

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library
Digital Library Collections

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

Collection: Speechwriting, White House Office of:
Speech Drafts: Records

Folder Title: State Visit: President Jaime Lusinchi of
Venezuela (Rohrabacher) (Cave) 12/04/1984 (1)
Box: 183

To see more digitized collections visit:

<https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digital-library>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library inventories visit:

<https://reaganlibrary.gov/document-collection>

Contact a reference archivist at: reagan.library@nara.gov

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/citing>

National Archives Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>

Venezuela on
Dana 5

|

Toast
on
Dana 1

|

Entertainment
on Dana 2

|

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 4, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: BEN ELLIOTT *Ben*

SUBJECT: Arrival Ceremony

At the request of NSC, we have added language on page 7, paragraph 2, of your cards, saluting Grenada for their successful democratic elections yesterday.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

December 5, 1984

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AND PRESIDENT JAIME LUSINCHI OF VENEZUELA
IN AN EXCHANGE OF TOASTS

December 4, 1984

The State Dining Room

THE PRESIDENT: Good evening and welcome to the White House. This has been a special time for us. Today we've had the opportunity to exchange views and get to know President Lusinchi, an individual whose strength of conviction and personal bravery helped give birth to democracy in his country.

Tonight, we honor you, Mr. President, for what you've done, for what you're doing, and for the kind of man you are. In this beautiful setting, the hard sacrifices of our own founding fathers seem so long ago. Yet, all of what we have has been built on the foundation they laid.

President Lusinchi remembers well Venezuela's fight for political freedom -- he was part of it. As a young man, he committed himself to the cause of democracy. He was arrested and tortured by the dictatorship.

And, Mr. President, I'm told the beatings left welts on your back similar to the stripes of a tiger. Well, you had the spirit of a tiger and you never gave up your ideals.

Venezuela is free today because it has people of such character. Last year, you celebrated 25 years of continuous democratic government in Venezuela. Commemorating that, you said "We have discovered that democracy and liberty go together inextricably together." It was fitting that last year was also the 200th anniversary of the birth of Simon Bolivar, a Venezuelan whose struggle gave independence to the hemisphere.

Today, you carry on the work of this truly all American man. And when we say American, we mean everyone of us, from the north slope of Alaska to the tip of Tierra del Fuego, all of us are Americans in this hemisphere.

I'd like to thank you, Mr. President, for what your country is doing for the cause of democracy in this hemisphere. Your support during the Grenada crisis was most appreciated. Your efforts in Central America and the Caribbean are of great importance to the future of freedom there. Your personal guidance to me in the years ahead will be as invaluable as it has been today.

We're proud to stand with you and to have you and your countrymen as our friends. Mr. President, you represent in so many ways, the deep ties between our two peoples. Today, instead of "welcome," we should have said "Welcome back," for you lived with us during your time of exile, studying medicine and working in Bellevue Hospital in New York.

As a political figure, you have been concerned about the freedom and progress of your people. As a physician, you understand human suffering. This understanding is reflected in the energetic commitment that you've made to battling the flow of narcotics through

MORE

Venezuela and the Caribbean region. As you're aware, the drug abuse problem is something that your dinner partner, Nancy, and I feel strongly about. Nancy has spent many hours here trying to help the victims of drug addiction, especially young people.

For your efforts to stop illegal drugs before they reach our shore, you have our personal thanks.

Americans know there's a special spirit in Venezuela and that spirit is hard to miss when you have Tony Armas hitting towering homeruns like they were the easiest thing to do. (Applause.)

Well, the free people of Venezuela and the United States are on the same team and we're up to bat. So, in keeping with the lessons Tony Armas has been teaching us, let's set our sights high, work as a team, and assure democracy and improving economic well-being for all the people of the Americas.

Now, will you all join me in a toast to President Lusinchi, the people of Venezuela, and the things that we can and will accomplish together.

(The toast is offered.) (Applause.)

PRESIDENT LUSINCHI: Mr. President, Mrs. Reagan, I understand fully that this evening, this dinner, is a homage to my country, Venezuela, a country which, taking account the difference in dimensions, has much in common with the United States. For just as the United States, it is an integrator of races, religions, and ambitions. Your country and my country, Mr. President, are both lands of possibilities. I understand this fully and this is why I believe that both the United States and Venezuela have had a common history in the past and have for the future, a common destiny.

This, in part, has made us very proud to be here and very happy to see that these Americans can organize things so well -- they know so much and they understand so much -- that they were able even to make the climates work in favor of the beautiful reception we had this morning. And President Reagan has been very kind this evening to sit me beside your guardian angel on one side, and a Venezuelan angel on the other side, Mrs. Cesnaros, who is highly representative of Venezuelan women. I have thought to say a few words on this occasion but your generosity and your warmth, Mr. President, have compelled me to use before I say those words, all my old parliamentary resources.

But, one hesitates here on a visit of state, such as mine, and I came here as head of government and President of the Republic of Venezuela. So, I must say therefore, in this capacity, that we small countries seem to have cultivated somewhat the right to descent and discrepancy has often become the object of much worship and disagreement with the strong, has become the consolation often of the weak.

At times, we disagree just to highlight the existing difference or simply to reaffirm our wish to exercise autonomous thought and actions. There are many occasions to descent, to express different views, or to celebrate coincidences. And this, also, is totally legitimate.

Even if the United States is the most powerful nation on Earth, besides holding diverging views, we also find with you many convergences and totally legitimate ones as well. And I must say this very frankly, proudly, and candidly. In a ceremony such as the present one, I think it is much more intelligent, much more human, to highlight rather, all that unites us, all that identifies us to each other, and leave aside what might have been something that can separate this great world power from a country such as ours, cognizant of its dimensions, and its possibilities.

Permit me to leave aside thoughts on important substance matters. I do not want to run the risk of appearing solemn, when it would be out of place to do so. I am not a declared enemy of solemnity itself, but I do believe it must be exercised on appropriate occasions.

Some people never depart from it and yearn to appear solemn every single hour and minute of their lives. I'm happy to say that neither -- that this is neither your case, Mr. President, or mine. And in part, this is because both of us are common men. In some ways, must one become, after all, eligible for the benevolence of history. Even if it is to be through the exercise of discretion. I have come to the United States and to this mansion of Presidents as a spokesman, and representative of a country and a people friendly to the United States. I have come to express our views on bilateral issues of two friendly nations. On issues of our hemisphere, we cannot, and shall not be indifferent. And on world issues on which we Venezuelans do not exert much influence, but which affect us to a high degree.

The biggest pride of Venezuelans is perhaps to feel that we are a country that holds no prejudices, no dogmas, no intolerances, as -- and I say this to you -- I've said it to you, Mrs. Reagan, with great pride during this dinner. And I believe that this is what makes us firmly believe, in part, that in spite of our backwardness in some economic and social areas, we are a country the future will favor. Perhaps because the future lies for those who, as ourselves, show an open mind and a willing heart. I said before that all work today to make this a beautiful celebration for me, and even the fact that a year ago, it is just a year ago that I won elections, Mr. President, by as large a landslide as you did. (Laughter.)

And there is something even more important, because in our case, we even got the -- all the votes of your Minnesota. (Laughter.)

So, today, you have really given to us a great present. You have been so kind, you have shown to us so much graciousness. Your words have been so pleasant, you have given me the occasion to speak to your beautiful and distinguished wife, beautiful representative of American women we much admire.

And so allow me also to take this occasion of having many common friends with us to congratulate you here, Mr. President, on your electoral victory and to wish you an extraordinary second term. The government, all the people of the United States, hope to get from you and as citizen of the world, all the contribution you and your country can make to peace, solidarity, a better living for all the people of this planet. I know that you are an actor, but please allow me to be the first one to say something you told me this morning. Allow me the privilege of being your reporter tonight. You told me as we got down from the rostrum that when you started to speak when both of -- after both of us made the speeches this morning, to your country to my country, and to the world that -- wants, perhaps to listen to us, you said that you had in the pocket of your overcoat the speech for -- you had pronounced for the Duke of Luxembourg, and that you had not used this overcoat until today. My speech, you had it in the pocket of your jacket. So today, I was almost called Your Highness. I certainly do not have any special ambitions to be royalty, but I just wonder, the faces of the Venezuelans if they had heard this. (Laughter.)

Mr. President, allow me again to thank you for this beautiful reception, for your kindness and also for having invited distinguished friends of yours, people you love, and friends of mine -- people who are of great value and precious to my own country, Venezuela, and allow me to exemplify and identify all of these fellow countrymen of mine with the name of Marisol Escobar, a famous sculptress who forged the image of the liberator, Simon Bolivar, and left his image at the United Nations forever in time.

Thank you again, Mr. President, Mrs. Reagan. You have in me, be assured of the fact, a loyal and sincere friend who admires you, esteems you, a friend good enough to descent with you and to applaud at the same time, all your kindness, your goodwill, and your good heart. Thank you. (Applause.)

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

December 4, 1984

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AND
PRESIDENT JAIME LUSINCHI OF VENEZUELA
AT ARRIVAL CEREMONY

The Diplomatic Entrance

10:09 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: We welcome you to the United States, Mr. President.

President Lusinchi of Venezuela has been one of the finest of friends of our country. We have worked together in Central America to bring about the birth of democracy in many countries where that had not been known. And it's an honor today to welcome one of this Hemisphere's shining examples of freedom and democracy, Mr. Jaime Lusinchi of Venezuela.

President Lusinchi is a man dedicated to those principles of liberty that are held dear by the people of the United States. It's a pleasure for us to have as our guest an individual who played such an important role building freedom in his own country and who now, as a spokesman for his people, is such a force for good in this Hemisphere.

Venezuelans do not take freedom for granted. It was just a generation ago when President Lusinchi and other brave Venezuelans, under the leadership of a great statesman and democrat, Romulo Betancourt, threw off dictatorship and began laying the foundation for a stable democratic society. Their struggle was not dissimilar to the one that's going on in Central America today. The fledgling Venezuelan democracy was immediately put to the test by Cuban-supported guerrillas and terrorists who would have turned Venezuela into a Marxist-Leninist dictatorship.

Mr. President, your triumph in this 10-year struggle, and the subsequent success of a freedom in your country, should serve as a model for today, the Venezuelan Model, if you will. Granting amnesty to those guerrillas willing to put down their weapons and participate in the electoral process, Venezuela's leaders held firm to the principles of democratic government and individual freedom and never gave in to the armed Marxist-Leninist minority.

The peace, liberty and seniority -- or security, I should say -- enjoyed in your country today is a result of that valor and determination. Nothing less should have been expected from the heirs of the Great Liberator, Simon Bolivar. He once said of Venezuela, "By establishing a democratic republic, she has declared for the rights of man and freedom of action, thought, speech and press. These imminently liberal acts will never cease to be admired."

