

FIRST ARTICLE

Roundup: Venezuelan president completes Mersour tour with agreements concluded

461 Wörter

13 August 2005

Xinhua News Agency

XNEWS

Englisch

CARACAS, Aug. 12 (Xinhua) -- Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez on Friday concluded his working visits to three countries of the Common Market of the South (Mercosur) aiming at enhancing bilateral relations and promoting Latin American integration.

During the three-day visit to Uruguay, Argentina and Brazil, Chavez signed with his counterparts a series of bilateral political and economic agreements.

Under the agreements signed with his Uruguayan counterpart, Tabare Vazquez, Venezuela is to provide low-price crude oil for refining at Uruguayan refineries for 25 years. The processed oil will be used to meet Uruguay's energy needs with the surplus to be exported to South American countries.

Joint exploitation will take place in one of the reserve blocs Venezuela has in the eastern petroleum strip, where there are proven reserves of 300 billion barrels of crude.

In return, Uruguay will export a large amount of agricultural, telecommunications and service products to Venezuela.

Other joint efforts in the program include plans for an alcohol distillation project with Uruguay near its northeastern border with Brazil and a cement plant which will export from Uruguay to Venezuela 10 million US dollars worth of cement annually.

During his visit on Aug. 11 to Argentina, the second leg of the tour, Chavez signed with his colleague Nestor Kirchner a series of agreements worth over 500 million dollars.

Under the agreements, Venezuela would supply 4 million barrels of fuel oil to Argentina. Meanwhile, the latter will construct two tankers at the Rio Santiago-Dianca Shipyard for Venezuelan petroleum transportation firm PDV Marina, which will require an investment of 112 million dollars.

Both sides pledged to improve the good relations between them and implement agreements already signed on bilateral cooperation in such fields as energy, farming and animal husbandry, food and medicine.

In Brazil on Friday, Chavez offered President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva a plan of joint exploitation of an oil field on the Orinoco Strip.

Chavez promised that by the end of 2006 the construction of the Venezuelan refining plant in Orinoco Strip could start with the cooperation of Venezuela's state-run petroleum company and its Brazilian counterpart.

Chavez's tour to the three Mercosur countries was also part of his efforts to push forward the integration process in Latin America.

In Uruguay, Chavez and his counterpart, Tabare Vazquez, agreed to strengthen consultation and cooperation to help promote the process of South American integration.

During his visit to Argentina, President Nestor Kirchner and Chavez said in a joint communique that the two countries are to step up efforts to set up regional organizations such as the Southern Bank, a Latin American monetary fund and an American petroleum company, so as to improve the region's economic integration.

Xinhua News Agency

SECOND ARTICLE

DIARY - Political and General News Events from October 19

4930 Wörter

19 Oktober 2005

16:52

Reuters News

LBA

Englisch

(c) 2005 Reuters Limited

OCTOBER - UNDATED

**** PYONGYANG** - Chinese President Hu Jintao expected to visit North Korea in late October (tentative date Oct 24).

KIEV - Russian President Vladimir Putin visits Ukraine in late October. **** BAGHDAD** - Arab League Secretary-General Amr Moussa expected to visit Iraq.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19

BAGHDAD - Ousted Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein goes on trial for crimes against humanity. Several of Saddam's associates, including one of his half-brothers, would face trial with him for the execution of 143 citizens.

WASHINGTON - U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to testify before the U.S. Senate committee on foreign relations on 'Iraq in U.S. Foreign Policy'.

PYONGYANG - Chinese special envoy to North Korea Li Bin on visit (to October 20).

GENEVA - Trade Officials from the EU, U.S., Brazil, India and Australia hold trade talks (to October 20). **** BEIJING** - U.S. Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld on final day of visit to China.

PARIS - Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez meets French counterpart Jacques Chirac (1630), Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin (1100), and Foreign Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy.

**** CAIRO** - Final day for parties to submit nominations for parliamentary elections.

GENEVA - World Trade Organisation (WTO) General Council (to October 20).

BRUSSELS - European Commission is due to put forward ideas on Wednesday for how to break the impasse over the EU's long-term budget. The Commission ideas on the 2007-2013 budget are expected to centre on ways of targeting more expenditure on innovation, research and development, and on a review mechanism for all EU expenditure. **** PLAYA DEL CARMEN, Mexico** - (MOVED FROM OCT 20) MTV Video Music Awards Latin America.

TOKYO - (CANCELLED) Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi visits Japan (to October 20).

TOKYO - 39th Tokyo Motor Show 2005 (to November 6).

BRUSSELS - European Parliament President Josep Borrell meets IMF Managing Director Rodrigo Rato (0930).

WASHINGTON - Former Taiwan president Lee Teng-hui visits United States (to October 24).

PRETORIA - (TENTATIVE) South African President Thabo Mbeki due to meet Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams.

FRANKFURT - The Frankfurt Book fair begins (to October 23).

ITALY - IMF mission in Italy starts (to October 31).

LONDON - 49th annual London Film Festival (to November 3).

ROVANIEMI, Finland - Barents Sea area environment ministers to hold a meeting, news conference.

