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WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection: Speechwriting, White House Office of: Records
Speech Drafts

Archivist: mjd

OA/Box: Box 183

FOIA ID:

File Folder: State Visit: President Jaime Lusinchi of Venezuela,
12/04/1984 (3)

Date: 06/22/2005

DOCUMENT NO. & TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
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1. Bio	1p	11/15/87	B1
2. Bio	1p	11/5/84	B1
3. Bio	1p	11/5/84	B1
4. Bio	2p	11/14/84	B1
5. Bio	1p	11/15/84	B1
6. Bio	1p	11/15/84	B1
7. Bio	1p	11/14/84	B1
8. Bio	1p	11/5/84	B1
9. Bio	1p	11/14/84	B1
10. Bio	1p	11/15/84	B1
11. Bio	1p	11/14/84	B1
15. Bio	1p	11/7/84	B1
16. Bio	1p	11/5/84	B1
17. memo	Constantine Menges to Robert McFarlane re State Visit, 1p	11/21/84	B1
18. Memo	McFarlane to the President re Meeting w/President Lusinchi, 3p	12/4/84	B1

RESTRICTIONS

B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA].

B-2 Release could disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA].

B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA].

B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA].

B-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA].

B-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA].

B-7a Release could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings [(b)(7)(A) of the FOIA].

B-7b Release would deprive an individual of the right to a fair trial or impartial adjudication [(b)(7)(B) of the FOIA].

B-7c Release could reasonably be expected to cause unwarranted invasion or privacy [(b)(7)(C) of the FOIA].

B-7d Release could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of a confidential source [(b)(7)(D) of the FOIA].

B-7e Release would disclose techniques or procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions or would disclose guidelines which could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law [(b)(7)(E) of the FOIA].

B-7f Release could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual [(b)(7)(F) of the FOIA].

B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA].

B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA].

WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection: Speechwriting, White House Office of: Records
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OA/Box: Box 183

FOIA ID:

File Folder: State Visit: President Jaime Lusinchi of Venezuela,
12/04/1984 (3)

Date: 06/22/2005

DOCUMENT NO. & TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
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19. Talking Points	Re Meeting w/Lusinchi, 3p	Nd	B1
20. Talking points	Re Meeting w/Lusinchi, 1p	Nd	B1
21. Paper	Re Issues, 2p	Nd	B1
22. Briefing Paper	Re Foreign Policy, 1p	Nd	B1
23. Briefing Paper	Re Political Overview, 1p	nd	B1
24. Briefing Paper	Re Central America and Contradora, 1p	Nd	B1
25. Briefing Paper	Re Economic Overview, 1p	Nd	B1
26. Briefing paper	Re Debt, 1p	Nd	B1
27. Briefing Paper	Re Narcotics, 1p	Nd	B1
28. Briefing Paper	Re Petroleum, 1p	Nd	B1

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THIS FORM MARKS THE FILE LOCATION OF ITEM NUMBER 1-13 LISTED ON THE
WITHDRAWAL SHEET AT THE FRONT OF THIS FOLDER.

REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENTS

To: Officer-in-charge
Appointments Center
Room 060, OEOB

Please admit the following appointments on December 4, 19 84

for The President of _____:
(NAME OF PERSON TO BE VISITED) (AGENCY)

9:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m. - Pre-brief in Oval Office

State Department

Secretary George P. Shultz
Assistant Secretary Langhorne A. Motley
Ambassador George Landau
Ambassador Harry Shlaudeman

Treasury Department

Secretary Donald Regan

MEETING LOCATION

Building White House

Requested by Constantine Menges

Room No. Oval Office

Room No. 348 Telephone 3552

Time of Meeting 9:30-10:00 a.m.

Date of request November 21, 1984

Additions and/or changes made by telephone should be limited to five (5) names or less.

APPOINTMENTS CENTER: SIG/OEOB - 395-6046 or WHITE HOUSE - 456-6742

REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENTS

To: Officer-in-charge
Appointments Center
Room 060, OEOB

Please admit the following appointments on December 4, 1984
for The President of _____:
(NAME OF PERSON TO BE VISITED) (AGENCY)

10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. - Meeting with Venezuelan Officials in the
Oval Office

UNITED STATES

State Department

Secretary George P. Shultz
Assistant Secretary Langhorne A. Motley
U.S. Ambassador to Venezuela George Landau
Ambassador Harry Shlaudeman

Treasury Department

Secretary Donald Regan

VENEZUELA

President Jaime Lusinchi
Foreign Minister Isidro Morales Paul
Ambassador Valentin Hernandez

MEETING LOCATION

Building White House Requested by Constantine Menges
Room No. Oval Office Room No. 348 Telephone 3552
Time of Meeting 10:30-11:30 am Date of request November 21, 1984

Additions and/or changes made by telephone should be limited to five (5) names or less.

APPOINTMENTS CENTER: SIG/OEOB - 395-6046 or WHITE HOUSE - 456-6742

TOAST FOR STATE DINNER IN HONOR OF
PRESIDENT LUSINCHI OF VENEZUELA

This has been a very special evening for us--an opportunity to honor and to get to know better one of the great democrats of the Western Hemisphere. Mr. President, I know there is much for Americans to admire in your beautiful country, but there is one factor that stands out above the rest--Venezuela's deep commitment to democracy.

Mr. President, you are the political heir of two great statesmen and leaders whose contributions to our hemisphere can never be forgotten: the liberator, Simon Bolivar, and the founder of modern Venezuelan democracy, Romulo Betancourt. Your dedication and that of your fellow citizens to liberty and to human rights is an inspiration to all.

As President Lusinchi said recently, he comes "from a Latin American country whose people enjoy fully the inalienable right of an open, pluralistic and democratic society." Venezuela's commitment to democratic values is manifest in the role that it has been playing in the hemisphere--as an advocate and leader in the struggle for civil and political liberties.

This is particularly evident in Central America in whose freedom and well-being both Venezuela and the United States have a deep interest. We share Venezuela's conviction that only through political democracy can lasting peace and economic and social justice for Central America be assured. Venezuela's role

- Dec 10th 1948

anniversary of the U.N. ^{Universal} Declaration of
human rights.

- freedom of expression -

tangible political and economic assistance to its neighbors. Venezuela's important contributions to the development and stability of the region are widely recognized. Venezuela's substantial economic assistance through the San Jose Accord has helped its neighbors in Central America and the Caribbean.

Venezuela has been a leader of the Contadora process, seeking peace in Central America based on democratic principles. We support your efforts. I want to reiterate the importance that the United States places on all twenty-one objectives of the Contadora process, which includes the implementation of democracy as the Sandinistas had promised the OAS in 1979 and which was a condition of the diplomatic recognition they received. We believe these 21 Contadora objectives if implemented simultaneously with effective verification, offer the best hope for peace in Central America. Our own policies in the region are designed to complement your efforts.

Our many ties with Venezuela are cordial and close, as befits two governments sharing a commitment to democratic ideals and freedom. Your visit to Washington is part of a long-standing tradition of valuable consultations which have spanned different administrations both here in Washington and in Caracas.

Mr. President I look forward to hearing your candid views of the problems and opportunities that are challenging our hemisphere. I am certain your visit will deepen further the warm friendship and close ties which exist between our governments and our peoples.

Welcome!

Venezuela Quotes

Former Venezuelan President Betancourt

I believe that if the United States and my country and Latin America can work together for democracy, we can increase and improve the conditions of life for all of our people very rapidly.

Simon Bolivar

Be not insensible to the cries of your brothers. Fly to avenge the dead, to give life to the dying, to bring freedom to the oppressed and liberty to all.