Venezuelans who understand that democracy is a path to peace and progress can be proud that their government is standing shoulder to shoulder with the forces of democracy in Central America today. All freedom-loving people should rejoice that El Salvador and other countries in the region, like Venezuela before, are maintaining or establishing democratic governments, despite challenges of Soviet Bloc-sponsored subversion.

The exception to this trend in Central America is Nicaragua, where a ruling clique of Sandinistas, allied with Cuban and Soviet dictators have betrayed their citizens. Despite their

MORE

assurances in 1979 to the people of Nicaragua, and to the Organization of American States, that they would hold genuinely democratic elections, they have, to the contrary, persecuted the democratic opposition party's trade unions and civic and religious organizations. Instead of free elections, they chose to hold a communist-style sham election, orderly in form, but without the participation of the democratic opposition because Sandinista-controlled gangs of thugs beat down freedom of speech and assembly, wiping out any chance for genuine political competition.

President Lusinchi, I hope you will work with me to insure that the pledges of free elections and real democracy made to the OAS, and to the Nicaraguan people, are carried out.

Venezuela has been, and continues to be, a leading force in the Contadora Process which seeks peace in Central America, based on democratic principles. And we applaud your efforts. The United States places great importance on all 21 objectives of the Contadora Process, which include truly democratic elections, as originally promised by the Sandinistas. The Contadora objectives, if put into practice simultaneously with effective verification, offer the best hope for peace in Central America. I can assure you that the diplomatic efforts of the United States are designed to attain these objectives.

Two decades ago, the founder of modern Venezuelan democracy, President Romulo Betancourt, visited here and said, "If the United States and my country and Latin America can work together for democracy, we can increase and improve the conditions of life for all our people very rapidly." Well, his words rang true. In two decades, great things have been accomplished by the free people of Venezuela. The people of the United States are happy to have played a small role offering a helping hand to people who have become close friends.

Venezuela, in turn, has assisted those working to better themselves in the Caribbean and Central America, making substantial contributions to the well-being of others through the San Jose Accord. Our relationship of trust and cooperation is good for our own peoples and

benefits the entire Hemisphere. It's something to be cherished, and we do not take it for granted. I'm sure, Mr. President, that you're also pleased by the restoration of democracy in Grenada. Yesterday's election marked the first time a Marxist-Leninist dictatorship has been succeeded by a government that receives its authority from free elections. And congratulations are due to the people of Grenada.

Mr. President, we're keenly aware that Venezuela is now going through a period of economic adjustment. We support the responsible decisions that you are making to put your country back on the track to strong economic growth. We, too, have taken -- or undertaken, some fundamental reforms in recent years, and more will be forthcoming.

We continue to believe that strong economic growth is the foundation of social justice; the key being greater incentives, opportunity and freedom for every person. Each year, in every corner of the globe, evidence continues to build. Today no objective observer can deny that individual freedom, not government control, is the strongest spark for economic development and human progress.

President Lusinchi, you have the confidence of your people, and have our confidence as well. You also have our admiration. It's a pleasure to greet you on behalf of the people of the United States. Welcome. (Applause.)

PRESIDENT LUSINCHI: Mr. President, it is a great pleasure for me to be here in this beautiful city of Washington, responding to the kind invitation you have extended to me, Mr. President. I interpret this deference as a distinction marking my country and as an expression of good will of the government of the United States.

I represent Venezuela, but also, in some way, I represent undoubtedly Latin America as a whole, in view of the identification of our populations, the community of our interests, and the coincidence of our aspirations. I thus come, Mr. Reagan, to hold with you and the senior officials of the government of the United States, a dialogue that is to be frank, sincere, amicable, and thoughtful, as well.

I represent one of the soundest democracies of Latin America. I come from a country where pluralistic democracy constitutes an irreversible experience. Our history has been traumatic -- you know it well. I am the sixth President of a process that, throughout the last twenty-six years, has shown Venezuelans that democracy enables them to progress in freedom. Our system rests on the free and secret practice of the universal right to vote. The concept of alternativeness, of republican governments in an intrinsically democratic country such as ours, guarantees us a future of progress. We believe in the need for social reforms and embark on them in a frame of free expression of ideas.

All this is inherent to our way of life and our way of understanding our political responsibility. For Venezuelans, there is no valid alternative to democracy. Experience has shown it to be an indivisible truth.

We are a peaceful country and, therefore, believe in peaceful solutions to controversies. Our history has been one of friendship and solidarity. We do not interfere in the affairs of others and zealously watch over our own affairs. We have fought and shall continue to fight for the achievement of equity in international economic relations. We believe that the unprecedented advancement of science and technology enables all of mankind to reach rational levels of well-being if only the great statesmen of our times pursue in goodwill their mission in an evermore interdependent world.

Latin America is moving forward on the road to democracy, Mr. President. Countries of the South Cone with their great tradition of intellect and historical achievement tread again the path of liberty and democratic order they themselves had once opened up and pioneered. Let us encourage them at this time openly, unselfishly and fearlessly in their process to freedom and enforcement of the fundamental values of the human spirit.

Simultaneously with this development in South America, contiguously to our countries in Central America, conflicts are raging, and their complexity, evermore apparent, are due to the summation of international factors to the already long-standing problems of the region traditionally ruled by inhuman dictatorships and insatiable oligarchies.

The conflict of Central America demands of all of us ponderation, equilibrium and firmness if we are to cooperate in seeking solutions compatible with the essence and idiosyncrasy of those depressed nations. We firmly believe that the solution to the existing crisis rests on an effective democratization of the region and the exclusion of external factors, be they continental or extra-continental.

We do not believe that the solution to this delicate and complex crisis of the Central American countries can be one of force or military involvement. Rather to the contrary, we believe that the only viable path and the only lasting solution rests on

designing and implementing a policy of democratization, pluralism, social justice, and economic development for all the countries of the region to the exclusion of none, and without exerting any imposition.

As a member of the group of Contadora, Venezuela has striven to seek a peaceful solution to Central America. And despite our own problems, we are continuing to implement a program of cooperation with the region in the field of energy, thus translating into facts our postulates of good will.

We are sincere in our practice of democracy, and thus none of us would feel -- you, yourself, Mr. President, would not feel -- that we can meet our own expectations as long as in this continent, from the Canadian Arctic to the Tierra del Fuego, a democratic way of life has not become the practice and the resolve of all our countries.

Finally, I come, Mr. President of the United States, with an open mind and an open heart, free from all prejudices, and convinced of the soundness and fairness of our views to engage with you in a dialogue -- fruitful, I hope -- for the consolidation of the relations traditionally friendly between Venezuela and the United States.

I thank you, Mr. President, in my own name, and on behalf of those who accompany me, for your kind words of welcome which lead us to expect a positive exchange of ideas and mutual experiences. Your words correspond to the spirit of friendship and sympathy which, through the passing of time, has been characteristic of the relations between the United States and Venezuela.

Both nations, Mr. President, share the common ideas of Bolivar and Washington, and those of the standard-bearers and shapers in the world of the Americas, of the principles of liberty, democracy, national independence, and respect for the dignity of man.

Thank you very much for your welcome. (Applause.)

END

10:32 A.M. EST

(ROHRBACHER)

DECEMBER 4, 1984

ARRIVAL OF PRESIDENT JAIME LUSINCHI
OF VENEZUELA

IT IS AN HONOR TODAY TO WELCOME THE LEADER OF ONE OF THIS HEMISPHERE'S SHINING EXAMPLES OF FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY, PRESIDENT (HY-MAY) LUSINCHI OF VENEZUELA. PRESIDENT LUSINCHI IS A MAN DEDICATED TO THOSE PRINCIPLES OF LIBERTY HELD DEAR BY THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES. IT IS A PLEASURE FOR US TO HAVE AS OUR GUEST AN INDIVIDUAL WHO PLAYED SUCH AN IMPORTANT ROLE BUILDING FREEDOM IN HIS OWN COUNTRY, AND WHO NOW, AS A SPOKESMAN FOR HIS PEOPLE, IS SUCH A FORCE FOR GOOD IN THIS HEMISPHERE.

VENEZUELANS DO NOT TAKE FREEDOM FOR GRANTED. IT WAS JUST A GENERATION AGO WHEN PRESIDENT LUSINCHI AND OTHER BRAVE VENEZUELANS, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF A GREAT STATESMAN AND DEMOCRAT, ROMULO BETANCOURT, THREW OFF DICTATORSHIP AND BEGAN LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR STABLE DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT.

THEIR STRUGGLE WAS NOT DISSIMILAR TO THAT GOING ON IN CENTRAL AMERICA TODAY.

THE FLEDGLING VENEZUELAN DEMOCRACY WAS IMMEDIATELY PUT TO THE TEST BY CUBAN-SUPPORTED GUERRILLAS AND TERRORISTS WHO WOULD HAVE TURNED VENEZUELA INTO A MARXIST-LENINIST DICTATORSHIP.

MR. PRESIDENT, YOUR TRIUMPH IN THIS 10-YEAR STRUGGLE, AND THE SUBSEQUENT SUCCESS OF FREEDOM IN YOUR COUNTRY, SHOULD SERVE AS A MODEL FOR TODAY -- THE VENEZUELAN MODEL, IF YOU WILL.

GRANTING AMNESTY TO THOSE GUERRILLAS WILLING TO PUT DOWN THEIR WEAPONS AND PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS, VENEZUELA'S LEADERS HELD FIRM TO THE PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT AND INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM, AND NEVER GAVE IN TO THE ARMED MARXIST-LENINIST MINORITY.

THE PEACE, LIBERTY, AND SECURITY ENJOYED IN YOUR COUNTRY TODAY IS A RESULT OF THAT VALOR AND DETERMINATION.

NOTHING LESS SHOULD HAVE BEEN EXPECTED FROM THE HEIRS OF THE GREAT LIBERATOR, SIMON BOLIVAR. HE ONCE SAID OF VENEZUELA, "BY ESTABLISHING A DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC...SHE HAS DECLARED FOR THE RIGHTS OF MAN AND FREEDOM OF ACTION, THOUGHT, SPEECH, AND PRESS. THESE EMINENTLY LIBERAL ACTS...WILL NEVER CEASE TO BE ADMIRER."

VENEZUELAN, WHO UNDERSTAND THAT DEMOCRACY IS A PATH TO PEACE AND PROGRESS, CAN BE PROUD THAT THEIR GOVERNMENT IS STANDING SHOULDER-TO-SHOULDER WITH THE FORCES OF DEMOCRACY IN CENTRAL AMERICA TODAY.

ALL FREEDOM-LOVING PEOPLE SHOULD REJOICE THAT EL SALVADOR AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE REGION, LIKE VENEZUELA BEFORE, ARE MAINTAINING OR ESTABLISHING DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS, DESPITE CHALLENGES OF SOVIET-BLOC SPONSORED SUBVERSION.

