

RB-370

The meaning of Mexican president Lopez Portillo's four day visit to Cuba was summed up by the huge sign over the speakers platform in revolution square, which said: Long Live the Friendship between Cuba and Mexico.

The mass rally in revolution square, the culmination of the Mexican president's visit, was an event usually reserved for Cuba's closest friends. Like ~~former president~~ ^{President} Salvador Allende, of Chile, President Neto of Angola and Premier Brezhnev of the U.S.S.R.

~~Radio Castro announced that Mexico was the only state that did not break relations with Cuba.~~

The hundreds of thousands of Cubans in the plaza cheered when Fidel Castro said:

~~Mexico was the only state that did not break relations with Cuba,~~

~~And then he corrected himself~~

Dr Castro ~~said~~ ^{said} ~~that Mexico was the only nation that~~ did not break relations with Cuba in this hemisphere... and then he corrected himself-- ~~neither did Canada,~~ ^{he said}

For his part, Mexican President Lopez Portillo reaffirmed Mexico's policy of good relations with ~~good~~ ^{with} and the right of every nation to choose its own social system. He also spoke in favor of world peace and proposed that the petroleum producing nations help the underdeveloped world. ~~This is Lionel Martin in Havana for CBC Radio News.~~

The visit of the Mexican president is significant ~~since~~ ^{since} since it comes on the heels of a worsening of relations between Cuba and the United States. For many observers here, it reaffirmed Mexico's independent foreign policy -- ~~and~~ ^{and} its unwillingness to buckle under to pressures.

This is Lionel Martin in Havana for CBC Radio New

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