



EL OBSERVADOR

Jiang Visits Venezuela, Winning Support Against Human Rights Resolution

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — President Hugo Chavez gave Chinese President Jiang Zemin his vote against a U.S.-sponsored resolution condemning China's human rights record.

"We don't believe any country in the world has the right to condemn another," Chavez said halfway through Jiang's three-day visit to Venezuela. "We are going to vote against the resolution."

Up for a vote this week by the U.N. Human Rights Commission in Geneva, the resolution cites

repression of members of the Falun Gong spiritualist movement, Christians, Muslims, Tibetans and others.

Hoping to play host to the 2008 Olympic Games, China wants to defeat the resolution, if not avoid a vote altogether by the 53-member commission. Five of six nations Jiang has visited during his 12-day Latin American tour are commission members.

During a wreath-laying ceremony at the tomb of South American independence hero

Simon Bolivar, Chavez repeated his criticism of U.S. certifications of countries' human rights and drug trafficking records. When a recent U.S. State Department report cited extrajudicial killings by Venezuelan police, Chavez went on national television to read an Amnesty International report on human rights abuses in the United States.

Chavez announced that he will visit China in May, and he said he was writing a letter of condolence to the Chinese people and the

family of the Chinese fighter pilot who perished after a collision with a U.S. spy plane over the South China Sea on April 1.

China insists that Washington take responsibility for the collision. U.S. officials blame reckless flying by the pilot, Wang Wei.

Venezuela has its own territorial spats with Colombia and Guyana, and it scrambled two fighter planes when a U.S. Coast Guard cutter on anti-drug patrol neared Venezuelan waters in October.

Jiang is concluding a Latin America tour to increase Chinese investment and influence in the region. He has a vocal ally in Chavez, a proclaimed admirer of Chinese revolutionary Mao Tse-tung who shares China's view that a world order dominated by the United States is unacceptable. On Tuesday, Jiang and Chavez sign multimillion-dollar accords on energy, taxation, mining and agriculture. China will invest in a \$60 million tractor factory and another plant to produce

atar-based fuel called Orimulsion. China may provide farming expertise in exchange for Orimulsion imports, Chavez said.

Officials also were discussing the idea of jointly manufacturing Chinese K-8 and Y-12 military training and cargo planes in Venezuela, Chavez said.

Chinese-Latin American trade is nearly \$10 billion, while Venezuela's trade with China is \$350 million. Chinese businesses invested \$530 million in Venezuela last year.

Fulfilling an Ancient Mayan Prophecy

"Profecia," Teatro Milagro's sci-fi environmental Mayan mystery, will perform for one last time in Portland on Thursday, April 19 at Da Vinci Arts School, located at 2508 NE. Everett.

Don't miss your chance to catch this final Portland performance, before the troupe goes back on the road.

Also, on Saturday, April 14, at 2 p.m., Teatro Milagro will present an original adaptation of "Profecia" with students from the Green house School. This free performance will be in the Studio Theatre at El Centro Milagro, 525 SE. Stark.

In "Profecia," it is the year 2012. The fulfillment of Xutan, an ancient Mayan prophecy approaches. There will be a great earthquake and rains will flood the earth, unless four individuals can alter the course of hu-

manity. Will they continue in their abusive ways or, guided by an otherworldly child, learn to live in harmony with the planet?

An earthquake rumbles as ancient Mayans foretell the coming of Xutan. The Mayan prophets depart for another galaxy, leaving behind a small child to warn humanity.

A psychic, driven to ancient pyramids by foretelling dreams, unites forces with the child. Two college students, arriving at the pyramids in Palenque, join the struggles of the Mayan people.

The Mayans, the students and the psychic are drawn together on the eve of the prophecy to await their destiny and the future of the world.

For more information at "Profecia," contact Dañel Malán at the Miracle Theatre at 503/236-7253.



Cast members of "Profecia" from left: Danielle Malan, Francisco Garcia, Maya Malan-Gonzalez, Manuel Hall and Laurel Garcia.

Giving Support to the Family of Jose Mejia-Poot

The Mexican Consulate of Portland would like to inform the public that there has been a donation based bank account established for the benefit of the family of Jose Santos Victor Mejia Poot, who was killed by a police officer in a psychiatric hospital on April 1. This account, maintained by US Bank, will provide the family of the victim with aid in the following weeks as they mourn the death of their beloved husband, son and brother. Donations may be delivered to any US Bank branch in the name of the Jose Santos Mejia Poot Family Relief Fund. Your generosity is

much appreciated.

El Consulado de México informa que con objeto de apoyar a los familiares de José Santos Víctor Mejía Poot, muerto en un hospital psiquiátrico de Portland a causa de los disparos que recibió de un oficial de la policía, se abrió la cuenta a nombre de Jose Santos Mejia Poot Family Relief Fund en el Banco US Bank. Tu heneroosa donación que puedes depositar en cualquier sucursal de US Bank, será de gran ayuda para cubrir diversos gastos que la familia enfrenta en estos momentos. Unete a esta noble causa solidaria.