THE EXCEPTION TO THIS TREND IN CENTRAL AMERICA IS NICARAGUA, WHERE A RULING CLIQUE OF SANDINISTAS, ALLIED WITH CUBAN AND SOVIET DICTATORS, HAVE BETRAYED THEIR CITIZENS. DESPITE THEIR ASSURANCES IN 1979 TO THE PEOPLE OF NICARAGUA AND TO THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES THAT THEY WOULD HOLD GENUINELY DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS, THEY HAVE TO THE CONTRARY PERSECUTED THE DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION PARTIES, TRADE UNIONS, AND CIVIC AND RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS.

INSTEAD OF FREE ELECTIONS, THEY CHOSE TO HOLD A COMMUNIST-STYLE SHAM ELECTION -- ORDERLY IN FORM, BUT WITHOUT THE PARTICIPATION OF THE DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION BECAUSE SANDINISTA-CONTROLLED GANGS OF THUGS BEAT DOWN FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND ASSEMBLY, WIPING OUT ANY CHANCE FOR GENUINE POLITICAL COMPETITION. PRESIDENT LUSINCHI, I HOPE YOU WILL WORK WITH ME TO ENSURE THAT THE PLEDGES OF FREE ELECTIONS AND REAL DEMOCRACY MADE TO THE O.A.S. AND TO THE NICARAGUAN PEOPLE ARE CARRIED OUT.

VENEZUELA HAS BEEN AND CONTINUES TO BE A LEADING FORCE IN THE CONTADORA PROCESS, WHICH SEEKS PEACE IN CENTRAL AMERICA BASED ON DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES. WE APPLAUD YOUR EFFORTS. THE UNITED STATES PLACES GREAT IMPORTANCE ON ALL 21 OBJECTIVES OF THE CONTADORA PROCESS, WHICH INCLUDE TRULY DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS AS ORIGINALLY PROMISED BY THE SANDINISTAS.

THE CONTADORA OBJECTIVES, IF PUT INTO PRACTICE SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH EFFECTIVE VERIFICATION, OFFER THE BEST HOPE FOR PEACE IN CENTRAL AMERICA. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THE DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS OF THE UNITED STATES ARE DESIGNED TO ATTAIN THESE OBJECTIVES.

TWO DECADES AGO, THE FOUNDER OF MODERN VENEZUELAN DEMOCRACY, PRESIDENT ROMULO BETANCOURT, VISITED HERE AND SAID, "...IF THE UNITED STATES AND MY COUNTRY AND LATIN AMERICA CAN WORK TOGETHER FOR DEMOCRACY, WE CAN INCREASE AND IMPROVE THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE FOR ALL OUR PEOPLE VERY RAPIDLY."

HIS WORDS RANG TRUE. IN TWO DECADES, GREAT THINGS HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED BY THE FREE PEOPLE OF VENEZUELA. THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES ARE HAPPY TO HAVE PLAYED A SMALL ROLE, OFFERING A HELPING HAND TO PEOPLE WHO HAVE BECOME CLOSE FRIENDS.

VENEZUELA, IN TURN, HAS ASSISTED THOSE WORKING TO BETTER THEMSELVES IN THE CARIBBEAN AND CENTRAL AMERICA, MAKING SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WELL-BEING OF OTHERS THROUGH THE SAN JOSE ACCORD. OUR RELATIONSHIP OF TRUST AND COOPERATION IS GOOD FOR OUR OWN PEOPLES AND BENEFITS THE ENTIRE HEMISPHERE. IT IS SOMETHING TO BE CHERISHED AND WE DO NOT TAKE IT FOR GRANTED.

I'M SURE, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT YOU ARE ALSO PLEASED BY THE RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY IN GRENADA. YESTERDAY'S ELECTION MARKED THE FIRST TIME A MARXIST-LENINIST DICTATORSHIP HAS BEEN SUCCEEDED BY A GOVERNMENT THAT RECEIVES ITS AUTHORITY FROM FREE ELECTIONS. CONGRATULATIONS ARE DUE THE PEOPLE OF GRENADA.

MR. PRESIDENT, WE ARE KEENLY AWARE THAT VENEZUELA IS NOW GOING THROUGH A PERIOD OF ECONOMIC READJUSTMENT.

WE SUPPORT THE RESPONSIBLE DECISIONS YOU ARE MAKING TO PUT YOUR COUNTRY BACK ON THE TRACK TO STRONG ECONOMIC GROWTH.

WE, TOO, HAVE UNDERTAKEN SOME FUNDAMENTAL REFORMS IN RECENT YEARS, AND MORE WILL BE FORTHCOMING. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT STRONG ECONOMIC GROWTH IS THE FOUNDATION OF SOCIAL JUSTICE, THE KEY BEING GREATER INCENTIVES, OPPORTUNITY, AND FREEDOM FOR EVERY PERSON. EACH YEAR, IN EVERY CORNER OF THE GLOBE, EVIDENCE CONTINUES TO BUILD. TODAY, NO OBJECTIVE OBSERVER CAN DENY THAT INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM, NOT GOVERNMENT CONTROL, IS THE STRONGEST SPARK FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN PROGRESS.

PRESIDENT LUSINCHI, YOU HAVE THE CONFIDENCE OF YOUR PEOPLE AND YOU HAVE OUR CONFIDENCE AS WELL. YOU ALSO HAVE OUR ADMIRATION. IT IS A PLEASURE TO GREET YOU ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES. WELCOME.

#

The President has seen

(Rohrabacher/BE)
December 3, 1984
5:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: ARRIVAL OF PRESIDENT JAIME LUSINCHI
OF VENEZUELA
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1984

It is an honor today to welcome the leader of one of this hemisphere's shining examples of freedom and democracy, President Jaime [HY-may] Lusinchi of Venezuela. President Lusinchi is a man dedicated to those principles of liberty held dear by the people of the United States. It is a pleasure for us to have as our guest an individual who played such an important role building freedom in his own country, and who now, as a spokesman for his people, is such a force for good in this hemisphere.

Venezuelans do not take freedom for granted. It was just a generation ago when President Lusinchi and other brave Venezuelans, under the leadership of a great statesman and democrat, Romulo Betancourt, threw off dictatorship and began laying the foundation for stable democratic government. Their struggle was not dissimilar to that going on in Central America today.

The fledgling Venezuelan democracy was immediately put to the test by Cuban-supported guerrillas and terrorists who would have turned Venezuela into a Marxist-Leninist dictatorship. Mr. President, your triumph in this 10-year struggle, and the subsequent success of freedom in your country, should serve as a model for today -- the Venezuelan model, if you will.

Granting amnesty to those guerrillas willing to put down their weapons and participate in the electoral process,

Venezuela's leaders held firm to the principles of democratic government and individual freedom, and never gave in to the armed Marxist-Leninist minority. The peace, liberty, and security enjoyed in your country today is a result of that valor and determination.

Nothing less should have been expected from the heirs of the great liberator, Simon Bolivar. He once said of Venezuela, "By establishing a democratic republic . . . she has declared for the rights of man and freedom of action, thought, speech, and press. These eminently liberal acts . . . will never cease to be admired."

Venezuelans, who understand that democracy is a path to peace and progress, can be proud that their government is standing shoulder-to-shoulder with the forces of democracy in Central America today. All freedom-loving people should rejoice that El Salvador and other countries in the region, like Venezuela before, are maintaining or establishing democratic governments, despite challenges of Soviet-bloc sponsored subversion.

The exception to this trend in Central America is Nicaragua, where a ruling clique of Sandinistas, allied with Cuban and Soviet dictators, have betrayed their citizens. Despite their assurances in 1979 to the people of Nicaragua and to the Organization of American States that they would hold genuinely democratic elections, they have to the contrary persecuted the democratic opposition parties, trade unions, and civic and religious organizations. Instead of free elections, they chose

to hold a communist-style sham election -- orderly in form, but without the participation of the democratic opposition because Sandinista-controlled gangs of thugs beat down freedom of speech and assembly, wiping out any chance for genuine political competition. President Lusinchi, I hope you will work with me to ensure that the pledges of free elections and real democracy made to the O.A.S. and to the Nicaraguan people are carried out.

Venezuela has been and continues to be a leading force in the Contadora process, which seeks peace in Central America based on democratic principles. We applaud your efforts. The United States places great importance on all 21 objectives of the Contadora process, which include truly democratic elections originally promised by the Sandinistas. The Contadora objectives, if put into practice simultaneously with effective verification, offer the best hope for peace in Central America. I can assure you that the diplomatic efforts of the United States are designed to attain these objectives.

Two decades ago, the founder of modern Venezuelan democracy, President Romulo Betancourt, visited here and said, ". . . if the United States and my country and Latin America can work together for democracy, we can increase and improve the conditions of life for all our people very rapidly."

His words rang true. In two decades, great things have been accomplished by the free people of Venezuela. The people of the United States are happy to have played a small role, offering a helping hand to people who have become close friends.

Venezuela, in turn, has assisted those working to better themselves in the Caribbean and Central America, making substantial contributions to the well-being of others through the San Jose accord. Our relationship of trust and cooperation is good for our own peoples and benefits the entire hemisphere. It is something to be cherished and we do not take it for granted.

Mr. President, we are keenly aware that Venezuela is now going through a period of economic readjustment. ~~I was pleased when agreement was reached for the refinancing of Venezuela's public debt.~~ We support that and the responsible decisions you are making to put your country back on the track to strong economic growth.

We, too, have undertaken some fundamental reforms in recent years, and more will be forthcoming. We continue to believe that strong economic growth is the foundation of social justice, with the key being greater incentives, opportunity, and freedom for every person. Each year, in every corner of the globe, the evidence continues to build. Today, no objective observer can deny that individual freedom, not government control, is the strongest spark for economic development and human progress.

President Lusinchi, you have the confidence of your people and you have our confidence as well. You also have our admiration. It is a pleasure to greet you on behalf of the people of the United States. Welcome.

(ROHRBACHER)

DECEMBER 4, 1984

ARRIVAL OF PRESIDENT JAIME LUSINCHI
OF VENEZUELA

IT IS AN HONOR TODAY TO WELCOME THE LEADER OF ONE OF THIS HEMISPHERE'S SHINING EXAMPLES OF FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY, PRESIDENT (HY-MAY) LUSINCHI OF VENEZUELA. PRESIDENT LUSINCHI IS A MAN DEDICATED TO THOSE PRINCIPLES OF LIBERTY HELD DEAR BY THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES. IT IS A PLEASURE FOR US TO HAVE AS OUR GUEST AN INDIVIDUAL WHO PLAYED SUCH AN IMPORTANT ROLE BUILDING FREEDOM IN HIS OWN COUNTRY, AND WHO NOW, AS A SPOKESMAN FOR HIS PEOPLE, IS SUCH A FORCE FOR GOOD IN THIS HEMISPHERE.

