



EL OBSERVADOR

Rest of World Intrudes on Latin America Visit

SAN SALVADOR — President Bush concluded a weekend visit to Latin America on Sunday by calling for a Central American free trade zone similar to that enjoyed by North America. It was a key part of his effort to promote trade, economic development and U.S. friendship in the region.

But as hard as the president tried to stick to those themes during his visit to Mexico, Peru and El Salvador, continued suicide bombings in the Middle East, worry about Iraq's suspected buildup of weapons of mass destruction and new acts of violence in Kashmir forced him to address crises far from Latin America.

In Mexico, he unveiled a proposal to increase U.S. aid to poor nations by \$1.7 billion in the first year of the plan, \$3.3 billion the second year and \$5 billion in sub-

sequent years. But Bush was sidetracked by questions about Iraq. He responded with more tough words over Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's refusal to allow inspectors into the country to check for chemical, biological or nuclear weapons.

Even before he left Washington, Bush got a hint that the planned themes of his trip might be overshadowed: A car bomb killed nine Peruvians outside the U.S. Embassy in Lima.

Bush, who was to arrive in Lima on Saturday, said "two-bit terrorists" would not deter him.

Later, at a news conference with Peruvian President Alejandro Toledo, Bush announced an aid plan to help the Andean nation fight drug trafficking and terrorism, improve teacher training, expand trade and improve its business cli-



President Bush and Laura Bush are greeted by children in traditional dress at Compalapa International Airport in San Salvador.

mate. The two leaders also signed an agreement to bring Peace Corps volunteers back to Peru. The U.S. program was expelled by Peru's then-military government in 1975.

But Bush said the main task is to fight terrorism. He said U.S. aid will be tripled from \$50 million to \$150 million to help Peru

wage that battle. "Our nations understand that political and economic progress depends on security — and that security is impossible in a world with terrorists," Bush said.

Before Bush arrived, police used tear gas to break up crowds protesting the visit and arrested 18 people for throwing stones.

Fiscal general de Venezuela dispuesto a enjuiciar a presidente Chávez

Caracas (AFP) - El fiscal general de Venezuela, Isafas Rodríguez, aseguró estar dispuesto a enjuiciar al presidente Hugo Chávez, si encuentra "hechos contundentes" en las denuncias sobre presunta corrupción en el gobierno, en una entrevista que publica este lunes el diario El Nacional.

Rodríguez garantizó que en la fiscalía "no se ha engavetado ninguna investigación contra el presidente Chávez", como acusa la oposición, al ser consultado sobre la posibilidad que se enjuicie al mandatario por actos de corrupción.

"Se ha tratado de que las averiguaciones (contra Chávez) avancen. Si hay hechos contundentes, a mm nunca me va a temblar el pulso para asumir esa responsabilidad" de alentar un juicio, aseveró el fiscal general, ex vicepresidente del gobierno chavista.

Según la prensa, en la fiscalía venezolana cursan 58 denuncias contra el jefe de Estado, en su mayoría por presunto desvío de fondos públicos, que Rodríguez considera que "carecen de documentación".

El ala opositora del partido Movimiento al Socialismo (MAS), de tendencia centro izquierda, solicitó en enero a la Fiscalía un

"antejuicio de mérito" contra Chávez, por "violación a la constitución y las leyes".

En específico, los antiguos aliados del mandatario lo acusan de uso de fondos públicos para financiar actividades partidistas, incitación a la violencia, reiterada amenaza e intimidación a los medios de comunicación y omisión en materia de corrupción.

El "antejuicio de mérito" es un procedimiento especial que abre la Fiscalía para determinar si existen méritos para enjuiciar al presidente y se sustancia ante el Tribunal Supremo de Justicia, que decide el proceso.

Esta figura fue usada en 1993 para separar del poder, enjuiciar y condenar a prisión al entonces presidente socialdemócrata Carlos Andrés Pérez (1974-79 1989-93), contra quien Chávez se alzó en armas en febrero de 1992.

En su entrevista con El Nacional, Rodríguez pidió "tomar en cuenta el día después" a quienes promueven una salida anticipada de Chávez del poder, electo en 1998 y reelecto en 2000 para un periodo de seis años.

"Tú puedes cambiar el timonel, la tripulación, las velas del barco, pero no puedes hundirlo", recordó el fiscal, para quien Venezuela "va a cambiar con Chávez o sin Chávez".

Glosario Glossary

actos de corrupción — corrupt acts

antiguos aliados — former allies

denuncias — accusations

desvío de fondos públicos — use of public funds

En su entrevista con El Nacional — In his interview with "The National."

enero — January

materia de corrupción — corrupt material

salida — exit

sustancia — substance

timonel — the helmsman

un periodo de seis años — a period of six years

uso de fondos públicos — use of public funds

violación a la constitución y las leyes — violation of the constitution and the laws

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.

Librarians on Net Filtering: 'Don't Make Us Thought Police'

continued ▲ from Front

the software can also block access to sites providing valuable information on topics such as breast cancer and sexually transmitted diseases while failing to block pornographic sites.

"Librarians are uniquely qualified to teach library patrons how to find the content they want and avoid inappropriate content without the government trying to deputize them into the thought police," said Ann Beeson for the

American Civil Liberties Union, which is arguing the case for the plaintiffs.

The government argues that filtering software has vastly improved since the law was enacted, making fewer mistakes and allowing libraries to unblock sites that were blocked in error. The government also contends that printed pornographic materials are not in many library collections, so there is no reason why online obscenity should be.

\$150 Million Awarded in Smoker Death

(AP) -A Portland jury found the Philip Morris tobacco company guilty of negligence, liability and fraud Friday and awarded the estate of a Salem woman more than \$150 million in damages.

The lawsuit was filed by the estate of Michele Schwarz of Salem, who died at age 53 in July 1999 of lung cancer after smoking low-tar Merit cigarettes.

The lawsuit said Schwarz had

switched from a regular filtered cigarette to low-tar Merits because she believed that would be better for her health.

The jury awarded \$150 million in punitive damages alone, \$150,000 in non-economic damages and more than \$355,000 in economic damages.

Such large damages against tobacco companies often have been reduced on appeal in the past.

Spring Cleaning Supports Church

The Victory Outreach Church in northeast Portland is offering spring cleanup services to raise money to support its Christian recovery facility. Residents and businesses with odd jobs are welcome to support this ministry by calling the church for a free spring-cleaning estimate at 503-335-3264.

World's Oldest Woman Dies

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Maud Farris-Luse, recognized last year by the Guinness World Records book as the world's oldest living person, has died. She was 115. Sake-sipping Kamato Hongo, 114, of Kagoshima, Japan, is now the world's oldest person.

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