PARIS - Foreign Minister Philipp Douste-Blazy to meet U.N. special envoy for Western Sahara Peter Van Walsum (1630).

OREBRO/STOCKHOLM - Swedish Prime Minister Goran Persson speaks at a seminar on the economy and globalisation, starts (0800). Persson is also expected to meet Finnish President Tarja Halonen in Stockholm.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20

WASHINGTON - Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas visits the United States, meets President George W. Bush. ** SEOUL - U.S. Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to visit South Korea.

BRUSSELS - Croatia's EU negotiators and European Commission start screening of Croatian legislation's compatibility with that of the EU, prior to opening membership negotiations. ** ALABAMA - British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw to visit Alabama for talks with U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice (to October 23). Straw and Rice will deliver speeches at the Civil Rights Institute on 21 October.

BRUSSELS - EU veterinarians meet to assess Europe's bird flu situation.

LONDON - Britain's Conservatives hold second vote on leadership. The final two names will be put to the party's wider membership to vote on by early December. ** MONTEVIDEO - Sanitary authorities from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay meet to analyze preventive measures on bird flu disease.

PARIS - Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin meets Haitian counterpart Gerard Latortue (1100).

AMMAN/BASRA - Jordanian national airline Royal Jordanian will launch direct flights from Amman to the southern Iraqi city of Basra.

BRUSSELS - EU industrialists' lobby UNICE holds "Competitiveness Day", with IMF chief Rodrigo Rato.

HERTFORDSHIRE, Britain - Informal meeting of EU Health Ministers (to October 21). **
AMMAN/JERUSALEM - Israeli and Jordanian agricultural officials meet to coordinate how to handle any outbreak at home of the bird flu that has been discovered in nearby Turkey. **
MOSCOW - Portuguese Foreign Minister Diogo Freitas do Amaral visits Russia (to October 22).

KAMPALA - Uganda, Rwanda and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) officials to hold two-day tripartite meeting on recent incursion of Ugandan Lord's Resistance Army rebels in Congo and disarmament of foreign fighters in eastern DRC. ** PLAYA DEL CARMEN, Mexico - (MOVED TO OCT 19) MTV Video Music Awards Latin America. ** YANGON - Nine-fold increase in fuel prices imposed by Myanmar's military junta comes into effect.

PRAGUE - Czech Foreign Minister Cyril Svoboda to meet his counterpart Mladen Ivanic from Bosnia-Herzegovina. News conference at (1145).

BUCHAREST - International Monetary Fund delegation expected to visit Romania. **
VIENNA - EU tax commissioner Laszlo Kovacs and Croatian Finance Minister Ivan Suker hold joint news conference (0900).

THIRD ARTICLE

Washington worried by Venezuela, Cuban socialism

MIS

20 August 2005

09:26

Agence France Presse

HAVANA, Aug 20 (AFP) -

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez' visit to Cuba this weekend, to weld his alliance with President Fidel Castro's revolution, is keeping alive a socialist threat in Latin America as far as Washington is concerned.

The leftist-populist Chavez will make his 13th visit to Cuba since taking power in 1999 to visit his personal friend, Castro. At the Latin American School of Medicine, Chavez will attend a graduation of students from several countries, including 400 Venezuelans.

Chavez, who hosts a weekly radio call-in program, "Hello, Mr. President," will this weekend take questions alongside Castro in Havana. The famously long-winded Castro launched a similar program in March, in which he chats for hours before a television audience on policies, both domestic and foreign.

"I don't know how many hours 'Hello, Mr. President' is going to last," Chavez joked.

The two presidents have challenged Washington to demand the extradition of a common foe: anti-Castro militant Luis Posada Carriles. He was arrested in the United States by immigration authorities but is wanted on terrorism charges in Venezuela and Cuba.

Venezuelan prosecutors say he downed a Cuban airliner killing 73 aboard in 1976, and Cuba says he bombed two Havana hotels, killing an Italian businessman in the process.

A third Latin socialist had planned to join Castro and Chavez, Bolivian presidential candidate Evo Morales, who canceled Thursday to focus on his campaign.

Morales has been on Washington's radar screen, alongside Chavez and Castro.

US Secretary of State Donald Rumsfeld visited Peru and Paraguay this week to sound out their views of Cuba and Venezuela's activities in the region, particularly in Bolivia.

"There certainly is evidence that both Cuba and Venezuela have been involved in the situation in Bolivia in unhelpful ways," Rumsfeld told reporters on the flight from Washington.

Rumsfeld declined to elaborate but senior defense officials accused the Cuban, backed by Venezuelan money, of seeking to subvert Bolivia's democratic institutions.

Bolivian protesters have taken to the streets to demand their share of gas export earnings.

Caracas has also ended cooperation with the US Drug Enforcement Agency, accusing its agents of violating Venezuelan drug laws.

And Chavez hosted the leftist-oriented World Youth Festival, where he accused US President George W. Bush of having "imperial logic."

Chavez, who declared himself a socialist in January, said socialism was on the rebound, 14 years after the collapse of the Soviet Union and the Communist bloc -- with the sole exception of Cuba.