VENEZUELANS DO NOT TAKE FREEDOM FOR GRANTED. IT WAS JUST A GENERATION AGO WHEN PRESIDENT LUSINCHI AND OTHER BRAVE VENEZUELANS, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF A GREAT STATESMAN AND DEMOCRAT, ROMULO BETANCOURT, THREW OFF DICTATORSHIP AND BEGAN LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR STABLE DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT.

THEIR STRUGGLE WAS NOT DISSIMILAR TO THAT GOING ON IN CENTRAL AMERICA TODAY.

THE FLEDGLING VENEZUELAN DEMOCRACY WAS IMMEDIATELY PUT TO THE TEST BY CUBAN-SUPPORTED GUERRILLAS AND TERRORISTS WHO WOULD HAVE TURNED VENEZUELA INTO A MARXIST-LENINIST DICTATORSHIP.

MR. PRESIDENT, YOUR TRIUMPH IN THIS 10-YEAR STRUGGLE, AND THE SUBSEQUENT SUCCESS OF FREEDOM IN YOUR COUNTRY, SHOULD SERVE AS A MODEL FOR TODAY -- THE VENEZUELAN MODEL, IF YOU WILL.

GRANTING AMNESTY TO THOSE GUERRILLAS WILLING TO PUT DOWN THEIR WEAPONS AND PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS, VENEZUELA'S LEADERS HELD FIRM TO THE PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT AND INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM, AND NEVER GAVE IN TO THE ARMED MARXIST-LENINIST MINORITY.

THE PEACE, LIBERTY, AND SECURITY ENJOYED IN YOUR COUNTRY TODAY IS A RESULT OF THAT VALOR AND DETERMINATION.

NOTHING LESS SHOULD HAVE BEEN EXPECTED FROM THE HEIRS OF THE GREAT LIBERATOR, SIMON BOLIVAR. HE ONCE SAID OF VENEZUELA, "BY ESTABLISHING A DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC...SHE HAS DECLARED FOR THE RIGHTS OF MAN AND FREEDOM OF ACTION, THOUGHT, SPEECH, AND PRESS. THESE EMINENTLY LIBERAL ACTS...WILL NEVER CEASE TO BE ADMIRER."

VENEZUELAN, WHO UNDERSTAND THAT DEMOCRACY IS A PATH TO PEACE AND PROGRESS, CAN BE PROUD THAT THEIR GOVERNMENT IS STANDING SHOULDER-TO-SHOULDER WITH THE FORCES OF DEMOCRACY IN CENTRAL AMERICA TODAY.

ALL FREEDOM-LOVING PEOPLE SHOULD REJOICE THAT EL SALVADOR AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE REGION, LIKE VENEZUELA BEFORE, ARE MAINTAINING OR ESTABLISHING DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS, DESPITE CHALLENGES OF SOVIET-BLOC SPONSORED SUBVERSION.

THE EXCEPTION TO THIS TREND IN CENTRAL AMERICA IS NICARAGUA, WHERE A RULING CLIQUE OF SANDINISTAS, ALLIED WITH CUBAN AND SOVIET DICTATORS, HAVE BETRAYED THEIR CITIZENS. DESPITE THEIR ASSURANCES IN 1979 TO THE PEOPLE OF NICARAGUA AND TO THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES THAT THEY WOULD HOLD GENUINELY DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS, THEY HAVE TO THE CONTRARY PERSECUTED THE DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION PARTIES, TRADE UNIONS, AND CIVIC AND RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS.

INSTEAD OF FREE ELECTIONS, THEY CHOSE TO HOLD A COMMUNIST-STYLE SHAM ELECTION -- ORDERLY IN FORM, BUT WITHOUT THE PARTICIPATION OF THE DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION BECAUSE SANDINISTA-CONTROLLED GANGS OF THUGS BEAT DOWN FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND ASSEMBLY, WIPING OUT ANY CHANCE FOR GENUINE POLITICAL COMPETITION. PRESIDENT LUSINCHI, I HOPE YOU WILL WORK WITH ME TO ENSURE THAT THE PLEDGES OF FREE ELECTIONS AND REAL DEMOCRACY MADE TO THE O.A.S. AND TO THE NICARAGUAN PEOPLE ARE CARRIED OUT.

VENEZUELA HAS BEEN AND CONTINUES TO BE A LEADING FORCE IN THE CONTADORA PROCESS, WHICH SEEKS PEACE IN CENTRAL AMERICA BASED ON DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES. WE APPLAUD YOUR EFFORTS. THE UNITED STATES PLACES GREAT IMPORTANCE ON ALL 21 OBJECTIVES OF THE CONTADORA PROCESS, WHICH INCLUDE TRULY DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS^{AS} ORIGINALLY PROMISED BY THE SANDINISTAS.



THE CONTADORA OBJECTIVES, IF PUT INTO PRACTICE SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH EFFECTIVE VERIFICATION, OFFER THE BEST HOPE FOR PEACE IN CENTRAL AMERICA. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THE DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS OF THE UNITED STATES ARE DESIGNED TO ATTAIN THESE OBJECTIVES.

TWO DECADES AGO, THE FOUNDER OF MODERN VENEZUELAN DEMOCRACY, PRESIDENT ROMULO BETANCOURT, VISITED HERE AND SAID, "...IF THE UNITED STATES AND MY COUNTRY AND LATIN AMERICA CAN WORK TOGETHER FOR DEMOCRACY, WE CAN INCREASE AND IMPROVE THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE FOR ALL OUR PEOPLE VERY RAPIDLY."

HIS WORDS RANG TRUE. IN TWO DECADES, GREAT THINGS HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED BY THE FREE PEOPLE OF VENEZUELA. THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES ARE HAPPY TO HAVE PLAYED A SMALL ROLE, OFFERING A HELPING HAND TO PEOPLE WHO HAVE BECOME CLOSE FRIENDS.

VENEZUELA, IN TURN, HAS ASSISTED THOSE WORKING TO BETTER THEMSELVES IN THE CARIBBEAN AND CENTRAL AMERICA, MAKING SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WELL-BEING OF OTHERS THROUGH THE SAN JOSE ACCORD. OUR RELATIONSHIP OF TRUST AND COOPERATION IS GOOD FOR OUR OWN PEOPLES AND BENEFITS THE ENTIRE HEMISPHERE. IT IS SOMETHING TO BE CHERISHED AND WE DO NOT TAKE IT FOR GRANTED.

I'm sure, Mr. President, that you ~~are~~ are also pleased by the restoration of democracy in Grenada. Yesterday's election marked the first time a Marxist-Leninist dictatorship has been succeeded by a ~~democratic~~ democratic government that receives its authority from free elections. ~~Our~~ Congratulations are due the people of Grenada.

→ MR. PRESIDENT, WE ARE KEENLY AWARE THAT VENEZUELA IS NOW GOING THROUGH A PERIOD OF ECONOMIC READJUSTMENT. I WAS PLEASED WHEN AGREEMENT WAS REACHED FOR THE REFINANCING OF VENEZUELA'S PUBLIC DEBT. WE SUPPORT THAT AND THE RESPONSIBLE DECISIONS YOU ARE MAKING TO PUT YOUR COUNTRY BACK ON THE TRACK TO STRONG ECONOMIC GROWTH.

WE, TOO, HAVE UNDERTAKEN SOME FUNDAMENTAL REFORMS IN RECENT YEARS, AND MORE WILL BE FORTHCOMING.

X

WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT STRONG ECONOMIC GROWTH IS THE FOUNDATION OF SOCIAL JUSTICE, ~~WITH~~ THE KEY BEING GREATER INCENTIVES, OPPORTUNITY, AND FREEDOM FOR EVERY PERSON. EACH YEAR, IN EVERY CORNER OF THE GLOBE, ~~THE~~ EVIDENCE CONTINUES TO BUILD. TODAY, NO OBJECTIVE OBSERVER CAN DENY THAT INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM, NOT GOVERNMENT CONTROL, IS THE STRONGEST SPARK FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN PROGRESS.

PRESIDENT LUSINCHI, YOU HAVE THE CONFIDENCE OF YOUR PEOPLE AND YOU HAVE OUR CONFIDENCE AS WELL. YOU ALSO HAVE OUR ADMIRATION. IT IS A PLEASURE TO GREET YOU ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES. WELCOME.

#

(Rohrabacher/BE)
December 3, 1984
5:00 p.m. PR

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: ARRIVAL OF PRESIDENT JAIME LUSINCHI
OF VENEZUELA
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1984

It is an honor today to welcome the leader of one of this hemisphere's shining examples of freedom and democracy, President Jaime [HY-may] Lusinchi of Venezuela. President Lusinchi is a man dedicated to those principles of liberty held dear by the people of the United States. It is a pleasure for us to have as our guest an individual who played such an important role building freedom in his own country, and who now, as a spokesman for his people, is such a force for good in this hemisphere.

Venezuelans do not take freedom for granted. It was just a generation ago when President Lusinchi and other brave Venezuelans, under the leadership of a great statesman and democrat, Romulo Betancourt, threw off dictatorship and began laying the foundation for stable democratic government. Their struggle was not dissimilar to that going on in Central America today.

The fledgling Venezuelan democracy was immediately put to the test by Cuban-supported guerrillas and terrorists who would have turned Venezuela into a Marxist-Leninist dictatorship. Mr. President, your triumph in this 10-year struggle, and the subsequent success of freedom in your country, should serve as a model for today -- the Venezuelan model, if you will.

Granting amnesty to those guerrillas willing to put down their weapons and participate in the electoral process,

Venezuela's leaders held firm to the principles of democratic government and individual freedom, and never gave in to the armed Marxist-Leninist minority. The peace, liberty, and security enjoyed in your country today is a result of that valor and determination.

Nothing less should have been expected from the heirs of the great liberator, Simon Bolivar. He once said of Venezuela, "By establishing a democratic republic . . . she has declared for the rights of man and freedom of action, thought, speech, and press. These eminently liberal acts . . . will never cease to be admired."

Venezuelans, who understand that democracy is a path to peace and progress, can be proud that their government is standing shoulder-to-shoulder with the forces of democracy in Central America today. All freedom-loving people should rejoice that El Salvador and other countries in the region, like Venezuela before, are maintaining or establishing democratic governments, despite challenges of Soviet-bloc sponsored subversion.

The exception to this trend in Central America is Nicaragua, where a ruling clique of Sandinistas, allied with Cuban and Soviet dictators, have betrayed their citizens. Despite their assurances in 1979 to the people of Nicaragua and to the Organization of American States that they would hold genuinely democratic elections, they have to the contrary persecuted the democratic opposition parties, trade unions, and civic and religious organizations. Instead of free elections, they chose

to hold a communist-style sham election -- orderly in form, but without the participation of the democratic opposition because Sandinista-controlled gangs of thugs beat down freedom of speech and assembly, wiping out any chance for genuine political competition. President Lusinchi, I hope you will work with me to ensure that the pledges of free elections and real democracy made to the O.A.S. and to the Nicaraguan people are carried out.

