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UP-146

(WHITE HOUSE DINNER)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- PRESIDENT AND MRS. FORD TONIGHT SET OUT THE LYNDON B. JOHNSON CHINA FOR THEIR STATE DINNER FOR COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT ALFONSO LOPEZ MICHELSEN AND HIS WIFE.

WHITE HOUSE AIDES SAID THE CHINA, PURCHASED DURING THE JOHNSON ADMINISTRATION, WAS LAID OUT ON STATE DINING ROOM TABLES DECORATED WITH AMERICAN ARTS AND HANDICRAFTS.

ROBERTA PETERS, A SOPRANO WHO MADE HER DEBUT AT THE METROPOLITAN OPERA AT AGE 19, WILL SING IN THE EAST ROOM AFTER THE DINNER.

THE CALIFORNIA WINES TO BE SERVED WILL BE DRY CREEK CHENIN BLANC, LOUIS MARTINI CABERNET SAUVIGNON AND SCHRAMSBERG BLANC DE BLANCS. THE MENU INCLUDES MELON AND PROSCIUTTO HAM, FILET MIGNON BORDELAISE, MUSHROOMS PROVENCALE AND ARTICHOKE SAINT GERMAIN, WITH HEARTS OF LETTUCE SALAD PLUS BEL PAESE CHEESE, BOMBE NOUGATINE WITH PETIT FOUR PASTRIES AND COFFEE.

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UP-050

(LOPEZ)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- PRESIDENT FORD TODAY WELCOMED PRESIDENT ALFONSO LOPEZ MICHELSEN OF COLUMBIA TO THE WHITE HOUSE BY EXPRESSING HOPE THEIR TWO DAY TALKS WILL HELP "MODERNIZE AND STRENGTHEN HEMISPHERIC RELATIONS."

LOPEZ, THE FIRST LATIN AMERICAN PRESIDENT TO BE RECEIVED BY FORD AT THE WHITE HOUSE, COMES HERE AS A SPOKESMAN FOR THE REGION. HE TOLD FORD HE WAS CONFIDENT THEIR MEETINGS "WILL BE SINCERE TALKS BETWEEN TWO FRIENDS".

AFTER THE WELCOMING CEREMONY IN THE EAST ROOM OF THE WHITE HOUSE, THE TWO LEADERS HAD THE FIRST OF TWO PRIVATE VISITS.

LOPEZ' STATE VISIT ENDS SATURDAY WHEN HE VISITS NEW YORK CITY.

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UP-088

(COLOMBIA)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- PRESIDENT ALFONSO LOPEZ MICHELSEN OF COLOMBIA WILL ARRIVE HERE SEPT. 25 FOR AN OFFICIAL VISIT AND TALKS WITH PRESIDENT FORD, THE WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCED TUESDAY.

PRESS SECRETARY RON NESSEN SAID FORD PROBABLY WOULD HOST A STATE DINNER FOR LOPEZ AFTER THEIR MEETING AND THAT THE COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT WOULD BE CONFERRING WITH OTHER AMERICAN OFFICIALS DURING HIS STAY IN WASHINGTON.

NESSEN SAID PLANS CALLED FOR LOPEZ TO COME TO WASHINGTON AFTER SPENDING THE NIGHT OF SEPT. 24 IN WILLIAMSBURG, VA., AND TO GO TO NEW YORK CITY AFTER HIS VISIT IN THE CAPITAL.

FORD EARLIER EXTENDED AN INVITATION TO LOPEZ, WHOSE COUNTRY OF 23 MILLION IS THE THIRD LARGEST SOUTH AMERICAN PRODUCER OF CRUDE OIL AND SECOND ONLY TO BRAZIL IN EXPORTS OF COFFEE.

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A Change in Tone At the White House

*By Donnie Radcliffe
and Jeannette Smyth*

The first White House dinner in three months showed a change of mood last night, whether from the rain, the somewhat more guest list

As he started to walk away, American reporters listening in asked the President if "it's our turn now?" a reference to White House ground rules discouraging interviews during certain social occasions.

Mr. Ford laughed and said "We



Toast Becomes a Statement At White House Dinner

By Isabelle Shelton and Joy Billington

Washington Star Staff Writers

Last night's White House dinner for President Lopez of Colombia was a fairly earnest affair, as parties in the Ford Administration go.

The visiting President came across as a very serious fellow. His toast to President Ford — which lasted over half an hour — really was a major foreign policy pronouncement.

And when President Ford swung Mrs. Lopez onto the dance floor late in the evening, Lopez did not reciprocate by asking Mrs. Ford to dance, the usual pattern. President Lopez seemed engrossed in conversation with another guest and impervious to the activity around him.

In his toast, Lopez strongly supported the position of his neighboring country, Panama, in its dispute with the U. S. over the Panama Canal. He also called for a new relationship between the U. S. and Latin America.

"IN THE PAST, the relationship between our two sub-continent has tended to reflect an American campaign slogan or a unilateral definition of policy suitable perhaps for domestic political purposes but totally unrelated to Latin American aspirations."

Past U. S. slogans such as "The Big Stick," "The Good Neighbor," "The Low Profile," and "Benign Neglect" do not satisfy Latin Americans "because of

their one-sided connotation," Lopez said. "What is required is a new relationship between the United States and Latin America, jointly formulated by both parties according to their needs, and aspirations."

Lopez called for the establishment of economic cooperation between the U. S. and the nations of Latin America such as exists between the U. S. and the nations of Europe.

"It would be a tragedy for our continent, that while Europe is creating instruments of economic cooperation that don't imply political obligations...we should stumble on the same difficulties or perhaps more serious ones, than those we encountered 40 or 60 years ago."

LOPEZ TOLD Ford that Colombia "has a vital interest" in the Panama Canal area and "we consider the Canal question as something of continental and world-interest...It is necessary to recognize impartially and realistically that the considerations which prevailed at the beginning of this century are irrelevant in 1975."

Ford confined his toast to the usual diplomatic niceties, laughing at himself when he felt he had mispronounced the name of an earlier Colombian president, Lopez Pumarejo, father of the present President.

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