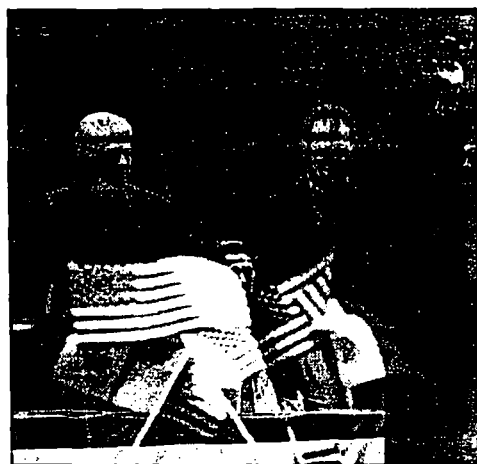
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Asociación en libertad y progreso, propone Clinton



EL UNIVERSAL/Rosmar

El presidente norteamericano William Clinton bromea con su esposa Hillary, en su visita a Tlaxcala, donde en un recorrido informal por puestos de artesanías se colocaron máscaras típicas que representan a los antiguos conquistadores españoles



EL UNIVERSAL/Carlos Pereda

Con William Clinton a su lado, el presidente Ernesto Zedillo saluda efusivamente a la multitud que acudió a recibirlos en Tlaxcala junto a sus esposas, Nilda Patricia Velasco y Hillary Clinton

Asociación en libertad y progreso, propone Clinton

Componente dinámico de nuestra relación, el libre comercio: Zedillo **Más que separarnos, el combate al narco deberá unirnos, asegura**

- Construir una frontera que sea una línea entre dos naciones soberanas, y no entre la prosperidad y la pobreza, propone ● Se reunió con Clinton, con empresarios e intelectuales ●
- Es responsabilidad de Estados Unidos y México trabajar juntos y con respeto mutuo, para aprovechar oportunidades y derrotar problemas, plantea el mandatario estadounidense ●

JOSE LUIS RUIZ

JOSE LUIS RUIZ

Los gobiernos de México y Estados Unidos reafirmaron su voluntad de construir una frontera que acerque a sus pueblos, que sea una línea entre dos naciones soberanas y no una que divida la prosperidad y la pobreza, aseguró el presidente Ernesto Zedillo.

Sostuvo que ambos gobiernos conciben el libre comercio como un componente dinámico y decisivo de la relación, y uno de los "más poderosos motores" de nuestro tiempo para el desarrollo, capaz de transformar los retos en oportunidades y de cambiar la desigualdad en equidad.

En un discurso pronunciado ante el presidente William Clinton y representantes de los sectores empresarial, político y cultural del país, el presidente Zedillo aseguró que gracias al Tratado de Libre Comercio la economía nacional ha logrado una sustancial mejoría.

"El TLC está contribuyendo a que nos conozcamos y nos comprendamos mejor; a que nos respetemos y nos escuchemos con mayor atención; a que dialoguemos y negociemos con una disposición más abierta, más constructiva y de mayor cooperación", aseguró el mandatario mexicano.

En el marco de la Conferencia sobre el Presente y Futuro de las Relaciones México-Estados Unidos, que dictó de manera conjunta con el presidente Clinton, el mandatario mexicano aseveró que esta actitud de respeto y disposición al diálogo "está permeando, incluso, el tratamiento de los problemas que más nos afligen. Uno de ellos, el tráfico de drogas".

El presidente Ernesto Zedillo se refirió a la frontera, pero no como una franja que divide a dos países, sino una en la que existen diferencias y similitudes, y sobre ello señaló:

"Hemos reafirmado la voluntad de nuestros gobiernos de construir una frontera que acerque a nuestros pueblos, que sea la línea di-

Vea Zedillo, página 26

La batalla frontal contra el narcotráfico debe ser un factor que una a los pueblos de México y Estados Unidos, en lugar de dividirlos, sostuvo el presidente William Clinton, quien afirmó que hoy día es importante resolver los problemas "no señalándonos con el dedo, sino estrechando las manos".

Aseveró que ambos gobiernos tienen la responsabilidad de trabajar juntos, con respeto mutuo, para aprovechar las oportunidades y derrotar los peligros que aún asechan a ambas naciones, bajo una asociación de libertad, democracia y prosperidad. Esto permitirá -dijo- llevar una lucha más efectiva contra las drogas y el crimen organizado.

El presidente Clinton destacó, además, que México ganó respeto y admiración al pagar anticipadamente el

paquete de ayuda financiera, otorgado por Washington, y sostuvo públicamente que el gobierno mexicano respondió con "gran visión y valor" ante la crisis económica que azotó al país.

Ante representantes de los sectores empresarial, político y cultural, que se dieron cita en la Conferencia sobre el Presente y Futuro de las Relaciones México-Estados Unidos, que se realizó en el Auditorio Nacional, Clinton calificó al Tratado de Libre Comercio como exitoso y coadyuvante en la recuperación de la economía nacional.

"Mucha gente en ambos países dibujaron un panorama oscuro de pérdida de empleos y cierre de fábricas. Ellos estaban equivocados, el Tratado de Libre Comercio está funcionando en los dos países", señaló Clinton, en un recinto acondicionado para recibir a los mandatarios de México y Estados Unidos, quienes expusieron sus ideas y sus perspectivas de la relación bilateral.

Aseguró que desde la crisis, el gobierno de México logró crear más de un millón de empleos, cortando

Vea Clinton, página 27

Avanzaron ambos entre miles de tlaxcaltecas; "aquí nadie se resiste"

- Luego de pasear por la Calzada de los Muertos, en Teotihuacán, un abrazo de despedida ● Viajó el estadounidense a Costa Rica ●

JUAN ARVIZU ARRIJOJA

TLAXCALA. Tlax., 7 de mayo.— ¡Qué multitud!, exclamó William Clinton al aparecer en la plaza pública, colmada de cientos de tlaxcaltecas que agitaban banderitas de México y Estados Unidos. Y en cuanto pudo fue hasta la valla, hizo a un lado una muleta, y se dio un lujo que tensó los nervios de su escolta: acercarse a la gente, saludarla, oírle, tocarla. Gozar la calidez mexicana... Siempre hay una primera vez.

Ernesto Zedillo explicó el efecto que había prendido en William Clinton: "con esta gente maravillosa na-

Vea Crónica, página 20



EL UNIVERSAL/Roberto Sánchez

El presidente Ernesto Zedillo dirige un mensaje a representantes de diversos sectores de todo el país, durante un encuentro sostenido junto con su homólogo estadounidense, William Clinton, ayer en el Auditorio Nacional

Zedillo

Continúa de la página 1

visoria entre dos naciones soberanas, no entre la prosperidad y la pobreza; que sea una línea divisoria entre dos vecinos prósperos, no entre las oportunidades y las carencias".

La imagen del presidente Zedillo era reproducida en dos monumentales pantallas colocadas en cada uno de los extremos del Auditorio Nacional, sede del encuentro, y en las que se reconocían cada una de las expresiones del mandatario mexicano.

En su exposición, Ernesto Zedillo dijo que justamente "esa es la frontera que desean mexicanos y estadounidenses del siglo XXI. La edificaremos con respeto, diálogo y cooperación".

En ese marco, el de los reconocimientos, el presidente Zedillo se refirió al papel que su homólogo estadounidense ha jugado en la nueva relación bilateral.

"Quiero decirlo con absoluta convicción y sinceridad, nadie ha trabajado con mayor decisión para impulsar ese respeto, ese diálogo y esa cooperación que el presidente William Clinton".

Sostuvo que el mandatario estadounidense ha sabido conciliar el interés de su país con el respeto a la soberanía de México y el respaldo solidario a los mexicanos.

"El presidente Clinton ha demostrado su gran visión de estadista al trabajar para el futuro de la relación de nuestros países para que avance sobre las bases de respeto y el diálogo, del entendimiento y de la cooperación".

Para Zedillo, a la vista del siglo XXI, "nuestra relación tiene nuevos retos, el de saber equilibrar lo inmediato con el largo plazo, el reto de respetar las formas distintas de ser y de sentir de nuestros pueblos y a la vez lograr una cooperación constructiva y eficaz, activa y permanente".

Y aseguró: "México y Estados Unidos comparten una relación de largo plazo que debemos cultivar entre todos para que fructifique en una convivencia afortunada para todos".

TEXTO INTEGRO DEL DISCURSO DEL PRESIDENTE ERNESTO ZEDILLO:

Excelentísimo señor William Clinton, presidente de los Estados Unidos de América.

Muy distinguida señora Clinton.

Señoras y señores:

Los mexicanos nos sentimos profundamente satisfechos de la muy grata visita del presidente Clinton a nuestro país.

En esta tan valiosa jornada hemos conversado sobre las preocupaciones comunes de ambos pueblos, y



El presidente de Estados Unidos, William Clinton, saluda con un beso en la mejilla a Nilda Patricia Velasco, esposa del mandatario mexicano, Ernesto Zedillo. Los observa sonriente Hillary Clinton

hemos acordado decisiones para que nuestra relación contribuya a la prosperidad de mexicanos y norteamericanos, y para que cada una de las dos naciones contribuya a consolidar lo realizado en nuestro siglo.

Pese al terrible drama de las guerras y a la persistencia de la pobreza y el dolor humano, el siglo XX terminará con signos alentadores. Es alentador el avance extenso y firme de la democracia y de gobiernos representativos y responsables ante el pueblo; es alentador el reconocimiento de la primacía de los derechos humanos, las libertades ciudadanas y la participación social; es alentadora, asimismo, la inmensa gama de oportunidades que la educación, el conocimiento, la ciencia y la tecnología ofrecen a las mujeres y a los hombres, a las familias y a las comunidades, y también es muy alentadora la creciente percepción del potencial que tiene la economía de mercado, así como del dinamismo económico, social e, incluso, cultural que imprime el libre comercio.

Con estos signos alentadores estamos en el umbral de un nuevo siglo, de un siglo que, sin duda, será de asombrosos avances, pero igualmente de grandísimos desafíos; el mayor de ellos será el vencer la pobreza y la desigualdad.

Si las generaciones del siglo XX han ido ganando la batalla por los derechos humanos, la libertad individual y la democracia en el siglo XXI debemos ganar clara y definitivamente la batalla contra la pobreza y la desigualdad; debemos ganarla para los jóvenes y los adultos, para las mujeres y los ancianos, para las familias y las comunidades que con toda razón exigen ser parte del progreso y acceder al bienestar. Para comenzar a ganar desde ahora esa batalla, los mexicanos hemos venido realizando una muy profunda transformación.

Con el esfuerzo tenaz de los mexicanos estamos sentando las bases firmes de un crecimiento para el bienestar y la equidad; estamos construyendo una sólida economía de mercado, pero no cualquier economía de mercado, ésta debe ser un medio, no un fin. Por eso, queremos y lograremos los mexicanos una economía de mercado con corazón y con rostro humano, con sensibilidad social; una economía de mercado que sirva para apoyar eficazmente a los más necesitados.

Con la tradición jurídica de los mexicanos y con una nueva cultura de apego a la ley estamos construyendo un país de leyes y de justicia, y con los ideales políticos y la participación de todos los mexicanos estamos consolidando una democracia plena.

Con el espíritu solidario y el afán de superación de los mexicanos estamos abriendo más oportunidades para las mujeres y para los hombres de nuestra patria. Los mexicanos estamos muy orgullosos de nuestras raíces culturales y de nuestra diversidad social, pues nos han hecho una nación distintivamente única y han



EL UNIVERSAL
El Director General de EL UNIVERSAL, licenciado Juan Francisco Ealy Ortiz -al centro-, figuró entre los invitados especiales en el encuentro con representantes de sectores nacionales y los presidentes de México y Estados Unidos, Ernesto Zedillo y William Clinton

forjado nuestro carácter, nuestra sensibilidad y nuestra capacidad.

México es una nación orgullosa de su pertenencia a América Latina, porque nos hermanan una historia de luchas afines, una lengua de recia y bella vitalidad, así como las más altas miras para un porvenir de prosperidad y de justicia.

Los mexicanos también estamos hondamente orgullosos de formar parte de América del Norte, porque ésta es tierra de civilizaciones esplendorosas, porque ésta ha sido siempre tierra fértil para el despliegue de las capacidades del ser humano, porque en esta tierra se ha conjugado el dinamismo de la iniciativa individual con la solidaridad comunitaria para un potencial de progreso único en el mundo.

Este gran continente nuestro ha sido tierra abierta a la libertad. Nuestra generación tiene hoy la responsabilidad de reafirmar y consolidar ese viejo espíritu de libertad de nuestras tierras, a través de la libertad de intercambios, de la libertad de comercio. Si en el Continente Americano la libertad ya ha florecido como democracia, ahora debe florecer como prosperidad.

Los mexicanos estamos convencidos de que el libre comercio abre fecundos caminos para el mutuo conocimiento de los pueblos, para el intercambio y el enriquecimiento cultural. Concebimos el libre comercio como un componente dinámico y decisivo de las relaciones entre las naciones modernas, de relaciones libres y abiertas, amplias e intensas. Concebimos el libre comercio como uno de los más poderosos motores de nuestro tiempo para el desarrollo, para un desarrollo capaz de transformar los retos en oportunidades, para un desarrollo capaz de transformar las desigualdades en equidad, para un desarrollo capaz de transformar las injusticias -que son fuente de conflicto- en bases justas, de armonía y cooperación.

Por eso, México ha saludado y ha asumido la iniciativa de establecer una gran área de libre comercio en el continente desde los primeros años del siglo XXI.

nos comprendamos mejor, a que nos respetemos y nos escuchemos con mayor atención, a que dialoguemos y negociemos con una disposición más abierta, más constructiva y de mayor cooperación. Esa disposición ya influye positivamente en el tratamiento de preocupaciones compartidas, se refleja en acuerdos y acciones comunes para remediar y mejorar el medio ambiente, para promover actividades productivas y proteger derechos laborales, para facilitar el cumplimiento de normas fiscales y aduanales, para impulsar el desarrollo de nuestras telecomunicaciones, para fomentar el intercambio y la cooperación educativa y cultural, tecnológica y científica.

La actitud de respeto y la disposición al diálogo están permeando, incluso, el tratamiento de los problemas que más nos afligen. Uno de ellos es el tráfico de drogas. Es muy satisfactorio que en el marco de la visita del señor presidente Clinton hayamos suscrito una declaración para la alianza de México y Estados Unidos contra las drogas.

A partir del respeto a la soberanía nacional, sobre la base de la responsabilidad compartida y mediante la aplicación efectiva de la ley, nos hemos comprometido a dar un nuevo ímpetu a una lucha que es por la salud de nuestra población, especialmente de nuestros jóvenes; una lucha que es por la integridad de nuestras instituciones; una lucha que es por la seguridad de las familias, de nuestras comunidades, de nuestras ciudades.

De igual modo en esta visita del presidente Clinton hemos suscrito una declaración conjunta sobre migración. La declaración expresa el compromiso de ambos gobiernos de atender la migración con un enfoque integral que comprende medidas para fortalecer el respeto a la ley y a los derechos de los migrantes.

Hemos reafirmado la voluntad de nuestros gobiernos de construir una frontera que acerque a nuestros pueblos, que sea la línea divisoria entre dos naciones soberanas, no entre la prosperidad y la pobreza; que sea la línea divisoria entre dos vecinos prósperos, no entre las oportunidades y las carencias.

Esa es la frontera que queremos para los mexicanos y los norteamericanos del siglo XXI y la edificaremos con respeto, con diálogo, con cooperación, todas estas



EL UNIVERSAL/Guillermo González
El mandatario estadounidense, William Clinton, hizo un reconocimiento a México por su lucha contra las drogas

y nos proponemos impulsar esa iniciativa en la cumbre que celebraremos el año próximo en Santiago de Chile. México tiene la honda convicción de que ese paso será decisivo para promover más eficazmente el desarrollo con paz y justicia. Esa convicción es la que ha animado a México a abrir su economía, primera y simultáneamente, hacia Latinoamérica y hacia América del Norte.

En los últimos años México ha promovido el libre comercio y ha hecho un gran esfuerzo para que cada avance y cada acuerdo sea provechoso para quienes lo suscriben. Un ejemplo en la región, en el hemisferio y



EL UNIVERSAL/Guillermo González

El presidente Ernesto Zedillo aseguró que es importante contar con una frontera de unidad y no de diferencias

en todo el mundo es el Tratado de Libre Comercio de América del Norte. Gracias al TLC México se ha consolidado como el tercer socio comercial de los Estados Unidos y, además, como su socio más dinámico.

Desde el establecimiento del TLC los intercambios comerciales entre nuestros dos países se han incrementado más de 60%, alcanzando el año pasado un valor cercano a los 150,000 millones de dólares.

Gracias al TLC México exporta hoy a Estados Unidos más que Taiwan, Singapur y Corea del Sur combinadas, y también gracias al TLC Estados Unidos exporta hoy a México más que a Alemania y a Inglaterra juntos, y más que a todo el conjunto de América Latina. Lo más importante es que el Tratado está significando nuevas oportunidades de inversión y más, muchos más empleos en ambos lados de la frontera.

Al anticiparse en la negociación y suscripción de acuerdos de libre comercio México ha dado prueba de la visión y la madurez con que asume sus relaciones en el mundo del siglo XXI, y también da prueba de la confianza que tenemos los mexicanos en nuestro potencial de desarrollo y de la decisión con que asumimos las transformaciones para las exigencias del futuro.

El libre comercio está contribuyendo a edificar una relación más intensa y ordenada entre los países de América del Norte y está propiciando un más sólido entendimiento entre sus gobiernos.

