

MEXICO WARNS U.S. DELEGATION ON MIGRATION

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Body

Secretary of State Warren Christopher led eight **U.S.** Cabinet members to **Mexico** on Monday in a show of confidence in the closeness of **U.S.**-Mexican relations.

But the team ran immediately into Mexican resentment over recent bloody incidents involving the treatment of illegal immigrants in California.

Mexican Foreign Minister Angel Gurria said, "We are deeply concerned by the emergence of trends that could jeopardize our relations and lead us down the road to confrontation and complaint."

Gurria alluded to recent incidents in California in which police chases led to the deaths of 10 migrants hidden in smugglers' vans and to the televised beating of two suspected illegal migrants by sheriff's deputies. He said **Mexico** intended to protect its citizens.

"We will always ask for the identification and punishment for those that abuse their rights, as well as the appropriate compensation for damages," the foreign minister said.

The Americans were in a far more upbeat mood. Christopher said the **United States** and **Mexico** had now "forged the closest partnership in our history."

The two Cabinets convened a periodic two-day meeting of what is known as the **U.S.-Mexico** Binational Commission. For 15 years, the officials have been overseeing a series of working groups discussing issues between the two nations.

But despite the high-level cast of participants, the Cabinet members plan to sign only a handful of minor agreements today, agreements that have been worked out by subordinates in recent weeks. The conference, as a result, may be more symbolic than substantive.

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