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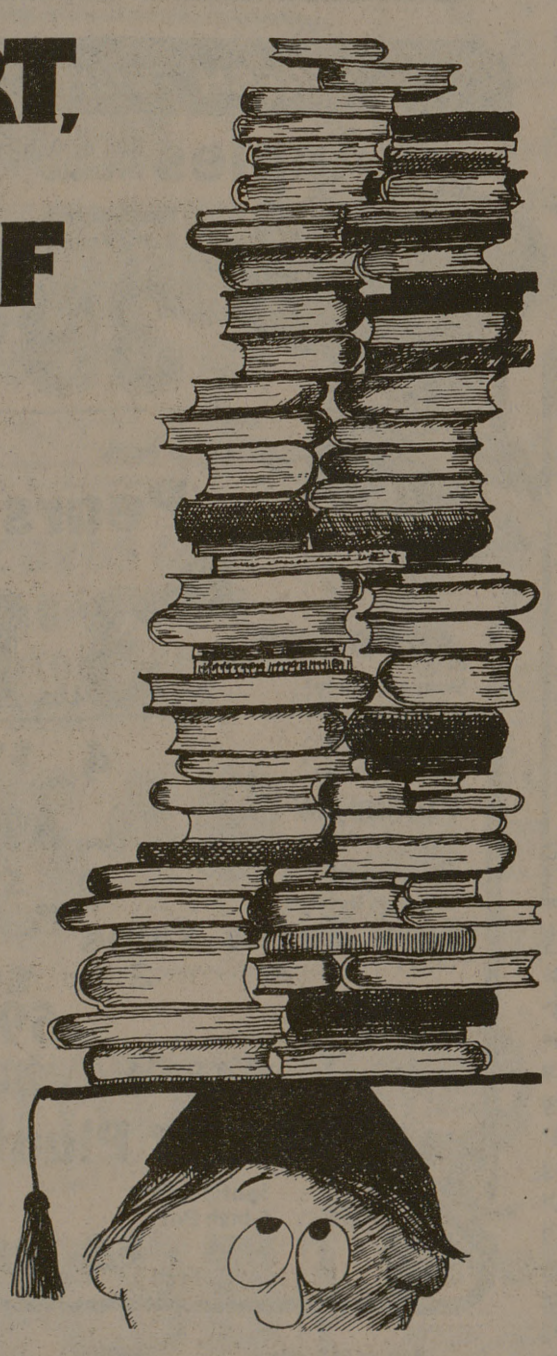
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U.S. airlifts continue; jets back Bakhtiar

United Press International
TEHRAN, Iran — Tens of thousands of pro-Khomeini demonstrators marched Tuesday while air force jets flew over Tehran in a show of force. More than 400 Americans left Iran in a steady evacuation of U.S. nationals.

Three military flights Tuesday airlifted some 300 Americans out of the country and more than 100 others left on regular flights. Several hundred more Americans were scheduled to leave today.

Since the U.S. Embassy last week issued new directives for American citizens, some 5,000 U.S. nationals have left on both regular flights and special military aircraft. There are now only about 5,000 Americans left in country compared with 41,000 late last year.

Last week, the U.S. Embassy ordered all dependents of government employees to leave as soon as possible and urged all "non-essential" Americans in Iran on private business to also go because of the deteriorating situation.

Prime Minister Shahpour Bakhtiar, meanwhile, dismissed a new rival Islamic government announced by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini as a "joke" and said the country's political turmoil could be solved through its existing constitution.

Gas negotiations a possibility when Carter goes to Mexico

United Press International
MEXICO CITY — Embassy spokesmen said there is a "possibility" President Carter will crack two years of frozen negotiations for sales of Mexican natural gas when he meets with President Jose Lopez Portillo here.

Carter, accompanied by Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and other high officials, will visit Mexico between next Tuesday and Feb. 16.

An embassy source said Carter would hold private talks with Lopez Portillo on several bilateral topics highlighted by oil, gas, braceros and trade.

Two years ago six U.S. oil com-

panies and the Mexican government agreed in principal to delivery of 2 billion cubic feet of gas, worth \$1.9 billion annually at \$2.60 per 1,000 cubic feet. It was to be transported through a pipeline built from southeastern Tabasco state to Reynosa, Texas.

The Carter Administration vetoed the deal, refusing to pay more than \$2.18 as paid to Canadian suppliers. In response, Mexico suspended construction of a link to Reynosa and suspended construction of the gas-duct 75 miles short of the border. The gas has been redirected to Monterrey and other industrial centers.