Al igual que en otras regiones el libre comercio se está convirtiendo en el punto de partida para generar una nueva actitud más positiva, más constructiva. Ahora compartimos una nueva actitud de aliento a las iniciativas productivas y de confianza en la complementariedad de nuestras economías nos ayuda a competir más ventajosamente en los mercados mundiales.

Ahora también compartimos una nueva actitud de sumar esfuerzos para multiplicar oportunidades mutuamente provechosas, de encauzar nuestras diferencias en el diálogo para superarlas; de avanzar hacia un progreso más equilibrado y justo para nuestros hombres y mujeres, para los trabajadores y para las empresas; de lograr un desarrollo que no riña con un medio ambiente sano.

El TLC está contribuyendo a que nos conozcamos y

claves en la relación nueva entre México y Estados Unidos.

Y en estos años, quiero decirlo con absoluta convicción y sinceridad, nadie ha trabajado con mayor decisión para impulsar ese respeto, ese diálogo y esa cooperación que el señor presidente William Clinton.

El presidente Clinton ha sabido conciliar el interés legítimo de su país con el respeto a la soberanía de México y el respaldo solidario a los mexicanos. El presidente Clinton ha demostrado su gran visión de estadista al trabajar para el futuro de la relación entre nuestros países para que avance sobre las bases de respeto y el diálogo, del entendimiento y de la cooperación.

A la vista del siglo XXI nuestra relación tiene nuevos retos, el reto de saber equilibrar lo inmediato con el largo plazo, el reto de respetar las formas distintas de ser y de sentir de nuestros pueblos y a la vez lograr una cooperación constructiva y eficaz, activa y permanente.

México y Estados Unidos comparten una relación de largo plazo que debemos cultivar entre todos para que fructifique en una convivencia afortunada para todos.

Esta visita del presidente Clinton marca un paso muy importante en la construcción de una relación a la altura de la historia de dos naciones soberanas y orgullosas, y a la altura de las aspiraciones de dos grandes pueblos.

La visita del presidente Clinton confirma que la relación entre México y Estados Unidos está llamada a ser un apoyo fundamental para acometer los desafíos de un nuevo siglo más exigente, para librar y ganar las batallas por una sociedad, un hemisferio y un mundo más prósperos y más justos, y confirma también que todo lo que cada uno de nosotros pueda hacer a ambos lados de la frontera para consolidar esa relación habrá de beneficiar a futuras generaciones de mexicanos y norteamericanos; habrá de contribuir a edificar para ellos una región, un hemisferio y un mundo donde puedan vivir mejor. Ese es el espíritu que ha manifestado el presidente Clinton en cada momento de su visita a nuestro país, ese es el espíritu que estoy seguro compartirá él ahora con todos nosotros.

Muchas gracias.

Crónica

Continúa de la página 1

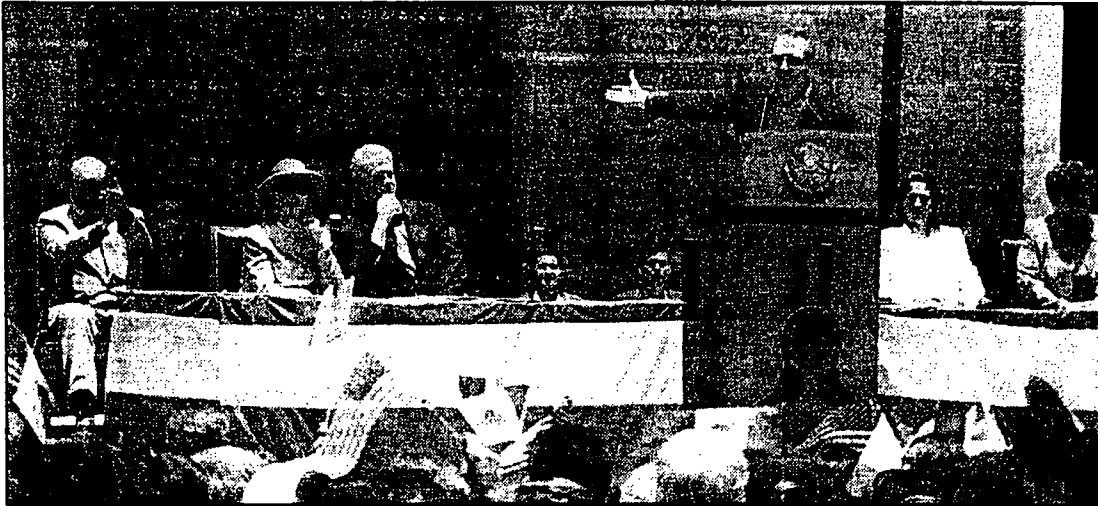
die se resiste". Y de ese "efecto México" vendrían uno a uno, momentos agradables, motivantes, y de arrebatado por las emociones cordiales.

De eso estuvo empedrado el camino este día en las relaciones de los presidentes de México y Estados Unidos. Compartieron el sol, la calidez humana, el aire de la provincia, la música y los bailes regionales, platos

alto poder.

Es un grupo de reacción, una fuerza de élite capaz de cubrir y abrir salidas al presidente de Estados Unidos, para que éste se aleje de una amenaza a su seguridad personal rodeado por su escolta.

Nueve hombres rodearon a Clinton en los primeros pasos que dio hacia la valla popular, en la plaza, frente al palacio de gobierno. Todo el equipo de seguridad pasó tragos amargos, pues se había salido de lo es-



EL UNIVERSAL/Carlos Pereda

Con la diestra en el mentón, William Clinton escucha el mensaje del presidente Ernesto Zedillo, en Tlaxcala. Atestiguan el gobernador de la entidad, José Antonio Álvarez, la señora Hillary Clinton y la primera dama de México, Nilda Patricia Velasco

típicos de varios estados.

Y llegaron al pie de las pirámides del Sol y de la Luna en Teotihuacán, quedaron envueltos en la grandeza de la Ciudad de los Dioses. Pasearon por la Calzada de los Muertos, conociendo los secretos de una civilización que floreció cuando la costa Atlántica de Estados Unidos era territorio silvestre.

En ese marco de llanos y de pirámides fascinantes, a unos metros del helicóptero, modelo Sikorsky —cuya escalera estaba custodiada por dos edecanes, que hacían recordar los aires de la Casa Blanca—, Zedillo y Clinton se despidieron.

Un fuerte abrazo dio la rúbrica de la visita —de dos días— de Estado a México de William Clinton y su esposa Hillary Clinton, en los que los mandatarios hablaron extensamente y, junto con sus esposas, conocieron en detalle aspectos de la cultura mexicana.

El día empezó en el Auditorio Nacional, donde se reunieron más de 10.000 personas, en un mosaico representativo de la sociedad mexicana actual. "¡Qué magnífico salón!", expresó Clinton, en reacción al ver el moderno escenario.

tipulado. La música del mariachi acompañaba el ánimo general.

El visitante se detuvo más y más. No entendía el español, nada de lo que decían los lugareños, pero se entregaba. Sólo el dolor de la rodilla o la molestia de la muleta interferían de cuando en cuando.

Un cuadro y un tejido artesanal pasaron por sus



EL UNIVERSAL/Carlos Pereda

Rompiendo el protocolo, el presidente William Clinton se acercó a la valla humana, en Tlaxcala, para saludar a los habitantes de aquel lugar

—Este es uno de los pequeños—, le dijo en broma el presidente Zedillo.

Con ese ánimo amistoso, que cobró un mayor impulso durante la cena en Palacio Nacional, abrieron el día de trabajo, y vinieron a Tlaxcala, en sus respectivos helicópteros. Y la ciudad vivió la experiencia de recibir al mandatario de Estados Unidos, quien no trajo aquí ninguna de sus dos limosinas.

Pero los componentes de su convoy estuvieron activos. Guardaespaldas, personal médico, asistentes y técnicos de comunicaciones, con sus equipos, y un grupo que los periodistas mexicanos llamaban los "Rambos".

Habrían sido hasta 10 agentes vestidos de negro con una leyenda que los identificaba como Policía del Servicio Secreto. Profesionales de los gimnasios, que portaban armamento colgado de la cintura, piernas, pecho, y con el dedo siempre en el gatillo de armas de

manos, sin entender, ni dar crédito de que eran un regalo para él. "Te lo regalo". Y le dieron la traducción de lo que el mexicano de la valla le decía.

El tapete de Huamantla, de figuras de aserrín multicolor, fue visto por los Clinton con singular admiración. Lo bueno es que de fascinación nadie se cansa.

Con el presidente Zedillo y su esposa vino a este viaje, Ernesto Zedillo Velasco. Los tres subieron a una camioneta que rodó lentamente frente a la arcada del palacio municipal. "¡Que se baje, que se baje!", aclamaba la gente. "Mé-xi-co, Mé-xi-co", corearon los lugareños.

En otro vehículo se transportaban Clinton y Hillary —quien se cubrió del rayo del sol con un sombrero y unos lentes oscuros—. La camioneta blindada estuvo cubierta por una cortina blanca, y sólo fue vista por la

multitud cuando al frente de un convoy de más de 20 automotores hizo sentir a los tlaxcaltecas lo que un periódico local anunciaba: "Tlaxcala, ombligo del mundo".

Cinco horas después de que los cientos de tlaxcaltecas ocuparan la plaza y las aceras de las calles, Clinton pasaba sonriente, agitando la mano derecha, pero sin bajar los gruesos cristales antibalas de la camioneta en la que iba con su esposa. Una cortina de papel picado cubrió al convoy.

Ante el campanario del ex convento de San Francisco, el presidente Zedillo, la señora Nilda Patricia y los Clinton pasaron uno de los momentos culminantes en esta visita de Estado.

Las percusiones de tambores saludaron a los dignatarios al llegar a ese rincón colonial. Concheros y chichimecas bailaron, y con su coreografía y el olor del copal abrieron la atmósfera de la emotividad.

Aceptó el visitante calzar un sombrero. El "efecto México" empezaba a presentarse, cuando subió al estrado un niño de 12 años, Moisés Galicia Sánchez, quien vestido de charro cantó con gallardía: "Viva México, viva América/ viva la democracia, también la libertad".

Después de los acordes del Son de la Negra, un coro enorme de niños, vestidos de inditos, cantó Cielito Lindo. En aquel momento, Clinton se balanceaba al ritmo de la melodía. Zedillo y su esposa, Nilda Patricia Velasco, se dejaron llevar por la letra y cantaron la canción:

"De la Sierra Morena, cielito lindo vienen bajando/ un par de ojitos negros/ cielito lindo, de contrabando..."

Y los mismos hombres rigurosos en los movimientos del presidente de Estados Unidos, los responsables de su seguridad, fueron a proponerle que se acercara más a los niños, a los pequeños del coro.

Así lo hicieron. Y entre los niños se encontraron al charro cantor, a quien Zedillo le dijo: "Cantas padrísimo". Y el pequeñín le pidió como relámpago, "pues apóyeme". La vivacidad del chamaco fue festejada por Clinton. Hillary estaba encantada entre los niños y niñas cantores de Tlaxcala.



EL UNIVERSAL/Reuters

En medio de los mariachis, sonriente, el presidente Bill Clinton camina durante el último día de su gira por nuestro país



EL UNIVERSAL/Carlos Pereda

La primera dama de Estados Unidos, Hillary Clinton, le habla a su esposo al oído, el presidente norteamericano William Clinton, durante la gira que sostuvieron en Tlaxcala

El mariachi lanzó los primeros acordes de México Lindo, y los Zedillo, con una felicidad que no podían ocultar, cantaron con los niños.

"México lindo y queeeerido/ si muereero lejos de ti/ que digan que estoy dormido/ y que me traigan aquí/ que digan que estoy dormido/ y que me traigan aquí..."

El Cielito Lindo fue seguido con algunas voces que sabían los Clinton. Pero en el México Lindo, sólo escucharon al mariachi y los cantores.

Contagiados por la alegría, siguieron sobre el templete. Y cuando estaban junto al mariachi, Clinton tomó el sombrero de un violinista y lo calzó en su cabeza, entre risas suyas de satisfacción, ante la mirada simpática de sus guardaespaldas!

Eran las 14:38 horas, de un día caluroso, con un cielo limpio de nubes. La valla que recorrió entonces el presidente estadounidense, fue un paseo sencillo. Los mismos hombres del servicio secreto expresaban a quien quería oírlos: "Maravilloso".

Una muchacha le puso un collar artesanal a Clinton, quien ya en esa hora se dejaba querer. Y posó para las fotos que la gente le pedía, como lo hizo en la plaza pública, pero ahora con clara dedicación.

El párroco de la catedral, José Guadalupe Romero, salió al paso para pedir los autógrafos de los dignatarios, en un libro del ex convento de San Francisco.

Un monje, Francisco Rodríguez Lara, quien vestía un alba, desabotonó la prenda religiosa y dijo a Zedillo: Presidente ¿le puedo pedir consejo?

El hombre de la fe tenía la mano entre sus ropas y estaba muy cerca de Clinton y empezaba a ser visto con sospecha por los integrantes de la escolta del visitante.

Con suma discreción el monje mostró algo. Era un pasaporte, se sabía después. "¿Usted cree que si le pido al presidente Clinton que me lo firme, me den más fácil la visa para ir al otro lado? ¿Qué me aconseja Presidente?"

Zedillo le dijo que se podían buscar medios de la Cancillería para que el hombre de la fe pudiera realizar su trámite consular.



EL UNIVERSAL/Carlos Pereda
Efusivo en su discurso, el presidente Ernesto Zedillo es atentamente escuchado por el gobernador de Tlaxcala, Antonio Álvarez Lima, Hillary Clinton, William Clinton y la señora Nilda Patricia Velasco

La comida fue una tentación. Se dispuso una mesa con 15 alimentos, que componían un cuadro pleno de colorido: había chiles en nogada, barbacoa, huachinango a la veracruzana, crepas de huitlacoche, camarones al pulque, pipián verde, tlacoyos, fideos secos.

El halago a la vista y al gusto también incluía pierna de puerco adobada, ensalada de nopales, frijoles re-



EL UNIVERSAL/Guillermo González

El guía señala a lo alto y la mirada de Bill Clinton se dirige hacia ese punto, durante la visita del mandatario estadounidense a Teotihuacán. Observan Nilda Patricia Velasco, Hillary Clinton, el presidente Ernesto Zedillo, el gobernador César Camacho Quiroz y su esposa María Eugenia San Martín

fritos, ensalada potosina, arroz a la mexicana, tamaños oaxaqueños y huauzontles.

Aunque el convivio fue privado, en el museo regional de Tlaxcala, los meseros comentaron que los presidentes y sus comitivas comieron en un ambiente festivo.

Terminada la comida, Clinton llamó a los meseros

que atendieron a los invitados de honor. Les dio las gracias por el servicio y les propuso que se tomaran una foto con él.

Abrió los brazos y podía cubrir a cuatro. Miró al resto de los meseros, les sonrió y los llamó con el clásico "vengan" en inglés (cabe el hincapié de que los estadounidenses no intercalan por nada el español en lo que dicen).

La caravana de helicópteros se fue a Teotihuacán. Zedillo esperó allí la llegada del Sirkosky con Clinton. En ese lapso, el mandatario mexicano comentó diversos aspectos del día anterior y de lo ocurrido en el "ombligo del mundo".

En el flanco norte de la Pirámide del Sol aterrizó la aeronave de Estados Unidos. En una combi descubierta llegaron a la plaza de la Pirámide de la Luna, y allí el antropólogo Enrique Nalda narró la

historia de la Ciudad de los Dioses.

Los truenos del dios de la lluvia saludaron a los visitantes, que a las 17:50 estaban ante el Mural del Puma, y junto a éste una mesa con la ofrenda descubierta hace dos semanas. Y 25 minutos después, se daban el abrazo de despedida, sin ningún protocolo.

Después del Sirkosky el Super Puma subió a las nubes, donde están por nacer las lluvias del verano.



EL UNIVERSAL/Guillermo González

Al centro de la reunión, William Clinton escucha las palabras del guía en la zona de Teotihuacán. Lo acompañan las primeras damas Nilda Patricia Velasco y Hillary Clinton, el presidente Ernesto Zedillo y el gobernador del Estado de México, César Camacho Quiroz



EL UNIVERSAL/Carlos Pereda

En el hangar presidencial, William Clinton sube al avión que lo trasladó a Costa Rica, tras concluir su visita de dos días a México. En la escalinata su esposa Hillary Clinton



EL UNIVERSAL/Carlos Pereda

Con una movimiento de mano para decir adiós, Hillary Clinton aborda el avión de la Fuerza Aérea estadounidense, con lo que concluyó la visita del mandatario de Estados Unidos a nuestro país

Clinton

Continúa de la página 1

la inflación en más de la mitad y recuperando la confianza de los inversionistas extranjeros.

La democracia también fue tema de la reflexión del presidente Clinton, quien se congratuló por las reformas políticas mexicanas, las que permitirán, el próximo 6 de julio, la realización de las elecciones más competidas en la historia del país.

