

Complete Text Of Echeverria's Speech Made In Mexico City On April 1, 1976

Speaking April 1 at a nationally broadcast meeting to discuss a proposed urban reform law, Mexican President Luis Echeverria Alvarez charged right-wing business groups centered in the northern industrial center of Monterrey with "pro-fascist, anti-Mexican" plotting to destabilize and bring down his government. He declared that these groups wished to see a Chilian or Argentine military coup in Mexico, and warned that such conspirators would be swept aside by popular explosions if they did not desist from their subversive activities.

With this action, Echeverria, one of the foremost spokesmen for the new world economic order, has taken a decisive vanguard action against the Wall Street Atlanticists' plans for imposing fascism throughout the U.S., Europe and the Third World within the next immediate period. Echeverria's move came at a time when pro-development forces in Europe and throughout the Third World have either capitulated before the Atlanticist offensive or are in the process of courting defeat by cowardly carrying on "negotiations" and "political actions" quietly behind closed doors. In sharp contrast to this capitulationism, Echeverria's attack on Wall Street will reverberate around the world and set an example for both the Third World and anti-Atlanticist forces in Western Europe: if Kissinger and the bankers are to be defeated they must be attacked head on and openly.

Echeverria thus broke with previous practice and brought the intense struggle between progressive elements of his government and party and right-wing groups both within and outside the government into the open. His declaration of war on the right-wing, connected to U.S. business interests and intelligence services, followed a widespread and intensifying mobilization from the right during the second half of last month.

The right-wing offensive had focussed its attacks precisely on the urban reform law which Echeverria defended in his April 1 meeting. But the attacks on the urban reform law were admittedly only an excuse for mobilizing the right-wing forces — latifundists, businessmen, and government groups around International Monetary Fund operative and Finance Minister Mario Ramon Beteta—to overthrow the government. A document circulated by rightist groups in the northwest latifundist state of Sonora late in March, explicitly showed how the attacks on the urban reform law would be eventually turned into a general attack on the Echeverria government like the CIA directed 1973 drive that overthrew and assassinated Chilian President Salvador Allende.

In Sonora it would not be "pots and pans", but "arms" used in the marches of anti government forces, the document warned.

This right-wing offensive was closely coordinated with statements made by U.S. ambassador to Mexico John Joseph Jova in Washington March 19. Using the words of a recently deceased Mexican historian, Jova charged that Echeverria was a "monarch" "holding court". Many commentators in the Mexican press noted that this statement represented a green light to the U.S. connected business groups in Mexico, who could fairly interpret the ambassador's remarks as con-

stituting open support for insurrection from Washington. Then this week, two Wall Street publications, Barron's and the The Money Manager, simultaneously published attacks on Echeverria and the Mexican economy. Both weeklies urged their readers to withdraw capital from Mexico and hold back any new investment until Echeverria is out of office in December.

In the three days since Echeverria's speech, there have been widespread and increasing pledges of support for his government and programs from worker, peasant and government forces. The progressive press has particularly emphasized that Echeverria's war against the right can only be won through an international forces which aims for immediate implementation of the New World Economic Order. The response has been so extensive that certain press and union figures have already compared Echeverria's call to that made by populist president Lazaro Cardenas in 1937-38 to mobilize mass forces behind his program to nationalize Mexican oil.

Compatriots:

I have, by the Constitution and in practice, the highest political responsibility in the country, and, until the end, I will keep speaking the truth with impartiality and frankness to the great popular majorities who elected me.

There was a clandestine meeting in Monterrey a few weeks ago. You had to give a secret password to enter.

At the meeting the economic powers pulled together great amounts of money to pay for injurious ads and surreptitious campaigns now being launched in many parts of the country.

When the regime of Salvador Allende (the late Chilean President — ed.) fell, these same anti-Mexicans decided that the same should happen here in Mexico, that they should begin to destabilize the regime. These groups are most concerned with imitating in their work, their psychology and their family life the most decadent models of the great consumption society which we live next to. Now they are buying real estate in Texas, in California and in Florida. They are partisans and supporters of company unions. Their children now ride around in bullet-proof cars for fear of the people.

This is a tiny plutocratic and pro-fascist minority which wants to break the increasing and self-critical rhythm of the Mexican Revolution.

That is the political explanation for that Monterrey meeting. Let no one feel offended. If anyone wants to sit and reflect a bit about these themes, go right ahead.