Nature in truth, endows us at birth with the instinctive desire for freedom;

By establishing a democratic republic, she has proscribed monarchy, distinctions, nobility, prerogatives, and privileges. She has declared for the rights of man and freedom of action, thought, speech, and press. These eminently liberal acts, because of the sincerity that has inspired them, will never cease to be admired.

Love of country, love of law, and respect for magistrates are the exalted emotions that must permeate the soul of a republic.

brought up in a climate
other generation before
to 1935, was but a series of
which the country was ruled
nerals. Therefore we have been
or a stable system of liberty and
g. In our country today, democracy, as
the absolute support of the Venezuelan
specially of this 70 percent of the population
represents a new age, a new country. Thus was
ated in Venezuela the political design of the
der of our Democracy, the great statesman Romulo
etancourt.

we
C

Our democracy has consolidated itself on contemporary
and dynamic foundations: a pluralistic system, a mixed
economy and armed forces in which training and
education are of the highest university levels. There are
innumerable theories on how Venezuela has come to be
what it is today: one of them is that our democracy is an
outcome of our oil-derived wealth. And that without it
circumstances in Venezuela would be quite different. Of
this, of course, there can be little doubt. But neither is it
possible to accept that democracy has been a product of
petroleum in and of itself. During many, many years,
since the 1920s, oil financed a long dictatorship, and in the
1950s that experience was to repeat itself. In any event,
there is no doubt that petroleum, in some measure, has
contributed to the modernization and stability of our
country. But with this wealth came decisions and a search
for democratic processes, reflections of the thinking of
Romulo Betancourt, which today are bearing fruit. This
has put our country on the Latin American map as one of
the few where the roots of liberty run deep.

The Venezuelan people realize that there is no better
alternative to the democratic process, and are also
convinced that democracy not only guarantees and
preserves their human rights, but that it opens up huge
possibilities for progress and social change. My political
program as presidential candidate is based on the
possibilities of this progress, in the construction of a social
democracy which has as its basis a just and balanced
distribution of national income. Thus we will consolidate a
free country and will open the doors of well-being to all
our people. Those are our goals, and we propose to
achieve them through the medium of the Social Pact, a
pact between labor and management, with the govern-
ment initiating a reform process which does not seek to
enlarge its own role, but to enlarge the sharing of power
through a greater participation of all sectors of society.

The fact that we are a petroleum producing country has
not delivered us from all temptation. One of these
temptations is the understandable desire to make up, in a
short time, for all the lost years, and to take advantage of
available resources to achieve a greater diversification of
our economic structures, overly dependent as we have
been on one export product, oil. Other temptations and
failures have been a result of erratic and confused public
policy. One thing is sure: Venezuela has commitments to
foreign financial interests which exceed today 30 billion
dollars. Thus this lack of foresight brought us back to the



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18TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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Defense & Foreign Affairs

February, 1984

SECTION: LEADERSHIP PROFILE; Pg. 40

LENGTH: 278 words

HEADLINE: Jaime Lusinchi, President, Republic of Venezuela

BODY:

Venezuela's new President was born in 1924 in the town of Clarines in Anzoategui state, and was educated at local public schools before entering the Central University in Caracas to study medicine. There he soon became involved in the fight of the Democratic Action (AD) party against the military dictatorship then ruling Venezuela. He quickly achieved prominence within the younger ranks of the party. Lusinchi graduated with his medical degree in pediatrics in 1947. In 1948 a Democratic Action government was overthrown by the military, and Lusinchi joined his AD colleagues in going underground.

In 1952 Lusinchi was arrested, imprisoned, and then expelled from Venezuela, beginning six years of exile in Chile, Argentina, and the US. He continued his medical studies during this period, and worked at Bellevue Hospital in New York City. While in New York Lusinchi spent time with AD colleagues also in exile from Venezuela, and in 1958 when the military withdrew from power the group returned to help set up the country's first free elections since 1947. In the following election Lusinchi won a seat as a delegate in the House of Deputies. His legislative career lasted 25 years, capped by Lusinchi's choice as AD's congressional leader.

Lusinchi campaigned for AD's presidential nomination in 1977, but failed. In 1983 he succeeded, and took advantage of the country's first economic slump since the oil boom to defeat his COPEI rival, Rafael Caldera. Lusinchi is considered a non-ideological politician who will rely on technocrats for policy advice.

Lusinchi is married to the former Gladys Castillo (also a pediatrician), by whom he has five children.

17TH STORY of Level FULL format.

Proprietary to the United States International 1984

February 2, 1984, Thursday, BC cycle

SECTION: International

LENGTH: 508 words

HEADLINE: Personality Spotlight;
Jaime Lusinchi: President of Venezuela

KEYWORD: Perspot-Lusinchi

BODY:

Jaime Lusinchi, a U.S.-trained pediatrician who endured imprisonment, torture and exile under the dictatorship of Marcos Perez Jimenez, rose to become Venezuela's sixth consecutive democratically elected president.

His landslide election Dec. 4 as the candidate of the Democratic Action party, founded by the late Romulo Betancour, came at a time of severe economic crisis in the oil-producing South American nation.

Born on May 27, 1924 in the rural eastern town of Clarines, Lusinchi was introduced to politics by a high school teacher who acquainted him with the writings of the underground National Democratic party, a forerunner of Democratic Action.

His first love was medicine. He began his medical studies at the University of the Andes in Merida and then at the Central University of Caracas, graduating in 1947 and specializing in pediatrics.

He became active as a labor organizer before his election to municipal office in his home state of Anzoategui and later to the state legislature.

When Marcos Perez Jimenez, then an army officer, seized power in a palace coup in 1952, Lusinchi edited an underground newspaper called 'Resistance' and quickly emerged as a leader of the resistance to military rule.

In 1952, at the age of 28, he became under secretary-general of the then-clandestine Democratic Action party and was promptly imprisoned for 60 days, beaten with a broadsword and then exiled to Argentina.

The beatings left welts on Lusinchi's back.

'I had stripes on my back like a tiger,' he once said. 'I did not go swimming for many years because I didn't want to have to explain what happened.'

After living for five years in Argentina and Chile, he moved to New York City, where he was an intern at Bellevue and Lincoln hospitals and earned a master's degree in pediatrics at New York University.

From New York he plotted the downfall of the Perez Jimenez dictatorship along with other fellow exiles, including Betancourt.

Proprietary to the United Press International, February 2, 1984

Lusinchi called his exile "the worst form of punishment for man."

After the fall of Perez Jimenez, the doctor-politician returned to Venezuela and joined the national council of Democratic Action.

Lusinchi served as deputy and parliamentary leader of Democratic Action from 1967 to 1979. He was secretary general of the party when he was nominated for the presidency in 1982, the same year that Betancourt died in New York.

His landslide election to a five year term Dec. 4 made Lusinchi Venezuela's sixth consecutive democratically elected president in a region where democracies are rare.

Lusinchi used his campaign to attack the record of the incumbent Christian Democratic party, which led the nation during a period of tumbling oil revenues, a mounting foreign debt and severe economic recession.

Lusinchi promised to revive agriculture -- Venezuela imports 65 percent of its food supplies -- and offered to negotiate a "social pact," a labor-employer price and wage accord.

He is married to the former Gladys Castillo, also a physician. They have five children.

9TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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May 11, 1984, Friday

LENGTH: 753 words

HEADLINE: VENEZUELA: LUSINCHI REMAINS POPULAR DESPITE ECONOMIC WOES

BYLINE: by Alejandro Kirk

DATELINE: CARACAS, May 11

BODY:

On May 1, workers in many Latin American nations took to the streets on International Workers' Day with harsh denunciations of their governments. But in Venezuela, they took to their feet -- in a standing ovation for a speech by President Jaime Lusinchi.

