

Immigration policy: a new start for U.S.-Mexico relations?

by Dennis Small

The assassination attempt against President Reagan has made it impossible to hold the López Portillo-Reagan summit meeting, planned for April 27, in San Diego and La Paz. Over the past week, however, both the U.S. and Mexican governments have given signals of good will and underlined once more the importance they place on the summit talks. Mexico's foreign minister stated on April 14 that President López Portillo is willing to travel to Washington on the scheduled date, if that would best suit the convalescent American President. And a White House spokesman also left the door open to a late-April meeting in Washington.

The agenda for the summit, like the date and place, is

up in the air as of this writing. The best indication of what should be expected came from the head of the Mexican House of Representatives, Luis Farfás, who told the press last week that he was "terribly interested" in the outcome of the meeting, and declared that the two principal agenda items would be bilateral trade and migrant labor.

Regarding the first item, what is notable is the Mexican emphasis on *bilateral* accords with the United States, possibly including the oil-for-technology framework outlined by *EIR* founder Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., as opposed to the *multilateral* proposals, such as the North American Common Market or Accord, being foolishly

LaRouche talks about the Mexico potential

The following remarks were made by NDPC Advisory Board Chairman Lyndon H. LaRouche, in response to a question put to him on March 19, 1981 at a conference in Washington, D.C. on U.S.-Mexico relations.

I support entirely the legislation sponsored by Sen. Harrison Schmitt, which would provide a visa to all undocumented workers who wanted to come over and work. I would also support, however, the aspiration of our law enforcement officers [to] increase our border patrol and other authorizations to control the gun-smuggling, the terrorists, and the drug traffic between the two countries. It is a problem for both countries—for the Mexicans, who are just as desirous of controlling these problems as we are, and perhaps more so.

Therefore, we should increase the intelligence and law enforcement capabilities against categories of criminality at the same time that we open the door.

This is most probably the area that President

Reagan will have the least differences with President López Portillo. They are both just as concerned as I am with the human rights of the individual Mexican who has come here because our employers want them. I don't want them ripped off, robbed and so on, while they are here, just because they are here illegally.

I would seek to set a precedent with the Mexican president on one clearly defined area, and then work with him to determine what is comparable to and not comparable to it in other areas. I wouldn't try to bite off too much at this time. . . .

Nationals from other countries who come here to work should have the right to legal constitutional protection while they are in this country.

Therefore, so long as an adequate consular program is set up to work with the soon-to-be documented workers, we can deal with that area satisfactorily.

The other thing we have to do is set up a policy perception of how we will deal with overall bilateral relations. We are putting the first brick in there, and trying to add an amendment onto the Schmitt bill concerning increased support for Mexico on other questions. But don't make the first issue too complicated so that we lose all we seek in a morass of complications.