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Mexican Politicians Reaffirm Foreign Policy Principles

by John Neagle

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At the conclusion of a four-day seminar on Mexican-US relations on Dec. 18, Antonio Riva Palacio, chairman of the Mexican Senate's Grand Commission, said the government will continue pursuing cherished foreign policy principles. Riva Palacio declared that national self-determination, defense of national sovereignty and peaceful solutions to disagreements among nations will continue as the basic postulates of Mexican foreign policy. The seminar took place in Mexico City, attended by Mexican and US experts on bilateral relations. The National College of Political Science and Public Administration sponsored the event. College chair Jose R. Castelazo said relations between the two nations are characterized by lack of understanding and inadequate information. He urged the Reagan administration to expand trade relations on the basis of equality for both sides, and to abolish all elements of trade protectionism. Next, Castelazo argued that Washington's coercive approach to the drug trafficking problem has no other purpose than to apply pressure on Mexico. The real social causes of drug use, he said, are virtually ignored. Most Mexican speakers at the conference referred to the geopolitics of the White House as the primary obstacle to improved bilateral relations. (PRENSA LATINA, 12/19/86)

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