Habló del compromiso de trabajar con México con base en el respeto de su soberanía y sobre esto, señaló: el gobierno de Estados Unidos abraza la sa-



EL UNIVERSAL/Guillermo González

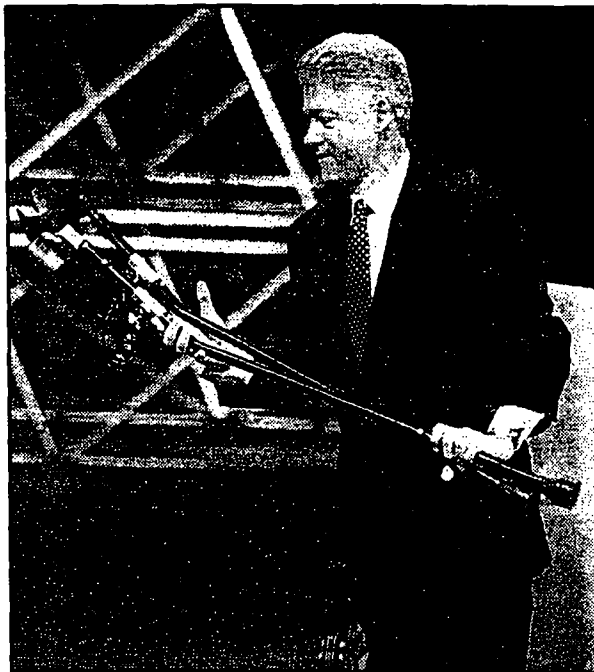
El mandatario de EU da el visto bueno a uno de sus agentes de seguridad sobre la nitidez de la voz que se escucha en su traductor

biduría de los principios de (Benito) Juárez: el respeto al derecho ajeno y a la paz.

Ovacionado e interrumpido en varias ocasiones por los aplausos, el mandatario estadounidense dejó en claro que apoyará todos los esfuerzos en el Congreso para restaurar los beneficios a los inmigrantes legales que se encuentran en Estados Unidos.

Y sobre el tema de la nueva ley de migración, el mandatario estadounidense fue claro: "No habrá deportaciones masivas ni discriminación".

Y se comprometió a continuar apoyando los esfuerzos de México para crear nuevas oportunidades, aquí, en el país, para evitar que los mexicanos se



EL UNIVERSAL/Guillermo González

El presidente Clinton se despoja de sus muletas para tomar asiento a su llegada al Auditorio Nacional

marchen de sus hogares en busca de trabajo y de recursos dejando incluso a sus familias.

Tras este compromiso, el estruendo de los aplausos rompieron la continuidad de su discurso. Clinton precisó que sólo el año pasado 160,000 mexicanos que ingresaron de manera legal a la Unión Americana "trajeron a Estados Unidos sus talentos, energía y aspiraciones...".

Hillary Clinton y Nilda Patricia Velasco, esposas de los presidentes de Estados Unidos y México, estuvieron también presentes en la conferencia. Junto a ellas, los gabinetes de Clinton y Zedillo.

El flagelo del narcotráfico fue uno de los temas centrales del discurso de William Clinton, quien sostuvo que el asunto del tráfico de las drogas no es uno exclusivo de México, es uno común, que requiere la acción conjunta y decidida de los dos países.

"Debemos encarar este problema juntos porque no podremos derrotarlo solos", aseguró el mandatario estadounidense, quien admitió que en Estados Unidos vive 5% de la población mundial y se consume un tercio de la cocaína que se produce.

"Mis amigos, la batalla contra las drogas debe unir a nuestros pueblos, no dividirlos".

En este contexto, el presidente Clinton, quien aún se apoya en muletas tras la operación de una de sus rodillas, subrayó que el gobierno de México tiene que continuar con su "difícil lucha" contra las drogas ilícitas. "Reconozco que ya han demostrado reales avances en la erradicación de estupeficientes", aseguró Clinton.



EL UNIVERSAL/Rubén Sánchez

Hillary Clinton y Nilda Patricia Velasco escuchan el mensaje de los presidentes Clinton y Zedillo y William Clinton. Junto a ellas, miembros de los gabinetes de Estados Unidos y México

Redituó el TLC 300,000 empleos más en EU, señala Daley, secretario de Comercio

ANA MARIA ROSAS PEÑA

El Tratado de Libre Comercio de América del Norte (TLCAN) ha significado la creación de 300,000 nuevas plazas laborales en Estados Unidos y, contrario a lo que muchos afirman, "la pérdida de empleos ha sido mínima", aseveró el secretario de Comercio estadounidense, William Daley.

Ante la comunidad empresarial de Estados Unidos radicada en México, el funcionario del gobierno de William Clinton reconoció que todavía no se cumple con todas las normas en materia de ecología y laboral que se establecieron en el TLCAN.

A pesar de esto, aseguró que "el TLCAN sí está funcionando, y la principal muestra es que las exportaciones de Estados Unidos están creciendo rápidamente".

Durante el desayuno al que también asistieron Barry McCaffrey y Madeline Albright, director de la oficina de política nacional sobre control a las drogas y secretaria de Estado, respectivamente, William Daley dijo que el objetivo central en este momento es convencer a la comunidad de los Estados Unidos de la

oportunidad que se tiene al abrir nuevos mercados.

De ahí, dijo, la importancia de que el Congreso apruebe el "fast track" (vía rápida) para las negociaciones comerciales con América Latina.

Por ello, llamó a los socios de la Cámara Americana de Comercio a que realicen una labor de apoyo al fast-track.

Sin embargo, reconoció que hace falta "educar a los estadounidenses para poder transmitir el mensaje de éxito del TLC".

El representante comercial hizo mención especial al crecimiento que han tenido las exportaciones de la industria automotriz y del sector agrícola, gracias a que se ha hecho un uso adecuado del sistema de importaciones, de licencias y reducción de aranceles.

El año pasado, continuó Daley, las exportaciones hacia Canadá y México fueron más grandes que cualquier otra área del mundo, incluyendo la Cuenca del Pacífico y Europa.

Este año, aproximadamente el 80% del crecimiento de las exportaciones de Estados Unidos ha sido dentro del área de América del Norte.

Recordó que 1997 marca el año final de los aranceles de Estados Unidos y Canadá para prácticamente 300,000 millones de dólares de intercambio comercial.

Mientras tanto, el uno de enero de 1998 casi dos terceras partes del comercio entre los Estados Unidos y México se hará libre de aranceles.

"Se trata de un logro impresionante donde las fuerzas del mercado y no los gobiernos son los que determinan el costo de los bienes, y nosotros ya hemos visto los efectos", puntualizó.

Por su parte, Thomas McLarty, consejero del presidente William Clinton y enviado especial a Las Américas, también se refirió a la importancia que tiene América Latina para Estados Unidos.

Indicó que de cada dólar que se exporta por Estados Unidos, 40 centavos se destinan a nuestro hemisferio, mientras que el 35% de las importaciones provienen de esta región.

Pagó la Casa Blanca US500,000 en el hotel; 33,600 por la suite presidencial

La Casa Blanca desembolsó 33,600 dólares por las dos noches que pasó el mandatario estadounidense, William Clinton, en una lujosa suite del hotel Presidente Chapultepec, uno de los más importantes del Distrito Federal.

La suite presidencial ocupada por Clinton y su esposa Hillary, de 130 metros cuadrados, consta de una habitación, un vestidor, tres baños y la alcoba principal, así como una oficina dotada de ocho líneas telefónicas y cuatro faxes, una cocina, baño de vapor, tina de hidromasaje y aparatos de gimnasia.

Aquí se hospedaron en abril los reyes de España y antes jefes de Estado y otras autoridades que visitaron el país.

De acuerdo con un despacho informativo de la agencia de noticias ANSA, la Casa Blanca reservó dos centros de negocios y el cuarto nivel del hotel, que posee cuatro salones capaces de alojar a 1,600 personas cada uno.

La secretaria de Estado, Madeleine Albright, ocupó la suite gobernador, que posee menos comodidades que la presidencial, aunque el lujo no es menor.

El costo total del hospedaje de toda

la delegación de 18 altos funcionarios que acompañaron a Clinton fue calculado por personal del albergue en unos 500,000 dólares, sin incluir servicios de transporte, seguridad, alimentación y comunicaciones vía satélite.

Unas 33 habitaciones fueron ocupadas por los funcionarios y por agentes de la seguridad de Clinton.

La tarde del martes, Clinton hizo una breve pausa en sus intensas actividades para someterse a una terapia en la rodilla, por su reciente caída que lo obliga a caminar con muletas.

A la comitiva se agregó una pareja muy peculiar, los perros Kelly y Mark, entrenados para detectar armas y explosivos, que fueron paseados por los jardines del hotel y por los corredores donde se hospedaron el presidente y sus colaboradores.

Clinton concluyó ayer su visita a México después de entrevistarse con empresarios y visitar las ruinas arqueológicas de Cacaxtla, en el estado de Tlaxcala.

De México partió hacia San José, donde se entrevistará con jefes de Estado de Centroamérica.



Las inmigrantes Raquel Reyes, de México; Marta Escobedo, de Guatemala, e Inés Muñoz, de Chile, participan en una protesta frente a la Casa Blanca, en Washington, en contra de ley antinmigrante

Reclaman justicia inmigrantes, en una marcha en Washington

WASHINGTON, 7 de mayo (EFE, Reuters y AFP).— En pleno viaje del presidente William Clinton a México y Centroamérica, centenares de inmigrantes de todas las nacionalidades reclamaron justicia y sus derechos durante una manifestación efectuada hoy, miércoles, frente a la Casa Blanca.

"Clinton debe cumplir su promesa electoral de restablecer la ayuda social a miles de ancianos, niños y a todos los que en este país tienen hambre, y la cual ha sido suprimida injustamente", dijo el senador demócrata por Minnesota, Paul Wellstone.

Wellstone y uno de los representantes por Illinois ante la Cámara Baja, el también demócrata Luis Gutiérrez, han presentado proyectos de ley para que el Congreso, de mayoría republicana, deje sin efecto la ley que elimina la asistencia económica a los inmigrantes de la tercera edad.

"Viva la lucha por la justicia", gritó el senador Wellstone, al anunciar que la batalla acaba de empezar y que se luchará de forma incansable para obligar a Clinton a cumplir su promesa electoral de 1996, de que la ayuda social vuelva a manos de los necesitados.

Muchas ancianas latinoamericanas que portaban pancartas en las que indicaban que el gobierno de Estados Unidos les ha quitado su trabajo, su dinero y sus derechos, hablaron en la concentración para suplicar al presidente Bill Clinton y al Congreso que "tengan compasión y un poco más de conciencia" y les devuelvan su tranquilidad.

Por otro lado, en Los Angeles, un centenar de inmigrantes se manifestaron para exigir que se restauren los beneficios sociales a las personas que residen legalmente en Estados Unidos.

Latinos, asiáticos, armenios y rusos protestaron frente al edificio federal, ubicado en el centro de la ciudad, con pancartas en las que se podía leer: "No castiguen a los ancianos" o "¡Bienvenidos a nuestros mayores".



Con un apretón de manos, William Clinton se despide del gobernador del estado de México, César Sánchez Quirós. Observan el presidente El Zedillo y María Eugenia San Martín, esposa del mandatario norteamericano



Indicador Político

CARLOS RAMIREZ

• EU manejará lucha antidrogas de México

El saldo más **positivo** de la visita de Clinton a México no ocurrió el martes 6 de mayo, sino el **miércoles 30 de abril**. Y no fue en México, sino en Atlanta, Georgia: la desaparición del Instituto Nacional para el Combate a las Drogas adelantada por Zedillo significó, en realidad, la **entrega** de la lucha antidrogas de México a la estrategia estadounidense.

El otro **candado** de EU a México se cerró en el Distrito Federal con la **otra** certificación estadounidense: el espaldarazo de Washington al gobierno de Zedillo y a su política neoliberal, pero con la **condición** de que debe de trabajar con la oposición. La pizna fue obvia: los elogios poco diplomáticos y bastante **intervencionistas** de Hillary al gobierno de un Zedillo hoy en día como jefe de campaña del PRI, pero la reunión del presidente de EU con los jefes de la oposición.

Falta por evaluar el **costo** político y en soberanía de la visita de Clinton a México. La primera percepción va más allá del lenguaje: mientras México enarboló la doctrina Gurria del "nuevo entendimiento", la parte estadounidense se quedó con el concepto de la **"cooperación"**. México buscó que EU **comprendiera** la realidad del país y las limitaciones del discurso histórico, pero EU se inclinó por el criterio de que México debería de colaborar con los **intereses** estadounidenses.

El **replanteamiento** de la política antinarcóticos de México fue la ganancia más importante para Clinton porque fue más **allá** de la cooperación. Si se evalúa con **perspicacia** la dimensión de las negociaciones y de los acuerdos, en realidad México se **subordinó** a la lógica de la política estadounidense de lucha contra el narcotráfico. La desaparición del INCD mexicano y el acuerdo de Los Pinos para que EU entrene, evalúe y equie a la nueva policía mexicana antidrogas le **trasladó** a Washington la responsabilidad de la lucha mexicana contra el narco.

El punto **clave** de la nueva política exterior antidrogas de EU radica en el aspecto de la certificación. En el contexto de la visita de Clinton, el zar antidrogas de EU, el general Barry McCaffrey, declaró el lunes a la cadena de televisión Fox que en EU hay

un **rechazo** al esquema de certificación que hacen el Departamento de Estado y el Congreso estadounidenses a la política antidrogas de otros países. La **descertificación** de Colombia no le ha ayudado en nada a EU, y ha **alejado** mucho más al gobierno colombiano de la supervisión estadounidense. Y puede ocurrir lo mismo con Perú y Brasil.

La **certificación** fue un proceso que se inventó para garantizar la supremacía de EU en la lucha contra el narco en otros países y para calificar sus resultados de acuerdo con los intereses de EU. Pero Colombia con la descertificación y México con sus quejas, además de una mayor **supervisión** del Congreso de EU sobre la Casa Blanca, han hecho ineficaces las certificaciones como un instrumento de política exterior de dominación.

Así, México será el **laboratorio** del nuevo modelo de política exterior antinarcóticos de EU. En lugar de las certificaciones se utilizará la estrategia de la **absorción**: ante el fracaso mexicano por el caso del general Gutiérrez Rebollo, EU asumirá el control de la política antidrogas de México a través, primero, del **manejo** de la nueva policía antidrogas. La nueva Fiscalía mexicana para la Atención de Delitos Contra la Salud se quedará en una agencia **auxiliar** de Ministerio Público para la elaboración de averiguaciones previas, pero la investigación de los cárteles de la droga será función de una policía que será **aprobada**, entrenada y equipada por EU.

Y la **penetración** de EU será a fondo:

1. La **supervisión** de EU sobre la policía antidrogas de México está directamente relacionada con los perfiles de dominación de la política exterior norteamericana: la existencia de **nuevos** mecanismos para el ejercicio de la superioridad, una vez desaparecida la "amenaza" del mundo comunista soviético. Además de las policías, EU tiene tres puntos de interés: agentes de la DEA que hagan labores de **inteligencia** en territorio mexicano, la creación de una **flota** aérea antinarcóticos y la instalación de **radars espías** en suelo de México. Así, México sería una **zona** de guerra de EU y por tanto un espacio de la **seguridad** nacional estadounidense que se controlaría desde

• Clinton: avance de seguridad colectiva

el Comando Sur del Ejército de EU en Panamá.

2. Los **efectos** del control de la política antidrogas de México por EU serán diversos: la **penetración** de organismos de inteligencia de EU en algunos niveles militares mexicanos que siguen en la lucha antidrogas; ¿estarán los militares mexicanos -que también defienden la seguridad nacional del país- dispuestos a **compartir** información de inteligencia con las oficinas de EU que fueron las responsables de la acusación contra el general Jesús Gutiérrez Rebollo y de la crítica contra el Ejército mexicano, además de que esa información en EU podría **filtrarse** a la prensa norteamericana para desprestigiar a México? La información sobre drogas de México en manos de EU podría **debilitar** al Estado mexicano porque involucraría a instituciones y políticos nacionales.

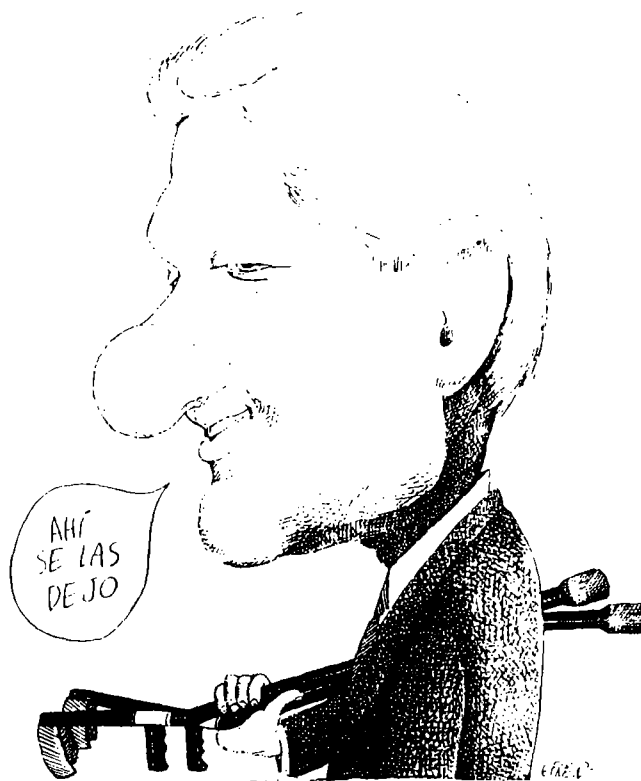
La **nueva** política exterior antidrogas de EU hacia México se va a localizar en el contexto de una verdadera **cesión** de soberanía mexicana porque EU **intervendrá** -no sólo certificará- en la política interna antidrogas. También organismos militares y de política exterior de EU penetrarán instituciones mexicanas como el Ejército, la PGR y hasta la Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores para la **definición** de estrategias que beneficien a EU.

Esta nueva política antidrogas de Washington pasará de la vía **diplomática** de la calificación -certificación- en el Departamento de Estado y en el Congreso estadounidenses al espacio de la **intervención** operativa de fuerzas policíacas, militares y de inteligencia de EU en los países productores y de tránsito para el narco y en sus instituciones. Asimismo, se ubica en la estrategia militar de EU de **trasladar** los escenarios de guerra fuera de territorio estadounidense. Hacia el interior de EU, la Casa Blanca podrá vender el discurso de que los muertos por consumo de drogas -jóvenes y niños- son **responsabilidad** de otras naciones.