The workers' response was striking evidence that, despite one of the worst economic crises in Venezuela's history, President Lusinchi has managed to retain the support of Venezuelans who chose him as their head of state last December.

The 60-year-old physician, a social democrat of the Democratic Action (AD) party, took office in January promising a "new style of governing".

In the administration's first 100 days in office, that style has been marked by a large dose of realism on the issue of Venezuela's serious economic problems.

Far from seeking to convince Venezuelans that things are not as bad as they seem, Lusinchi frankly admits that the difficulties are very real and warns that there are no magic solutions.

This attitude is easier when one claims, as Lusinchi does, that the nation's economic problems -- a \$35 billion foreign debt, high unemployment, inflation and a stagnant production sector -- were inherited from the previous administration of President Luis Herrera Campins.

Facing the contradictory challenges of reactivating the economy within an austerity program, the AD administration has designed an economic strategy of decreased public spending combined with a free-rein policy on production.

Lusinchi sought support for his economic package through a "social pact," a common pillar of social democratic politics, by the workers, business leaders and the government.

The administration increased the price of gasoline and devalued the currency by 30 percent, but offered compensatory measures for both labor and business.

For the workers, the administration granted bonuses for transportation costs, established work-place cafeterias and ordered employers to increase their staff.

For business, Lusinchi authorized payment of private sector debts at a preferential currency exchange rate of 4.3 bolivars per dollar, making dollars

(c) 1984 Inter Press Service, May 11, 1984

one-fourth as expensive as the open market.

The state cut back spending by 10 percent by reducing government workers' salaries and eliminating superfluous expenses.

The administration has not yet implemented many of the measures which Lusinchi announced in the first two months of his term, partially because of they require legislative approval which requires time.

The president has asked Congress to grant him "special powers" to put the economic measures in action.

After gaining the confidence of various sectors by offering incentives to stimulate industry, lowering interest rates and proposing agricultural development plans, Lusinchi took the first steps toward renegotiating the foreign debt.

While talks were under way with a committee representing Venezuela's creditor banks, administration officials declared a new 90-day moratorium on capital payments.

Consecutive moratoriums have deferred the payments since April 1, 1983.

The administration is aiming for a 10-year repayment period with five years of grace, and hopes to renegotiate the debt without having to sign an accord with the International Monetary Fund, whose conditions Lusinchi rejects as harmful to wage-earners.

Foreign policy, an important area for previous social democratic governments in Venezuela, has taken a back seat to the economic crisis under the Lusinchi administration.

But Venezuela is a member of the Contadora Group, along with Colombia, Mexico and Panama, and is active in that organization's mediating work among Central American countries.

Lusinchi has expressed reserved support for the planned elections in Nicaragua and is maintaining a low profile in relations with Cuba.

On the domestic scene, the new president has launched a virtual crusade against corruption, drug traffic and other crime.

Voters in this nation of 14.5 million people will go to the polls on May 27 to elect municipal officials, in the first popularity test for their new administration.

The AD is confident that its candidates will take more than the 54 percent it won in the presidential polls.

The opposition parties, meanwhile, intend to capitalize on discontent with inflation and bankruptcies.

But if the May 1 workers' demonstration is an accurate sign of public sentiment toward the new administration, the opposition groups may have a tougher fight than they expect.

16TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Proprietary to the United Press International 1984

February 2, 1984, Thursday, AM cycle

SECTION: International

LENGTH: 391 words

HEADLINE: Jaime Lusinchi sworn in as Venezuelan president

BYLINE: By NIGEL CUMBERBATCH

DATELINE: CARACAS, Venezuela

KEYWORD: Venezuela

BODY:

Jaime Lusinchi was sworn in as Venezuela's new president Thursday, vowing to repay the nation's \$35 billion foreign debt and warning his countrymen that they face 'some years of penance.'

Venezuela's sixth consecutive democratically elected president, Lusinchi pledged to meet 'to the last cent' Venezuela's financial commitments with some 450 international banks.

Lusinchi, 59, made the promise at the national congress minutes after taking the oath of office for a five-year term and receiving the presidential sash from his predecessor Christian Democrat Luis Herrera Campins.

A crowd of 150 foreign dignitaries, including Secretary of State George Shultz and Nicaragua's junta coordinator Daniel Ortega, attended the inaugural ceremonies.

Thousands gathered outside the gold-domed congress building and sang the national anthem, waved Venezuelan flags and cheered while Lusinchi spoke to the nation.

The new president pledged to work to reduce unemployment now at 14 percent, restore economic stability, revive agriculture and crackdown on administrative corruption in the oil-producing South American nation.

He said an 'irregular and uncontrolled' foreign debt of \$35 billion has undermined the value of the the national currency, the bolivar, despite oil revenues of \$15 billion a year.

'Venezuela will pay to the last cent. And we will learn well this costly lesson, which condemns us to some years of penance,' said Lusinchi, who was elected Dec. 4 in a landslide for his liberal Democratic Action party.

He gave no specifics on how he proposed to restructure the foreign debt.

On foreign issues, Lusinchi told the assembled dignitaries that Latin America should be allowed to 'resolve its problems and dilemmas by itself, free from external interference and distortions, within the best atmosphere of pluralism.'

Proprietary to the United Press International, February 2, 1984

"In line with that position, we will closely follow developments in Central America and focus Venezuela's participation towards all efforts for the consolidation of peace, always stimulating freedom and democratic pluralism for resolving the conflicts and promoting economic and social progress," he said.

Venezuela is a member of the four-nation Contadora Group, which is seeking a negotiated solution to Central American conflicts. The other three group members are Colombia, Mexico and Panama.

(Rohrabacher)
November 29, 1984
5:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: ARRIVAL OF PRESIDENT JAIME LUSINCHI
OF VENEZUELA
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1984

It is an honor today to welcome the leader of one of this hemisphere's shining examples of freedom and democracy, President Jamie Lusinchi of Venezuela. President Lusinchi is a man dedicated to those principles of liberty held dear by the people of the United States. Venezuela is a nation which overcame authoritarianism of left and right to establish itself as a bulwark of democracy. It is a pleasure for us to have as our guest an individual who played such an important role building freedom in his own country, and who now, as a spokesman for his people, is such a force for good in this hemisphere and throughout the world.

Venezuelans do not take freedom for granted. It was less than a generation ago when President Lusinchi and other brave Venezuelans -- and it took tremendous courage -- under the leadership of a great statesman and democrat, Romulo Betancourt, threw off dictatorship and began laying the foundation for stable democratic government. Their struggle was not dissimilar to that going on in Central America today.

The fledgling Venezuelan democracy was immediately put to the test by Cuban-supported, Soviet-financed insurgents, who would have turned Venezuela into a Marxist-Leninist dictatorship. Mr. President, your triumph then, and the subsequent success of

freedom in your country, should serve as a model for today -- the Venezuelan model, if you will.

While conciliatory to all -- granting amnesty to many and encouraging them to participate in the electoral process -- Venezuelan leaders, holding firm to the principles of democratic government and individual freedom, never gave in to the armed Marxist minority. The peace, liberty, and security enjoyed in your country today is a result of that valor and determination.

Nothing less should have been expected from the heirs of the great liberator, Simon Bolivar. He once said of Venezuela, "By establishing a democratic republic . . . she has declared for the rights of man and freedom of action, thought, speech, and press. These eminently liberal acts . . . will never cease to be admired."

