

Our World Review

Prez Violations Threaten World Bank

Washington, May 8 (Prensa Latina) The World Bank is suffering an attack on its credibility Tuesday, as its president Paul Wolfowitz confronts serious ethical criticism and possible conflict of interest charges.

Wolfowitz has until May 9 to respond to charges presented by a panel of experts, before the WB board makes a final decision.



The WB president entered the line of fire when it was learned he gave his girlfriend, Shaha Ali Riza, a WB employee transferred in 2005 to the State Department, a nearly 200,000 dollar bonus.

Political analysts in France, Germany, and the UK urge his resignation as his actions were a strong blow to the institution.

If Washington, which owns 16.4 percent of the Bank, would agree to a change in presidency, it would greatly improve the situation.

However, even with US support from Canada and Japan, Wolfowitz would remain in a very weak position if pressure persists. ●

China Breaks Links with Saint Lucia

Beijing, May 5 (Prensa Latina) China broke off diplomatic relations with Saint Lucia because of the recent establishment of links between this Antillean Island and Taiwan.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said that step violated the declaration of 1997 where the diplomatic links between China and Saint Lucia were announced.

The document stated that the Chinese ambassador in Castries, capital of the small island, presented a formal protest to the government and announced suspension of links and withdrawal of all bilateral agreements.

The Chinese spokesman accused Taipei authorities recently of practicing paid diplomacy to make the countries recognize two Chinas or one China and one Taiwan.

The smallest island in the Lesser Antilles has 383 square miles and 170 thousand inhabitants.

Taiwan is an island of 22,369 square miles and 23 million inhabitants that has historically belonged to China so that Beijing considers recognition of Taiwan sovereignty as interference in its internal affairs. ●

Fernandez Leads Dem Libs in DR Vote

Santo Domingo, May 8 (Prensa Latina) On Tuesday, the National Electoral Commission of the Dominican Liberation Party (PLD) confirmed Leonel Fernandez as presidential candidate of this group with 71.69 percent of the votes issued.

After the final results of internal elections were announced the National coordinator of this commission, Cesar Pina, said that every member of the party will do the best to provide unity for the May 2008 elections.

Danilo Medina, Fernandez main opponent, recognized his defeat and said the current dignitary obtained the victory because the State imposed itself.

The victory of the re-election tendency suggested things may not be the same between Fernandez and Medina who had developed a political career together. ●

Hijack Kills US Fault, Fidel Castro

Havana, May 8 (Prensa Latina) President Fidel Castro held the United States responsible for the recent violent action occurred in Cuba, which included the death of two people after an unsuccessful attempt to hijack an airplane.

In an article published on Tuesday, the statesman says that impunity and material benefits, with which violent acts against Cuba have been rewarded for nearly 50 years, encourage this kind of action.

Fidel Castro referred to the US-promulgated Cuban Adjustment Act of 1996 that promotes massive flows of emigres which are granted beneficial status upon arrival in that country.

Last week, two young men assaulted a bus and entered the capital airport to request being transferred to United States, after killing a guard and stealing two firearms.

«Nothing like that,» he stated, «had

happened in the country for many months until the northern nation released terrorist Luis Posada Carriles, termed a monster of terror.»

«His release was enough and death has visited our homes again,» Fidel Castro stated.

Posada Carriles is the mastermind of several crimes against humanity on the island, like the mid-air explosion of a Cuban airplane with 73 passengers aboard in 1976 and series of bomb attacks in Havana hotels in 1997, which killed an Italian tourist.

Cuba requests the Bush government to try the notorious terrorist or extradite him to Venezuela, where he escaped from a prison in 1985 while being tried for the bombing of the Cuban plane in Barbados.

The White House allowed his release on bail until May 11, when he must appear in court for minor immigration charges.

At the end of the article, Fidel Castro pointed out that the perpetrators of the recent terrorist actions have not been tried yet because both were injured in the action, one from shots received by the other. ●

Ecuadorians Boil over US Visit

Quito, May 8 (Prensa Latina) Ecuadorian movements and Human Rights groups rejected on Tuesday the visit of US State Undersecretary John Negroponte.

Negroponte is not welcome by social and humanitarian associations because of his negative record, said Fernando Gutierrez from the Permanent Committee of Human Rights.

That personality was guilty of violation of human rights when he was Honduras ambassador and was also involved with the «contra» organizations to defeat the then president of the Sandinista government Daniel Ortega, he stressed.