Así, la agenda de Clinton en México tuvo dos puntos: narcotráfico y política. La **migración** no fue del interés del visitante. "Si la ley migratoria volviera a plantearse", dijo Clinton, "la volvería a **apoyar**". Y, como se vio el lunes y martes, al gobierno mexicano **tampoco** le importó la persecución de indocumentados mexicanos en EU; sólo felicitaciones de Clinton.

Buenas relaciones

Efrén





Mirar hacia el norte

DAVID HUERTA

La visita del presidente Bill Clinton a México fue un refrendo de las relaciones entre los dos países de acuerdo con planes que tomaron su forma, acaso definitiva, con la firma del Tratado de Libre Comercio en 1993. No sabemos si de veras las cosas entre nuestro país y Estados Unidos seguirán como han sido propuestas y armadas por las actuales generaciones de tecnócratas y políticos de ambas naciones; de ahí que prefiramos utilizar una cautelosa forma adverbial ("acaso definitiva") cuando nos referimos a la forma de esas relaciones. Lo que parece indudable es que el presidente Clinton vino a México a revisar, como se dice ahora, la "agenda" con el doctor Ernesto Zedillo; apretar, sin duda, algunas tuercas o piezas sueltas en el mecanismo de esos lazos diplomáticos, económicos y políticos; a dejar claro quién manda y a sonreír desdeñosamente cuando le hablan de soberanía, ese cachivache de la batalla pasada, en este nuevo orden mundial de la globalización en el que tanto y tan decisivamente ha participado Estados Unidos.

Estados Unidos es un país de complejidades abismales. De un tiempo a esta parte —desde la firma de los acuerdos de Bretton Woods en 1944, que le dieron estructura al orden económico de la posguerra—, han escogido el mismo abismo y el mismo estilo en el

ejercicio del poder que otros imperios: la dominación inmisericorde. El arrogante George Bush fue a París en 1989, durante las celebraciones del bicentenario de la Toma de la Bastilla, para decirle a los franceses que su país había conseguido poner en práctica, con plenitud,

lo que los europeos apenas habían vislumbrado en el siglo XVIII; desde luego, no tenía razón: lo que encarna Estados Unidos no son los ideales de la ilustración sino las reglas de oro y sangre del capitalismo. Tienen virtudes indiscutibles y no son las menores de ellas su equilibrio de poderes, sus ejercicios de democracia, su fresca informalidad, su fluidez en el trato, su sentido del trabajo; pero también adolecen de graves defectos. Los mexicanos lo sabemos de sobra y lo he-

mos padecido en conflictos sin cuenta, algunos de ellos sordos y sin pizca de heroísmo, como la detestable conducta de los policías fronterizos con nuestros paisanos que cruzan la frontera en busca de trabajo en las "praderas del cielo" californianas —la ex-

presión es del novelista John Steinbeck— o en la ancha y próspera Texas de los campos petrolíferos.

José Martí conocía las entrañas del monstruo —esto es, la nación estadounidense— y podía hablar de su fisonomía, de su conducta, de los valores que de-

terminan sus acciones y sus actitudes porque tenía de todo ello experiencias de primera mano. Por desgracia, el ejemplo martiano no se ha seguido entre nosotros como se debería. La imagen que se tiene de Estados Unidos es un compendio de lugares comunes, un haz de prejuicios y de juicios tajantes sin la menor sustancia. Esta negativa al conocimiento de esas realidades es una enfermedad intelectual muy extendida en la izquierda mexicana, que debe-

ría ser el sector de nuestra sociedad que mejor debería conocerlas. Hay todavía quienes se niegan a aprender el idioma inglés porque se trata de "la lengua del imperio". Supongo que sienten que ejercen un sólido e incendiario boicot en contra de sus enemigos pro-

verbales; lo único que consiguen es hacer el ridículo. Los resultados de estas posturas están a la vista desde 1993 y aun antes: los estadounidenses aprenden español, japonés, ruso, árabe y lo que les haga falta para seguir siendo "competitivos" en este mundo cruel que han contribuido a erigir. Muchos mexicanos de izquierda, confinados en la ignorancia por los prejuicios, en cambio, prefieren el monolingüismo o la lenta degradación del español bajo el impacto de la poderosa influencia del norte.

La visita de Clinton nos obliga a mirar, una vez más, hacia ese norte complejo, laberíntico, a veces parte del problema, a veces solución desesperada que debe pagarse a precios muy altos. La ayuda proveniente de Estados Unidos nunca es desinteresada, como lo documenta la historia y algunas declaraciones de presidentes de esa nación.

Mientras Estados Unidos no les dé un trato humanitario, legal y razonable a los trabajadores inmigrantes de México, nadie podrá creer que ese país encarna ideal libertario alguno. Mientras Estados Unidos siga culpando a Colombia, a México, a los "otros", en resumen, de su desgarrador problema de consumo de drogas, no será posible creer que tiene un sentido de la equidad o de la justicia. Mientras Estados Unidos no aprenda de verdad a escuchar a los demás, no nos convencerá de su vocación de fraternidad.

Mientras Estados Unidos no les dé un trato humanitario, legal y razonable a los trabajadores inmigrantes de México, nadie podrá creer que ese país encarna ideal libertario alguno



La visita: oportunidad desaprovechada

CARLOS BRAVO

La visita del presidente Clinton habrá de redituárle buenos dividendos al sistema político mexicano. Su interés en dialogar con representantes de las diversas corrientes y su acercamiento a la cultura prehispánica, son un punto de partida valioso para una mejor comprensión de la realidad mexicana. Se habrá de llevar, sin duda, la imagen de una nación que no será fácil despersonalizar, aun cuando se cuente con el invaluable apoyo de una oligarquía que simpatiza notoriamente con el modo de vida estadounidense.

Para los mexicanos fue grato haber visto a un mandatario dispuesto a escuchar, ajeno a posturas de superioridad y muy interesado en revertir una actitud de alejamiento que no favorece la nueva relación que dice estar dispuesto a favorecer con nuestro país. Sin embargo, puso en evidencia igualmente la cerrazón de un grupo gobernante que no está dispuesto a modificar un ápice su línea de conducta antipopular.

Así como hubo gran esmero en aprehender a quienes se presumía podrían generar problemas, tal como se hacía en los años del lopezmateísmo y el diazordacismo, también lo hubo para demostrarle al mandatario visitante que aquí, en el gobierno mexicano, cuenta no sólo con sumisos aliados, sino con diligentes alumnos que no tienen empacho en ir más a fondo en las directrices de la Casa Blanca.

Esto se vio claramente en la reunión del Auditorio Nacional, donde las declaraciones de más peso político estuvieron a cargo del presidente Clinton, mien-

tras que el presidente Zedillo se dedicaba a manifestar su ortodoxia neoliberal, sin ningún asomo de suspicacia ni mucho menos visión de estadista. Así se desaprovechó una oportunidad irreplicable para dejar sentada una posición de altura, que hiciera ver a los ojos del mundo la capacidad del mandatario mexicano para negociar con el presidente más poderoso del planeta.

El temor y un evidente complejo de inferioridad fue la característica general que marcó el comportamiento de las autoridades mexicanas ante sus contrapartes estadounidenses. Esto no debió haber pasado desapercibido a los ojos del mundo, con lo cual México queda como nación debilitada, carente de voluntad para defender, como en el pasado, su dignidad y fortaleza moral, su mayor patrimonio y gracias al cual había logrado sobreponerse a las asechanzas de las potencias imperialistas.

De ahí que no sea fácil diagnosticar cómo podremos contrarrestar, como nación aún soberana, las presiones que se avecinan, una vez que la debilidad del gobierno mexicano ha quedado de manifiesto. "En el siglo XXI queremos que nuestras fronteras sean nuestro vínculo. Que este vínculo esté arraigado en un compromiso mutuo, basado en el intercambio del co-

mercio y de las personas, de los seres humanos, a través de las fronteras, y manteniéndonos fieles al Estado de derecho".

Así se expresó Clinton en el Auditorio Nacional, mientras que el presidente Zedillo dejaba pasar la oportunidad para señalar a viva voz el derecho de México a luchar por un mejor destino, exento de presiones hegemónicas ejercidas por grupos de interés de la nación vecina.

Se ha llegado a extremos inimaginables hace unos pocos años en lo tocante al trato a los emigrados en Estados Unidos

Ciertamente, debe haber un compromiso mutuo para buscar un mejor futuro para el pueblo mexicano, el cual padece en este fin de siglo los embates de una política económica que privilegia al capital financiero y a los inversionistas extranjeros, y de un Estado que se desentleña absolutamente de sus responsabilidades sociales. Esto es lo que deberían ver tanto Clinton como Zedillo, en vez de dictar medidas que dañan todavía más a los pue-

blos de uno y otro país.

Suenan ominosas las palabras del mandatario estadounidense, cuando dice que el compromiso mutuo debe estar basado en "el intercambio del comercio y de las personas". De por sí con la nueva ley antimigrantes se aprecia un total desinterés por los derechos humanos de los trabajadores mexicanos que

cruzan la frontera, lo cual se confirma con las citadas palabras. ¿Acaso se pretende legalizar una nueva esclavitud?

Se ha llegado a extremos inimaginables hace unos pocos años en lo tocante al trato a los emigrados en Estados Unidos. Han perdido ya sus más elementales derechos, y ahora sin tapujos se les quiere ver como simple mercancía que debe entrar al libre juego del mercado. Esto es no sólo irracional sino muy injusto, teniendo en cuenta la valiosísima contribución de los trabajadores mexicanos en la economía estadounidense.

La inhumanidad y falta de ética de las acciones que contempla la nueva legislación contra los trabajadores migratorios, no tiene parangón y revela el grado de insensibilidad a que han llegado las élites de las dos naciones. Esto es muy peligroso teniendo en cuenta que la corriente migratoria del sur hacia el norte no sólo no cesa, sino que aumenta como lo demuestran las propias cifras oficiales de uno y otro lado de la frontera.

Un asomo de humanidad, sin embargo, lo dio el presidente Zedillo al señalar la necesidad de una economía de mercado con rostro humano. Configurar esta es una obligación irrenunciable, antes de que sea demasiado tarde y se consoliden condiciones socioeconómicas adversas, como se vislumbra por la cerrazón de un grupo gobernante, el mexicano, dispuesto a no ceder un ápice en su estrategia excluyente y entregulista, la cual es alimentada por un triunfalismo absurdo.

SI J JÁREZ NO HUBIERA MUERTO

Por Roberto Zamarripa

MONTADOS EN LOS FRUTOS DEL PASADO INMEDIATO -LAS siembras de aquellos que hoy son fantasmas o demonios-. Los presidentes de México, Ernesto Zedillo, y Estados Unidos, William Clinton, pasaron revista al presente y al futuro.

El Tratado de Libre Comercio, la obra maestra del salinismo, la clave del encumbramiento personal de Carlos Salinas de Gortari; y la azarosa lucha contra el narcotráfico. La elegía por los agentes muertos en combate, las campañas punta de la erradicación, el elogio del Grupo de Contacto, el diagnóstico conjunto del flagelo. Las tareas de la Procuraduría de Antonio Lozano Gracia y las minucias de Francisco Molina, el penúltimo jefe del Instituto contra las Drogas.

Salinas/Lozano nos echaron buena mano. Y William Clinton cierra su estancia en la Ciudad de México con un mensaje ante el gabinete mexicano en pleno, desde Emilio Chuayflet hasta José Antonio González Fernández, centenas de invitados surgidos de cámaras empresariales, universidades, partidos políticos, y el nuevo estilo de llenar la plaza: la congregación de los empleados de confianza de las dependencias del gabinete económico. Los jefes de Departamento, los asesores del asesor de la subsecretaría, los asistentes corrieron egresados de la Universidad. "Vamos a ver a Clinton ¿no?", y a quitarle una mañana a la chamba en la Secretaría.

Aún así el Auditorio Nacional no se llena. Dos minutos antes del puntual arribo de los Presidentes y sus esposas, las gradas que lindan el techo son vaciadas para enviar gente a

la parte inferior. Y que pasen sin gafete ni revisión. Antes que la extrema, estrecha, excesiva seguridad, esté el estilo, la compostura. Cómo que Clinton vio butacas vacías.

Ni así. La parte baja registra huecos. Para esto del acarreo no es lo mismo Guillermina Rico que el analista de Secofi.

Las luces se apagan y se presenta un video cortés de Herminio Blanco Productions. A cuadro Paul A. Samuelson, Premio Nobel de Economía.

De un plumazo, Samuelson enaltece a Zedillo y pulveriza a Miguel de la Madrid. "Esta vez -en los años noventa- vemos un manejo mucho mejor por parte de México que el de la crisis de la devaluación en la década de los ochenta".

Maestro de maestros, Samuelson "como experto en economía", califica al Tratado de Libre Comercio "con nuevos y dinámicos con base en las sólidas evidencias que ha habido hasta la fecha".

Y de ahí para adelante. Empresarios exitosos, obreros felices, capataces fogosos, todos sonrientes, dicen a cuadro que el TLC es otra cosa.

Un México de 29 estados. Chiapas, Guerrero y Oaxaca no parecen estar en el Tratado.

...

Desde Juan Gallardo hasta Bill Gates; desde Salma Hayek hasta Octavio Paz; desde un costero productor de marañón hasta el jefe sindical de la empresa Nemak; desde Claudio X. González hasta Mario Spatz, director general de una compañía canadiense, jubiloso porque llegan papayas, cervezas y guacamole para acompañar los nachos en su pueblo.



Preparativos en el Auditorio Nacional.

Octavio Paz define en close up: "Aunque los Estados Unidos son la nación más poderosa de la tierra, su vida social y política, tanto como su economía, están estrechamente asociados a la situación de México y de sus cien millones de habitantes. Un México próspero y democrático puede ser un poderoso factor de paz y de estabilidad en esta región del mundo".

Después de Paz, Salma, que habla en español y en inglés. El video de Secofi pinta el éxito del tamaño de la frontera.

Después vendrá Clinton a chorrear con datos frescos las otras caras de la relación. "Con menos del 5 por ciento de la población mundial consumimos un tercio de la cocaína mundial (...). En Estados Unidos cada año las drogas matan a 14 mil personas y le cuesta a nuestro país casi 70 mil millones de dólares por crímenes, pensiones, trabajos perdidos, cuerpos mutilados y vidas arruinadas. Cada año nuestros oficiales y agentes arrestan a un millón de personas bajo cargos de drogas".

Setenta mil millones de dólares, el doble de lo que México recibió en inversión extranjera directa entre 1994 y 1996, según Secofi.

Por eso el elogio de Clinton a las nuevas leyes contra lavado de dinero, a los agentes muertos en combate, a "los grandes avances en la erradicación de drogas".

A las cifras que, efectivamente, redujo el grupo de Francisco Molina del INCD, que en paz descanse.

Molina, el mismo por el que preguntó Janet Reno a José Ángel Gurría, el canciller mexicano, aquí el día que arribó a Washington para avisar que Antonio Lozano había sido destituido como Procurador.

¿Y Francisco Molina? -preguntó Reno-

...

Para variar, las pincoladas mexicanas las puso Clinton. Un pronto recuerdo de Hidalgo y Morelos, quienes "enciendieron la antorcha de la libertad para México". Luego, los ingredientes de la nueva asociación entre las dos naciones, la que debe de "arraigarse en un espíritu de respeto mutuo".

Clinton recuerda a "el gran líder mexicano, Benito Juárez, cuya estatua se encuentra muy cerca de la Casa Blanca, en Washington, quien dijo: el respeto al derecho ajeno es la paz".

Al grano. Clinton se sincera: "Abrazamos la sabiduría de Juárez por una 'asociación pacífica y próspera, llena de respeto y dignidad'".

Después, el presidente estadounidense pinta su raya. "Somos una nación de inmigrantes y también somos una nación de leyes. Así como los que cumplen con nuestras leyes son bienvenidos, los que no la respeten deben atenerse a las consecuencias".

Ahí caben todos. Los hijos de Juárez que salen de la sierra oaxaqueña sin ninguna identidad más que su miseria para cruzar la raya y convertirse en factor clave de aquella economía.

Clinton reitera en su discurso: "No habrá deportaciones masivas ni discriminación".

Las primeras, seguramente, no les convienen. Lo segundo está por verse. Y asegura el mandatario de la nación más poderosa del mundo: "Tenemos una política de inmigración, tal vez la más generosa del mundo, pero para que pueda funcionar debemos ser una nación que sí cumple con sus leyes".

Es Clinton, el jurista. Sabe ante quien habla. Total, del asunto de violaciones a garantías, golpizas, correizas, ya le hablaron. A él y a su esposa muchas cosas les contaron.

Vaya, en el almuerzo de Hillary Clinton con 30 mujeres mexicanas destacadas, que se realizó en el Museo Rufino Tamayo el mediodía del martes, cuentan que se levantó una dama para presentarse ante la visitante estadounidense.

-Soy Mireille Roccatti, Presidenta de la Unión Nacional de Derechos Humanos-.

¿Del gobierno? -preguntó Hillary inquieta-

-Sí, y como comprenderá tengo mucho trabajo-

Si Juárez no hubiera muerto, otro gallo cantaría



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"Las fronteras separan, pero también unen. Y pueden ser la puerta de la comprensión, la estabilidad y la mutua prosperidad".
OCTAVIO PAZ



MEXICO-EU
MAYO 1997

"Las fronteras separan, pero también unen. Y pueden ser la puerta de la comprensión, la estabilidad y la mutua prosperidad".
OCTAVIO PAZ

CRONICA

Tláloc se asomó en Teotihuacán

Por María Elena Medina

BILL CLINTON Y SU ESPOSA SE RETRASARON AYER MÁS DE una hora en la cita que tenían en la Ciudad de los Dioses, en Teotihuacán. Nada contento, tal vez, Tláloc amenazó con vientos y truenos vaciar un aguacero sobre toda la comitiva, al Servicio Secreto, al Presidente Ernesto Zedillo y su esposa, embajadores y demás.

