

'Mexico will not tolerate genocide'

Mexican President José López Portillo's speech at a banquet honoring the visiting President of Costa Rica, Rodrigo Carazo, is excerpted below.

... The unimpeachable testimony of our neighbor (Costa Rica—ed.) has confided to us the tragic situation of our Nicaraguan brothers. You have told me ... something that we knew and didn't want to believe: the dramatic, repugnant attack on the most elemental human rights, the horrendous genocide being committed against the Nicaraguan people.... (Your testimony) has impressed us, because it confirms what we knew.... I am now instructing Foreign Minister Castañeda to break relations with Nicaragua....

Mexico cannot tolerate that the permanence of any political regime involves for the people who live and suffer under it not only slavery but unacceptable abuse....

We would like to see other Latin American brother countries ratify this decision, and thus ... from this forum, I appeal to them....

Some years ago we celebrated the decision of the oil producing countries to revalue that raw material. It was an appropriate, opportune, courageous and suitable policy ... as such it was applauded. But even then one could see that the revaluation of a single raw material, even though mostly produced by developing countries, was not a compatible solution. Not in any way, and for a variety of reasons. Among them because the most

powerful countries are also producers of oil and any price distortion would not be to the exclusive benefit of the developing countries.

Years later ... the price of oil is being turned into a scourge, a true scourge, for the developing countries that don't have oil. And this Mexico, an oil producer, facing its historic and revolutionary conscience, cannot accept as a permanent situation....

We have said—and that is Mexico's conflict of conscience—that Mexico ... will never be turned into a scab against oil producers. But given this decision, congruent with a policy seeking an economic order conceived as obligations and rights, we confront (a) dramatic situation....

Thus, Mr. President, I put before you Mexico's proposal to carry this grave question, this struggle of values, to the only forum that has the right to hear this kind of proposal: the United Nations. We will soon formally pose to the UN the need to give content to the agreement on economic rights and obligations of nations ... (with the subject of) energy sources.... The alternative is cutting off the possibility of development for countries without oil, chaos or war....

We will propose (at the UN) to resolve once and for all to order production, distribution and consumption of all the various sources of energy, so that everything—commerce, financing, transfer of technology and access to energy sources—may be organized regionally and internationally....

'Peace: the basis for development'

Below are excerpts from the joint communiqué signed by Mexican President López Portillo and Costa Rican President Rodrigo Carazo.

Both presidents agreed that the energy problem requires priority and urgent attention, because of its effect on developing nations' economies ... and because it constitutes a restraint to the recovery of international economic relations. This is an indispensable element to ensure, on a world scale, peaceful coexistence which is conceived not simply as the absence of armed conflict, but as the basis for development of a civilization at the service of mankind.

In this context, President Carazo gave his full

support to President López Portillo's initiatives to gain participation of all nations, through the United Nations, in an effort to situate questions relevant to the supply and utilization of oil within a concept of the common responsibility of humanity.

Both presidents exchanged impressions about the situation in Nicaragua. They acknowledged that the massive violation of human rights—attested to be the (Human Rights) Commission of the OAS—and the indiscriminate warlike actions against the civilian population, not only offend the democratic conscience of peoples who, like Mexico and Costa Rica, work zealously to achieve social justice in a framework of liberty, but go beyond internal boundaries to affect all the countries of the area. ... (This is) an international problem that requires careful attention and opportune measures to facilitate a solution.