Venezuela has been and continues to be a leading force in the Contadora process, which seeks peace in Central America based on democratic principles. We applaud your efforts. The United States places great importance on all 21 objectives of the Contadora process, which include truly democratic elections originally promised by the Sandinistas. The Contadora objectives, if put into practice simultaneously with effective verification, offer the best hope for peace in Central America. I can assure you that the diplomatic efforts of the United States are designed to attain these objectives.

Two decades ago, the founder of modern Venezuelan democracy, President Romulo Betancourt, visited here and said, ". . . if the United States and my country and Latin America can work together for democracy, we can increase and improve the conditions of life for all our people very rapidly."

His words rang true. In two decades, great things have been accomplished by the free people of Venezuela. The people of the United States are happy to have played a small role, offering a helping hand to people who have become close friends.

Venezuela, in turn, has assisted those working to better themselves in the Caribbean and Central America, making substantial contributions to the well-being of others through the San Jose accord. Our relationship of trust and cooperation is good for our own peoples and benefits the entire hemisphere. It is something to be cherished and we do not take it for granted.

Mr. President, we are keenly aware that Venezuela is now going through a period of economic readjustment. I was pleased when agreement was reached for the refinancing of Venezuela's public debt. We support that and the responsible decisions you are making to put your country back on the track to strong economic growth.

We, too, have undertaken some fundamental reforms in recent years, and more will be forthcoming. We continue to believe that strong economic growth is the foundation of social justice, with the key being greater incentives, opportunity, and freedom for every person. Each year, in every corner of the globe, the evidence continues to build. Today, no objective observer can deny that individual freedom, not government control, is the strongest spark for economic development and human progress.

President Lusinchi, you have the confidence of your people and you have our confidence as well. You also have our admiration. It is a pleasure to greet you on behalf of the people of the United States. Welcome.

Julie

(Rohrabacher/BE)
November 30, 1984
5:00 p.m. NSC

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: ARRIVAL OF PRESIDENT JAIME LUSINCHI
OF VENEZUELA
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1984

3/28/84 Set-up
NS Notes - p 5
R-1 pm -
NSC - Constance
News x 3552

It is an honor today to welcome the leader of one of this hemisphere's shining examples of freedom and democracy, President Jaime Lusinchi of Venezuela. President Lusinchi is a man dedicated to those principles of liberty held dear by the people of the United States. ~~Venezuela is a nation which overcame authoritarianism of the right and Castro-supported guerrillas from the left to establish itself as a bulwark of democracy.~~ It is a pleasure for us to have as our guest an individual who played such an important role building freedom in his own country, and who now, as a spokesman for his people, is such a force for good in this hemisphere.

300 - Venezuela
sub 200
WPI - Feb. 2,
1961 - Personal
By Constance
News
x 3552

Venezuelans do not take freedom for granted. It was ~~less~~ ^{just} than a generation ago when President Lusinchi and other brave Venezuelans ~~and it took tremendous courage~~ under the leadership of a great statesman and democrat, Romulo Betancourt, threw off dictatorship and began laying the foundation for stable democratic government. Their struggle was not dissimilar to that going on in Central America today.

Political
(using)
embassy
on Feb
1961 p 3
160 - p 31

The fledgling Venezuelan democracy was immediately put to the test by Cuban-supported guerrillas and terrorists who would have turned Venezuela into a Marxist-Leninist dictatorship.

Mr. President, your triumph in this 10-year struggle, and the

subsequent success of freedom in your country, should serve as a model for today -- the Venezuelan model, if you will.

Granting amnesty to those guerrillas willing to put down their weapons and participate in the electoral process, Venezuela's leaders held firm to the principles of democratic government and individual freedom, and never gave in to the armed Marxist-Leninist minority. The peace, liberty, and security enjoyed in your country today is a result of that valor and determination.

Nothing less should have been expected from the heirs of the great liberator, Simon Bolivar. He once said of Venezuela, "By establishing a democratic republic . . . she has declared for the rights of man and freedom of action, thought, speech, and press. These eminently liberal acts . . . will never cease to be admired."

Venezuelans, who understand that democracy is a path to peace and progress, can be proud that their government is standing shoulder-to-shoulder with the forces of democracy in Central America today. All freedom-loving people should rejoice that El Salvador and other countries in the region, like Venezuela before, are maintaining or establishing democratic governments, despite challenges of Soviet-bloc sponsored subversion.

The exception to this trend in Central America is Nicaragua, where a ruling clique of Sandinistas, allied with Cuban and Soviet dictators, have betrayed their citizens. Despite their assurances in 1979 to the people of Nicaragua and to the

Handwritten notes:
OK
President
1979

Handwritten notes:
ic Amer
v. 4 - p 161

Handwritten notes:
Simon Bolivar
works p 177
re Angostura
address

Handwritten notes:
Hum Rts
Bk

Organization of American States that they would hold genuinely democratic elections, they have to the contrary persecuted the democratic opposition parties, trade unions, and civic and religious organizations. Instead of free elections, they chose to hold a communist-style sham election -- orderly in form, but without the participation of the democratic opposition because Sandanista-controlled gangs of thugs beat down freedom of speech and assembly, wiping out any chance for genuine political competition. President Lusinchi, I hope you will work with me to ensure that the pledges of free elections and real democracy made to the O.A.S. and to the Nicaraguan people are carried out.

Venezuela has been and continues to be a leading force in the Contadora process, which seeks peace in Central America based on democratic principles. We applaud your efforts. The United States places great importance on all 21 objectives of the Contadora process, which includes truly democratic elections originally promised by the Sandinistas. The Contadora objectives, if put into practice simultaneously with effective verification, offer the best hope for peace in Central America.

I can assure you that the diplomatic efforts of the United States are designed to attain these objectives.

Two decades ago, the founder of modern Venezuelan democracy, President Romulo Betancourt, visited here and said, "... if the United States and my country and Latin America can work together for democracy, we can increase and improve the conditions of life for all our people very rapidly."

DOs NOTES - p 4

S. Notes - Venezuela
 4/84 - p 3
 W. Papers JFK
 10.20, 1963 -
 187 - (21st
 ans ago) -

His words rang true. In two decades, great things have been accomplished by the free people of Venezuela. The people of the United States are happy to have played a small role, offering a helping hand to people who have become close friends.

Venezuela, in turn, has assisted those working to better themselves in the Caribbean and ~~in South and~~ Central America, making substantial contributions to the well-being of others through the San Jose accord. Our relationship of trust and cooperation is good for our own peoples and benefits the entire hemisphere. It is something to be cherished and we do not take it for granted.

Mr. President, we are keenly aware that Venezuela is now going through a period of economic readjustment. I was pleased when agreement was reached for the refinancing of Venezuela's public debt. We support that and the responsible decisions you are making to put your country back on the track to strong economic growth.

We, too, have undertaken some fundamental reforms in recent years, and more will be forthcoming. We continue to believe that strong economic growth is the foundation of social justice, with the key being greater incentives, opportunity, and freedom for every person. Each year, in every corner of the globe, the evidence continues to build. Today, no objective observer can deny that individual freedom, not government control, is the strongest spark for economic development and human progress.

President Lusinchi, you have the confidence of your people and you have our confidence as well. You also have our

*Financial Review
July 25, 1989 -
Oct. I - p 8*

*Should be to the
President memo*

X
X

①

Vertical line in left margin

Page 5

admiration. It is a pleasure to greet you on behalf of the people of the United States. Welcome.

(Rohrabacher/BE)
November 30, 1984
5:00 p.m. NSC

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: ARRIVAL OF PRESIDENT JAIME LUSINCHI
OF VENEZUELA
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1984

It is an honor today to welcome the leader of one of this hemisphere's shining examples of freedom and democracy, President Jaime Lusinchi of Venezuela. President Lusinchi is a man dedicated to those principles of liberty held dear by the people of the United States. Venezuela is a nation which overcame authoritarianism of the right and Castro-supported guerrillas from the left to establish itself as a bulwark of democracy. It is a pleasure for us to have as our guest an individual who played such an important role building freedom in his own country, and who now, as a spokesman for his people, is such a force for good in this hemisphere.

Venezuelans do not take freedom for granted. It was less than a generation ago when President Lusinchi and other brave Venezuelans -- and it took tremendous courage -- under the leadership of a great statesman and democrat, Romulo Betancourt, threw off dictatorship and began laying the foundation for stable democratic government. Their struggle was not dissimilar to that going on in Central America today.

The fledgling Venezuelan democracy was immediately put to the test by Cuban-supported guerrillas and terrorists who would have turned Venezuela into a Marxist-Leninist dictatorship. Mr. President, your triumph in this 10-year struggle, and the

subsequent success of freedom in your country, should serve as a model for today -- the Venezuelan model, if you will.

Granting amnesty to those guerrillas willing to put down their weapons and participate in the electoral process, Venezuela's leaders held firm to the principles of democratic government and individual freedom, and never gave in to the armed Marxist-Leninist minority. The peace, liberty, and security enjoyed in your country today is a result of that valor and determination.

Nothing less should have been expected from the heirs of the great liberator, Simon Bolivar. He once said of Venezuela, "By establishing a democratic republic . . . she has declared for the rights of man and freedom of action, thought, speech, and press. These eminently liberal acts . . . will never cease to be admired."

Venezuelans, who understand that democracy is a path to peace and progress, can be proud that their government is standing shoulder-to-shoulder with the forces of democracy in Central America today. All freedom-loving people should rejoice that El Salvador and other countries in the region, like Venezuela before, are maintaining or establishing democratic governments, despite challenges of Soviet-bloc sponsored subversion.

The exception to this trend in Central America is Nicaragua, where a ruling clique of Sandinistas, allied with Cuban and Soviet dictators, have betrayed their citizens. Despite their assurances in 1979 to the people of Nicaragua and to the

Organization of American States that they would hold genuinely democratic elections, they have to the contrary persecuted the democratic opposition parties, trade unions, and civic and religious organizations. Instead of free elections, they chose to hold a communist-style sham election -- orderly in form, but without the participation of the democratic opposition because Sandanista-controlled gangs of thugs beat down freedom of speech and assembly, wiping out any chance for genuine political competition. President Lusinchi, I hope you will work with me to ensure that the pledges of free elections and real democracy made to the O.A.S. and to the Nicaraguan people are carried out.

Venezuela has been and continues to be a leading force in the Contadora process, which seeks peace in Central America based on democratic principles. We applaud your efforts. The United States places great importance on all 21 objectives of the Contadora process, which includes truly democratic elections originally promised by the Sandinistas. The Contadora objectives, if put into practice simultaneously with effective verification, offer the best hope for peace in Central America. I can assure you that the diplomatic efforts of the United States are designed to attain these objectives.