Incluso Clinton dijo que los cohetes que estaban tronando en la comunidad de al lado, que era San Martín de las Pirámides, eran para atraer a la lluvia, y lo estaban logrando.

Tan no esperaban el mal tiempo, que las señoras se cubrieron de las gotas con una improvisada sombrilla, blanco con azul, marcada, un poco sucia, y con la apariencia de tener muchos años sin usarse.

Mala jugada la de los dioses. Clinton no ascendió a las pirámides, mala jugada la de su rodilla.

Recorrió la zona en una de tres combis descubiertas, y en tres ocasiones descendió a apreciar el panorama. En el último de ellos le enseñaron sobre una mesa, dentro de una caja, las 70 figurillas que recién fueron halladas en la zona.

Durante la explicación que le dio sobre la zona arqueológica el secretario técnico del Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, Enrique Nalda Hernández, Clinton no desaprovechó la oportunidad para preguntarle sobre el saqueo de piezas arqueológicas, ya que gran parte de ellas aparecen en los Estados Unidos.

Nalda Hernández le contestó que el saqueo terminó hace unos veinte años. ¿Será?

Al sitio asistieron también el Gobernador del Estado de México, César Camacho Quiroz, y su esposa, quienes se quedaron con uno de los dos regalos que pensaban regalarle a Clinton en la mano, le dieron el tapete de Temoaya, pero se quedaron con la campana de plata, que según la costumbre indígena, cada vez que se toca sirve para espantar a los malos espíritus.

Supuestamente no les dio tiempo de entregarle la campana, pero por ahí corrió el rumor de que no se lo pudieron entregar porque no había sido revisado por seguridad.

Clinton quedó impactado con la visita. Unos minutos antes de terminar, coreado por los rayos, el viento y los cohetes, se animó a decir fuerte, ante la prensa y en inglés: "Es impactante la forma en que está (Teotihuacán), simplemente pueden imaginarse cómo era antes", y explicó que todas las construcciones estaban decoradas antes con figuras de colores muy brillantes.

DE BARNEY PARA CLINTON

Como despedida al presidente Clinton, unos 10 pequeños, de la guardería de la Embajada de Estados Unidos en México, le cantaron al mandatario, primero en español y luego en inglés, la canción de Barney, el dinosaurio rosa con panza verde que es el gran fenómeno en los Estados Unidos en la televisión pública educativa.



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A nuestro líder lo sorprendieron en las oficinas de la agrupación. Fueron cinco quienes lo identificaron como agentes de Gobernación, señalaron simpatizantes de Te...

Discreto plan de seguridad en la despedida

Por Jorge Reyes

EL PRESIDENTE BILL CLINTON ABANDONÓ EL PAÍS EN MEDIO DE UN discreto operativo de seguridad encabezado por elementos del Ejército Mexicano y del Estado Mayor Presidencial, así como del equipo de seguridad norteamericano, quien mantuvo una constante vigilancia aérea sobre el perímetro que conforma el Aeropuerto Internacional de la Ciudad de México.

Poco después de las 8:00 de la noche arribó al hangar presidencial un convoy de 30 vehículos, encabezado por la limosina de Clinton, procedentes de las ruinas de Teotihuacan, luego de que el Mandatario prefiriera realizar este viaje por tierra y no por helicóptero, como lo hizo constantemente.

A las 8:10 de la noche Clinton, junto con su comitiva, abordaron el avión con destino a Costa Rica, donde se reunirá con los presidentes de los países centroamericanos.

OFRECE EU SU APOYO A FISCALÍA ANTIDROGA

Entrevistado en el hangar presidencial luego de despedir al presidente Clinton, el secretario de Relaciones Exteriores, José Angel Gurría Treviño, aseguró que más que aceptar un préstamo económico del gobierno de Estados Unidos, buscaría obtener la asesoría técnica con que cuenta ese País para fortalecer su lucha contra el narcotráfico.

El funcionario detalló que lo anterior se desprendió luego de que la secretaria de Estado, Madeleine Albright, se ofreciera a proporcionar un apoyo de 6 millones de dólares para que la recién creada Fiscalía Especial para la Atención de Delitos contra la Salud iniciara sus trabajos para enfrentar el narcotráfico.

"El Grupo de Contacto de Alto Nivel sobre las drogas estaba platicando sobre la transformación de la PGR y se mencionó el hecho de que se está creando la Fiscalía Especial, por lo que la señora Albright ofreció un apoyo de 6 millones para los trabajos de la Fiscalía, los cuales todavía no sabemos ni de qué partida presupuestal vienen ni cómo se pudieran aplicar.

"El tipo de contribuciones que ellos pueden hacernos no es cuestión de que nos den un cheque de 6 millones de dólares, sino que tienen muchas cosas de entrenamiento, de equipo, de tecnología, de asistencia técnica, que ni siquiera están disponibles en el mercado y que le pueden ayudar mucho a la Fiscalía Especial", indicó.

Gurría Treviño señaló que en las próximas semanas el procurador general Jorge Madrazo Cuéllar y los funcionarios del Departamento de Estado norteamericano podrían establecer un primer contacto para analizar cómo se podría aplicar este apoyo para la lucha de México contra el narcotráfico.



"México y Estados Unidos tienen una especial responsabilidad de trabajar juntos para crear oportunidades y desafiar los peligros de esta época"
BILL CLINTON

Promete Clinton alianza próspera

Por María Elena Medina y Miguel Pérez

EL PRESIDENTE DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS, Bill Clinton, propuso ayer a México una asociación próspera que ayude a la libertad y la democracia y en contra de las drogas, el crimen organizado y el deterioro ambiental.

Al hablar ayer en la Conferencia sobre el Presente y el Futuro de las Relaciones México-Estados Unidos, que se llevó a cabo en el Auditorio Nacional y en la que también participó el Presidente Ernesto Zedillo, Clinton señaló que la "electricidad del cambio" está surgiendo en el Hemisferio y que éste es más esperanzador en México.

La asociación entre ambos países, explicó, deberá estar arraigada en un espíritu de mutuo respeto, en el que los Estados Unidos abraza la sabiduría de Benito Juárez, "en donde el respeto al derecho ajeno es la paz", para conseguir una sociedad pacífica y próspera, llena de respeto y dignidad.

En lo que fue su último discurso oficial de la visita de tres días a México, el Presidente de los Estados Unidos felicitó al pueblo mexicano por las "reformas políticas profundas que lo llevarán en julio a las elecciones más intensamente competidas de su historia".

A lo largo de su discurso, los asistentes lo interrumpieron en cinco ocasiones para aplaudir los conceptos en los que reconocía, además, la recuperación económica, el compromiso en el combate al narcotráfico y el respeto a la soberanía.

Además de incluir a Juárez en su discurso, Clinton nombró a Hidalgo y a Morelos para ejemplificar la esperanza que hay entre las dos naciones, tal como la hubo cuando ambos Héroes de la Independencia levantaron la antorcha de la libertad hace dos siglos.

Hizo referencia a la Ley de Inmigración de su país mencionando que no habrá deportaciones masivas de indocumentados, ni discriminación.

Defendió el Tratado de Libre Comercio diciendo que éste debía medirse en su impacto humano y enumeró los beneficios que ha dado a miles de trabajadores mexicanos y estadounidenses.

► SIN FRONTERAS

Con la visita de Clinton a México, ambos países reafirmaron su voluntad de construir una frontera que acerque a las dos naciones como iguales y no que las separe, aseguró el Presidente Ernesto Zedillo.

"Una frontera que sea la línea divisoria entre dos naciones soberanas, no entre la prosperidad y la pobreza, que sea la línea divisoria entre dos vecinos prósperos, no entre las oportunidades y las carencias. Esa es la frontera que queremos para los mexicanos y los norteamericanos del siglo XXI y la edificaremos con respeto, diálogo y cooperación, todas estas claves en la relación nueva entre México y los Estados Unidos", expresó el Mandatario en su discurso.

Reconoció que la relación bilateral frente al siglo XXI tiene nuevos retos, como el de saber equilibrar lo inmediato con el largo plazo y respetar las formas distintas de ser y de sentir de los dos pueblos.



En el Auditorio Nacional, Clinton y Zedillo estrechan sus manos en acuerdo de una relación más próspera.

Una puerta al TLC hemisférico

Ven positivos los resultados del acuerdo entre México, Estados Unidos y Canadá

Por Yadira Mena
y Rossana Fuentes-Berain

EN EL ÚLTIMO DÍA DE LA VISITA DEL PRESIDENTE Bill Clinton a México, los secretarios del Gobierno de Estados Unidos coincidieron en que su país tendrá como prioridad de la agenda acelerar un acuerdo hemisférico de libre comercio para el año 2005.

En materia comercial, dijeron, Estados Unidos buscará la aprobación de la autoridad por el "fast track" -que le permita extender los acuerdos a otras regiones- como una estrategia de la administración. Sin embargo, reconocieron, deberá quedar justificado que el Tratado de Libre Comercio con México y Canadá tuvo resultados positivos.

William Daley, Secretario de Comer-

cio estadounidense, dijo que el estudio sobre los efectos del TLC de América del Norte no se ha concluido, pero adelantó que los primeros resultados son positivos.

Tanto Daley como Thomas McLarty, consejero del Presidente Clinton, y Madeleine Albright, Secretaria de Estado, coincidieron en que América Latina se ubicará en el primer plano de la agenda.

El vocero de Clinton, Mike McCurry, señaló que los empresarios de EU están haciendo esfuerzos por hacer extensivo el TLC a todo el hemisferio, mediante la figura legislativa conocida como "fast track".

Albright abundó en que América Latina es la figura central en la agenda. Calificó a su país como la "nación indispensable", que requiere de socios, ya que "no puede hacer todo solo".

"Nosotros necesitamos ayudar a nuestros socios comerciales a crear instituciones democráticas durables que promuevan el respeto a los derechos humanos", recalcó.

De ahí que es necesario crear una fuerza conjunta para luchar y ganar la batalla contra el narcotráfico, el crimen, la corrupción y el tráfico ilegal de armas, explicó.

El Presidente de Estados Unidos, Bill Clinton, abandonó ayer México a las 20:00 horas y se dirigió a Costa Rica.	
► Va Madeleine Albright con ONG	2A
► Una frontera igual	4A
► Buscan reducir violencia	4A
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SECCIÓN A

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"México y Estados Unidos tienen una especial responsabilidad de trabajar juntos para crear oportunidades y desahogar los peligros de esta época."

BILL CLINTON



Cubiertos con máscaras-huehues, Hillary y Bill Clinton se dan un beso.

CRONICA

¡CIELITO LINDOU!

Por César Romero Jacobo

ES WILLIAM J. CLINTON EN LOS tiempos del "respeto a la soberanía" y la "Asociación para la Prosperidad".

Con el pie bueno, sigue el ritmo de los tambores tlaxcaltecas. Con música de mariachi, balancea su cuerpo de un lado al otro de su silla de plástico. Abre la boca, se ríe con los dientes hacia afuera y, con voz bajita, comienza a cantar.

—¡Cielito Lindou... Canta y no lloures!

Es el Presidente de los Estados Unidos en plena luna de miel en su relación con el Gobierno de Ernesto Zedillo, quien, sentado a su izquierda, no oculta su contento.

Clinton cantando. Clinton comiendo escamoles con nopalitos. Clinton con una cerveza XX en la mano. Clinton de sombrero de paja. Clinton abrazando a un *Caballero Tigre*. Clinton, detrás de una máscara de señor barbudo, besando a la máscara de otro señor, de bigotillo, con Hillary Clinton detrás.

Es Clinton con un billete de 100 pesos en la mano para tratar de pagar las muchas artesanías que no caben en las manos de los agentes del servicio secreto que lo acompañan. Es "Clinton, Clinton, ¡Clinton!" en la voz chillona de una muchedumbre que se amontona, que se empuja y se jalona detrás de una valla para tocarlo. Es Clinton, el que se deja bendecir por Guadalupe Pérez, una ancianita sin dientes. Clinton que permanece 15 minutos dentro de la iglesia de la Asunción. Clinton, colocándose tres flores rojas de plástico en el ojal del saco. Es Clinton —en palabras de Zedillo—, "el amigo de los mexicanos".

Es, en suma, Clinton, el Presidente Clinton, dándose un baño de pueblo mexicano.

Dice, en corto, Zedillo: "Ellos no están acostumbrados a tanta fiesta, pero con esta gente —enfática, mirando a la multitud que lo aplaude y agita miles de banderitas—, nadie se resista."

Luego del show en el Auditorio, la visita en Tlaxcala. *Mexican courious*. Con un Presidente de Estados Unidos emocionado y sonriente, dejándose jalar por la gente, escuchando pedidos en una lengua que no entiende, tocando manos que no conoce, firmando autógrafos, besando niños... Todo dentro de un gran espectáculo en el que la logística detrás de tanta felicidad funcionó perfectamente. Si acaso, en la cultura típicamente priista en que el festejo se inspiró, solamente faltaron las matracas.

—¡This is good! ¡Very good! grita Hillary Clinton al encontrarse dos máscaras huehues en el puesto colocado ex profeso para que el matrimonio presidencial comprara alguna artesanía. A las risas (siempre de frente al grupo de fotógrafos y camarógrafos de su país), los Clinton se colocan las máscaras y posan para la foto del beso entre moros y cristianos.

Luego, todo termina. Clinton mete la mano a un bolsillo de su pantalón —el mismo en que guarda la tarjeta magnética que le permite accionar el control nuclear del país más poderoso de nuestro tiempo— y saca el billete de 100 pesos. Paga y, dentro de una caravana de 34 vehículos, sale rumbo a Teotihuacán, la última parada en su visita a México.

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Clinton Touts Hemispheric Free Trade

U.S. president advocates plan for a trade accord among all of the Americas. ➤ Page 4

Tlaxcalans Celebrate Visit By U.S. Presidential Couple

TLAXCALA, Tlax. — People were given flags and a free ride here Wednesday to greet President Clinton, whose trip to Mexico was being managed to avoid protests.

For Clinton's first contact with "ordinary" Mexicans, Tlaxcala could not have been a better choice as the epitome of laid-back, sunny Mexico. ➤ Page 5



TLAXCALA, Tlax. — Presidents Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon and Bill Clinton wave among a crowd of children in Tlaxcala Wednesday. The U.S. first couple headed for Costa Rica Wednesday night.

CARLOS RAMOS

Friendly Crowd For Clinton In Tlaxcala Is No Surprise

By HENRY TRICKS
Reuters

Tlaxcala — one of the first Mexican towns to welcome Spanish conquistadors as allies against their Aztec enemies in the 16th century — was well-known for its warmth to foreigners.

"They call us traitors in the rest of Mexico," said shoeshiner Silvino Varela Sanchez. "But we have a saying here: 'If you can't beat your enemy, join him.'"

TLAXCALA, Tlax. — Crowds of pro-government Mexicans were given U.S. flags, packed lunches and a free ride to this quiet southern town on Wednesday to greet U.S. President Bill Clinton, whose trip to Mexico was being carefully managed to avoid any embarrassing protests.

For Clinton's first encounter with "ordinary" Mexicans, kept until the last day of his three-day visit, the colonial city of Tlaxcala 75 miles east of Mexico City could not have been better chosen as the epitome of sunny, laid-back, trouble-free Mexico.

Long in the grip of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), picturesque Tlaxcala suffers none of the grinding poverty, political violence or guerrilla revolts that afflict other Mexican tourist destinations such as Oaxaca or Chiapas.

Thousands of *campesinos*, wearing donated Tlaxcala baseball caps, and waving Mexican and U.S. flags, were bused in by the government on Wednesday to see their first visiting foreign president.

They expressed fierce loyalty to President Ernesto Zedillo and warm support for his guests, Clinton and wife Hillary, even though there was muffled anger over U.S. immigration laws that threaten many Mexicans with deportation.

"If we went there, they would send us back here with a boot up the backside, but our arms are wide open to Clinton," said a smiling Alberta Fernandez Martinez, a *campesino* from the town of Huamantla in the state of Tlaxcala.

Surrounded by hundreds of fellow farm workers, she said that all the local supporters of Zedillo's PRI had been invited to see Clinton, much in the way that they are bused to political rallies to support the party, which has ruled Mexico for 68 unbroken years.

Besides the chance of a day out, they were given the usual prize for attendance — a sandwich, two oranges and a fruit juice.

"This is Clinton: we ought to be eating McDonalds, not bread like ducks," a friend of Fernandez Martinez joked. "There was no opposition support or anti-American sentiment visible within blocks of the spruced up city square where Clinton was expected to press the flesh later.

"Tlaxcala is one of the most peaceful cities in Mexico. That is why they are bringing Clinton here," said Jose Luis Guetierrez, keyboard player in a pop band that was warming up to keep the waiting crowds entertained.

Not taking any chances even with the carefully selected crowd, heavily armed troops, explosives experts and sharpshooters even in the belltower of Tlaxcala's main church, were at the ready since dawn.

Crowds lining up to enter the square were searched with metal detectors, suspicious-looking bags of foods were confiscated and street vendors were turned away.

But locals who faced any inconvenience largely shrugged it off, noting that

Clinton Serenades Tlaxcala

Reuters

TLAXCALA, Tlax. — U.S. President Bill Clinton escaped from the confines of closed meeting rooms to play tourist on Wednesday and the people of Tlaxcala welcomed him by tossing clouds of confetti into the air.

