



EL OBSERVADOR

De la Rúa Designa Nuevo Ministro de Economía

Buenos Aires (DPA/Efe) El presidente argentino, Fernando de la Rúa, confirmó la designación del hasta ayer ministro de Defensa, Ricardo López Murphy, como el nuevo titular de Economía en reemplazo de José Luis Machinea, quien renunció el pasado viernes.

Luego de la incertidumbre que generó la espera durante 48 horas de una definición sobre los cambios en el gabinete, De la Rúa envió esta tarde un mensaje tranquilizador a los mercados financieros y a la población, en un año signado por las elecciones legislativas de octubre

próximo que condicionarán la segunda parte de su gobierno.

El presidente aseguró la continuidad del plan de convertibilidad y paridad cambiaria, y el cumplimiento de los compromisos externos y los acuerdos con organismos multilaterales.

López Murphy, de tendencia liberal, aceptó el cargo tras mantener una extensa reunión con el mandatario en la residencia oficial de Olivos, luego de arribar de un viaje a Francia.

En Defensa asumirá el hasta ahora secretario general de Presidencia, el

abogado radical Horacio Jaunarena, quien ya ejerció el cargo durante la gestión del entonces mandatario Raúl Alfonsín (1983-1989). Su lugar podría ser ofrecido a un miembro del Frepaso, el principal socio de la Unión Cívica Radical en la Alianza oficialista que gobierna.

El mandatario no quiso confirmar por ahora otros cambios en su equipo de gobierno, decisión que adoptará durante la semana, pese a que el jefe del Gabinete, Chrystian Colombo, había pedido a todos los ministros y altos funcionarios que pusieran su renuncia a disposición.

De la Rúa destacó que López Murphy tiene probados méritos en el ámbito económico, al tiempo que Jaunarena conoce muy bien el área por su experiencia anterior.

El mandatario ratificó su firme decisión de cumplir con los compromisos asumidos con organismos multilaterales y el acuerdo con el Fondo Monetario Internacional (FMI) que consolida el blindaje que garantiza la capacidad financiera del país para enfrentar las obligaciones durante este año y 2002. López Murphy también se comprometió a cumplir

estrictamente con el programa económico ya presentado y respetar nuestros compromisos firmados. Machinea renunció el viernes pasado, luego de quince meses de gestión, ante las fuertes presiones de diversos sectores de la economía argentina por la falta de políticas activas para impulsar la reactivación, luego de más de dos años de recesión y estancamiento.

Por su lado, Horacio Jaunarena fue designado como nuevo ministro de Defensa. El nuevo titular de la cartera de Defensa es un hombre ligado desde hace cerca de veinte años a los asuntos militares de Argentina.

La época que le tocó vivir a Jaunarena en el Ministerio de Defensa fue la peor en la reciente historia argentina, a causa del malestar que existía en los cuarteles

President of Argentina Asks Cabinet to Resign

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — President Fernando De la Rúa asked his entire Cabinet to submit their resignations on Saturday, a day after his economy minister abruptly stepped down, sparking a political crisis. According to a government statement, Chief of Staff Chrystian Colombo "asked all of the Cabinet levels ministers and secretaries to step down to facilitate a reshuffling of the Cabinet."

De la Rúa's spokesman confirmed that Economy Minister Jose Luis Machinea, the architect of Argentina's austerity plan, had submitted his resignation late Friday amid rising dissatisfaction with a tepid turnaround from a two-year economic slump.

Spokesman Ricardo Ostuni said Machinea would stay on until a successor could be named Sunday. It was

the biggest political crisis of De la Rúa's two-party ruling coalition since his vice president, Carlos Alvarez, resigned last October and marked another blow to a country mired in a financial crisis. The fresh political turmoil comes only weeks after Argentina secured a \$40-billion bailout plan from international lenders. But spending cuts and other austerity measures have yet to trigger economic revival.

Argentina's largest daily newspaper, Clarin, reported on its website that Cabinet Chief Chrystian Colombo had requested all ministers and Cabinet-level secretaries submit their resignations. The report said Colombo had acted at the request of De la Rúa and that the move was needed to leave the president with full "freedom of movement to reorganize his cabinet." Cronica

TV and others also reported the announcement amid a second day of late-night meetings between the president and his top aides at his residence in Olivos, a Buenos Aires suburb. Machinea has come under mounting criticism for not doing enough to revive the economy, now mired in a nearly three-year recession. News of his pending resignation surprised economists and analysts and came after financial markets closed Friday. In December, Machinea helped secure a \$39.7 billion emergency aid package from the International Monetary Fund to bolster the ailing economy and help Argentina avoid defaulting on its hefty foreign debt obligations.