Two decades ago, the founder of modern Venezuelan democracy, President Romulo Betancourt, visited here and said, ". . . if the United States and my country and Latin America can work together for democracy, we can increase and improve the conditions of life for all our people very rapidly."

His words rang true. In two decades, great things have been accomplished by the free people of Venezuela. The people of the United States are happy to have played a small role, offering a helping hand to people who have become close friends.

Venezuela, in turn, has assisted those working to better themselves in the Caribbean and in South and Central America, making substantial contributions to the well-being of others through the San Jose accord. Our relationship of trust and cooperation is good for our own peoples and benefits the entire hemisphere. It is something to be cherished and we do not take it for granted.

Mr. President, we are keenly aware that Venezuela is now going through a period of economic readjustment. I was pleased when agreement was reached for the refinancing of Venezuela's public debt. We support that and the responsible decisions you are making to put your country back on the track to strong economic growth.

We, too, have undertaken some fundamental reforms in recent years, and more will be forthcoming. We continue to believe that strong economic growth is the foundation of social justice, with the key being greater incentives, opportunity, and freedom for every person. Each year, in every corner of the globe, the evidence continues to build. Today, no objective observer can deny that individual freedom, not government control, is the strongest spark for economic development and human progress.

President Lusinchi, you have the confidence of your people and you have our confidence as well. You also have our

Page 5

admiration. It is a pleasure to greet you on behalf of the people of the United States. Welcome.

(Rohrabacher/BE)
November 30, 1984
12:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: ARRIVAL OF PRESIDENT JAIME LUSINCHI
OF VENEZUELA
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1984

It is an honor today to welcome the leader of one of this hemisphere's shining examples of freedom and democracy, President ~~Jaime~~ Lusinchi of Venezuela. President Lusinchi is a man dedicated to those principles of liberty held dear by the people of the United States. Venezuela is a nation which overcame authoritarianism of ~~left and right~~ ^{the} ~~to~~ ^{and Castro supported guerrillas from the left} to establish itself as a bulwark of democracy. It is a pleasure for us to have as our guest an individual who played such an important role building freedom in his own country, and who now, as a spokesman for his people, is such a force for good in this hemisphere. ~~and throughout the world.~~

Venezuelans do not take freedom for granted. It was less than a generation ago when President Lusinchi and other brave Venezuelans -- and it took tremendous courage -- under the leadership of a great statesman and democrat, Romulo Betancourt, threw off dictatorship and began laying the foundation for stable democratic government. Their struggle was not dissimilar to that going on in Central America today.

The fledgling Venezuelan democracy was immediately put to the test ^{by} ~~by~~ Cuban-supported, ~~Soviet-financed insurgents, who~~ ^{guerrillas and terrorists} ~~total~~ ^{who} would have turned Venezuela into a Marxist-Leninist dictatorship. Mr. President, your triumph ^{in this ten-year struggle} ~~then~~, and the subsequent success of

freedom in your country, should serve as a model for today -- the Venezuelan model, if you will.

While ~~conciliatory to all~~ -- ^{those guerrillas} granting amnesty to many and ^{willing to put down their weapons and} encouraging them ~~to~~ participate in the electoral process, Venezuelan leaders held firm to the principles of democratic government and individual freedom, and never gave in to the armed Marxist ^{Leninist} minority. The peace, liberty, and security enjoyed in your country today is a result of that valor and determination.

Nothing less should have been expected from the heirs of the great liberator, Simon Bolivar. He once said of Venezuela, "By establishing a democratic republic . . . she has declared for the rights of man and freedom of action, thought, speech, and press. These eminently liberal acts . . . will never cease to be admired."

Venezuelans, who understand that democracy is a path to peace and progress, can be proud that their government is standing shoulder-to-shoulder with the forces of democracy in Central America today. All freedom-loving people should rejoice that El Salvador and other countries in the region, like Venezuela before, are ^{maintaining or} ~~striving to~~ establish ^{ing} democratic governments, ^{despite challenges of Soviet-bloc sponsored} ~~sometimes in extremely trying~~ circumstances.

The exception to this ^{in Central America} trend is Nicaragua, where a ruling clique of Sandinistas, allied with Cuban and Soviet dictators, have betrayed their citizens. Despite ^{their} assurances ^{in 1979} to the people of Nicaragua and to the Organization of American States ^{that they would hold genuinely democratic elections} ~~to the~~ ^{instead} contrary, they have ~~undermined civil liberties~~, persecuted ^{free democratic} opposition parties, and repressed trade unions, and civic and

religious organizations. Instead of free elections, they chose to hold a communist-style sham election -- orderly in form, but ^{without} ~~the participation of the democratic opposition because Sandinista-controlled~~ with gangs of thugs threatening opponents who dared to speak out ~~against the persecution of individual rights.~~ ^{to} ~~beat down freedom of speech and assembly, wiping out any chance for genuine political competition~~ President Lusinchi, I hope you will work with me to ensure that the pledges of free elections and ^{real democracy} ~~civil liberties~~ made to the O.A.S. and to the Nicaraguan people are carried out.

Venezuela has been and continues to be a leading force in the Contadora process, which seeks peace in Central America based on democratic principles. We applaud your efforts. The United States places great importance on all 21 objectives of the Contadora process, which includes ^{truly} ~~the legitimate~~ democratic elections originally promised by the Sandinistas. The Contadora objectives, ^{if} ~~uncompromised and~~ put into practice ^{simultaneously} with adequate ^{effective} verification, offer the best hope for peace in Central America. I can assure you that the diplomatic efforts of the United States are designed to ^{attain} ~~complement~~ these objectives.

Two decades ago, the founder of modern Venezuelan democracy, President Romulo Betancourt, visited here and said, ". . . if the United States and my country and Latin America can work together for democracy, we can increase and improve the conditions of life for all our people very rapidly."

His words rang true. In two decades, great things have been accomplished by the free people of Venezuela. The people of the United States are happy to have played a small role, offering a helping hand to people who have become close friends.

Venezuela, in turn, has assisted those working to better themselves in the Caribbean and in South and Central America, making substantial contributions to the well-being of others through the San Jose accord. Our relationship of trust and cooperation is good for our own peoples and benefits the entire hemisphere. It is something to be cherished and we do not take it for granted.

Mr. President, we are keenly aware that Venezuela is now going through a period of economic readjustment. I was pleased when agreement was reached for the refinancing of Venezuela's public debt. We support that and the responsible decisions you are making to put your country back on the track to strong economic growth.

We, too, have undertaken some fundamental reforms in recent years, and more will be forthcoming. We continue to believe that strong economic growth is the foundation of social justice, with the key being greater incentives, opportunity, and freedom for every person. Each year, in every corner of the globe, the evidence continues to build. Today, no objective observer can deny that individual freedom, not government control, is the strongest spark for economic development and human progress.

President Lusinchi, you have the confidence of your people and you have our confidence as well. You also have our admiration. It is a pleasure to greet you on behalf of the people of the United States. Welcome.

Constitutional Merges

(Rohrabacher/BE)
November 30, 1984
12:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: ARRIVAL OF PRESIDENT JAIME LUSINCHI
OF VENEZUELA
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1984

It is an honor today to welcome the leader of one of this hemisphere's shining examples of freedom and democracy, President Jamie Lusinchi of Venezuela. President Lusinchi is a man dedicated to those principles of liberty held dear by the people of the United States. Venezuela is a nation which overcame authoritarianism of ~~left~~ ^{the} and ~~right~~ ^{and Castro's supported guerrillas of the left} to establish itself as a bulwark of democracy. It is a pleasure for us to have as our guest an individual who played such an important role building freedom in his own country, and who now, as a spokesman for his people, is such a force for good in this hemisphere, ~~and~~ ^{throughout the world.}

Venezuelans do not take freedom for granted. It was less than a generation ago when President Lusinchi and other brave Venezuelans -- and it took tremendous courage -- under the leadership of a great statesman and democrat, Romulo Betancourt, threw off dictatorship and began laying the foundation for stable democratic government. Their struggle was not dissimilar to that going on in Central America today.

The fledgling Venezuelan democracy was immediately put to the test ^{in ten years} by Cuban-supported ~~Soviet-financed~~ ^{guerrillas and terrorists} insurgents, who would have turned Venezuela into a Marxist-Leninist dictatorship. Mr. President, your triumph then, and the subsequent success of

freedom in your country, should serve as a model for today -- the Venezuelan model, if you will.

While ~~conciliatory to all~~ ^{WILLING TO put-down Frank weapons and} granting amnesty to ~~many~~ ^{Frank Aguirre} and encouraging them to participate in the electoral process,

Venezuelan leaders, held firm to the principles of democratic government and individual freedom, and never gave in to the armed Marxist ^{Leninist} minority. The peace, liberty, and security enjoyed in your country today is a result of that valor and determination.

Nothing less should have been expected from the heirs of the great liberator, Simon Bolivar. He once said of Venezuela, "By establishing a democratic republic . . . she has declared for the rights of man and freedom of action, thought, speech, and press. These eminently liberal acts . . . will never cease to be admired."

Venezuelans, who understand that democracy is a path to peace and progress, can be proud that their government is standing shoulder-to-shoulder with the forces of democracy in Central America today. All freedom-loving people should rejoice that El Salvador and other countries in the region, like Venezuela before, ^{MANATMANAG OR} are ^{at} striving to establish democratic governments, ^{despite - time} sometimes in extremely ^{difficult} trying circumstances. ^{challenges of Latin America}

The exception to this ^{democratic in Central America} trend is Nicaragua, where a ruling clique of Sandinistas, allied with Cuban and Soviet dictators, have betrayed their citizens. Despite assurances ^{in 1979} to the people of Nicaragua and to the Organization of American States, ^{that they would hold genuine democratic elections} to the ¹⁹⁸⁰ contrary, they have undermined civil liberties, persecuted opposition parties, ~~and repressed~~ trade unions, and civic and

the democratic

that for submission.

having ~~left~~ present the part of the dem opp for by debt party

religious organizations. Instead of free elections, they chose

to hold a communist-style sham election -- orderly in form, but ^{on May 4, 1984} ~~without~~ ^{the participation of the democratic opposition because Sandinista-controlled} ~~with gangs of thugs threatening opponents who dared to speak out~~ ^{against the freedom of speech and assembly created in any genuine political competition.} ~~against the persecution of individual rights.~~ President

Lusinchi, I hope you will work with me to ensure that the ^{Sandinista} pledges of ^{genuinely} free elections ^{of real democracy} and ~~civil liberties~~ ^{will be} made to the O.A.S. and to the Nicaraguan people ~~are~~ carried out.