"Buenos Dias, Tlaxcala," Clinton said to thousands of cheering Mexicans who turned out in the town square to see Clinton and Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo. Clinton spent the last day of his three-day visit to Mexico out of the capital. He traveled by helicopter to this 500-year-old town and later was to visit the nearby spectacular pyramids of Teotihuacan.

Soon after his helicopter landed on a soccer field, Clinton was in a motorcade that drove a mile through Tlaxcala.

Thousands of people lined the street, and from the balconies of buildings above, Mexicans tossed bags of red, white, green and blue confetti. The squares of paper coated the street and sprinkled onto the vehicles. People sang songs played by mariachi bands spaced throughout.

The entourage stopped at the town square and Clinton, still on crutches from a March 14 knee injury, climbed a podium situated in front of the 16th century palace housing the Tlaxcala state capital. With him was Mrs. Clinton, Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo and his wife, Nilda Patricia.

Clinton shook hands with the enthusiastic crowd along the ropeline after his speech as a mariachi band played, "Viva Mexico." Nine-year-old Aldo Herrera Valladolid was wearing a suit and held up a sign that said, "Welcome President Clinton." Clinton signed it, patted the lad on the head and posed for pictures with him and his mother. They burst into tears of joy afterward.

Later, Clinton donned a cowboy hat and sat in the sun to watch a colorful dance performance. Traditional dancers wore headdresses festooned with brightly colored feathers. Mexicans wearing *sombreros* pounded drums.

This was outside the San Francisco monastery complex, the oldest permanent Catholic structure in the New World.

Clinton sang along when a group of children dressed in red costumes sang the traditional song, "Cielito Lindo." He later joined them on stage and swayed and clapped his hands to the music.

Respect For Mexico A Central Theme Of Clinton's Visit

By ARSHAD MOHAMMED
Reuters

At every step of his state visit to Mexico, President Clinton has taken pains to pay respect to the country's sovereignty and labored to assuage Mexican anxieties about its large, northern neighbor.

Joined by a 2,000-mile border but divided by sharp disputes over migration and drugs, the United States and Mexico have a history of mutual suspicion that Clinton's visit, the first by a U.S. president since 1990, was designed in part to dispel.

And he has made his message clear from his first stop at Mexico's National Museum of Anthropology, which he pronounced "magnificent," to a nationally televised speech Wednesday, where he called for a relationship of "respect and dignity." "To succeed, the partnership must be rooted in a spirit of mutual respect," Clinton said. "Today, I reaffirm to the people of Mexico . . . we seek a peaceful, prosperous partnership filled with respect and dignity." In virtually every speech, Clinton has stressed the United States' respect for Mexican sovereignty, an issue that cuts deeply in Mexico where the memories of repeated U.S. invasions of its southern neighbor remain fresh.

Clinton's visit coincides with the

150th anniversary of the U.S. capture of Mexico City in 1847 during the Mexican-American War, when U.S. troops hoisted their flag over the capital city.

In a particularly potent gesture, Clinton Tuesday laid a wreath at a monument to Mexico's Boy Heroes, which celebrates six teen-age Mexican cadets who died when U.S. invaders seized the historic Chapultepec Castle 150 years ago.

As a result of that war, Mexico lost more than half its territory to its northern neighbor, leaving a bitter taste to this day.

On more substantive matters, like the fight against drugs, Clinton has sought to defuse tensions by admitting that the huge U.S. demand for narcotics is at the root of the problem, rather than simply blaming Mexico for its huge drug traffic.

Although Clinton's visit has been marked by some protests, including a demonstration by several hundred Mexican leftists who burned U.S. flags outside the U.S. embassy Monday, his diplomatic efforts appear to have borne some fruit.

La Jornada, a respected left-leaning daily newspaper, Tuesday denounced anti-drug accords signed by the United States and Mexico as "injurious to (Mexico's) national sovereignty." But by Wednesday, it had changed its tune,

saying that Clinton's three-day trip had taken place in a "cordial and understanding atmosphere," that solid diplomatic work had taken place and that tensions between the two countries had eased.

"This is worthy of praise, as were the

appropriate gestures of the foreign head of state, in particular his visit to the Boy Heroes monument, as well as his recognition that the vast consumption of drugs in his country is a central part of the narcotics problem," the newspaper wrote in an editorial.

Clinton Calls For NAFTA Expansion

By KELLY LIBRERA
The News Staff Reporter

U.S. President Bill Clinton and key Cabinet members called Wednesday for the expansion of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), putting plans in motion for a trade accord between all American nations within a decade.

"We must accelerate the pace of (NAFTA) efforts, to reach more people and more communities. And we must include more nations in our partnership, so that we can achieve our goal of a Free Trade Area of the Americas," Clinton said during a morning press conference held at the Mexico City Auditorium.

Clinton said Mexico and the United States fought for NAFTA together in 1993 and have now proven to naysayers that the binational determination and resolve was warranted.

"Four years ago . . . many people in both our countries painted a dark picture of lost jobs and boarded up factories. They were wrong. NAFTA is working for America and it is working for Mexico," Clinton said.

The U.S. president said trade between the two nations has grown nearly 60 percent; Mexico is currently the U.S.'s third largest trade partner behind Japan which has an economy 15 times larger than Mexico's. Clinton also said U.S. exports to Mexico have grown 37 percent since the implementation of NAFTA.

According to Clinton, Mexico has also benefited from NAFTA and has created one million new jobs, cut inflation by more than half and regained the confidence of foreign investors since 1993.

President Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon agreed with Clinton's evaluation Wednesday, and said the commercial exchange between the two nations has grown more than 50 percent since last year, which brings the total value of Mexico-U.S. trade to



JAVIER SANCHEZ

TLAXCALA -- President Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon waves a copy of a local paper welcoming U.S. President Bill Clinton to Tlaxcala as First Lady Hillary Clinton applauds.

150 billion dollars.

"We, as Mexicans, think of the free trade agreement as one of the most powerful motors of our time for development," Zedillo said. "We think it capable of transforming goals into opportunities, changing inequality into equality, and converting injustices, the sources of conflict, into just bases of harmony and cooperation."

Top U.S. Cabinet members also offered their own optimistic appraisal of the free trade agreement Wednesday to business leaders gathered at the American Chamber of Commerce.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright,

Commerce Secretary Bill Daley and Special Envoy for the Americas Thomas "Mack" McLarty applauded NAFTA and said they plan to build upon its successes and work to create a Free Trade Area of the Americas by 2005.

"The Free Trade Area of the Americas is the next logical step," Bill Daley said. "We have to keep the momentum going . . . we need to be in the game or the United States will be in a disadvantageous position."

Rebutting NAFTA critics, Daley said exports to Mexico and Canada have grown 80 percent since the pact's initiation, and now support close to three million U.S. jobs, 300,000 of which were created after 1993.

OPINION

EDITOR: THERESE MARGOLIS

The News

Thursday, May 8, 1997 16

When Growth Isn't Enough

New York Times Editorial

As President Clinton meets with Central American and Caribbean leaders this week, he is finding that some basic economic assumptions have changed. A few years ago, despite warnings from many economists, politicians in Latin America and Washington assumed that economic growth alone would take care of even the poorest Latin Americans. Many people believed them. They do not anymore. Growth has been too slow, and in Latin America, which has the largest gap between rich and poor, the gains have gone mainly to the rich, buying too many cell phones and not enough rice.

Because of inequality and high population growth, there are more poor people in Latin America than ever before. Market reforms have removed many disastrous policies and bureaucratic obstacles to long-term growth and possibly long-term relief for the poor. But Latin governments are now realizing that even with market economies, they need sound social policies and stronger education and health systems to reduce poverty on a broad scale. The Inter-American Development Bank is now focusing on such programs. Clinton mentioned poverty, but the issue deserves more emphasis than it is getting.

Latin America's economies have grown 3 percent a year in this decade, a welcome contrast to the sharp decline during the debt crisis of the 1980s. But many forget that from World War II to 1980, Latin America grew 5.5 percent each year. Its swift population growth requires economic growth of at least 6 percent.

The picture is not uniformly bleak. Several countries have reduced poverty since 1990, mainly by taming inflation, which is hardest on the poor. Brazil is the most recent success. But this is a dividend that only pays out once. To sustain the decrease in poverty levels, countries would do well to copy Chile's example. Chile has not only enjoyed steady growth but has moved to attack poverty in ways the market cannot. Among its important initiatives have been reforms in the education system, including special emphasis on better elementary schooling for poor children. Bolivia has also made important reforms. Social security is now more accessible to the poor, and new banks specialize in very small loans.

Other nations have been less innovative. In general, Latin countries need to invest much more than they have in basic health and primary education, which have been slighted in favor of universities and high-tech urban hospitals that largely help the middle class. They should also focus on women and girls, who are the poorest. Many needed reforms, such as widening access to credit or land titles, cost very little.

These reforms would benefit the United States as well. Middle-class Latin Americans will be less likely to emigrate. The wealthier people become, the more they will buy American exports. The United States now exports more to Central America than it does to the whole of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Clinton is hearing complaints from leaders who have watched with dismay as the United States shifted its trade and investment to Mexico after the signing of the North American Free Trade Agreement. The World Bank estimated that the Caribbean could see Mexico take over a third of its exports to the United States. Clinton should renew efforts in Congress to give hard-hit exports from the Caribbean the same entry to the United States that Mexico enjoys.

The United States is also 20 million dollars in arrears to a special fund at the Inter-American Development Bank that finances anti-poverty projects in Latin America's five poorest countries. Congress should promptly pay off that shortfall.

Clinton has a lot to talk about during his journey, including migration, environmental protection and drugs. But he should make time to talk about fighting poverty. Washington played a major role in persuading Latin America to institute free-market reforms. It can now usefully promote a second wave of reforms to extend the market's benefits to the poor.

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Cerca de las 8 de la noche, Bill Clinton abandonó el País en medio de un discreto operativo de seguridad, encabezado por efectivos del Ejército Mexicano y del Estado Mayor Presidencial, así como del equipo de seguridad norteamericano.

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FOTOS: LUIS JORGE GALLEGOS, MIGUEL VELASCO Y DIEGO TREVIÑO





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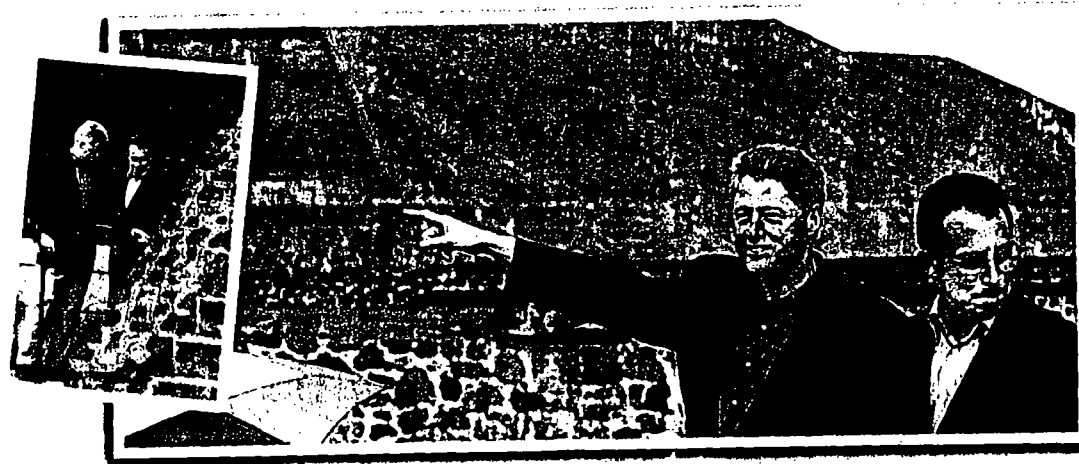


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CRONICA

NOMÁS FALTARON LAS MATRACAS



Por César Romero Jacobo

LA FIESTA FUE EN GRANDE. LUEGO DEL ROMANCE, LAS ALIANZAS contra el narco, las declaraciones sobre migración y las mutuas -y muchas-, promesas, ayer fue el día de los grandes públicos: el del México que cabe en el TLC, y el otro, el México de los que se van de ilegales.

Para William Clinton, ayer fue el día de tocar los dos extremos que, en la historia y en la vida diaria, se frotan con la realidad estadounidense.

Esta historia comienza al amanecer. En la ciudad de Tlaxcala:

De La Malinche, de Calcutalpan, de Huamantla, de Apizaco y de distintos pueblitos del estado, salieron los autobuses con gente humilde que llegaron al zócalo de Tlaxcala a aplaudir, vitorear, a agitar banderitas y engalanar el acto popular de la visita de Bill Clinton a México.

La gente venía porque quería, eso es lo que decían sus líderes al pasarles lista en "El Trébol", el crucero a la entrada de la ciudad donde los bajaban. Cada una pasaba por su banderita: Tlaxcala, México o Estados Unidos. Todos en fila, caminaban algunas cuerdas, pasando el primer retén (para vehículos) y luego otro, con detector de metales y cámaras de video grabando a todo el que entrara a la Plaza de la Constitución de Tlaxcala.

Después, nada más había que cruzar una doble reja de metal, aceptar la inspección de -literalmente- cientos de agentes del Estado Mayor Presidencial, Policía Municipal, judiciales del estado y, más discretamente, también de un grupo de Marines, agentes del Servicio Secreto de Estados Unidos, y ya. A esperar. Cuatro horas y media después, llegarían los presidentes. Primero, Ernesto Zedillo a México.

Con toda la logística de los grandes actos, llegar en

México -soldados en las azoteas con enormes bolsas de papel picado para tirar, animadores estruendosos al micrófono, porristas profesionales en los lugares estratégicos, gorritas y lunches para los más aplicados-, la celebración fue, en palabras de William J. Clinton, el escenario ideal para "celebrar la felicidad de nuestra visita a México".

"¡Clinton/ Amigo/ El pueblo está contigo!", le gritarían algunos.

¿Acarreados para el Presidente de Estados Unidos?... "¡Uhh!, imposible!", dijo, tapándose el sol con ambas manos, un alto funcionario mexicano. En todo caso, en la logística, detrás de tanta "felicidad", nomás faltaron las matracas.

• 'HABÍA QUE DECIRLO'

Llegaron los presidentes. Pasaditas de la 1 de tarde. Primero Zedillo, de pie, sólo a media calle, esperando a su homólogo. Uno, dos, tres minutos -el lenguaje de los símbolos, al fin- se da la media vuelta y se dirige a una banqueta en la que decenas de personas le echan porras, le extienden las manos y le regalan sonrisas.

-Que dicen los güeros que ya llegó su jefe -informa un edecán presidencial al oído del general Roberto Miranda, jefe del Estado Mayor Presidencial.

-Cuando esté abajo de la camioneta, me dices-, susurra, enérgico, el militar.

Llegó Clinton y la gente aplaudió, gritó y (algunos) también silbaron.

La 1:25. Los discursos. Los de siempre. Más empalagosos.

Salvo el de José Antonio Alvarez Lima, el gobernador anfitrión. Para comenzar suelta: "¡Esta bienvenida cálida y digna es para usted, señor Presidente Zedillo, para que sienta la fuerza del pueblo cerca de usted. También para que el señor Presidente Clinton sepa que queremos relaciones amistosas, sinceras, maduras con los Estados Unidos, de igual a igual".



En Tlaxcala. El encuentro con el otro México.

Casi a gritos, agrega: "No puedo dejar de mencionar también nuestra preocupación por los derechos humanos de nuestros paisanos en los Estados Unidos. ¡El respeto entre los países sólo se da con el respeto entre las personas!"

-Se lució, Gobernador-, se le reconoce desde un nacionalismo vergonzante, minutos después.

-Había que decirlo. Había que decir ciertas cosas.

■ MEXICAN COURIOUS

Retórica aparte.

Hace 20 años, Carlos Monsiváis definía a la clase media de los suburbios de las grandes ciudades como la "primera generación de estadounidenses nacidos en México".

Ayer, mirando a los grupos de adolescentes de rostros mestizos, casi indígenas que llegaban al lugar con sus camisetas de los Bulls, sus jeans Levis, con sus tenis dizque Nike, sus gorritas de los Houston Oilers y sus banderitas (obviamente el País) amarradas a la cabeza, es obligado pensar más en un Clinton que habla de "integración inevitable" y "asociación para la prosperidad".

Entonces es fácil hacer a un lado las viejas fórmulas de la política mexicana -lo que José López Portillo llamó en 1995 "una actitud antiimperialista, para defendernos"-, y aceptar que el Presidente Zedillo camine detrás de la limosina del Presidente de Estados Unidos y declare abiertamente: "Demostramos que en paz, con respeto y cooperación, se logra más que con enojo y encono".

Para comenzar, fue Clinton quien habló en español: "¡Buenos días, Tlaxcala!", dijo a eso de la 1:35 cuando toma el micrófono. Luego, es la gente, los tlaxcaltecas, quienes en eufórica embestida se arremolinaban contra las vallas para gritarle a Clinton cuánto lo querían y, casi, exigirle su mano para tocarla. "¡Welcome to Tlaxcala!", le decía alguno. Otra, una niña, llorando de emoción, pedía. "¡Yo, yo, yo!", para poder saludarlo.

Guadalupe Pérez, mujer de 73 años, detiene el paso -de suyo lento- de Clinton, Zedillo y la maraña de agentes especiales de los dos países, camarógrafos, fotógrafos y hasta reporteros que van echando chispas en su derredor. "¡Que Dios te cuide!", dice la mujer al terminar de bendecir la cabeza, un tanto agachada, del Presidente de los Estados Unidos.

En el ex convento de San Francisco, llega el climax de la fiesta.

