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Mexican President Blasts Reagan Administration's Central America Policy

by Deborah Tyroler

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On March 25, Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid charged the Reagan administration of emphasizing force over diplomacy in its Central America policy at a high cost in death and destruction. He criticized US economic and trade sanctions imposed on Panama. At a state dinner in honor of Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo, de la Madrid said, "We oppose the justification for acts of intervention or economic coercion" in Central America. He added, "The protection of our security isn't associated with strategic projects of doubtful standing." In an allusion to US support for the Nicaraguan contras, and dispatching US troops to Honduras on March 17, de la Madrid said: "Stubbornness in imposing military options over diplomatic efforts is producing a conflict whose high costs in death and destruction we can neither tolerate nor view with indifference." (Basic data from AP, 03/26/88)

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