Venezuelans, who understand that democracy is a path to peace and progress, can be proud that their government is standing shoulder-to-shoulder with the forces of democracy in Central America today. All freedom-loving people should rejoice that El Salvador and other countries in the region, like Venezuela before, are establishing democratic governments, sometimes in extremely trying circumstances.

The exception to this trend is Nicaragua, where a ruling clique of Sandinistas, allied with Cuban and Soviet dictators, have betrayed their citizens. Despite assurances to the people of Nicaragua and to the Organization of American States to the contrary, they have undermined civil liberties, persecuted opposition parties, and repressed trade unions, and civic and

religious organizations. Instead of free elections, they chose to hold communist-style sham elections -- orderly in form, but with gangs of thugs threatening anyone who spoke out, lacking in democratic content. President Lusinchi, I hope you will work with me ~~and your personal staff~~ to ensure that the pledges of free elections and civil liberties made to the O.A.S. and to the Nicaraguan people are carried out.

Venezuela has been and continues to be a leading force in the Contadora process, which seeks peace in Central America based on democratic principles. We applaud your efforts. The United States places great importance on all 21 objectives of the Contadora process, which ~~includes~~ ^{-- consistent with the Venezuelan model --} the legitimate democratic elections originally promised by the Sandinistas. The Contadora objectives, uncompromised and put into practice with adequate verification, offer the best hope for peace in Central America. I can assure you that the diplomatic efforts of the United States are designed to compliment these objectives.

Two decades ago, the founder of modern Venezuelan democracy, President Romulo Betancourt, visited here and said, ". . . if the United States and my country and Latin America can work together for democracy, we can increase and improve the conditions of life for all our people very rapidly."

His words rang true. In two decades, great things have been accomplished by the free people of Venezuela. The people of the United States are happy to have played a small role, offering a helping hand to people who have become close friends.

Venezuela, in turn, has assisted those working to better themselves in the Caribbean and in South and Central America, making substantial contributions to the well-being of others through the San Jose accord. Our relationship of trust and cooperation ~~is good for our own peoples and~~ benefits the entire hemisphere. It is something to be cherished and we do not take it for granted.

Mr. President, we are keenly aware that Venezuela is now going through a period of economic readjustment. I was pleased when agreement was reached for the refinancing of Venezuela's public debt. We support that and the responsible decisions you are making to put your country back on the track to stable economic growth. We, too, have gone through some fundamental reform in recent years, ^{bringing} ~~and more will be forthcoming. Freedom is the best path, but sometimes it is not always the easiest.~~

President Lusinchi, you have the confidence of your people and you have our confidence as well. You also have our admiration. It is a pleasure to greet you on behalf of the people of the United States. Welcome.

Extraordinary warmth and strong ties bind our two countries. We are joined by strands of common history, shared values and aspirations, common interests, and strong economic ties.

Venezuela and the U.S. also share major economic stakes. Your country, Mr. President, has been a reliable supplier of oil to the United States. We, in turn, have been a source of capital and technology, an honest partner in Venezuela's growth, a ready market for many of its products.

And beyond these shared political and economic interests, our two countries have developed strong cultural ties--many thousands of Americans have lived and worked in Venezuela; many thousands of Venezuelans have studied in the U.S., many under the far-sighted programs of the Mariscal Ayacucho Foundation.

I know of the economic difficulties Venezuela has been facing recently. I am aware too of the wise and determined efforts that President Lusinchi has been making to resolve those problems. I was very pleased when agreement was reached for the refinancing of Venezuela's public debt.

I am confident that the direction President Lusinchi is giving to Venezuela's economic policies is the right one. His emphasis on productivity and efficiency, on realistic pricing in both the public and private sector, on private investment, and on non-traditional exports are all right on the mark. I know all too well how difficult and painful these efforts are to hold down government expenditures while at the same time maintaining the traditional emphasis on social development and justice. We

THE PRESIDENT'S WELCOMING REMARKS
STATE VISIT OF JAIME LUSINCHI
PRESIDENT OF VENEZUELA

Mr. President, Distinguished guests:

It is a great pleasure to welcome President Lusinchi to Washington and the White House. It is particularly gratifying for me to welcome a man who has devoted his life to bettering the lives of others, as a doctor and as a man whose career has been dedicated to the establishment and strengthening of democracy.

Under the leadership of that great statesman and democrat, Romulo Betancourt, you and your colleagues demonstrated to the world that a democratic government could defeat Cuban-supported marxist-leninist terrorists without compromising your own ideals or beliefs. Today, Venezuela is a ~~beacon of hope~~ to embattled democracies everywhere.

You are no stranger to our country. The United States welcomed you years ago when you were exiled for working to create liberty in Venezuela. I take great pride in welcoming you this time as the elected leader of one of this hemisphere's strongest democracies.

You are heir to the liberator, Simon Bolivar, whose vision for the Americas remains a source of inspiration for all of us as we seek to find solutions to the problems of conflict and poverty, which mar the lives of some of our neighbors.

Today, under your wise leadership, Mr. President, Venezuela is an example of a vibrant democracy at work. It is providing

admire President Lusinchi's notable success and wish him well as he faces the continuing challenges of guiding Venezuela's economy.

Finally, let me mention one other field in which Venezuelan and U.S. views are highly complementary--the very strong stand President Lusinchi has taken on narcotics interdiction. I commend him for his determination and his country's efforts to combat drug trafficking. I pledge my government's support.

Ladies and gentlemen:

Please join me as I raise my glass to a great statesman and a great democrat and to the country he so admirably leads.

1ST STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Proprietary to the United Press International 1984

November 14, 1984, Wednesday, PM cycle

SECTION: Sports News

DISTRIBUTION: Ohio

LENGTH: 93 words

HEADLINE: Sports Briefs

DATELINE: CARACAS, Venezuela

KEYWORD: Briefs

Tony Armas

BODY:

Boston Red Sox slugger Tony Armas, the 1984 Major League home run and RBI leader, will be honored by the government of Venezuela with the "work merit" award, the Minister of Labor announced Tuesday.

President Jaime Lusinchi will bestow the award as soon as Armas, a native Venezuelan, arrives in the country from his home in the United States. He is expected next week.

Armas, who has said he will suit up for a few games in Venezuelan winter league baseball later in the season, hit 43 homeruns and drove in 123 runs in the recently-concluded season.

19TH DOCUMENT of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Public Papers of the Presidents

25th Anniversary of Venezuelan Democracy

Statement by the President.

19 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 95

January 21, 1983

LENGTH: 103 words

On behalf of the people of the United States of America, I extend warm congratulations to the people of Venezuela as they celebrate 25 years of uninterrupted democratic government. The vitality and durability of Venezuela's free institutions are an inspiration to the hemisphere and a reminder to all people that only through periodic and unfettered elections can freedom flourish. It is particularly appropriate that this occasion coincides with another important event honored by all Americans -- the 200th anniversary of the birth of Simon Bolivar, whose democratic ideals live in the hearts of all our citizens.

25TH DOCUMENT of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Public Papers of the Presidents

World Peace and the Situation in Central America and the
Caribbean

Exchange of Letters With Prominent Venezuelans.

18 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 1439

November 5, 1982

LENGTH: 1277 words

[Dear :]

I have read carefully the letter recently addressed to me from numerous Venezuelan intellectuals, political leaders, and other persons in public life regarding the threats to world peace and the current situation in Central America and the Caribbean.

The people and government of the United States of America share these concerns.

The major objective of my administration, as of every other American administration since World War II, is to prevent nuclear war. Twice in my lifetime, I have seen the world plunged into wars costing millions of lives. Living through those experiences has convinced me that America's highest mission is to encourage the world along the path of peace, and to ensure that our country and all those who share our aspirations of peace and freedom can live in security.