Las 2:10. Con el pie bueno, el izquierdo, Clinton sigue el ritmo de los concheros de Tlaxcala. Un grupo de danza folklórica baila para los visitantes. Clinton comienza a sonreír.

Para el sol, se pone un sombrero de paja. Cuando el niño Moisés Galicia le canta aquello de "¡que linda es mi bandera/ si alguno la mancilla, le parto el corazón!", Clinton parece encantado. Baila, desde su lugar, con la cabeza y el cuerpo.

Luego, con un coro de niños del lugar sigue, abriendo mucho la boca, la canción Cielito Lindo.

Voltea a decirle algo a Thomas McClarty, y en un instante, tres agentes del servicio secreto -la logística de la felicidad- corren a preparar la subida del Presidente al escenario. Allí, Clinton y Zedillo abrazan niños y bailan con ellos.

Después, ya con un collar de cuentas de madera al cuello, entra al patio central del ex convento -huele a fresco, con pasto en el piso y un enorme arreglo de flores violetas al centro- a comer nopalitos, arroz, ¡escamoles!, pipián y, para beber, una cerveza Dos Equis. De postre, tanto él como su esposa, saborean dulce de tejocote.

Entonces, según los testigos, es cuando Clinton "mejor habló" con el Presidente Zedillo.

Luego, a eso de las 4:30, el visitante salió, con dos bastones de artesanía en lugar de muletas -gringo al fin-, rumbo al infaltable rito de la compra de souvenirs.

-¡This is good!, ¡Very good!-, grita Hillary Clinton al encontrarse dos máscaras huehues -las del pueblo de San Pablo Apetatlán, las que se usan en el carnaval para representar las batallas entre moros y cristianos-, en el puesto colocado expreso para que el matrimonio presidencial compre algo.

Con complicaciones mayores para juntar los tres mil pesos que cuesta un sarape que le gustó al Presidente de Estados Unidos -"no se valen regalos", dice uno de sus acompañantes-, finalmente William Clinton, besando las mejillas de las hijas del gobernador de Tlaxcala, concluye su baño de pueblo mexicano.



A nuestro líder lo sorprendieron en las oficinas de la agrupación. Fueron cinco sujetos que se identificaron como agentes de Gobernación, señalaron simpatizantes de Teodoro Palomino.

Impiden protestas

TRES DÍAS DE CONSTANTE PRESENCIA POLICIACA Y LA DETENCIÓN DE líderes de organizaciones urbano populares fueron suficientes para garantizar que el Presidente William Clinton llegara a la embajada de su país sin la más mínima manifestación de protesta.

Ayer, en punto de las 18:51 horas el Mandatario estadounidense llegó a la reunión pactada con personal de la sede diplomática donde permaneció apenas por espacio de 40 minutos.

Afuera, al menos mil policías y grupos de militares velaban por su seguridad. Tres vallas de uniformados, una reja, de dos metros y medio de alto, perros de ataque y granaderos separaron a la gente que caminaba sobre Reforma de las puertas de la embajada.

El Ángel de la Independencia era rodeado por más uniformados quienes se mantuvieron firmes por más de cinco horas con perros policías. Frente a la embajada, había más presencia de la fuerza pública: dos largas hileras de granaderos.

Mientras el Presidente William Clinton permanecía en la reunión, militares y elementos del grupo especial de disuasión circulaban sobre Avenida Reforma. Esta vez, no aparecieron integrantes de organizaciones urbano populares como sucedieron los dos días anteriores. Ayer estuvieron ocupados en las agencias del Ministerio Público, ubicadas en los alrededores de la ciudad buscando a sus 50 compañeros detenidos acusados de daño a monumentos históricos.

William Clinton salió a las 19:25 rumbo al aeropuerto capitalino, sin problemas, la fuerza pública mexicana cumplió perfectamente su trabajo.

"Ahora sí vámonos a descansar, al fin que ya se fue el guero", soltó un granadero secándose el sudor tras permanecer más de seis horas de pie.

Por Daniel Lizárraga

Se va la comitiva, vuelve normalidad

Por Alberto Lozano

DESPUÉS DE TRES DÍAS DE MUCHO TRABAJO Y POCAS PROPINAS, AYER fue un día de efímera bonanza para meseros y conserjes del Hotel Presidente Intercontinental, quienes durante una semana fueron la envidia de otros empleados de negocios aledaños que debieron permanecer cerrados con motivo de la visita del presidente William Clinton a México.

Y es que desde el lunes pasado, la mayoría de las cerca de 639 habitaciones que quedaron a disposición de la comitiva, fueron ocupadas por personal de seguridad, cuya última preocupación fue la de adornarse con las propinas.

Poco más de 300 miembros del Estado Mayor Presidencial tuvieron la oportunidad de degustar el menú de siete restaurantes, ya fuera de comida italiana, francesa o mexicana, a cambio de la entrega de un vale que la mayor parte de las ocasiones no fue acompañado de monedas ni billetes.

Ayer, con motivo del acarreo de equipaje en decenas de góndolas doradas, los huéspedes de 33 suites de lujo, así como de la Suite Presidencial y la Suite Gobernador, se despidieron de billetes verdes de diversa denominación, que en algunos casos, alcanzaron las 50 unidades, según se jactaron los propios "botones".

Además la despedida de Clinton y miembros de su Gabinete propició el relajamiento de medidas de seguridad tanto internas como externas y por ende, el hotel del "chapulin" reabrió sus puertas a huéspedes comunes, comensales más dadivosos que los del Estado Mayor Presidencial e incluso, visitantes sin gafetes a su área de Lobby Bar.

La salida definitiva del presidente Clinton y su esposa Hillary, hacia las 10:00 horas, motivó el traslado individual o en conjunto de cientos de ciudadanos estadounidenses hacia el Aeropuerto Internacional de la Ciudad de México.

La secretaria de Estado, Madeleine Albright, fue escoltada por una docena de marines al Lobby, a cuyas puertas ya le esperaba el Cadillac gris, con placas OIBD, que le prestó durante su estancia en México el embajador James Jones.

Apenas cruzó la puerta que la condujo a la calle Campos Eliseos, los militares de ambas naciones hicieron maletas, y a bordo de autobuses, emprendieron la retirada.

Las rejillas blancas que sirvieron para aislar al hotel de visitantes indeseables, por lo menos durante dos semanas, también fueron levantadas minutos después de que la última caravana de automóviles, camionetas, patrullas y motocicletas que resguardaba la seguridad de Albright, se perdió de vista.



A nuestro líder lo sorprendieron en las oficinas de la agrupación. Fueron cinco sujetos que se identificaron como agentes de Gobernación, señalaron simpatizantes de Teodoro Palomino.

Reportan abusos policiacos

'Hubo cincuenta aprehensiones'

Denuncian organizaciones populares 'detenciones políticas'

Por Daniel Lizárraga

REPRESENTANTES BARZONISTAS, DEL CEU, LA Asamblea de Barrios y Alianza Socialista calificaron como "detenciones políticas" las detenciones de 50 de sus líderes, quienes organizaban protestas contra el Presidente William Clinton, y aseguraron que el operativo de represión fue orquestado por el Estado Mayor Presidencial y la Inteligencia norteamericana.

La mayoría de las aprehensiones, dijeron, estuvieron estratégicamente diseñadas y manejadas a discreción en centros de trabajo, en los locales de las agrupaciones, así como en Ciudad Universitaria y los alrededores del Ángel de la Independencia, donde estaba programada una concentración pacífica.

De esta forma, Rodolfo Pichardo, de

la Asamblea de Barrios, y Luis Flores, de Alianza Socialista, advirtieron que los detenidos enfrentan cargos prefabricados y carentes de sustento como daños a la Nación y sedición.

En este contexto, enfatizaron que los aprehendidos sufrieron interrogatorios policiacos con la finalidad de que proporcionaran nombres de dirigentes, acciones a seguir y además pretendían obligarlos a firmar denuncias contra sus representantes.

Uno de los casos que más destacaron fue el de Teodoro Palomino, dirigente de Alianza Socialista, quien está acusado de portación de arma prohibida, sin que hasta el momento tenga posibilidad de salir bajo fianza.

"A nuestro líder lo sorprendieron en las oficinas de la agrupación. Fueron cinco sujetos que se identificaron como agentes de Gobernación y lo obligaron a poner sus huellas sobre una pistola calibre 22", dijo Luis Flores.

Mientras tanto, en los alrededores del Ángel de la Independencia, los lí-

des ceuistas Víctor Valero, Fernando Guzmán y Gonzalo Badillo fueron interceptados por sujetos vestidos de civil cuando pretendían incorporarse a la marcha de protesta.

Hasta la mañana de ayer, aparecieron consignados bajo el cargo de daño a monumentos históricos y poco después del medio día todavía no rendían declaración ante el Ministerio Público, denunciaron estudiantes universitarios.

Por otra parte, la Asamblea de Barrios contabilizó las desapariciones de sus compañeros Marcelo Pérez, José Luis Valadés y Rogelio González Romero. Todos, aseguraron, fueron vistos por última vez en los alrededores de la Plaza de Santo Domingo, donde se reunió un contingente para partir hacia la Embajada de Estados Unidos, y ahora enfrentan delitos por daño a monumentos históricos.

En otra de las detenciones políticas, trabajadores del sindicato del INBA denunciaron que su dirigente, Enrique Bennetes Chávez, asistente técnico de



Fuertes medidas de seguridad en los alrededores del Auditorio Nacional.

la Orquesta Sinfónica, fue sacado por la fuerza del Palacio de Bellas Artes a manos de agentes del Estado Mayor Presidencial.

"Lo sacaron horas antes de iniciar el concierto ofrecido al Presidente William Clinton, luego de hacer una llamada telefónica a su casa, y ahora enfrenta una acusación por sedición contra el Estado", indicaron.

Los líderes de la Asamblea de Barrios, El Barzón, el CEU y Alianza Socialista llamaron a sus compañeros a mantenerse alerta ante cualquier movilización, a fin de exigir la libertad de quienes se encuentran a punto de ser trasladados a los reclusorios, y responsabilizaron al Secretario de Gobernación, Emilio Chuayffet; al Presidente de la República, Ernesto Zedillo, y al Jefe del

Departamento del Distrito Federal, Oscar Espinosa Villarreal, de cualquier cosa que pudiera sucederles durante las próximas horas.

Finalmente, dos ceuistas, Alexis Tercada y Adolfo Jubere, informaron que agentes judiciales los aprehendieron en los alrededores de Ciudad Universitaria para advertirles "que no anduvieran de revoltosos".



MEXICO-EU

México y Estados Unidos comparten una relación de largo plazo que debemos cultivar entre todos.

ERNESTO ZEDILLO

Son cooperación y diálogo claves en la nueva relación.- Zedillo

Plantean frontera de igualdad

Abraza EU sabiduría de Juárez: Clinton

Por María Elena Medina

EL PRESIDENTE WILLIAM CLINTON AFIRMÓ ayer que la asociación entre México y Estados Unidos deberá estar arraigada en un espíritu de mutuo respeto, en el que este último país abraza la sabiduría de Benito Juárez, donde el respeto al derecho ajeno es la paz, para conseguir una sociedad pacífica y próspera llena de respeto y dignidad.

Al intervenir ante figuras de la política y el mundo empresarial en el Auditorio Nacional, Clinton aseveró durante su discurso que la "electricidad del cambio" está surgiendo en el Hemisferio y donde este cambio es más esperanzador es en México.

Ante ello, felicitó al pueblo mexicano por llevar a cabo reformas políticas profundas que lo llevarán en julio a las elecciones más intensamente competitivas de su historia.

A lo largo de los aproximadamente 10 minutos que intervino el Jefe de Estado norteamericano, el público lo interrumpió cinco veces con aplausos después de hacer diferentes observaciones sobre la recuperación económica: el narcotráfico; el pueblo mexicano y la educación.

Además de incluir a Benito Juárez en su discurso, Clinton nombró a Hidalgo y a Morelos para ejemplificar la esperanza que hay entre las dos naciones, tal como la hubo cuando ambos héroes de la Independencia levantaron la antorcha de la libertad hace dos siglos.

Después de mencionar que el año pasado 160 mil mexicanos emigraron legalmente a su País, Clinton afirmó que su Nación es de inmigrantes, pero también de leyes, por lo que aquellos que las obedezcan serán bienvenidos, pero quienes las violen deberán atenerse a las consecuencias.

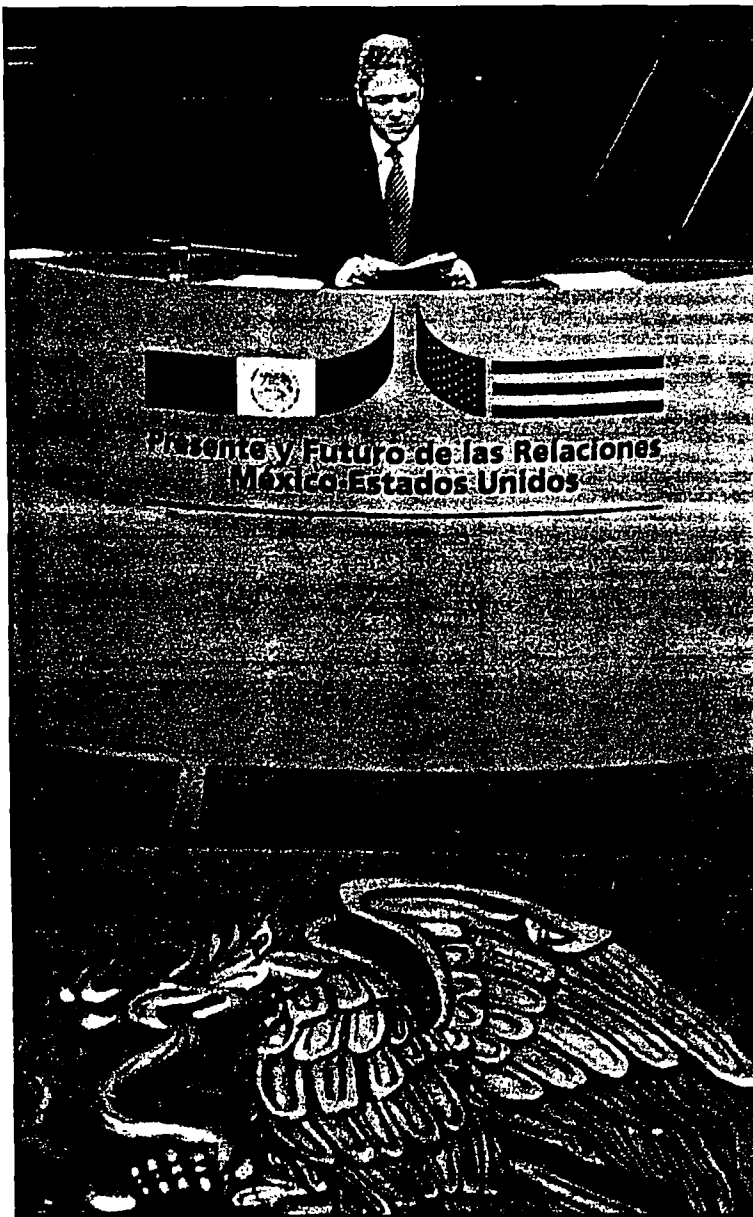
Reiteró que no habrá deportaciones masivas de indocumentados, ni discriminación.

"Y los Estados Unidos continuarán apoyando los esfuerzos de México para crear nuevas oportunidades aquí, para que nadie se sienta obligado a dejar su hogar para ganarse la vida para él o su familia", indicó.

ALABA RECUPERACIÓN

Clinton alabó que México, a pesar de la crisis, haya logrado recuperarse, crear un millón de nuevos empleos, reducir la inflación a la mitad y volver a ganar la confianza de los inversionistas extranjeros.

Comparada con la crisis económica 81-1982, recuperación que se llevó años para que México regresara a mercados del capital mundial, esta vez, dijo, sólo tomó siete meses, además de que el País recuperó su terreno y cre-



Clinton en el Auditorio Nacional. 'Continuaremos apoyando los esfuerzos de México'

ció más del 5 por ciento.

Indicó que el éxito del tratado comercial entre ambos países puede medirse en su impacto humano y enumeró las prestaciones de los trabajadores de Baja California, los cientos de miles de mujeres quienes ahora pueden hacerse mamografías -porque el equipo de diagnóstico estadounidense es más accesible- y en los trabajadores norteamericanos, que tienen altos salarios basados en el acuerdo de comercio.

Consideró necesario incluir a más naciones en esta sociedad comercial y lograr la meta de una área de libre comercio en toda América, por lo que está trabajando en el Congreso de su país para obtener apoyo para la autorización rápida (fast-track) y por ello regresará a América Latina en los próximos meses.

UN MILLÓN DE ARRESTOS

Clinton advirtió que la gran ironía de esta época de promesas es que las fuerzas de la integración global han desatado poderosas fuentes de desintegración, de las cuales, la más grande para Estados Unidos es el tráfico ilegal de drogas, que le cuesta anualmente a su país 14 mil muertos y casi 70 mil millones de dólares por el crimen, las prisiones, empleos perdidos, heridos y vidas arruinadas. Añadió que cada año son arrestadas un millón de personas por cargos relativos a las drogas.

Aseguró que las drogas no son simplemente un problema mexicano o estadounidense, sino un problema común, pues aunque Estados Unidos sólo tiene el 5 por ciento de la población mundial, consume un tercio de la pro-

ducción mundial de cocaína, mucha de la cual proviene de México.

Ante ello, expresó, ambos países deben afrontar esta maldición juntos pues no lo pueden hacer por sí solos, y añadió que la batalla contra las drogas debe unir a ambos pueblos, no dividirlos.