But negative economic indicators last month signaled a recovery was still out of reach, making international in-

vestors jittery. The upheaval raised new questions about the future of the badly tattered ruling alliance, made up of De la Rúa's Radical Party and center-left members of his Frepaso coalition partners. That alliance was battered by the resignation of the vice president last year. Meanwhile, presidential aides had no comments on possible successors to Machinea, saying meetings would continue Sunday. "We should have some definition Sunday" said Ostuni, speaking with reporters in Olivos. Current Defense Minister Ricardo Lopez, who cut short a trip out of the country, is among the possible choices. At Olivos, the president was reported to be meeting with a steady stream of political leaders, including his interior minister Federico Storani, as well as his brother, Justice Minister Jorge De la Rúa.

Glosario Glossary

- 24 de febrero - February 24
- ámbito - field, scope
- arribar - to arrive
- avanza - advance
- causa del malestar - cause of the discomfort
- cumplir estrictamente - strictly carry-out
- derrocado presidente Joseph Estrada - overthrow president Joseph Estrada
- diez mil delegados - 10,000 delegates
- dos años de recesión - two years of recession
- El Gobierno de Filipinas - The government of the Philippines
- enfrentar - confront
- etapa - stage
- fin de semana - end of the week
- hallazgo - discovery
- los mercados financieros - the financial markets
- márgenes del río Amazonas - margins of the Amazon river
- marítimos y aéreos - maritime and aerial
- ministro de Defensa - minister of Defense
- ninguna - nobody
- paquete - packet
- pescador - fisherman/woman
- polvo blanco - white dust
- río Amazonas - Amazon river
- sabía - learned
- suroeste del estado - southeast of the state
- tercer - third party
- recobrar fuerzas - recover strength
- tres mil kilómetros - 3,000 kilometers
- vivo aquí y moriré aquí - live here and die here

Learn Spanish reading the news

The Portland Observer's commitment to cultural diversity includes the encouragement of a multi-lingual society. Readers can learn Spanish on this page by reading the words and phrases in bold print and gaining understanding of its meaning with this companion glossary.

Zapatistas toman fuerzas en una reunión indígena

Nurío (DPA) La caravana de 24 altos mandos de la guerrilla zapatista que avanza hacia la capital iniciará hoy la última etapa de su viaje de tres mil kilómetros, luego de recobrar

fuerzas este fin de semana en el tercer Congreso Nacional Indígena.

Los jefes del Ejército Zapatista de Liberación Nacional (EZLN), encabezados

por el subcomandante Marcos, se encuentran en Nurío, en el estado de Michoacán, donde el Congreso reunió a diez mil delegados e invitados especiales.

Ex presidente Estrada niega intento de huida

Manila (Reuters) - El Gobierno de Filipinas dijo que ordenó a la policía bloquear en puertos marítimos y aéreos cualquier intento del derrocado presidente Joseph Estrada de huir del país para evitar un posible enjuiciamiento por su presunto

saqueo de la economía. Pero Estrada rechazó las imputaciones.

Todo eso son rumores, dijo en una entrevista. Lo he dicho una y otra vez, nací aquí, vivo aquí y moriré aquí. No tengo ninguna intención de irme de mi país. No me fuggare.

Pescador halla cocaína flotando en el Amazonas

Río de Janeiro (Efe) Un pescador brasileño encontró 28 kilos de cocaína flotando en el río Amazonas, aunque al principio no sabía qué podía ser aquel polvo blanco, informó la prensa local.

Raimundo Chaves estaba recogiendo madera en los

márgenes del río Amazonas, cuando vio un paquete de plástico flotando. El hallazgo ocurrió el 24 de febrero cerca de la ciudad de Santarem, en el suroeste del estado amazónico de Pará, pero recién se dio a conocer este fin de semana.

Census Bureau: Hispanics Lag in Education

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hispanic adults overall are far less likely than non-Hispanics to be high school or college graduates, and wide differences exist for subgroups within the Hispanic population as well, the Census Bureau says. Twenty-three percent of Cuban-Americans age 25 and over had at least bachelor's degree, a new Census Bureau report being released Tuesday shows. The results are from a survey collected by the bureau in March 2000, and are not results from the 2000 census. Among Central and South Americans, 17.4% of those 25 and older graduated from college, along with 13% of Puerto Ricans, and 6.9% of Mexicans in the country.

Analysts attribute the disparity to a variety of reasons: Cuban-American immigrants tend to be older and make more money. In addition, many Cubans who arrived in the United States over the past several decades came for political asylum and with a higher level of education, while many Mexican-Americans immigrated to take low-paying jobs and had less educa-

tional achievement, said Raul Gonzalez, education policy analyst with the National Council of La Raza, the nation's largest Latino civil rights organization. However, analysts pointed out that Hispanic adults overall still had a lower level of educational achievement than non-Hispanics:

10.6% of all Hispanics 25 and older had at least a bachelor's degree, compared with 25.6% of the overall U.S. population 25 and older and 28.1% of non-Hispanic whites within the same age group. 57.0% of Hispanic adults were graduates of high school or had higher education, compared with 84.1% of all Americans and 88.4% of non-Hispanic whites.

Advocacy groups hope the Bush administration will help close those achievement gaps, said Marisa Demeo, a lawyer with the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund. Hispanics, who can be of any race, are projected to pass non-Hispanic blacks as the nation's largest minority group next year.

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