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Bush Meets with Mexican president



Bush with Mexican President Vicente Fox on his first

SAN CRISTOBAL, Mexico (AP) — In shirtsleeves and open collars, President Bush and Mexican President Vicente Fox promised greater cooperation in dealing with illegal drugs, immigration and energy shortages. Stopping short of specific commitments, the two leaders spoke of a "shared prosperity" between the United States and Mexico.

Bush, on the first foreign trip of his presidency, made use of his limited Spanish to symbolize the kind of warm relationship he intends to build with his neighbor to

the South. Bush said the two, in their private meetings, spent considerable time on how best to share energy resources and the possibility of energy exploration in Canada, the United States and Mexico.

He refused to say definitively whether he would ask Congress to nullify a 14-year-old law requiring the U.S. president to certify annually how Mexico and some two dozen other countries are cooperating in the fight against drug trafficking. Mexico views the process as condescending.

Bush said he trusts Fox when the Mexican president says he is committed to an all-out fight with drug traffickers.

He also acknowledged America's responsibility for creating the demand that drives the drug

trade. On immigration, Secretary of State Colin Powell announced the two countries were forming a special panel chaired by himself and Attorney General John Ashcroft along with top Mexican officials to deal with cross-border questions of migration and labor.

Touching down in Leon, Mexico hours earlier, Bush greeted Fox with open arms and the pair set off to the nearby farm town of San Cristobal, about 210 miles northwest of Mexico City.

Their motorcade rolled past dusty farm fields, clusters of goats and telephone poles bearing placards that showed two hands joined beneath the U.S. and Mexican flags and the slogan "Prosperando Juntos" — "Prospering Together."

At the ranch of Fox's mother, Mercedes Quesada, Bush greeted townspeople, gave Quesada a kiss and made small talk in Spanish with Fox's two other children and his nine siblings. Sitting beside Quesada, Bush teased her, "I thought your advice was going to be, 'Always listen to your mother.'"

A few dozen Mexicans who live

in the United States marched into San Cristobal to demand amnesty for illegal immigrants, but they were turned back and kept away until the presidents departed.

Mexico has evolved as an economic player since the North American Free Trade Agreement was signed in 1994. It recently eclipsed Japan to take the No. 2 slot among U.S. trading partners. Bush and Fox want to expand trade across the border, arguing that doing so will give Mexico the economic lift it needs to curb illegal immigration.

On anti-drug trafficking, Mexico has never failed to win certification for its efforts. The next deadline for State Department certification decisions is March 1.

Mexico views that process as condescending and hypocritical, given that the United States leads the world in illegal drug consumption. Fox wants the United States to find another way to address drug interdiction concerns.

One proposal before Congress would exempt Mexico from the certification process for one year. Another would end the process altogether.

Ecuatorianos se van y esperan volver pronto

POR YOLANDA VACCARO

Madrid — Cincuenta ecuatorianos viajaron ayer a su país acogiéndose al convenio de retorno voluntario recientemente firmado por los gobiernos ecuatoriano y español.

Son el primer grupo que ha confiado en el Gobierno Español, que les ha garantizado la obtención (en un máximo de tres semanas) en el Consulado de España en Quito de un visado de residencia y trabajo, ya que todos tienen una oferta de empleo.

Los medios de comunicación españoles siguen con atención la situación de este grupo de ecuatorianos y muchos de los que están regresando dejan familiares en España, por lo que será bastante difícil que el Gobierno Español no cumpla con la promesa de readmitirlos. La pregunta es obvia: ¿Si finalmente van a regresar y a quedarse en España, por qué no se ha arreglado su situación in situ?

Si todo se cumple según lo pactado -la Administración Española empieza a desbordarse-, los principales perjudicados serán los contribuyentes españoles, ya que, si sólo se acoge a este peculiar sistema de legalización el 50% de los ecuatorianos que vive ilegalmente en España -el plazo vence el 28 del mes en curso-, el Gobierno Español habrá gastado en los pasajes de ida y vuelta 32 millones de dólares.

Glosario Glossary

32 millones de dólares—32 million dollars

acogerse—to take refuge

alzada—appeal

amnistía por el crimen—amnesty for the crime

animado—lively

bastante difícil—difficult enough

Con los jefes militares y policiales—With the military and police chiefs

Declarada zona de emergencia—declared an emergency zone

demencia moderada—moderate dementia

El Gobierno Español—The Spanish Government

El juez Juan Guzmán—The judge Juan Guzmán

El presidente colombiano, Andrés Pastrana—The Colombian president, Andrés Pastrana

En una breve charla—In a brief talk

ex jefe policial—ex-police chief

exonerar—exonerate

fallo—verdict

igualmente varios pueblos—equally various people

ilegalmente en España—illegal in Spain

Inapelable ante la Corte Suprema—not appealable before the Supreme Court

La destrucción de puentes—the destruction of bridges

La disputa de territorios—territorial dispute

la promesa—the promise

Las ofertas de trabajo—job offers

Los líderes de las protestas—the protest leaders

miércoles y jueves—Wednesday and Thursday

miseria—misery

operaciones para militar—paramilitary operations

río—river

seis mil personas—six thousand persons

Una zona neutral para la guerrilla del ELN—A neutral zone with the ELN guerrilla

Learn Spanish reading the news

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