An embassy source said an agreement on gas between the two heads of state "is a possibility" but that negotiations would be "difficult" and the "Mexicans aren't about to compromise their pride and nationalism."

Lopez Portillo has repeatedly said Mexico is ready to use its gas for internal purposes unless the United States offers a better price.

While discussing the coming talks with Carter with local reporters recently, the Mexican president said, "If we can agree to an accord we will sell to them. The United States is a logical client."

Now that Congress has passed

Carter's modified energy plan, possibility of a deal has increased. The U.S. domestic price for gas, formally fixed at \$1.75 per thousand cubic feet, is now \$2.07 and is expected to continue to rise towards the Mexican asking price.

The Canadian selling price is on the rise. Energy Secretary James Schlesinger recently dampened hopes for a natural gas deal when he said development of domestic supplies take a priority over Mexican pipeline gas.

The embassy source said there are difficult "issues and problems remaining" in Mexican-U.S. relations, "they are a lot better than during the (President) Echeverria time. The ambassador (Patrick J. Lucey) believes relations have improved."

U.S. government sources in Washington say presidential advisors are asking Carter to urge Mexican president to raise oil exports in the coming years to come possible U.S. shortages could arise with Iranian supplies jeopardy.

In return, the United States offer Mexico trade concessions such items as tomatoes, textiles, petrochemicals when they are available.

The Mexicans, fearing industrial dislocated economic growth, social pressures like those borne by Iran, have decided to delay oil production and export growth until after 1980.

In 1980, Mexico will produce 1 million barrels a day of crude oil, up from 1.5 million U.S. sources lieve Mexico could produce between 4 and 5 million barrels by the mid-1980s if they wanted.

Oil resources in Mexico to promote social change

United Press International
HOUSTON — A Mexican economist says his nation will use its growing oil power to bring on social change and will not give into foreign powers — such as the United States — to increase petroleum imports.

"Mexico's policy will tend toward reducing its dependence on the United States," Dr. Victor L. Urquidi, an economist and president of El Colegio de Mexico, said Monday. "Mexico will tend to diversify its relations around the world."

"Oil resources in Mexico are seen not as something to be squandered and exported indiscriminately but as something to lead us to help speed Mexican social changes," Urquidi said.

He emphasized to reporters in advance of his speech to the American Enterprise Institute's confer-

ence on U.S.-Mexico relations that he did not speak for the Mexican government.

"The Mexican approach to relations with the United States is essentially one of mistrust," Urquidi said.

Many factors, from Mexico's dependence on American imports and financial backing to its inability to stop drug traffic, will hinder his country's resistance to petroleum profiteering in the 1980s when an estimated 1 million barrels of oil per day become available for export, he said.

Mexico's nationalized oil company, Pemex, has estimated the untapped oil and gas reserves at 40 billion barrels.


"Pressure on the part of the United States upon Mexico to induce Mexico to rapidly increase pe-

troleum output is likely to be resisted, in the own interests of Mexico, both medium-and long-term, by the Mexican government and by Mexican public opinion," Urquidi said.

Mexico is not as manipulative as Americans think, he said, although "there are subtle ways that ideas can be pushed through. I have heard there is a lot of pressure from the think tanks such as Rand, the Brookings Institute, and others."

Urquidi was especially critical of recent American newspaper articles which he said encouraged Mexico to "use your oil to become like us."

Another conference speaker, University of Texas professor Dr. Peter T. Flawn, agreed with Urquidi that Washington does not respect Mexico.




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States join Texas suit to challenge gas act

United Press International
DALLAS — Two more natural gas producing states — New Mexico and Wyoming — have joined Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana in a legal challenge of the Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978 and "five or six" other states have expressed interest in joining the action.

Attorneys for four of the states met Monday in a strategy meeting for an "exploratory" session because many of the attorneys were new to the case. Since the lawsuit was filed in November, new administrations have come to power in Texas and Oklahoma, while New Mexico and Wyoming have just recently joined the action.

New Mexico, however, was not represented at the meeting. Gary Keyser, assistant attorney general for Louisiana, said "five or six other states, including one on the East Coast, have expressed interest in joining the court action."

Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Louisiana and Wyoming are asking a federal district court in Oklahoma City to declare the Natural Gas Policy Act unconstitutional.

The new law gradually decontrols the price of natural gas, but in the meantime it extends federal price controls for the first time to gas produced and consumed within a single state.

The states claim the federal government has no authority to control the price of natural gas that never crosses state lines.

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.50	PS	AA	800
.52	PS	AAA	832
.91	MQ	AA	1480
1.28	MQ	AA	1792
1.65	MQ	A	1815
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