When we said in our electoral campaign that the country should advance and go forward, we were referring to the way to overcome the divisions of the world, the imperial struggles. We spoke of an unjust war in the last century by which we lost half of our national territory. And when that war was over, there were still those in the neighboring country to the north who asked, "Why not also take Baja California, or all the northern states, including Nueva Leon, or even the whole country?"

Also in the past century, after all that, some traitorous Mexicans who lost the war of the Reforma, went off to bring us an Austrian emperor from the House of Hapsburg.

The historical process brought us, exactly six years ago, face to face with the dilemma of infantile groups or groups serving the great foreign-influenced economic interests or groups supported by certain embassies and other forces at the service of foreign interests.

This is the political reality. We should not fool ourselves by thinking otherwise. Let not courtesy and democratic co-existence prevent us from thinking about the historical truth which extends into these days that we live.

Now, after what's happened in Argentina, these same groups think that something similar should happen in Mexico. The world is deeply divided, and if we don't act with profound Mexican nationalism to defend our interests, now and in the future the anti-Mexican elements trying to stop Mexico's independent drive forward will gain strength.

This time they haven't found an Almazan (reactionary general of the Cardenas period — ed.) for the presidential elections. **They will never find a Pinochet** (Chilean dictator — ed.) **in Mexico.**

We have informed these groups of the "subversive little campaign" and today we repeat with all the nation, that instead of foreign links, they should have links with Mexico and feelings for the Mexicans. There must be a greater identification between rich man and poor man in Mexico, if there is to be a feeling of Mexicanism and national independence. We told them the same thing six years ago when they were provoking violence. We told them in Monterrey, in Guadalajara and in this city.

Many acts of violence have been taking place. For them it is a suicidal attitude they have assumed. They do not understand the current of history.

And in the face of the modest achievements of this government in political and economic matters, they rigidly persist, with a socially negative attitude which is very clerical but hardly Christian, in scorning or disrupting the advances of the Mexican people, who are struggling to break the bounds of poverty and oppression.

With a little more talent and foresight they would realize that a more liberal policy, like that of the more evolved social democracies, would be to cooperate with these modest achievements which are sought within democracy. A policy of pro-fascist terror will get us nowhere. We will continue responding to the provocations with analysis, with dialogue, and with open meetings.

In 1968, there were, to be sure, student protests which could be explained by the closed structures or the profound

economic differences which we live in. At the same time that many of these demonstrations had a progressive spirit though, the oligarchic sector of Mexico provided surreptitious aid to drive some immature groups to criminal extremes, thus trying to provoke a hard reaction from the government. They financed some groups which went overboard in their criminal and provocative attitudes. And this is also the destabilizing tactic, as they call it, which uses propaganda and proposals of a foreign origin to subvert, here and in the world, government tasks which have nothing but liberalizing aims.

I declare in the most categorical fashion — at this moment nearly the end of this government — that if the social margination process continues to increase in the cities, violence will proliferate no matter how many armored cars are used. There will be nothing to stop social explosions if we do not adopt more just attitudes from the standpoint of understanding the problems of today, or, so that some people understand me, more Christian attitudes, attitudes more in harmony with their Sunday religious practices, practices which they deny in their offices and their buffets throughout the week as they deal with the people and the workers and their "desarrollista" model (Brazilian policy of the right wing—ed.) which can bring on so many problems of an explosive nature for the future.

We must continue to appeal to democratic criteria of dialogue and equilibrium. We must know that the great material wealth which leads to arrogance in all aspects of life is not the most important thing, know that in life there are spiritual values, cultural values, national interests, that we cannot as they did in the great crisis-ridden and decadent capitalist nations, confuse our means with our ends, that man is the transmitter of values which, in the best of philosophies, give him dignity and responsibility. That there are grave injustices, due to population growth, unjust traditional forms, and colonial mentality, which are not going to stop popular explosions and are going to begin to sweep away those of the clandestine meetings if these people do not come to their senses, if they continue to squander the surplus value of their workers in numerous newspaper ads and propaganda carried out by foreign news agencies.

Having said this, I invite everyone to let us reflect serenely, self-critically, for a couple of hours, that funds should be invested in Mexico, that few countries enjoy the guarantees and liberties which exist in this one, that we still maintain an attitude of dialogue, of analysis of our problems. We think that this could still be the common denominator for the great majority of Mexicans who want social justice with dignity, with respect for the cultural and spiritual values of man.