Venezuela has been and continues to be a leading force in the Contadora process, which seeks peace in Central America based on democratic principles. We applaud your efforts. The United States places great importance on all 21 objectives of the Contadora process, which includes the ^{genuine} legitimate democratic elections originally promised by the Sandinistas. The Contadora objectives, ^{IF & implemented SIMULTANEOUSLY} uncompromised and put into practice ^{with adequate APPROPRIATE} verification, offer the best hope for peace in Central America. I can assure you that the diplomatic efforts of the United States are designed to ^{ATTAIN} compliment these objectives.

Two decades ago, the founder of modern Venezuelan democracy, President Romulo Betancourt, visited here and said, ". . . if the United States and my country and Latin America can work together for democracy, we can increase and improve the conditions of life for all our people very rapidly."

His words rang true. In two decades, great things have been accomplished by the free people of Venezuela. The people of the United States are happy to have played a small role, offering a helping hand to people who have become close friends.

Venezuela, in turn, has assisted those working to better themselves in the Caribbean and in South and Central America, making substantial contributions to the well-being of others through the San Jose accord. Our relationship of trust and cooperation is good for our own peoples and benefits the entire hemisphere. It is something to be cherished and we do not take it for granted.

Mr. President, we are keenly aware that Venezuela is now going through a period of economic readjustment. I was pleased when agreement was reached for the refinancing of Venezuela's public debt. We support that and the responsible decisions you are making to put your country back on the track to strong economic growth.

We, too, have undertaken some fundamental reforms in recent years, and more will be forthcoming. We continue to believe that strong economic growth is the foundation of social justice, with the key being greater incentives, opportunity, and freedom for every person. Each year, in every corner of the globe, the evidence continues to build. Today, no objective observer can deny that individual freedom, not government control, is the strongest spark for economic development and human progress.

President Lusinchi, you have the confidence of your people and you have our confidence as well. You also have our admiration. It is a pleasure to greet you on behalf of the people of the United States. Welcome.

(Rohrabacher/BE)
November 30, 1984
12:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: ARRIVAL OF PRESIDENT JAIME LUSINCHI
OF VENEZUELA
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1984

It is an honor today to welcome the leader of one of this hemisphere's shining examples of freedom and democracy, President Jamie Lusinchi of Venezuela. President Lusinchi is a man dedicated to those principles of liberty held dear by the people of the United States. Venezuela is a nation which overcame authoritarianism of left and right to establish itself as a bulwark of democracy. It is a pleasure for us to have as our guest an individual who played such an important role building freedom in his own country, and who now, as a spokesman for his people, is such a force for good in this hemisphere and throughout the world.

Venezuelans do not take freedom for granted. It was less than a generation ago when President Lusinchi and other brave Venezuelans -- and it took tremendous courage -- under the leadership of a great statesman and democrat, Romulo Betancourt, threw off dictatorship and began laying the foundation for stable democratic government. Their struggle was not dissimilar to that going on in Central America today.

The fledgling Venezuelan democracy was immediately put to the test by Cuban-supported, Soviet-financed insurgents, who would have turned Venezuela into a Marxist-Leninist dictatorship. Mr. President, your triumph then, and the subsequent success of

freedom in your country, should serve as a model for today -- the Venezuelan model, if you will.

While conciliatory to all -- granting amnesty to many and encouraging them to participate in the electoral process -- Venezuelan leaders, held firm to the principles of democratic government and individual freedom, and never gave in to the armed Marxist minority. The peace, liberty, and security enjoyed in your country today is a result of that valor and determination.

Nothing less should have been expected from the heirs of the great liberator, Simon Bolivar. He once said of Venezuela, "By establishing a democratic republic . . . she has declared for the rights of man and freedom of action, thought, speech, and press. These eminently liberal acts . . . will never cease to be admired."

Venezuelans, who understand that democracy is a path to peace and progress, can be proud that their government is standing shoulder-to-shoulder with the forces of democracy in Central America today. All freedom-loving people should rejoice that El Salvador and other countries in the region, like Venezuela before, are striving to establish democratic governments, sometimes in extremely trying circumstances.

The exception to this trend is Nicaragua, where a ruling clique of Sandinistas, allied with Cuban and Soviet dictators, have betrayed their citizens. Despite assurances to the people of Nicaragua and to the Organization of American States to the contrary, they have undermined civil liberties, persecuted opposition parties, and repressed trade unions, and civic and

religious organizations. Instead of free elections, they chose to hold a communist-style sham election -- orderly in form, but with gangs of thugs threatening opponents who dared to speak out against the persecution of individual rights. President Lusinchi, I hope you will work with me to ensure that the pledges of free elections and civil liberties made to the O.A.S. and to the Nicaraguan people are carried out.

Venezuela has been and continues to be a leading force in the Contadora process, which seeks peace in Central America based on democratic principles. We applaud your efforts. The United States places great importance on all 21 objectives of the Contadora process, which includes the legitimate democratic elections originally promised by the Sandinistas. The Contadora objectives, uncompromised and put into practice with adequate verification, offer the best hope for peace in Central America. I can assure you that the diplomatic efforts of the United States are designed to compliment these objectives.

Two decades ago, the founder of modern Venezuelan democracy, President Romulo Betancourt, visited here and said, ". . . if the United States and my country and Latin America can work together for democracy, we can increase and improve the conditions of life for all our people very rapidly."

His words rang true. In two decades, great things have been accomplished by the free people of Venezuela. The people of the United States are happy to have played a small role, offering a helping hand to people who have become close friends.

Venezuela, in turn, has assisted those working to better themselves in the Caribbean and in South and Central America, making substantial contributions to the well-being of others through the San Jose accord. Our relationship of trust and cooperation is good for our own peoples and benefits the entire hemisphere. It is something to be cherished and we do not take it for granted.

Mr. President, we are keenly aware that Venezuela is now going through a period of economic readjustment. I was pleased when agreement was reached for the refinancing of Venezuela's public debt. We support that and the responsible decisions you are making to put your country back on the track to strong economic growth.

We, too, have undertaken some fundamental reforms in recent years, and more will be forthcoming. We continue to believe that strong economic growth is the foundation of social justice, with the key being greater incentives, opportunity, and freedom for every person. Each year, in every corner of the globe, the evidence continues to build. Today, no objective observer can deny that individual freedom, not government control, is the strongest spark for economic development and human progress.

President Lusinchi, you have the confidence of your people and you have our confidence as well. You also have our admiration. It is a pleasure to greet you on behalf of the people of the United States. Welcome.

(Rohrabacher) *CR*
November 29, 1984
5:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: ARRIVAL OF PRESIDENT JAIME LUSINCHI
OF VENEZUELA
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1984

It is an honor today to welcome the leader of one of this hemisphere's shining examples of freedom and democracy, President Jamie Lusinchi of Venezuela. President Lusinchi is a man dedicated to those principles of liberty held dear by the people of the United States. Venezuela is a nation which overcame authoritarianism of left and right to establish itself as a *bulwark* ~~bulwark~~ of democracy. It is a pleasure for us to have as our guest an individual who played such an important role building freedom in his own country, and who now, as a spokesman for his people, is such a force for good in this hemisphere and throughout the world.

Venezuelans do not take freedom for granted. It was less than a generation ago when President Lusinchi and other brave Venezuelans -- and it took tremendous courage -- under the leadership of a great statesman and democrat, Romulo Betancourt, threw off dictatorship and began laying the foundation for stable democratic government. Their struggle was not dissimilar to that going on in Central America today.

The fledgling Venezuelan democracy was immediately put to the test by Cuban-supported, Soviet-financed insurgents, who would have turned Venezuela into a Marxist-Leninist dictatorship. Mr. President, your triumph then, and the subsequent success of

freedom in your country, should serve as a model for today -- the Venezuelan model, if you will.

While conciliatory to all -- granting amnesty to many and encouraging them to participate in the electoral process -- Venezuelan leaders, ^{held} ~~holding~~ firm to the principles of democratic government and individual freedom, ^{and} never gave in to the armed Marxist minority. The peace, liberty, and security enjoyed in your country today is a result of that valor and determination.

Nothing less should have been expected from the heirs of the great liberator, Simon Bolivar. He once said of Venezuela, "By establishing a democratic republic . . . she has declared for the rights of man and freedom of action, thought, speech, and press. These eminently liberal acts . . . will never cease to be admired."

Venezuelans, who understand that democracy is a path to peace and progress, can be proud that their government is standing shoulder-to-shoulder with the forces of democracy in Central America today. All freedom-loving people should rejoice that El Salvador and other countries in the region, like Venezuela before, ^{striving to} ~~are establishing~~ democratic governments, sometimes in extremely trying circumstances.

The exception to this trend is Nicaragua, where a ruling clique of Sandinistas, allied with Cuban and Soviet dictators, have betrayed their citizens. Despite assurances to the people of Nicaragua and to the Organization of American States to the contrary, they have undermined civil liberties, persecuted opposition parties, and repressed trade unions, and civic and

religious organizations. Instead of free elections, they chose to hold ^a communist-style sham elections -- orderly in form, but with gangs of thugs threatening [^] anyone who spoke out, ^{opponents dared to speak out against the} lacking in ^{persecution of individual rights.} democratic content. President Lusinchi, I hope you will work with me to ensure that the pledges of free elections and civil liberties made to the O.A.S. and to the Nicaraguan people are carried out.

Venezuela has been and continues to be a leading force in the Contadora process, which seeks peace in Central America based on democratic principles. We applaud your efforts. The United States places great importance on all 21 objectives of the Contadora process, which includes the legitimate democratic elections originally promised by the Sandinistas. The Contadora objectives, uncompromised and put into practice with adequate verification, offer the best hope for peace in Central America. I can assure you that the diplomatic efforts of the United States are designed to compliment these objectives.

Two decades ago, the founder of modern Venezuelan democracy, President Romulo Betancourt, visited here and said, ". . . if the United States and my country and Latin America can work together for democracy, we can increase and improve the conditions of life for all our people very rapidly."

His words rang true. In two decades, great things have been accomplished by the free people of Venezuela. The people of the United States are happy to have played a small role, offering a helping hand to people who have become close friends.

Venezuela, in turn, has assisted those working to better themselves in the Caribbean and in South and Central America, making substantial contributions to the well-being of others through the San Jose accord. Our relationship of trust and cooperation is good for our own peoples and benefits the entire hemisphere. It is something to be cherished and we do not take it for granted.

