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by LADB Staff
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Going against the country's power elite, President Manuel Zelaya made good on his promise (see NotiCen, 2008-08-07) to join the Alianza Bolivariana de las Americas (ALBA). He made a grand spectacle of piping his country aboard, holding the signing ceremony outside the Casa Presidencial before a cheering crowd of thousands. The assembled presidents and high officials of the member countries looked on.

Presidents Hugo Chavez of Venezuela, Evo Morales of Bolivia, Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua, and Vice President Carlos Lage of Cuba formed the phalanx. Most of the appreciative audience was from the organizations of the Bloque Popular; they were workers, campesinos, students, and unionists. Opponents of the move were unabashed in expressing their fear of biting the hand that feeds them.

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