Since taking office, I have sought practical measures to reduce the risk of such a war, and to limit the destructive potential and costly competition in nuclear arsenals. Last year I wrote to President Brezhnev urging him to join me in this effort and proposing that we begin negotiations to reduce nuclear weapons and to strengthen peace.

Last November, I offered to begin discussions with the Soviet Union to find a way to eliminate land-based intermediate-range nuclear missile systems. We are now negotiating in Geneva with the USSR on this proposal, which calls on the Soviet Union to dismantle the more than 600 such systems it has in place, in exchange for which the U.S. and our allies would agree not to install similar systems in Europe.

In May, I proposed a far-reaching approach to nuclear arms control -- a phased reduction in strategic weapons beginning with those that are most dangerous and destabilizing, the warheads on ballistic missiles and especially those on intercontinental ballistic missiles. In a second phase, we will seek even further reductions in the destructive potential of nuclear forces. We are now negotiating with the Soviet Union in Geneva on these very proposals.

These negotiations, and others which are in progress or which we will be proposing, provide a historic opportunity for us to reinforce the framework of peace and reduce the risk of war. With the support of our friends and allies, we will do everything in our power to achieve that goal.

18 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 1439

There are two fundamental causes of the conflict in Central America: economic, social and political under-development and the violent exploitation of that under-development by Cuba, Nicaragua and the Soviet Union. To bring about peace in the region, we think both causes have to be addressed.

Together with Venezuela, Colombia, Mexico and Canada we are attempting to promote economic development in Central America and the Caribbean through the Caribbean Basin Initiative. No regional objective has a higher priority than passage of this legislation to provide trade and investment incentives to economic development. Our Congress has already approved provision of \$350 million in emergency supplemental funds and these are being disbursed to recipient governments.

The development of democratic institutions to complement economic growth is a parallel objective to which we are equally committed. We have supported and have been encouraged by the striking trend toward democracy in Central America and the Caribbean. Honduras and El Salvador have held free and fair elections in the last year, as did traditionally democratic Costa Rica and Colombia. Venezuelan democracy in our judgment continues to provide a worthy model compelling in its vibrancy. The trend toward democracy elsewhere in the hemisphere -- we applaud the return of Bolivia to democratic rule -- has our full support.

We are also seeking to support democratic political development by directing resources to the development of core skills of democracy. This week, for example, we are hosting a Conference on Free Elections to which democratic representatives from all over the world have been invited.

Our diplomacy has supported the efforts of countries in the region to lessen tensions threatening peace. We participated in the conference Costa Rica convened on October 4 to coordinate efforts for regional peace and democracy. We hope this conference will contribute to defusing tensions in the region.

I believe many Venezuelans share our concern in this regard. The initiative of your President, together with President Lopez Portillo of Mexico, was a constructive step in the same direction. We believe the regional effort begun at the San Jose conference will advance the cause of peace we both support.

As we direct efforts toward economic and political development we cannot ignore the legitimate security needs of countries threatened by external support of internal insurgency. The United States is supplying modest amounts of military equipment and training to the governments of El Salvador and Honduras. Around 85 percent of our aid to these countries, however, is economic.

The commitment to democracy, self-sustaining economic development and non-intervention which we share does not, however, characterize the action of Nicaragua, Cuba and the Soviet Union. Subsidized by the Soviet Union, Cuba and Nicaragua have persistently provided aid to insurgency in El Salvador. Both Costa Rica and Honduras have been victimized by Nicaraguan-supported terrorist attacks. Nicaragua has developed its military potential entirely out of proportion to its objective defense needs. The root cause of so much concern in the region, however, is Cuba's military buildup, which has resulted in resources which could be better allocated to economic development being directed to arms procurement.

18 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 1439

Our two peoples, who have sacrificed blood and energy to obtain, safeguard, and nourish democracy, know well the importance of freedom and the right of free choice. Venezuelans and Americans alike share a mutual desire for peace and freedom in not only this region of the world but throughout the globe. By continuing our efforts, we can together advance the cause of peace.

Dear Mr. President:

Reflecting the sentiments of ample sectors of the people of Venezuela, we would like to express to you our deep concern over the growing threat of another world conflagration which, if it does occur, would bring with it the destruction of all mankind, eliminating all chances for anyone to be the winner.

Within the realm of this concern, the situation now in Central America and the Caribbean strikes us, as Latin Americans, as being rife with serious threats that could even eventually endanger world peace. For this reason, we are opposed to any type of interventionism that threatens the self-determination of the people of this region and impedes their progress as well as popular and democratic development.

These are the reasons that bring us to ask you, in virtue of the important position you hold, to act diligently and decidedly against the threat of another world war and thus save mankind, provide perspectives for a world free of tension, and allow everyone to walk the certain path of peace and social progress.

Note: The letter to the President, signed by more than 200 Venezuelan intellectuals, political leaders, and public figures, was dated September 20, 1982, and delivered to the American Embassy in Caracas on October 15, 1982. The letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 5, together with the President's response of that date.

As printed above, this item follows the texts of the letters contained in the White House press release.

40TH DOCUMENT of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Public Papers of the Presidents

Remarks of President Reagan and President Luis Herrera
Campins of Venezuela Following Their Meetings

1981 Pub. Papers 1067

November 18, 1981

LENGTH: 1042 words

President Reagan. President Herrera and I have just concluded a series of productive meetings in which we reviewed the relations between our two countries and the international situation.

The overall relations between the United States and Venezuela are excellent, and we've discovered that both nations share similar concerns about the international situation. We took a close look at development in the Caribbean Basin Region and discussed what can be done to promote peace, freedom, and representative government in that part of the world.

We agreed to pursue the initiative begun by Venezuela, Mexico, Canada, and the United States for the Caribbean Basin Region. We will continue, and strengthen where possible, our individual assistance programs and encourage other states to do likewise. And furthermore, we agreed that we must promote the economic and social development of the hemisphere through international cooperation. We can be expected to continue our opposition to any interference in the internal affairs of Western Hemisphere countries.

We agreed that efforts must be made to strengthen democracy, liberty, and pluralism against extremism and totalitarianism. We continued discussions we started at Cancun about global economic relations and exchanged views on the alternative paths to Third World development.

Finally, we conducted a comprehensive and forthright review of the relations between Venezuela and the United States. We found that there is a high level of cooperation and respect between our nations and pledged to continue this friendly relationship.

In addition to the usefulness of reviewing these issues, I want to emphasize how much I enjoyed sharing the past 2 days with my friend President Herrera, with Mrs. Herrera, and the distinguished delegation that accompanied them. We expect to remain in close contact on matters of crucial importance to peace and to the well-being of the hemisphere.

President Herrera. Allow me first of all to thank very heartily the President of the United States, my friend Ronald Reagan, for the kind invitation he extended to me to visit this great democracy. Allow me to thank him for the excellent organization of this visit, for having made possible for us to have contacts not only at the highest level, that of the Presidency of the country, but also at the level of high officials and personalities coming from the executive and the legislative powers of the United States.

We shall return to Venezuela with our hearts filled with the attentions and the kindness shown to us by President Reagan, Mrs. Reagan, and all the

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Americans we saw and talked to.

I wish to say that I believe that this is a fortunate coincidence -- the fact that I was here in Washington the morning of the extraordinary speech made by President Reagan. And I believe that this speech will have a great impact throughout the world, especially in regard to the need of limiting nuclear armament in Europe both by the United States and the Soviet Union. I believe that the four points you stated, Mr. President, in your speech to the National Press Club will be a great contribution to detente. And I must say I am very happy to have been here this morning.