The current undersecretary was Washington's top diplomat in Iraq where the White House is accused of many murders, added Gutierrez.

Negroponte's tour through Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Panama has a special meaning since the US is worried about the new turn of South American nations.

«Correa must show Washington the policy of regional integration benefits the people in this country,» emphasized the representative of the Human Rights Assembly (APDH) Alexis Ponce.

The undersecretary will arrive on Wednesday amid the government rejection to US unilateral decision of changing the headquarters of UNITAS military maneuvers, without previous consultation with the national authorities. ●

US Immigrants Demand Reform

Washington, May 7 (Prensa Latina) Some 100 US immigrant organizations sent a letter to the US government Monday, denouncing raids against undocumented workers and demanding an all-embracing migratory reform.

The missive, addressed to President George W. Bush, asserts that US authorities have created a humanitarian crisis by persecuting wage-earners from other nations.

According to the signatories, raids cause family breakup, leave children born in US territory without fathers, and force foreigners to abdicate their rights in fear of deportation.

Unconfirmed official information reveals that somewhat more than three million minors live in the country with at least one of their parents without residence permit. ●

Will Sarkozy Unite or Split France?

Paris, May 7 (Prensa Latina) Unity or fragmentation, that is the question for France, after the victory of conservative Nicolas Sarkozy in the presidential elections, amid nationwide skepticism and euphoria.

The president elect, feared for his radical tendencies, but recognized for his intelligence and work capacity, is called to make a turn in the country's history.

The problem will be to see whether Sarkozy follows the course of a reformer committed to his people, or responds to the interests of powerful classes, former candi-



date of the Revolutionary Communist League, Olivier Besancenot, stated.

Sarkozy was elected French president Sunday with 53.06 percent of votes, as opposed to the 46.94 percent obtained by socialist Senegole Royal.

Several analysts expressed satisfaction

with the 85 percent attendance at the polls, and said they were confident the people will accept results.

However, right after Sarkozy's electoral win was announced, clashes were reported in more than ten French cities, with 270 people arrested and 367 cars burned, according to police.

In the capital, young protestors gathered at the Bastille Plaza and threw stones at police agents, who pushed them back with teargas and water cannons. ●

Washington Strains Venezuela Ties

Caracas, May 4 (Prensa Latina) The US government continues turning up the heat on Venezuelan relations as May 27, a key date in the Venezuelan political situation, approaches.

That day is the deadline for private RCTV's (Radio Caracas Television) contract for transmission frequency, which the Venezuelan government will not renew, as announced by President Hugo Chavez.

The local opposition has labeled that decision an act against freedom of speech, and is part of the arsenal in the constant criticism of the government.

In that context, US President George W. Bush said Thursday that several countries, among which he mentioned Venezuela, have repressive laws restraining the exercise of journalists and freedom of expression.

Similarly, the US Department of State presented a protest note accusing Venezuela of divulging classified information and endangering the security of US diplomats, accusations which the Venezuelan foreign ministry rejected.

Washington «seems to be diverting attention away from the US government's protection of terrorist Luis Posada Carriles,» the chancellery said in a release.

On May 27, Chavez noted, «we will once again defeat the US empire and the bourgeois of the continent. That day the RCTV contract will expire.» ●

MERCOSUR Parliament Begins Sessions

Montevideo, May 7 (Prensa Latina) The Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) Parliament began meeting in Montevideo, Uruguay, headquarters until 2010 and where its members will meet monthly.

This first week they will focus on the political agenda of the year, the regulations for sessions and committees, and work regulations for the delegates.

Leaders of MERCOSUR Parliament will be selected in this 48-hour meeting, as will issues to be voted upon and the budget-related matters.

The entity is composed of 72 legislators, 18 representing the full partners of the bloc: Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay.

The opening ceremony at the Uruguayan Legislative Palace was attended by Foreign Ministers from Celso Amorin (Brazil), Ruben Ramirez (Paraguay) and Uruguay's Reynaldo Gargano, as well as a delegation from Venezuela, which is in the process of joining the entity..

The presence of representatives from the associate members, Chile and Bolivia, is expected at open meetings in the coming years, to discuss integration initiatives.

For now, delegates are elected by their counterparts in every national Congress and decisions made by this organ will have to be ratified by the parliaments of every member state. ●