

EIR Special Report

India-Mexico summit shapes strategy for North and South

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You didn't read about it in the *Washington Post*. Associated Press thought it was "unimportant." "Our correspondent is on vacation," said the *New York Times*.

Yet in the last week of January, the two most respected statesmen of the Third World held a week of summit talks in New Delhi, India, which took a long step toward shaping a viable strategy for North-South development, and toward defusing the danger of an East-West conflagration.

Mexican President José López Portillo and Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi met amid "growing signs of the resurgence of the Cold War with the intensification of global rivalry between the superpowers," in the words of their final joint communiqué. López Portillo summed up his visit by telling reporters that his talks with Mrs. Gandhi were "of an extraordinarily high level. We covered all aspects . . . multilateral, renewal of North-South talks . . . bilateral issues. Our similar positions makes it possible for us to unite on many points," he explained.

The Mexican and Indian heads of state centered their attention on two main points of unified strategy:

- 1) That "universal peace" can be won only on the basis of joint economic development between North and South, based on the transfer of the most advanced technology to foster rapid industrialization. They explicitly rejected the slow-growth, antitechnology approach of the Brandt Commission, and its Socialist International sponsors. President López Portillo told a press conference that what is needed is the "creation of a financial system that will allow real transfer of resources" and technology to developing countries.

- 2) That Mexico and India could and would develop model bilateral relations between developing nations, on the basis of exchanging Mexican oil technology for Indian nuclear energy technology.

As significant as these two strategic foci is the fact that Mrs. Gandhi and Mr. López Portillo also established an excellent personal working relation during the trip. Both leaders have in the past taken outstanding responsibility for ordering world affairs, and they clearly recognized in each other a



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valuable colleague and partner. The final communiqué reflected this joint adoption of a global role for their nations, as the two leaders stated that their countries are placed "in a very favorable position to play a new and healthy moderating role in the context of contemporary turbulent international relations."

Superpower proxies

What brought special significance to the India-Mexico summit is the international diplomacy López Portillo and Gandhi has engaged in *before* they met.

On Jan. 5, the Mexican president met with Ronald Reagan in the border town of Ciudad Juárez, Mexico for three and a half hours of discussions. Despite every attempt by the Socialist International and others to derail that summit and keep U.S.-Mexican relations in the pit where Jimmy Carter had placed them, the talks were successful and cordial. Reliable sources in Mexico have informed *EIR* that a cooperative approach to North-South relations was agreed on and an understanding was reached whereby Mexico would work with India, Iraq, and other moderate forces in the Third World to contain the influence of the "confrontationist" faction represented by Fidel Castro. Reagan, reportedly will attend a scheduled June summit of two dozen heads of state in Cancún, Mexico to discuss North-South relations.

Implicit in the Reagan-López Portillo talks was the hope of establishing a new strategy of economic cooperation among nations of the East and West, to help develop the Third World.

López Portillo took this initiative with him to India, and told the press there that "we are very optimistic at the attitude of friendship and respect expressed by Reagan" toward Mexico.

This was an important signal, because Indira Gandhi had also engaged in recent diplomacy with India's respective superpower to the north—the Soviet Union. At December summit talks between Mrs. Gandhi and Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev, Brezhnev used the occasion to state his commitment to mediated solutions to the world's hotspots, and to economic cooperation for development. The Indian and Soviet leaders signed major economic accords centering on oil and energy. In addition, they called for turning the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace; for negotiating a solution to the Afghani crisis, free of foreign interference; and for superpower consultations on the explosive Persian Gulf.

Similarly, the Mexican-Indian joint communiqué takes up the same international issues in almost identical terms, indicating that an international axis around such policies is emerging, and that India and Mexico are playing a vital proxy role in trying to align their respective superpower neighbors with this strategy.

The India-Mexico summit opened up important international space for proposals to replace the IMF with the European Monetary System as the guarantor of credits for development, to allow it to gain ascendancy as the dominant outlook of the Western alliance.

Should such policies prevail, it will be a mortal blow to the Socialist International and its Brandt Commission strategy, which suggests global slow-growth as an

economic strategy, combined with political and military confrontation between North and South, seen most clearly in the Socialist International's simultaneous crusade to blow up El Salvador and Poland into crisis points.

South-South cooperation

The success of López Portillo's visit to India was conveyed by the excitement with which the Mexican president discussed his visit with reporters.

"We have been greatly impressed by the conjunction of India's great past with its exemplary development efforts. We have seen the temple caves carved out of the rocks in Aurangabad [dating from the second century B.C.], the Taj Mahal, and also its efforts to develop nuclear energy," he noted, "all of which are very representative of this great nation."

These sentiments were reciprocated by India, which invited López Portillo to attend the Republic Day celebrations, the first Latin American head of state to do so.

Although the final communiqué stops short of outlining detailed solutions to the international economic crisis, agreement was reached on "the need for the international community to adopt a world energy plan," a reference to the 1979 proposal presented to the United Nations by López Portillo.

The communiqué also stated "satisfaction over the upcoming meeting of foreign ministers of nonaligned

countries that will be held in New Delhi, and expressed the hope that this meeting will play a constructive role in reducing existing tensions."

India welcomed the initiative for a proposed North-South conference to be held in Mexico—originally proposed by the Brandt Commission—but both nations rejected the commission's preferred zero-growth agenda. The conference, to which López Portillo invited President Reagan, should "put the world economy in order."

López Portillo highlighted the significance of cooperation to ensure the development of more advanced technologies. After noting that India had achieved self-sufficiency in food grain production through high-yielding varieties of wheat from Mexico, López Portillo stated that "the fact that India has become self-sufficient in food is a clear indication that things *can* be done."

López Portillo drew out the significance of this type of technology transfer based cooperation for ensuring world peace: "A few years ago we were able to contribute to the solution of their [India's] problems. Now with great pleasure and most humbly, we must accept India's progress in this field and receive its contributions. Perhaps in the future, with the support of these contributions, we will again be helpful to India. I believe that this is an example of how things should be in the world. . . . This is the road to peace, and it offers the possibility of creating a just development of the world based on that peace."

U.S. press: the summit is not worth covering

A series of history-making discussions took place last week between the president of Mexico, José López Portillo, and Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. But, did you read about it in the liberal *New York Times* or see it covered on scandal-mongering ABC-TV?

Did the *New York Post* interrupt its steady stream of pornography to enlighten its readership with real news?

Not a single word on the historic summit appeared in any major American media. And the European press didn't do much better.

EIR asked them why.

"I didn't even know he [President López Portillo] went to India" the foreign desk officer at the *New York Times* confessed. When we explained that in their talks President López Portillo and Indian offi-

cial had discussed a new strategy for the North-South dialogue, which is of utmost importance for the United States as the leader of the "North," the *New York Times* could only say: "Well, you know, there is a limited number of things we can cover. Besides our [Mexico] correspondent Alan Riding is on vacation."

The *Washington Post* foreign desk clerk had similar excuses: their correspondents in India and Mexico were *both* away from their respective home bases, "and the AP and UPI wires were very sketchy."

But UPI and AP international news departments could not recall having covered the summit. AP even asked us, "Was that meeting in Mexico?" We explained that it took place in New Delhi, and that the issues discussed there will most probably be taken up in the North-South meeting of heads of state scheduled for next June in Mexico, a summit to which President Reagan has been invited.

"Well," AP's foreign desk officer told us, "there are too many things happening in the world for me to remember that."