We studied the bilateral relations between Venezuela and the United States, relations which, I must say, are presently at an optimal level. And we reviewed the need to continue implementing agreements, signed in the past between our two countries, most of them related to matters of technical exchange.

We also analyzed the difficult political situation existing in the Central American area and the Caribbean. And I must say that I expressed the independent, dignified, and serious position of our foreign policies with frankness, and I expressed in this way the views of my government. And allow me to say also, that I was listened to with respect and not only with respect but also with cordiality and understanding. And the concepts of peace, liberty, and democracy were ever present, were like a backdrop to our talks on the area.

As you know, the line of action of my government, the one we have always followed, is a line of non-intervention and respect for the self-determination of nations and the projection of the good of democracy and of freedom. And when we spoke about such a delicate situation as the one existing in Salvador, we coincided in the need to encourage the achievement of a democratic way out that will enable that country to overcome the subversion coming from Marxist radical movements.

We know of the great efforts made by the junta of the government, presided by Jose Napoleon Duarte in El Salvador, surrounded by so many difficulties in order to achieve an institutional way out to the situation there.

We have ratified the will of the Governments of the United States, Venezuela, Mexico, and Canada, to promote an ambitious program of cooperation in the area of the Caribbean and Central America and also a program where not only we would participate, but also we would encourage other governments to cooperate in the political, cultural, and economic, social development of this crucial area.

It has been of utmost importance for us and the developing nations of the world to have heard throughout my talks with President Reagan, and again in the speech he made this morning, a ratification of the political will expressed in Cancun, favoring global negotiations to be held soon, and thus bringing hope for peace through concrete and effective actions to all developing countries.

And finally, let me insist in extending my thanks again for all the kindness shown by President Reagan, Mrs. Reagan, and the team working with them, to me, my wife, the members of the Venezuelan party, and the special guests on this trip I made to Washington. And allow me to say that I appreciate greatly the generous concepts you have formulated time and again for my own person, for the government, democratic government I preside [over] -- a government that tries

to search for peace, development, participation, and respect of human rights everywhere.

Thank you.

Note: President Reagan spoke at 12:05 p.m. on the South Lawn of the White House.

42ND DOCUMENT of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Public Papers of the Presidents

Toasts of the President and President Luis Herrera Campins
of Venezuela at the State Dinner

1981 Pub. Papers 1059

November 17, 1981

LENGTH: 2107 words

President Reagan. President Herrera, Mrs. Herrera, distinguished guests, and friends:

President Herrera once said, "History shows that only those human actions which are based on ethical principles have a truly lasting significance." Tonight, we honor a man and a country that has chosen a path of principle, one that will have lasting significance.

Democracy and respect for human rights is not the easiest course, but it is the most moral. President Herrera, a man of deep religious and moral convictions, long ago decided to stand for what is right. As a boy, he witnessed a chain gang composed of political prisoners. This sight frightened lesser men; it instead strengthened Herrera Campins' resolve to fight dictatorship. Later this love of freedom led to his own arrest and exile, yet he stood firm with the other brave individuals and, eventually, they and the principles of human freedom triumphed.

Such dedication is deeply admired here, but politics is not the only way to catch a glimpse of one's soul. Now to many Americans, Venezuela has come to mean excellence in sports. David Concepcion and Tony Armas and many other fine baseball players have come to us from Venezuela. And interestingly, President Herrera and I both were sports journalists at one time.

In welcoming President Herrera to Washington, I recalled the portion of his magnificent statement to the United Nations. What I didn't mention was that after delivering it, he went to Yankee Stadium to see a ballgame. [Laughter]

Now, Mr. President, you probably don't know that your dinner partner tonight, my wife, Nancy -- her birthday is July 6th, but her mother has told me it would have been July 4th, except she didn't want to miss the doubleheader at Yankee Stadium. [Laughter]

Mr. President, you're a man, and Venezuelans are a people, whose love of life and of freedom are something with which the people of the United States can identify. Your and your country stand for those values and those principles that reflect the best of mankind. You honor us by this visit, and Venezuela honors us by its friendship.

Now, I ask all of you to join with me in a toast to President Herrera Campins, his lovely wife, and the to people of Venezuela. May our bonds be always so strong.

President Herrera. Your Excellency, Mr. President of the United States, Mrs. Reagan, distinguished guests:

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Mr. President, thank you for such a pleasant dinner, for your kind words, and the friendship and cordiality extended to us during this visit to the United States.

The ideals of liberty, human respect, and democratic government inspire our two countries. These principles are the fundamental basis of the good relations between Venezuela and the United States: mutual respect, the desire to understand each other's realities, and the conviction that dialog and negotiation enable us to overcome differences when inspired by a sincere willingness to achieve understanding.

We shall soon commemorate 250 years of George Washington's birth and, in 1983, the bicentennial of the birth of our liberator, Simon Bolivar. In the example of these two great men, we can and must seek and find the common source of our ideals of liberty and human dignity, those profound roots of friendship and cooperation between our two countries.

Allow me, Mr. President, to recall that in May of 1781, Francisco de Miranda, forerunner of Latin American independence, fought in Pensacola the battle that paved the way for the Cornwallis' surrender in Yorktown. Between the 18th and the 19th centuries, the first Venezuelan cosmopolitan, Miranda, acted thus on all the great stages where freedom of man was at stake: the American Revolution, the French Revolution, and the Latin American Revolution -- three related political processes of undeniable projection to the rest of the world.

It was thus on North American soil that Miranda began his journey to freedom. After Pensacola he would later say, "My first thought as a man was a feeling of national fervor. When participating in the emancipation of the United States, the first surge of spirit was a yearning for the liberation of the places which saw me, coming to the world, for I did not dare to call America a homeland. This feeling of love for liberty acted so much upon me that ever since all my thoughts referred to it, and it became the motive for all my actions and the reason for all my journeys."

We are faithful to the Bolivarian teachings on the achievement of continental integration in a world of peace. Latin America is a region that feels a natural calling to multilateral relations. The Organization of American States, CARICOME, the subregional Andean Pact, the Amazonian Pact, the Latin American Organization for Energy, the Latin American Economic System, the Central American Common Market, the Latin American Integration Association are but part of those multilateral organizations where Latin American plurality is of the continental scope.

Multilaterality is both our inclination and our strength, notwithstanding the importance of bilateral ties which in no way deny and basically reinforce multilateral relations. More and more do we strive for oneness in a united comprehension of our diversities, so we will not go separate and divided, drifted by discord, disparity, and anarchy.

We wish to achieve a comprehensive, harmonious development. There are still many needs to be provided for, much want to be met, and social injustice to be redressed. The evils of underdevelopment resist all efforts to dislodge them and strike root by singular lack of understanding. The path that is to guide us at a lower social cost towards the future is that of cooperation based on solidarity.

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Such a cooperation must range from the cultural to the economic. We aspire not only to a numerical increase of per capita income, but also to a fair distribution of wealth so that well-being and prosperity can be placed at everyone's reach and the population be guaranteed an access to the goods basic to human dignity. This must be the result of a joint effort, that of the government and that of the people. Education and work are the tools of progress and self-improvement. Personal, individual, and combined efforts must be encouraged. We believe in the promoting role of the state, a promoter state that fosters individual and social initiatives, yet does not waive its social function of intervention, regulation, and control.

We believe in foreign investments to be measured according to national convenience when they constitute financial injections and not simple patent permits that will absorb national savings and derive from them their profits without incurring the risk of investing their own capital. We act in this respect within the framework of Decision 24 of the Andean Pact because we wish to strengthen our own sources of financing.