Audition Notice for Upcoming Plays at El Centro Milagro

Teatro Milagro, the bilingual touring theatre company of the Miracle Theatre Group, announces auditions for its upcoming season of plays. Auditions, by appointment only, will be held on Sunday, May 20, from 12 to 4 p.m. at El Centro Milagro, 5252 SE. Stark. For an audition appointment, contact Danielle Malan, Artistic Director at 503/236-7253 or by email at malan@milagro.org.

Needed are one man and one woman, age 20 - 30 for two touring productions. The first, "Aventuras de Don Quixote," is an elementary school age production that will begin touring in July for 10 performances, and then continue on a semi-regular basis through the 2001 - 2002 school year. The second, "FRIDA, un retablo," is a

high school to college age production that will tour from January through November of 2002. Pay for these positions is on a per show basis and additionally, there is per diem money for travel. All interested applicants need to have a flexible work schedule that allows for travel, experience working with youth and some knowledge of Spanish.

"Aventuras de Don Quixote" - by Dañel Malán

A traveling troupe of actors has come to town to put on a show about Don Quixote. There is one small problem. The actor playing the lead role has gotten so obsessed with the part, he really thinks he is Don Quixote. Do they try to stop him, or let him seek the impossible dream? Maria's Mom, who

has dragged her daughter to the library, believes the show must go on, no matter what! The acting troupe and Maria are unwillingly pulled into the drama. Maria, unbelieving at first, ends up a true champion for Don Quixote, as she learns to share his passion for the written word.

"FRIDA, un retablo" - by Dañel Malán

Life and art intertwine in this surrealist vision of Frida Kahlo, internationally acclaimed Mexican artist, as famed for her eccentric lifestyle as she is for her paintings. Via imaginary friends and artistic passion, Frida created an escape from the miseries of her reality. Despite childhood diseases and innumerable operations, she lived each day to its fullest.

Brazil Currency Drops to Lowest Ever

SAO PAULO, Brazil (AP) — The specter of a currency devaluation in neighboring Argentina and corruption allegations against the President of Brazil's Senate pushed the Brazilian real to its lowest point ever against the dollar Monday.

The real closed at 2.196 to the dollar, the weakest finish ever for the currency that was created in mid-1994 as part of an economic stabilization plan that put an end to triple digit inflation.

For a few months after it was launched, the real was worth more than the dollar.

The Sao Paulo Stock Exchange closed down 3.5% with brokers blaming the same factors pressuring the currency. On Saturday, Argentine Finance Minister Domingo Cavallo unveiled a plan under which the country would abandon its parity to the U.S. dollar pegging it instead to a basket of several major currencies.

"This smells like devaluation to me,"

said one Rio de Janeiro trader who blamed the sell off on investors seeking coverage from regional turbulence.

Also Monday, Senate President Jader Barbalho defended himself on the Senate floor against widening charges that he was involved in a corruption scheme that may have bilked tax payers out of as much as 2 billion reais (\$920 million), further fueling uncertainty of the future of political and economic reforms in Brazil.

Cautious Cincinnati Lifts Curfew

STORY CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Luken said he will appoint a commission to look into solutions. Unlike previous groups, he said, the panel will be able to oversee implementation of its plans. That would require City Council approval. The City Council planned to meet Tuesday to discuss demands by black leaders for a city ordinance allowing officials to bypass Cincinnati police officers and firefighters when hiring new

chiefs. The city charter requires chiefs to be promoted from the ranks, but black leaders say that perpetuates problems. The 1,000-member police force is 28 percent black; the city of 311,000 is 43 percent black.

Cincinnati was sued by last month by citizen groups who accused the police department of failing to end 30 years of police harassment of blacks.

The flash point for the protests

was the fatal shooting April 7 of Timothy Thomas, 19, as he fled from officers trying to arrest him on 14 warrants, mostly for traffic offenses. The FBI, police and the county prosecutor are investigating the shooting by Officer Stephen Roach, who is white. Roach, 27, was placed on leave.

Fifteen blacks and no whites have died in confrontations with police since 1995, four of them since November.

Usted tiene una familia que lo respalda

Imagínese: hoy cambia todo. "Yo" da paso a "nosotros". "Nuestro" sustituye a "mió". Y vivir feliz el resto de la vida es una meta, no un hecho. ¿Está nervioso? Para nada. Usted cuenta con el apoyo de una familia sólida. American Family Mutual Insurance. Cuando esté construyendo un futuro, la confianza lo es todo; 70 años de experiencia en el campo de los seguros es lo que ambos necesitan para sentirse seguros. En cuanto a compromiso se refiere, American Family mantiene el rango A+ (Superior) que otorga A.M. Best, la respetada autoridad en la puntuación de agencias de seguros. Eso lo dice todo. Sólo flame y, con mucho gusto, uno de nuestros amables agentes le dará más información. Ahora, respire profundo. Luego... ¡avíentese! Nosotros lo protegemos.

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