

processes of development in the present world, they openly state the necessity to exchange knowledge and put into effect joint programs in all these matters within the framework of the existing Basic Convention for Technical Cooperation.

In this respect, they agree to stimulate contacts already established between the National Commission for the Development of the Nuclear Industry of Venezuela, and the National Atomic Energy Commission of the Republic of Argentina....

Brazilians Upset By U.S. Provocations

The Brazilian daily Jornal do Brasil, May 12, responding to the statements of U.S. Undersecretary of State for Interamerican Affairs, Terence Todman, in Caracas:

The importance of Todman's statements denying any preponderant role to Brazil was made much greater by the fact that they were made precisely in the capital of a country vying for regional leadership. Even more: a country which has been taking political positions clearly against Brazil, whether to criticize the Brazilian regime, or to seek alliances with countries which represent an opposition to Brazil in the continent — in this case, Argentina, with the visit which President Videla began yesterday in Caracas.

The mere affirmation of Todman, suddenly isolated Brazil in the Latin American continent and left the Brazilian diplomats perplexed. Though Perez is the immediate and direct beneficiary of the negation of leadership to Brazil, Videla also will receive the benefit of that negation and its political advantages, since in this exact moment he is seeking a politico-commercial alliance with Caracas.

CAP: Brazil Indispensable To Continental Integration

The following are statements by Venezuela's President Carlos Andres Perez from a May 13 press conference in Caracas, countering the attempts by U.S. Undersecretary of State Todman to instigate tensions between Brazil and Venezuela-Argentina.

"Those who speak of Brazil as a nation that plans to open a new imperialism in the region are not the Brazilians, but the enemies of Latin American integration who want to divorce Brazil from the rest of the nations of the Latin American continent.

"Relations between Venezuela and Brazil are completely normalVenezuela is interested, in the context of its integrationist credo, in the best of relations with Brazil...

"... Brazil is ... indispensable to the plans of Latin American integration, and we are also indispensable to Brazil for Brazil to be able to realize its manifest destiny which is the destiny of Latin America. There is no Brazilian destiny, there is no Argentine destiny, there is no Venezuelan destiny, there is a Latin American destiny."

Behind The Mexican Political Reforms

MEXICO

On April 2, Mexican Interior Minister Jesus Reyes Heróles, on behalf of President Jose López Portillo, announced the initiation of a process of "political reform." He declared that the state was attempting to "broaden the possibilities of political representation," a phrasing widely taken to herald legalization of some political parties not now on the ballot and a reevaluation of the hegemonic role of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) which has been in power since the early 1930s.

Subsequently the President sent Reyes Heróles a formal letter requesting public hearings of the Federal Election Commission (CFE) to galvanize public discussion and deliberation over the appropriate content of political reforms. These hearings are now underway. Daily commentary in the press is extensive and all sides of the Mexican political spectrum, but particularly the

various groups on the left, are in ferment. The foreign press has been virtually silent on the subject.

The Reform represents the government's principal initiative to channel popular support behind its program, an "Alliance for Production." In a substantial sense, the government will stand or fall by the Reform.

What the government means by the Reform was spelled out in two major addresses by Reyes Heróles on April 2 and by PRI party president, Carlos Sansores Perez, at CFE hearings on May 14.

As International Monetary Fund-Wall Street debt collectors are demanding that Third World governments enforce repression and austerity, Reyes defined an opposite approach for Mexico. "Starting from this difficult (economic) situation, there are those who want a hardening of the government," he warned. "But to harden and fall into rigidity is to expose us to the rapid rupture of the state order and the national political order. Faced with these intentions, President Lopez Portillo is striving for the state to broaden the possibilities of political representation...(This) is the firm base of development, of the rule of liberty, and of the possibilities for social progress."