"We do not go around undermining order as president Chavez and I are accused of doing," Castro said. Chavez' "revolution arrived at the right moment to contribute to the second and definitive independence of Latin America."

The two countries have strengthened military ties, and in April, signed 50 trade agreements touted as an alternative to US free-trade deals with Latin America, called the Bolivarian Alternative for Latin America in honor of Latin American liberator Simon Bolivar.

The two countries pledged cooperation, in which Cuba receives 90,000 barrels of oil and returns to Venezuela more than 30,000 physicians, sports coaches and teachers.

Venezuela remains one of the top exporters of oil to the United States and is the only Latin American member of the Organization of the Oil Exporting Countries.

Cuba is a perennial US concern, just 150 kilometers (90 miles) from the US state of Florida, which is home to thousands of vocal, anti-Castro exiles.

mis/kd/ceh

Agence France-Presse

FOURTH ARTICLE

Chavez dances tango, eats asado and guarantees diesel to Argentina [EXCERPT – TRANSLATED FROM SPANISH]

6 November 2005

Reuters - Noticias Latinoamericanas

The president of Venezuela, Hugo Chavez, extended on Sunday his visit to Argentina, where he participated in the IV Americas Summit, and after eating the traditional grilled meat and dancing tango, he guaranteed fuel for the Argentinian agriculture sector.

[...]

The Head of State visited in Balcarce the National Institute of Agriculture Technology of Argentina (INTA) as part of an agreement signed with the country for the purchase of agricultural machinery. The agreement also includes the supply of up to 5 million barrels of diesel.

Chavez was received in the city by the Argentinian secretary of agriculture, Miguel Campos, with whom we went over the institute's facilities.

[...]

FIFTH ARTICLES

Venezuela: Highlights of Radio Nacional de Venezuela news 2200 gmt 03 Mar 05

1357 Wörter

4 März 2005

12:48

BBC Monitoring Americas

BBCMAP

Figures in brackets indicate time in minutes elapsed since the start of the programme.

1. 08:30 Headlines.

2. 09:55 Chavez kicks off official visit to India. President Hugo Chavez will begin his tour of India on 4 March, with stops in New Delhi, Calcutta, and Bangalore. His Indian counterpart Abdul Kalam will be receiving him at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Presidential Palace in New Delhi. Chavez's New Delhi agenda includes meeting with Oil Minister Mani Shankar Aiyar and Foreign Minister Natwar Singh, placing a flower offering before the monuments honouring Mahatma Gandhi and Simon Bolivar, participating in the forum "Business Opportunities in Venezuela" together with Indian businesspeople, giving a lecture to academia and student movement members at the Jawaharlal Neru University, meeting with intellectuals and ambassadors accredited in India, and signing several agreements during an event presided by Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. In Calcutta, the Chief of State is slated to meet with West Bengal Government officials for a presentation on their local development programme, and stage a mass rally with the people of Calcutta. Lastly, Chavez will hold a meeting with local businesspeople in Bangalore. (2.5 min)

3. 12:37 Vice President: United States stumped over Latin American integration. Jose Vicente Rangel Vale described as "insulting" US Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs Roger Noriega's 2 March statement indicating that Venezuela is a threat to Latin American countries: "[words indistinct] characterized by clumsiness and stupidity, and reflects ignorance about the Venezuelan and Latin American reality." (4 min)

4. 16:35 Venezuelan ambassador predicts US attempt to isolate Venezuela will fail. In response to Noriega's "interventionist" allegations, Jorge Valero, Venezuelan ambassador to the OAS, argued that this US initiative will fail because the Bolivarian revolution has the support of other countries in the region: "Venezuela is becoming increasingly rooted in the hearts of the Latin American and Caribbean people. With each passing day, Venezuela weaves more and more bilateral agreements with other countries in the region - particularly Colombia, Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay - and the constitution of the South American Community of Nations carries much weight in the continent. All of these factors will thwart the attempts to distort the democratic, progressive, and pacific spirit of Chavez's political project."

5. 18:50 Armed Forces inspector announces general staff shuffle. Vice Admiral Orlando Maniglia indicated that by order of President Chavez, Major General Virgilio Lameda will take over the Army 1st Division stationed in Maracaibo, Zulia State. Other changes affect the Presidential Guard, the Army General Command, and the National Armed Forces Unified Command. Maniglia explained that these are routine changes resulting from "alert measures."

6. 19:26 Court denies bail in Ortega case. The 49th Control Court led by Judge Gisela Hernandez upheld the preventive custody order issued against former CTV (Venezuelan

Workers Confederation) President Carlos Ortega, remanding him to the Ramo Verde Jail in Los Teques. Ortega was arraigned on three of the six charges brought by the prosecution, to wit: instigation to commit crimes, civil rebellion, and false attestation to a public official.

7. 21:40 Interior minister describes Ortega arrest, says no reward paid.

8. 23:12 Finance minister presents economic outlook for 2005. Minister Nelson Merentes expects economic growth to reach 5 per cent, inflation not to exceed 15 per cent, oil production to increase by 3.4 per cent, currency exchange to remain at 2,150 bolivares per dollar, and unemployment rate to be 9 per cent.