We know that in many cases foreign capital, without losing sight of its profit-making goals, attempts to create wealth and employment in our countries. If it comes to us with that purpose, we welcome it. However, we have suffered exploitation and exaction from transnational companies whose doubtful procedures and excessive pursuit of profit forced the United States to legislate against monopolies.

We desire as much as you do a democratic Latin America -- peace loving and respectful of human rights. Liberty must be supported on social justice if it wants to overcome critical poverty, disease, lack of culture, and backwardness. It is on the basis of nonintervention and respect for free self-determination of nations that we shall be able to achieve collective security and protect our region from the great world tensions where threatening language can trigger conflicts capable of destroying peace.

We are committed to democracy. Neither the traditional dictatorships nor the new leftist totalitarianisms represent valid solutions to nations whose vocation is liberty. In this line of conduct, we give active political and moral support to the government junta of El Salvador, presided by our distinguished friend Jose Napoleon Duarte, who is trying to offer a democratic and institutional way out of the situation of violence and terrorism existing in his country.

We have stretched out a hand to Nicaragua, as Latin America awaits its conversion to democracy after it supported its struggle against a dynastic dictatorship. As long as there remains any rational hope for a pluralistic society to be achieved there, we shall maintain our attitude of cooperation.

We are aware of the existence of destabilizing tensions and predications in the Caribbean, but we must weigh wisely our actions there so as to prevent conflicts from expanding and endangering world peace. We oppose any kind of foreign intervention and reject all provocative action taken by underpowers that act as mandataries in the Central American region and in the Caribbean.

The summit conference of Cancun took place a few weeks ago, and we had there the opportunity to exchange views on the international situation. You were witness to the seriousness, the dignity, and independence of Venezuela's position as stated in my speeches.

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We did our best so that this unique, historical, momentous dialog between industrialized countries and developing nations would not end in failure. We all made a joint effort to avoid confrontation and seek foremost the positive coincidences that would lead to the necessary cooperation. The step taken was yet a modest one, but it brought out the political will of the 22 attending chiefs of state and government to pursue global negotiations within the framework of the United Nations.

Upon your return from Mexico you said that the efforts and constructive spirit which characterized the discussions at Cancun must continue. And the American Ambassador to the United Nations declared recently that every one of us bears the responsibility for transplanting the spirit of Cancun to all the forums of the United Nations system. This time we cannot fail. These words bring optimism to the developing world, which trusts the understanding and the good disposition of the United States.

Mr. President, Venezuela projects democracy and freedom in its foreign policy and has made its energetic wealth act as a concrete instrument of negotiation, cooperation, and international solidarity. A great many coincidences with the United States enable us to march side by side on the road of human freedom.

In your two speeches today, Mr. President, you referred first to Venezuelans such as Simon Bolivar, and in your speech tonight to young compatriots of mine who are in this world of sports, who, at a time not too far away nor too near this day, were people that were of interest to you and me when we were sports journalists.

You have called our compatriots, David Concepcion and Tony Armas, who today are excellent players in the big leagues. And if you allow me this association of ideas, perhaps you might have believed in the talks I had with you and with high representatives of your government that my position as was stated on Central America and the Caribbean is too optimistic. But I am an optimist, and I believe you are one, too.

When you were a candidate for the Presidency, on our television we saw many of the films in which you acted years ago, and I remember one very specially which is related to baseball.

You were playing the role of a pitcher, a great pitcher, who suddenly felt, let's say, a drop in his physical conditions, and it was the trust of his friends and his moral conviction that he had to play to have his team win that made the team win.

And I am sure that your quarry of optimism has not run dry. And although perhaps the situation might seem sometimes dramatic, we can be certain that it is people -- men and people like those of the United States and Venezuela who love freedom -- those are the ones that will win.

To reiterate, allow me to reiterate my gratitude and that of Betty and the persons who accompany me for all your kindness, and as I do so, I raise my glass in a toast to your personal happiness, that of your distinguished wife, to the democratic success of your government, and the prosperity and happiness of the people of the United States, a people forever committed to liberty.

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Note: President Reagan spoke at 9:44 p.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House. President Herrera spoke in Spanish, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

41ST DOCUMENT of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Public Papers of the Presidents

Remarks at the Welcoming Ceremony for President Luis Herrera
Campins of Venezuela

1981 Pub. Papers 1053

November 17, 1981

LENGTH: 1530 words

President Reagan. Ladies and gentlemen, it's indeed an honor to welcome His Excellency, the President of Venezuela, and Mrs. Herrera Campins to Washington.

President Herrera and I had the opportunity to get to know each other at last month's summit in Cancun. While we were there, we reaffirmed that our two nations share common goals and mutual concerns, especially about liberty and progress in the American family of nations. The challenges facing the people of the Americas are greater than ever before. Maintaining independence and freedom will require the same dedication demonstrated during the struggle for independence that is common to every American nation.

Venezuela played a unique role in America's struggle for independence. Its role in the future of the region is no less important. The great liberator Simon Bolivar once said, "It is harder to maintain the balance of liberty than to endure the weight of tyranny." He lamented that all too often mankind is willing to rest unconcerned and accept things as they are.

President Herrera, if Bolivar were alive today, he would be proud indeed of the current generation of Venezuelans and what it has accomplished. In two decades, you have built a free nation that is a beacon of hope for all those who suffer oppression. After courageously casting off the chains of dictatorship, Venezuelans rejected the tyranny of left and right and held firm in their commitment to dignity and freedom.

While still in its infancy, your young democracy withstood a serious challenge from an external force that still threatens other emerging nations, undermining legitimate attempts at social change in order to exploit chaos and promote tyranny. But, clearly, in a tribute to the decency and values of your people, the love of liberty has prevailed. It is to Venezuela's credit and in keeping with Bolivar's dream that you are now helping others overcome similar challenges to their freedom and prosperity.

I know that we will stand together, Mr. President, in our opposition to the spread to our shores of hostile totalitarian systems and in our dedication to true liberty and democracy.

Venezuela's development program, particularly in the Caribbean region, is an example of humanitarianism and farsightedness that has the highest respect and administration of the people of the United States. Your recognition of the private sector's role in development is much appreciated here, but this, too, is in your tradition.

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Over a century ago, Andres Bello, an intellectual giant and a Venezuelan, noted a relationship between liberty and enterprise. "Liberty," he suggested, "gives wings to the spirit of enterprise wherever it meets it. It breathes breath into where it does not exist."

We have much to learn from the people of Venezuela. Your knowledge of developing nations is invaluable and, President Herrera, I'm personally looking forward to your counsel on this vital subject.

Venezuela reaches out today, in the spirit of Bolivar and Bello, the liberator and the educator, to better mankind and to unite the freedom-loving peoples of this hemisphere.

Just a few months ago, President Herrera, you spoke to the United Nations and eloquently outlined your nation's commitment to principle. There you stated, "Venezuelans believe in and practice democracy. We do not attempt to impose our own values and concepts of society on anyone, but we know that freedom is the road of history." Let me say to you as clearly and directly as I can, in this expression of Venezuela's cherished goals, you have the firm and lasting support of the people of the United States of America.

Mr. President, our two peoples will walk that road together as equals, as friends who share common values. And so, as one American to another, we bid you a heartfelt welcome.

President Herrera. Your Excellency, Mr. Ronald Reagan, President of the United States, distinguished guests:

Mr. President, thank you on behalf of my wife, the people who accompany me, and in my own name, for your kind words of welcome. The United States and Venezuela have enjoyed throughout their history friendly and cordial relations with inevitable coincidence and divergences, but with the unalterable constant of friendship and understanding in a spirit of mutual and strict respect for the national dignity of our countries.