Mr. President, we are keenly aware that Venezuela is now going through a period of economic readjustment. I was pleased when agreement was reached for the refinancing of Venezuela's public debt. We support that and the responsible decisions you

are making to put your country back on the track to ^{strong} economic growth. ~~We, too, have gone through some fundamental reforms in recent years, and more will be forthcoming.~~ ~~the best path, but sometimes it is not always the easiest.~~ ^{economic growth is the foundation of social justice, and the key to the way to being a great nation, and opportunity and freedom for every person.} ^{strongest path for economic development and human progress is the way to freedom for every person.} ^{Each year, in every corner of the globe, the evidence continues to build. Today, no objective observer can deny that}

President Lusinchi, you have the confidence of your people and you have our confidence as well. You also have our admiration. It is a pleasure to greet you on behalf of the people of the United States. Welcome.

being a great nation, and opportunity and freedom for every person. Each year, in every corner of the globe, the evidence continues to build. Today, no objective observer can deny that

(Rohrabacher)
November 29, 1984
5:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: ARRIVAL OF PRESIDENT JAIME LUSINCHI
OF VENEZUELA
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1984

It is an honor today to welcome the leader of one of this hemisphere's shining examples of freedom and democracy, President Jamie Lusinchi of Venezuela. President Lusinchi is a man dedicated to those principles of liberty held dear by the people of the United States. Venezuela is a nation which overcame authoritarianism of left and right to establish itself as a bullwork of democracy. It is a pleasure for us to have as our guest an individual who played such an important role building freedom in his own country, and who now, as a spokesman for his people, is such a force for good in this hemisphere and throughout the world.

Venezuelans do not take freedom for granted. It was less than a generation ago when President Lusinchi and other brave Venezuelans -- and it took tremendous courage -- under the leadership of a great statesman and democrat, Romulo Betancourt, threw off dictatorship and began laying the foundation for stable democratic government. Their struggle was not dissimilar to that going on in Central America today.

The fledgling Venezuelan democracy was immediately put to the test by Cuban-supported, Soviet-financed insurgents, who would have turned Venezuela into a Marxist-Leninist dictatorship. Mr. President, your triumph then, and the subsequent success of

freedom in your country, should serve as a model for today -- the Venezuelan model, if you will.

While conciliatory to all -- granting amnesty to many and encouraging them to participate in the electoral process -- Venezuelan leaders, holding firm to the principles of democratic government and individual freedom, never gave in to the armed Marxist minority. The peace, liberty, and security enjoyed in your country today is a result of that valor and determination.

Nothing less should have been expected from the heirs of the great liberator, Simon Bolivar. He once said of Venezuela, "By establishing a democratic republic . . . she has declared for the rights of man and freedom of action, thought, speech, and press. These eminently liberal acts . . . will never cease to be admired."

Venezuelans, who understand that democracy is a path to peace and progress, can be proud that their government is standing shoulder-to-shoulder with the forces of democracy in Central America today. All freedom-loving people should rejoice that El Salvador and other countries in the region, like Venezuela before, are establishing democratic governments, sometimes in extremely trying circumstances.

The exception to this trend is Nicaragua, where a ruling clique of Sandinistas, allied with Cuban and Soviet dictators, have betrayed their citizens. Despite assurances to the people of Nicaragua and to the Organization of American States to the contrary, they have undermined civil liberties, persecuted opposition parties, and repressed trade unions, and civic and

religious organizations. Instead of free elections, they chose to hold communist-style sham elections -- orderly in form, but with gangs of thugs threatening anyone who spoke out, lacking in democratic content. President Lusinchi, I hope you will work with me to ensure that the pledges of free elections and civil liberties made to the O.A.S. and to the Nicaraguan people are carried out.

Venezuela has been and continues to be a leading force in the Contadora process, which seeks peace in Central America based on democratic principles. We applaud your efforts. The United States places great importance on all 21 objectives of the Contadora process, which includes the legitimate democratic elections originally promised by the Sandinistas. The Contadora objectives, uncompromised and put into practice with adequate verification, offer the best hope for peace in Central America. I can assure you that the diplomatic efforts of the United States are designed to compliment these objectives.

Two decades ago, the founder of modern Venezuelan democracy, President Romulo Betancourt, visited here and said, ". . . if the United States and my country and Latin America can work together for democracy, we can increase and improve the conditions of life for all our people very rapidly."

His words rang true. In two decades, great things have been accomplished by the free people of Venezuela. The people of the United States are happy to have played a small role, offering a helping hand to people who have become close friends.

Venezuela, in turn, has assisted those working to better themselves in the Caribbean and in South and Central America, making substantial contributions to the well-being of others through the San Jose accord. Our relationship of trust and cooperation is good for our own peoples and benefits the entire hemisphere. It is something to be cherished and we do not take it for granted.

Mr. President, we are keenly aware that Venezuela is now going through a period of economic readjustment. I was pleased when agreement was reached for the refinancing of Venezuela's public debt. We support that and the responsible decisions you are making to put your country back on the track to stable economic growth. We, too, have gone through some fundamental reform in recent years, and more will be forthcoming. Freedom is the best path, but sometimes it is not always the easiest.

President Lusinchi, you have the confidence of your people and you have our confidence as well. You also have our admiration. It is a pleasure to greet you on behalf of the people of the United States. Welcome.

(Rohrabacher)
November 29, 1984
5:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: ARRIVAL OF PRESIDENT JAIME LUSINCHI
OF VENEZUELA
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1984

It is an honor today to welcome the leader of one of this hemisphere's shining examples of freedom and democracy, President Jamie Lusinchi of Venezuela. President Lusinchi is a man dedicated to those principles of liberty held dear by the people of the United States. Venezuela is a nation which overcame authoritarianism of left and right to establish itself as a bullwork of democracy. It is a pleasure for us to have as our guest an individual who played such an important role building freedom in his own country, and who now, as a spokesman for his people, is such a force for good in this hemisphere and throughout the world.

Venezuelans do not take freedom for granted. It was less than a generation ago when President Lusinchi and other brave Venezuelans -- and it took tremendous courage -- under the leadership of a great statesman and democrat, Romulo Betancourt, threw off dictatorship and began laying the foundation for stable democratic government. Their struggle was not dissimilar to that going on in Central America today.

The fledgling Venezuelan democracy was immediately put to the test by Cuban-supported, Soviet-financed insurgents, who would have turned Venezuela into a Marxist-Leninist dictatorship. Mr. President, your triumph then, and the subsequent success of

freedom in your country, should serve as a model for today -- the Venezuelan model, if you will.

While conciliatory to all -- granting amnesty to many and encouraging them to participate in the electoral process -- Venezuelan leaders, holding firm to the principles of democratic government and individual freedom, never gave in to the armed Marxist minority. The peace, liberty, and security enjoyed in your country today is a result of that valor and determination.

Nothing less should have been expected from the heirs of the great liberator, Simon Bolivar. He once said of Venezuela, "By establishing a democratic republic . . . she has declared for the rights of man and freedom of action, thought, speech, and press. These eminently liberal acts . . . will never cease to be admired."

Venezuelans, who understand that democracy is a path to peace and progress, can be proud that their government is standing shoulder-to-shoulder with the forces of democracy in Central America today. All freedom-loving people should rejoice that El Salvador and other countries in the region, like Venezuela before, are establishing democratic governments, sometimes in extremely trying circumstances.

The exception to this trend is Nicaragua, where a ruling clique of Sandinistas, allied with Cuban and Soviet dictators, have betrayed their citizens. Despite assurances to the people of Nicaragua and to the Organization of American States to the contrary, they have undermined civil liberties, persecuted opposition parties, and repressed trade unions, and civic and

religious organizations. Instead of free elections, they chose to hold communist-style sham elections -- orderly in form, but with gangs of thugs threatening anyone who spoke out, lacking in democratic content. President Lusinchi, I hope you will work with me to ensure that the pledges of free elections and civil liberties made to the O.A.S. and to the Nicaraguan people are carried out.

Venezuela has been and continues to be a leading force in the Contadora process, which seeks peace in Central America based on democratic principles. We applaud your efforts. The United States places great importance on all 21 objectives of the Contadora process, which includes the legitimate democratic elections originally promised by the Sandinistas. The Contadora objectives, uncompromised and put into practice with adequate verification, offer the best hope for peace in Central America. I can assure you that the diplomatic efforts of the United States are designed to compliment these objectives.

Two decades ago, the founder of modern Venezuelan democracy, President Romulo Betancourt, visited here and said, ". . . if the United States and my country and Latin America can work together for democracy, we can increase and improve the conditions of life for all our people very rapidly."

His words rang true. In two decades, great things have been accomplished by the free people of Venezuela. The people of the United States are happy to have played a small role, offering a helping hand to people who have become close friends.

Venezuela, in turn, has assisted those working to better themselves in the Caribbean and in South and Central America, making substantial contributions to the well-being of others through the San Jose accord. Our relationship of trust and cooperation is good for our own peoples and benefits the entire hemisphere. It is something to be cherished and we do not take it for granted.

Mr. President, we are keenly aware that Venezuela is now going through a period of economic readjustment. I was pleased when agreement was reached for the refinancing of Venezuela's public debt. We support that and the responsible decisions you are making to put your country back on the track to stable economic growth. We, too, have gone through some fundamental reform in recent years, and more will be forthcoming. Freedom is the best path, but sometimes it is not always the easiest.

President Lusinchi, you have the confidence of your people and you have our confidence as well. You also have our admiration. It is a pleasure to greet you on behalf of the people of the United States. Welcome.

(Rohrabacher)
November 29, 1984
draft

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: ARRIVAL PRESIDENT JAIME LUSINCHI
OF VENEZUELA
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1984

It is an honor today to welcome the leader of one of this hemisphere's shining examples of freedom and democracy, President Jamine Lusinchi of Venezuela. President Lusinchi is a man dedicated to those principles of liberty held dear by the people of the United States. Venezuela is a Nation which overcame authoritarianism of left and right to established itself as a bullwork of democracy. It is a pleasure for us to have as our guest an individual who played such an important role building freedom in his own country, and who now, as a spokesman for his people, is such a force for good in this hemisphere and throughout the world.

Venezuelans do not take freedom for granted. It was less than a generation ago when President Lusinchi and other brave Venezuelans people -- and it took tremendous courage -- under the leadership of a great statesman and democrat, Romulo Betancourt, threw off dictatorship and began laying the foundation for stable democratic government. Their struggle was not dissimilar to that that going on in Central America today.

The fledging Venezuelan democracy was immidately put to the test by Cuban-supported, Soviet financed insurgents, who would have turned Venezuela into a Marxist-Leninist dictatorship. Mr. President, your triumph then, and the subsequent success of freedom in your country, should serve as model for today -- the Venezuelan model, if you will.

accord. Our relationship of trust and cooperation is good for our own peoples and benefits the the entire hemisphere. It is something to be cherished and we do not take it for granted.

Mr. President, we are keenly aware that Venezuela is now going through a period of economic readjustment. I was pleased when agreement was reached for the refinancing of Venezuela's public debt. We support that and the responsible decisions you are making to put your country back on the track to stable economic growth. We, too, have gone through some fundamental reform in recent years, and more will be forth coming. Freedom is the best path, but sometimes it is not always the easiest.

President Lusinchi. You have the confidence of your people and you have our confidence as well. You also have our admiration. It is a pleasure to ^{greet} ~~welcome~~ you on the behalf of the people of the United States. Welcome.

X