

The original documents are located in Box 9, folder “Mexico - Proposed Meeting with Jose Lopez Portillo” of the Richard B. Cheney Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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IMM
PRECEDENCE

FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT
TO: DICK CHENEY FOR
THE PRESIDENT

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

TO PORTLAND

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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2913
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May 22, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT *BS*

SUBJECT: Proposal for Meeting with Mexican President-Elect

At Tab A is a letter from Leon W. Parma referring to a conversation with you about his dinner invitation with Lopez Portillo, the unopposed candidate for President of Mexico in elections to be held on July 4. Mr. Parma would like to convey to Lopez Portillo your desire to meet with him later this year.

As Mr. Parma points out, the last two Presidents-elect of Mexico met informally with Presidents Johnson and Nixon, respectively. Last February, you mentioned to the Mexico-US Interparliamentary Group in the White House that you were looking forward to meeting the newly elected President of Mexico in 1976.

I believe that the Mexicans probably will expect and consider useful a meeting of this kind. Secretary Kissinger agrees.

While you are in California it would be a nice gesture to call or to have your representative call Mr. Parma to ask that he convey to Lopez Portillo your willingness to meet with him at a mutually convenient time.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you approve communicating such a message to Mr. Parma.

APPROVE *RS* DISAPPROVE _____

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4 (b)

White House Guide Lines, Feb. 24, 1983

By: *RAJ* NARS, Date *5/26/83*

Q A

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

LEON W. PARRA
POST OFFICE BOX 2200
LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA

May 14, 1976

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4 (b)

White House Guide Lines, Feb. 24, 1983

By DAD NARS, Date 5/28/85

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

This will confirm the conversation we had the other evening relative to a dinner I have been asked to attend with Jose Lopez Portillo who has been designated by President Echeverria of Mexico as his successor. The election will be July 4, 1976. Jose Lopez Portillo will be inaugurated on or about 1 December 1976.

Sr. Lopez Portillo will be in Tijuana on May 27th and Barbara and I have been invited to a dinner at a private home with him that evening. It has been suggested that due to our friendship he would like to informally pass on some information to you and assumed that you perhaps might wish to relay some thoughts to him through me.

One item I know to be of interest to Sr. Lopez Portillo is the following: I am told it has been traditional, at least after the election of the last two Presidents of Mexico, that there be an informal meeting, prior to the inauguration, of the President-Elect of Mexico and the President of the United States. Six years ago when President Echeverria was awaiting his inauguration a meeting was scheduled at Key Biscayne which subsequently had to be re-scheduled because of the death of President DeGaulle. Six years prior to that, President Diaz Ordaz attended a barbeque at the LBJ Ranch in Texas.

This meeting has always been on an informal basis and at some place other than Washington.

May I suggest that I extend an invitation from you to Sr. Lopez Portillo to meet sometime in September or October at a time and place to be arranged?

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May 14, 1976

Representatives of Sr. Lopez Portillo have stated to me that his policies will be directed to an improvement of relations between our two countries and he is desirous of turning around the present attitudes in official circles in Mexico City as they relate to the United States. I don't think that Sr. Lopez Portillo expects any broad or defined statements from you, but does wish to have you know, as a result of this meeting, what his thoughts are with respect to our two countries and I know would be appreciative to have your sentiments as well.

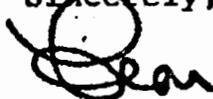
It would be my suggestion that this meeting not be formalized in any way. Perhaps if you have some thoughts you would like to convey, someone could call me accordingly.

May I remind you also of the fact that there is a unique relationship with Sr. Lopez Portillo in that one of his closest friends and advisors is Roberto de la Madrid of Tijuana, who is married to a cousin of mine. A few years ago, while visiting in Mexico City, I had an opportunity to meet with Sr. Lopez Portillo. The dinner party scheduled will be in the home of Roberto de la Madrid.

I await your advice.

With warmest personal regard.

Sincerely,



Leon W. Parma

/ceb

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