Venezuela has acquired a growing weight in international affairs. Today, we constitute an obligatory point of reference for all issues related to hemispheric dialog and relations between the industrialized and the developing worlds. We follow an honorable, independent, and serious international policy, attempting at all times to project the image of our democratic institutions, observant of the demands of freedom.

We have attained and consolidated since 1958 our democratic stability, following the effort made by our democratic organizations and the national armed forces to achieve mutual understanding and respect and after overcoming the threats of a Marxist-inspired subversion that meant to destabilize our process of democratization.

The presence of Venezuela in the hemisphere and in the world is enhanced by our position as a producer and exporter of strategically valuable energy resources, our status of promoter and founder of the Organization of Oil [Petroleum] Exporting Countries, and holder of a privileged geographical position in a region afflicted by international tensions. We labor indefatigably so that peace will not suffer impairment or wrong.

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Mr. President, the foreign policy actions of my government are not characterized by any kind of notion against, anti, anything. They are governed by an unyielding purpose of acting in favor of, pro, in favor of the interests of Venezuela, of Latin America, of the developing world, and of all of mankind.

In our observance of this principle, when we coincide with other nations, we do not do so in submission. And when we disagree, it is not because of aversion. When we coincide, it is without complexes. When we differ, it is without fear. We are not, and shall not be, passive subjects or instruments in the struggle between the superpowers over the issue of world supremacy.

Our foreign policy is, as you well know, autonomous and sovereign, as is fit for a country that is the birthplace of Simon Bolivar, the liberator, father of our independence and fighter of Latin American integration. It is this intellectual and political legacy that inspires our domestic and foreign policies.

My visit to this great nation, Mr. President, comes at a precarious moment in world affairs. I hope that the talks we will hold will produce more points of coincidence than discrepancy both on the political and the social-economic issues.

We shall speak on the tense reality of the Central American and the Caribbean regions, all the complex factors that affect it and serve as breeding ground for convulsions resulting from social imbalances which are seized upon by political hegemonic aspirations and destabilizing ideological radicalisms. We want to preserve this region from the tensions of bloc politics.

We shall pursue, led by the same constructive spirit, the dialog begun in Cancun on the urgency of making substantial changes in the present international economic relations. The peoples of the world continue to hope to see global negotiations held within the framework of the United Nations. And even if they are to be initially frail, they will build up gradually as trade develops.

We shall discuss the improvement and expansion of bilateral relations between our two countries, both of which enjoy systems of freely elected democratic governments and a historical commitment to defend the freedom of mankind.

Our conversations will be clear in their wording, specific in their subject matter, and positive in their results. That is the deepest hope I harbor on the occasion of my visit here.

Mr. President, I thank you, your government, and your people, for this invitation you have extended to me to hold a dialog on the future of our countries, of our continent, and of peace. Thank you.

Note: President Reagan spoke at 10:18 a.m. in the East Room, where President Herrera was given a formal welcome. The ceremony was not held on the South Lawn, as is customary, due to inclement weather. President Herrera spoke in Spanish, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Following the ceremony, the two Presidents met in the Oval Office. Also present at that meeting were, on the American side, the Vice President, Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig, Jr., Assistant to the President for

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National Security Affairs Richard v. Allen, and U.S. Ambassador to Venezuela William H. Luers and, on the Venezuelan side, Foreign Minister Jose Alberto Zambrano Velasco, Minister, Secretariat of the Presidency, Gonzalo Garcia Bustillos, and Venezuelan Ambassador to the United States Marcial Perez Chiriboga. President Reagan and President Herrera were then joined by an expanded group of their advisers for a second meeting in the Cabinet Room.

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November 28, 1984

PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH PLANNING SCHEDULE

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DELIVERY DATE</u>	<u>WRITER RESEARCHER</u>	<u>DUE TO BEN</u>	<u>SENIOR STAFF</u>	<u>DUE TO RR</u>	<u>COPIES</u>
PHOTO WITH RECIPIENTS OF 1984 NANSEN MEDAL	11/29 Thursday	Al Julie			11/28 3:00 Wednesday	
✓ TAPING: NCAA NATIONAL YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM FILM	11/29 Thursday	Dana KimW			11/28 3:00 Wednesday	
TAPING: TRIBUTE TO DAVID L. WOLPER	11/29 Thursday	Al Julie			11/28 3:00 Wednesday	
✓ TAPING: GENERIC HOLIDAY MESSAGE	11/29 Thursday	Dana Elizabeth			11/28 3:00 Wednesday	
TAPING: NEW YEAR'S EVE OPRYLAND TELEVISION SPECIAL	11/29 Thursday	Peggy KimW		11/28 3:00 Wednesday		
TAPING: TRIBUTE TO JOHN SWEARINGEN	11/29 Thursday	Al KimW			11/28 3:00 Wednesday	
TAPING: MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY	11/29 Thursday	Al Kim			11/28 3:00 Wednesday	
TAPING: ARMY-NAVY GAME	11/29 Thursday	Peter Elizabeth			11/28 3:00 Wednesday	
✓ DEPARTURE STATEMENT: CHANCELLOR HELMUT KOHL OF GERMANY	11/30 Friday	Dana Julie				

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DELIVERY DATE</u>	<u>WRITER RESEARCHER</u>	<u>DUE TO BEN</u>	<u>SENIOR STAFF</u>	<u>DUE TO RR</u>	<u>COPIES</u>
KENNEDY CENTER HONORS RECEPTION	12/02 Sunday	Peter Kim	11/27 4:00 Tuesday	11/28 10:00 Wednesday	11/29 3:00 Thursday	
STATE VISIT: PRESIDENT JAIME LUSINCHI OF VENEZUELA Arrival Ceremony State Dinner Toast Entertainment Thank You	12/04 Tuesday	Dana Julie				
"CHRISTMAS IN WASHINGTON" CONCERT REMARKS REQUIRED ? ? ?	12/09 Sunday					
PSI CITATION CEREMONY	12/10 Monday	Peter Kim	12/05 4:00 Wednesday	12/06 10:00 Thursday	12/07 3:00 Friday	
DEPARTURE STATEMENT: PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE OF NIGER	12/11 Tuesday	Dana Julie				
CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING	12/13 Thursday	Peggy Elizabeth	12/10 4:00 Monday	12/11 10:00 Tuesday	12/12 3:00 Wednesday	

in the Contadora process, which it helped to create, is another dimension of Venezuela's strong, effective leadership. We heartily support all the objectives of the Contadora process. Our own diplomatic efforts in Central America are designed to help you in seeking a verifiable and comprehensive settlement, recognizing as stated by your fellow democratic leader, the President of Costa Rica, that "democracy is the bridge to peace in Central America."

We have seen that Costa Rican democracy remains stable, that Honduras has made a peaceful transition to democracy that El Salvador has held three democratic elections since 1981 and that Guatemala held fair open elections for a Constituent Assembly in July 1984. The exception to this democratic trend is Nicaragua, where five years after promising the OAS that there would be genuinely democratic elections, the Sandinistas have persecuted the genuinely democratic political parties, trade unions, civic and religious groups so that their November 4 elections were a communist-style fraud--orderly in form but lacking the democratic content of real political competition. We must work together to bring about the implementation by Nicaragua of the democratic commitments made to the OAS in 1979.

Venezuela's economic assistance to the governments of Central America and the Caribbean under the San Jose Accord is a valuable contribution to the strengthening of democratic institutions, and we applaud your actions.

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