

RB-369
this is Lionel Martin in Havana. for Thursday morning
use. the service message.

Mexican president, now on a tour of Latin America will
arrive in Havana, Cuba today. ~~Hebebebebe~~ in what is considered
a significant stopover. here is the story.

~~ExbXMexidbXbXpXbXbX~~

When the Mexican president arrives in Havana today ~~he~~
~~will~~ on a four day visit, he will be given a welcome reserved only
for friendly foreign dignitaries. Workers will be given
time off to cheer the Mexican president as he rides by
in a motorcade accompanied by Fidel Castro.

There are only two nations in the Western Hemisphere ^{that}
~~have~~ never broken diplomatic ties with revolutionary Cuba --
one of them is Canada...the other is Mexico.

And Lopez Portillo has said on the eve of his visit
here that he wants Mexico to strengthen its ties with Cuba.
He also had some very ^{complimentary} ~~laudatory~~ remarks to make about Fidel
Castro.

So Lopez Portillo, the president of Mexico will be treated
as a ~~close~~ friend and will receive an honor ^{given} ~~received~~ only ~~for~~ to
a handful of foreign leaders -- a mass rally for him in
Havana's revolution square next Saturday. at which he and
Fidel Castro will speak.

Lionel Martin-ABC News-Havana.

This is L.M. in Hav for CBC Radio News

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