Señaló que México debe continuar su valiente lucha contra las drogas ilegales y resaltó los avances en la erradicación, las medidas contra el lavado de dinero y el crimen organizado, así como la destrucción de laboratorios y decomisos.

"Se los sacrificios que esto ha causado. Más de 200 policías mexicanos murieron el año pasado por la violencia de la droga. Así de terrible como es esta cuota, el precio de darse por vencido sería más alta. Permitámonos redoblar

nuestros esfuerzos, pero no señalándonos con el dedo, sino dándonos la mano", aseveró.

"De cara a nuestras dificultades, debemos ser hombres y mujeres con convicción. Podemos tender puentes en las divisiones de la cultura, la historia y la geografía para alcanzar la noble visión de Juárez de respeto y paz, arraigada en el estado de derecho, en la prosperidad para todos los que trabajen por ella, en la buena salud y la limpieza del ambiente, en la educación moderna y los valores sin tiempo. La brillante promesa de un nuevo siglo yace ante nosotros, abracémosla juntos".

Clinton indicó que el comercio, la educación y el ambiente son las piezas críticas del mosaico de la relación bilateral entre México y Estados Unidos.

'Me encanta México'

Fragmentos del discurso del presidente William Clinton en el Auditorio Nacional, durante el último día de la visita oficial.

■ "México y Estados Unidos tienen una especial responsabilidad de trabajar juntos para crear oportunidades y desafiar los peligros de esta época. Nuestra asociación, para la libertad, la democracia y la prosperidad, contra las drogas, el crimen organizado y el desgaste ambiental, es fundamental para el futuro del pueblo estadounidense y del pueblo mexicano".

■ "La electricidad del cambio está surgiendo en nuestro Hemisferio, y en ningún lado tan esperanzadoramente como en México. Felicitó al pueblo mexicano por llevar a cabo profundas reformas políticas que lo llevarán en julio a las más intensamente competidas elecciones en su historia".

■ "Para tener éxito, la asociación entre ambos países debe estar arraigada en un espíritu de respeto mutuo. Su más grande líder, Benito Juárez -cuya estatua está no muy lejos de la Casa Blanca en Washington-, dijo: 'El respeto por el derecho ajeno es la paz'. Hoy, yo reafirmo al pueblo de México: Hemos abrazado la sabiduría de Juárez, buscamos una pacífica y próspera asociación llena de respeto y dignidad".

■ "Somos una nación de inmigrantes y de leyes. Así como aquellos que obedecen nuestras leyes son bienvenidos, aquellos que las quebrantan deberán enfrentar las consecuencias".

■ "Amigos, la batalla contra las drogas debe unir a nuestros pueblos, no dividirlos".

■ "Envidio que Hillary haya tenido la oportunidad de pasar un día más aquí, y les agradezco la bienvenida que la gente de Yucatán le dio. Hace casi 22 años, ella y yo vinimos a este país para nuestra luna de miel. México ganó entonces nuestros corazones, pero ahora como entonces, me encanta México (frase en español)".



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Plantean frontera de igualdad



Muestras de afecto y calidez, previo a los discursos.

Buscarán reducir violencia fronteriza

Acuerdan crear en Mexicali nuevo grupo de seguridad, anuncia Doris Meissner

Por Claudia Guerrero

DORIS MEISSNER, COMISIONADA DEL SERVICIO de Inmigración y Naturalización de Estados Unidos, afirmó que durante el diálogo bilateral con sus homólogos en México se anunció la creación de un nuevo grupo de seguridad migratoria fronteriza, el cual se establecerá este mismo año en la ciudad de Mexicali.

Con ello, aseguró, se pretende garantizar la reducción de la violencia a lo largo de la frontera que actualmente afecta a los migrantes latinoamericanos, mayoritariamente mexicanos, y crear un ambiente de seguridad.

"Oficiales mexicanos informaron que un nuevo grupo en cuestiones de seguridad migratoria se establecerá este año en Mexicali. Quiere decir que ahora serán seis los grupos de protección de los migrantes mexicanos en la frontera, porque hasta ahora sólo existen cinco", señaló la funcionaria.

De acuerdo con información del Grupo Beta de Tijuana, en Baja California, las otras corporaciones integradas por autoridades de niveles municipa-

les, estatales y federales que se encargan de garantizar la seguridad en las fronteras mexicanas son Beta de Nogales, Sonora; Beta de Chiapas; Alfa de Tecate, Baja California y Ébano de Matamoros, Tamaulipas.

En entrevista, Meissner se manifestó contenta de informar a las autoridades mexicanas sobre el acuerdo al que llegó el presidente Bill Clinton con el Congreso estadounidense en materia de cambios presupuestales destinados a beneficios sociales que impactan positivamente en los inmigrantes.

Por último, aseguró que ninguna de las reformas realizadas a las legislaciones norteamericanas pretenden dejar sin empleo a los inmigrantes legales que laboran en Estados Unidos, y garantizó que en el caso de los indocumentados siempre existirán servicios médicos de emergencia para su atención.

El grupo de trabajo de Migración y Asuntos Consulares con el que sostuvo el diálogo binacional Meissner estuvo integrado por Juan Rebolledo, subsecretario de Asuntos Bilaterales; el subsecretario de Población y Asuntos Migratorios de Gobernación, César Becker; Fernando Solís, comisionado del Instituto Nacional de Inmigración en México, y Mary Ryan, subsecretaria adjunta para Asuntos Consulares del Departamento de Estado norteamericano.



Doris Meissner.

Auguran breve negociación

UNA FUENTE DIPLOMÁTICA DE ALTO nivel reveló ayer que se espera una muy breve negociación, mucho menor a un año de duración, para reformar el Tratado de Extradición entre México y Estados Unidos.

Lo anterior incluiría la "extradición temporal", para permitir que los delincuentes sean extraditados antes de cumplir sus condenas en el país de origen, y después sean devueltos.

Indicó que en los próximos 10 o 15 días quedará constituido el grupo de funcionarios mexicanos de diferentes dependencias que tendrán a su cargo negociar con un equipo de funcionarios norteamericanos las modificaciones al Tratado de Extradición.

Agregó que en todo caso, donde será complicado acordar la aprobación de las modificaciones será en el Senado y la Cámara de Representantes del Congreso de Estados Unidos, pues habrá que argumentar las ventajas de la reforma.

Señaló que ambos países están interesados en los cambios, tal como lo demostró la firma que suscribieron el martes los presidentes William Clinton y Ernesto Zedillo.

Aclaró que aun cuando los Congresos de ambos países opongan resistencia a la aprobación de las modificaciones, con la firma de los mandatarios, al menos los gobiernos no tomarán ninguna medida que contradiga el mutuo interés suscrito.

Por María Elena Medina

Son cooperación y diálogo claves en la nueva relación.- Zedillo

● Plantean frontera de igualdad

► Contribuye el TLC a un sólido entendimiento entre México y EU, afirma Zedillo

► En el siglo XXI se debe ganar definitivamente la batalla contra la pobreza y la desigualdad

Por Miguel Pérez

CON LA VISITA A MÉXICO DEL MANDATARIO DE Estados Unidos, Bill Clinton, ambos países reafirman su voluntad de construir una frontera que acerque a las dos naciones como iguales y no que las separe, aseguró ayer el Presidente Ernesto Zedillo.

"Una frontera que sea la línea divisoria entre dos naciones soberanas, no entre la prosperidad y la pobreza, que sea la línea divisoria entre dos vecinos prósperos, no entre las oportunidades y las carencias.

"Esa es la frontera que queremos para los mexicanos y los norteamericanos del siglo XXI y la edificaremos con respeto, diálogo y cooperación, todas éstas, claves en la relación nueva entre México y los Estados Unidos", dijo.

Zedillo habló así en la Conferencia sobre el Presente y Futuro de las Relaciones México-Estados Unidos que se celebró en el Auditorio Nacional y al que asistieron los más altos funcionarios de Estado de los dos países.

Frente a ellos y miles de personas invitadas al acto, el Ejecutivo Federal reconoció que a la vista del siglo XXI la relación bilateral tiene nuevos retos como el de saber equilibrar lo inmediato con el largo plazo.

También el reto de respetar las formas distintas de ser y de sentir de los dos pueblos y a la vez lograr una cooperación constructiva y eficaz, activa y permanente, explicó.

"México y Estados Unidos comparten una relación de largo plazo que debemos cultivar entre todos para que fructifique en una convivencia afortunada para todos", subrayó.

En un escenario que sólo compartió con su homólogo estadounidense, Zedillo alabó el Tratado de Libre Comercio de Norteamérica, el cual -dijo- está contribuyendo a edificar una relación más intensa y ordenada y está propiciando un más sólido entendimiento entre ambos gobiernos.

"El TLC está contribuyendo a que nos conozcamos y nos comprendamos mejor, a que nos respetemos y nos escuchemos con mayor atención, a que dialoguemos y negociemos con una disposición más abierta, más constructiva y de mayor cooperación", agregó.

► ECONOMÍA CON ROSTRO HUMANO

En lo que fue el segundo y último día de la visita de Estado que realizó el Presidente Clinton a México, ambos jefes de Estado presenciaron en privado y previo a sus intervenciones un video que remarcó el éxito comercial del TLC y que fue elaborado por la Secretaría de Comercio.

Zedillo, quien habló antes de Clinton, dijo en su mensaje que si las generaciones del siglo XX han ido ganando la batalla por los derechos humanos, la libertad individual y la democracia, en el siglo XXI se debe ganar clara y definitivamente la batalla contra la pobreza y la desigualdad.

"Por eso queremos y lograremos los mexicanos una economía de mercado de corazón y con rostro humano, con sensibilidad social, una economía de mercado que sirva para apoyar eficazmente a los más necesitados", indicó.

Más adelante se refirió al orgullo de México por pertenecer a Latinoamérica e indicó que si en el continente la libertad ya ha florecido como democracia, ahora debe florecer como prosperidad.

Fue entonces cuando habló de la frontera de igualdad que se debe establecer entre México y Estados Unidos y agradeció, una vez más, al mandatario estadounidense su apoyo para que esto se concrete.

"En estos años, quiero decirlo con absoluta convicción y sinceridad, nadie ha trabajado con mayor decisión para impulsar ese respeto, ese diálogo y esa cooperación, que el señor presidente William Clinton", dijo.

El comentario de Zedillo mereció el aplauso de los presentes mientras Clinton, sentado a la derecha del estrado, agradecía con una inclinación de cabeza.

La visita de Clinton, agregó Zedillo, marca un paso muy importante en la construcción de una relación a la altura de la historia de las dos naciones soberanas y orgullosas y a la altura de las aspiraciones de dos grandes pueblos.

Su visita confirma que la relación entre México y Estados Unidos está llamada a ser un apoyo fundamental para acometer los desafíos de un nuevo siglo más exigente, para librar y ganar las batallas por una sociedad, un hemisferio y un mundo más próspero y más justo.

"Confirma también que todo lo que cada uno de nosotros pueda hacer a ambos lados de la frontera para consolidar esa relación habrá de beneficiar a futuras generaciones de mexicanos y norteamericanos", dijo.

SI JUÁREZ NO HUBIERA MUERTO

Por Roberto Zamarripa

MONTADOS EN LOS FRUTOS DEL PASADO INMEDIATO -LAS siembras de aquellos que hoy son fantasmas o demonios-, los presidentes de México, Ernesto Zedillo, y Estados Unidos, William Clinton, pasaron revista al presente y al futuro.

El Tratado de Libre Comercio, la obra maestra del salinismo, la clave del encumbramiento personal de Carlos Salinas de Gortari; y la azarosa lucha contra el narcotráfico. La elegía por los agentes muertos en combate, las campañas punta de la erradicación, el elogio del Grupo de Contacto, el diagnóstico conjunto del flagelo. Las tareas de la Procuraduría de Antonio Lozano Gracia y las minucias de Francisco Molina, el penúltimo jefe del Instituto contra las Drogas.

Salinas/Lozano nos echaron buena mano. Y William Clinton cierra su estancia en la Ciudad de México con un mensaje ante el gabinete mexicano en pleno, desde Emilio Chuayflet hasta José Antonio González Fernández, centenas de invitados surgidos de cámaras empresariales, universidades, partidos políticos, y el nuevo estilo de llenar la plaza: la congregación de los empleados de confianza de las dependencias del gabinete económico. Los jefes de Departamento, los asesores del asesor de la subsecretaría, los asistentes recién egresados de la Universidad. "Vamos a ver a Clinton ¿no?", y a quitarle una mañana a la chamba en la Secretaría.

Aún así el Auditorio Nacional no se llena. Dos minutos antes del puntual arribo de los Presidentes y sus esposas, las gradas que lindan el techo son vaciadas para enviar gente a

la parte inferior. Y que pasen sin gafete ni revisión. Antes que la extrema, estrecha, excesiva seguridad, está el estilo, la compostura. Cómo que Clinton vio butacas vacías.

Ni así. La parte baja registra huecos. Para esto del acarreo no es lo mismo Guillermina Rico que el analista de Secofi.

Las luces se apagan y se presenta un video cortesía de Herminio Blanco Productions. A cuadro Paul A. Samuelson. Premio Nobel de Economía.

De un plumazo, Samuelson enaltece a Zedillo y pulveriza a Miguel de la Madrid. "Esta vez -en los años noventa- vemos un manejo mucho mejor por parte de México que el de la crisis de la devaluación en la década de los ochenta".

Maestro de maestros, Samuelson "como experto en economía", califica al Tratado de Libre Comercio "con nueves y dieces con base en las sólidas evidencias que ha habido hasta la fecha".

Y de ahí para adelante. Empresarios exitosos, obreros felices, capataces fogosos, todos sonrientes, dicen a cuadro que el TLC es otra cosa.

Un México de 29 estados. Chiapas, Guerrero y Oaxaca no parecen estar en el Tratado.

Desde Juan Gallardo hasta Bill Gates; desde Selma Hayek hasta Octavio Paz; desde un costeño productor de marañón hasta el jefe sindical de la empresa Nemark; desde Claudio X. González hasta Mario Spatz, director general de una compañía canadiense, jubiloso porque llegan papayas, cervezas y guacamole para acompañar los nachos en su pueblo.



Preparativos en el Auditorio Nacional.

Octavio Paz define en close up: "Aunque los Estados Unidos son la nación más poderosa de la tierra, su vida social y política, tanto como su economía, están estrechamente asociados a la situación de México y de sus cien millones de habitantes. Un México próspero y democrático puede ser un poderoso factor de paz y de estabilidad en esta región del mundo".

Después de Paz, Salma, que habla en español y en inglés. El video de Secofi pinta el éxito del tamaño de la frontera.

Después vendrá Clinton a chorrear con datos frescos las otras caras de la relación. "Con menos del 5 por ciento de la población mundial consumimos un tercio de la cocaína mundial (...). En Estados Unidos cada año las drogas matan a 14 mil personas y le cuesta a nuestro país casi 70 mil millones de dólares por crímenes, pensiones, trabajos perdidos, cuerpos mutilados y vidas arruinadas. Cada año nuestros oficiales y agentes arrestan a un millón de personas bajo cargos de drogas".

Setenta mil millones de dólares, el doble de lo que México recibió en inversión extranjera directa entre 1994 y 1996, según Secofi.

Por eso el elogio de Clinton a las nuevas leyes contra lavado de dinero, a los agentes muertos en combate, a "los grandes avances en la erradicación de drogas".

A las cifras que, efectivamente, redujo el grupo de Francisco Molina del INCD, que en paz descansa.

Molina, el mismo por el que preguntó Janet Reno a José Ángel Gurria, el canciller mexicano, aquí él dice que arduo a Washington para avisar que Antonio Escamilla había sido destituido como Procurador.

¿Y Francisco Molina? -preguntó Reno-

Para variar, las pinceladas mexicanas las puso Clinton. Un pronto recuerdo de Hidalgo y Morelos, quienes "enciendieron la antorcha de la libertad para México". Luego, los ingredientes de la nueva asociación entre las dos naciones, la que debe de "arraigarse en un espíritu de respeto mutuo".

Clinton recuerda a "el gran líder mexicano, Benito Juárez, cuya estatua se encuentra muy cerca de la Casa Blanca, en Washington, quien dijo: el respeto al derecho ajeno es la paz".

Al grano. Clinton se sincera. "Abrazamos la sabiduría de Juárez" por una "asociación pacífica y próspera. Llena de respeto y dignidad".

Después, el presidente estadounidense pinta su raya. "Somos una nación de inmigrantes y también somos una nación de leyes. Así como los que cumplen con nuestras leyes son bienvenidos, los que no la respeten deben atenderse a las consecuencias".

Ahí caben todos. Los hijos de Juárez que salen de la sierra oaxaqueña sin ninguna identidad más que su miseria para cruzar la raya y convertirse en factor clave de aquella economía.

Clinton reitera en su discurso: "No habrá deportación masiva ni discriminación".

Las primeras, seguramente, no les convienen. Lo segundo está por verse. Y asegura el mandatario de la nación más poderosa del mundo: "Tenemos una política de inmigración, tal vez la más generosa del mundo, pero para que pueda funcionar debemos ser una nación que sí cumple con sus leyes".

Es Clinton, el juarista. Sabe ante quien habla. Total, del asunto de violaciones a garantías, golpizas, corretizas, ya le hablaron. A él y a su esposa muchas cosas les contaron.

Vaya, en el almuerzo de Hillary Clinton con 30 mujeres mexicanas destacadas, que se realizó en el Museo Rufino Tamayo el mediodía del martes, cuentan que se levantó una dama para presentarse ante la visitante estadounidense.

Soy Mireille Rowatti, Presidenta de la Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos...

¿Del gobierno? -preguntó Hillary inquieta-

-Sí, y como comprenderá tengo mucho trabajo.

Si Juárez no hubiera muerto, otro gallo cantaría.