

# THE YANKEE BASES AND THE LATIN AMERICAN SOVEREIGNTY

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The concept of nation emerged from the combination of common elements such as history, language, culture, costumes, laws, institutions and others related to the material and spiritual life of human communities.

Bolivar, who worked the great heroic deeds that made him be known as "The Liberator" during his struggle for the freedom of the peoples of the Americas, urged them to create what he called "the greatest nation in the world: less for its extension and riches than for its liberty and glory."

In Ayacucho, Antonio José de Sucre waged the last battle against the empire that for more than 300 years had transformed much of this continent into a royal property of the Spanish Crown.

That was the same America that tens of years later, after being divided in part by the rising Yankee imperialism, was called by Martí "Our America."

We should remember once again that on May 19, 1895, a few hours before dying in combat for the independence of Cuba -the last bastion of Spanish colonialism in the Americas-, José Martí prophetically wrote that everything he had done and would do was to



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"timely prevent, with the independence of Cuba, that the United States could expand over the Antilles and fall with that additional force over our American lands."

In the United States, the recently liberated thirteen colonies did not take long to engage in a disorderly expansion to the West in their quest for land and gold -while exterminating indigenous populations- until they reached the Pacific coast. The agricultural and slave States of the South competed with the indus-

trial States of the North that exploited wage labor in an attempt to create other States to protect their economic interests.

In 1848 Mexico was robbed of more than 50 per cent of its territory during a war of conquest launched against that country that was then militarily weak. The conquerors occupied the capital and imposed humiliating peace conditions. Mexico's big reserves of oil and gas, which remained in the territory that was robbed, would later on be supplied to the United States for more than a century and in part they continue to be so now.

The Yankee filibuster William Walker, encouraged by "the manifest destiny" declared by his country, landed in Nicaragua in 1855 and proclaimed himself as President, until he was expelled by the Nicaraguans and other Central American patriots in 1856.

Our National Hero realized how the destiny of Latin American countries was being shattered by the rising United States Empire.

After Martí's death in combat there was a military intervention in Cuba at a time when the Spanish army had already been defeated.

The Platt Amendment, which granted that powerful country the right to intervene in the Island, was imposed on Cuba.

The occupation of Puerto Rico - which has lasted for 111 years now - a country nowadays called "Free Associated State" that is neither free nor a State, was another consequence of that intervention.

The worst was still to come for Latin America, as was confirmed by the brilliant premonitions of Martí. The rising empire had already decided that the canal that would connect the two oceans would go through Panama and not through Nicaragua. The Panama isthmus, the Corinth dreamed of by Bolívar as the capital of the biggest Republic of the world he had envisaged, would become a Yankees' property.

Despite that, there were worst consequences that occurred in the course of the 20th century. With the support of the national political oligarchies, the United States became the owner of the resources and the economies of Latin American countries. Military interventions multiplied; the armies and police forces fell under the US aegis. The Yankee transnationals took control over the fundamental productions and services, banks, insurance companies, foreign trade, railways, ships, warehouses, electricity and telephone services. Others, to a greater or lesser degree, were also inally controlled by them.

It is true that the sharp social inequities led to the emergence of the Mexican Revolution in the second decade of the 20th century -which became a source of inspiration for other countries. The Revolution

made it possible for Mexico to make progress in different areas. But the same empire that in the past devoured much of the Mexican territory, is also devouring today important natural resources that still remain in that country, imports cheap labor and is even forcing the Mexican people to shed its own blood.

NAFTA is the most brutal economic agreement ever imposed on a developing country. For the sake of brevity, it will suffice it to point out that the US Government has recently stated that in this moment, when Mexico has been hit by a double blow, not only because of its economic slowdown, but also because of the effects of the AH1N1 virus, the US would probably want to see a more stable economy there before engaging in a long discussion about new commercial negotiations. And of course, not a single word is said about the fact that, as a consequence of the war unleashed by drug trafficking - for which Mexico has deployed 36 000 troops-, almost 4 000 Mexicans have died in 2009. The same phenomenon repeats itself to a greater or lesser degree in the rest of Latin America. Drugs not only cause serious health problems; they also give rise to violence which is causing lot of pain in Mexico and Latin America as a consequence of the insatiable appetite of US markets, which are an undepletable source of the hard currency that is used to foment the production of cocaine and heroine. The US is the country that supplies the weapons that are used in that ferocious and unadvertised war.

Those who die in the territory between Rio Grande and the farthest corners of South America are all Latin Americans. Thus, general violence is breaking new records of deaths and the victims, resulting mostly from drugs and poverty, surpass the figure of 100 000 a year in Latin America.

The empire does not wage the war on drugs within its borders; it does so in the Latin American countries.

In our country we do not grow coca or poppy. We efficiently combat those who attempt to introduce drugs in our country or use Cuba as a transit point. The number of persons who die as a result of violence is decreasing every year. And for that we do not need Yankee soldiers. The war on drugs is a pretext to establish military bases in the whole hemisphere.

Since when the vessels of the Fourth Fleet and modern combat

planes are used to combat drugs? The true objective the US pursues is to control the economic resources, the markets, and to struggle against social changes. Was there any need to reactivate that fleet, which was demobilized after the Second World War, now, more than 60 years later, after the cold war is over and the USSR no longer exists? The arguments used for the installation of seven air and naval bases in Colombia are an insult to intelligence.

History will not forgive those who have been so disloyal to their own peoples, or those who resort to the exercise of sovereignty as a pretext to legitimize the presence of Yankee troops. What type of sovereignty they refer to? Is it the one conquered by Bolívar, Sucre, San Martín, O'Higgins, Morelos, Juárez, Tiradentes and Martí? None of them would have accepted such a repugnant argument to justify the granting of military bases to the Armed Forces of the United States, an empire far more dominant, powerful and universal than the Crowns of the Iberian Peninsula.

If as a consequence of such agreements promoted illegally and unconstitutionally by the United States, any government in that country uses those bases, as was done by Reagan during the dirty war, and Bush at the time of the Iraq war, to provoke an armed conflict between two sister nations, this would be a big tragedy. Venezuela and Colombia were born together in the history of the Americas, after the battles of Boyacá and Carabobo, under the leadership of Simón Bolívar. The Yankee forces could promote a dirty war as they did in Nicaragua, and even recruit soldiers of foreign nationalities who are trained by them and attack any country.

But the combative, brave and patriotic people of Colombia would hardly let itself be dragged into a war against a people from a sister nation like Venezuela.

The imperialists would be making a mistake if they equally underestimate the other Latin American peoples. None of them would agree with the presence of Yankee military bases; none of them will fail to express its solidarity with any other Latin American people that is attacked by imperialism. Martí felt great admiration for Bolívar, and he was not wrong when he said: "And that is how Bolívar is in the sky of America: vigilant and frowning, still wearing his campaign boots; because what he did not do, still remains undone today: because Bolívar still has things to do in the Americas."



## ADVERTORIAL

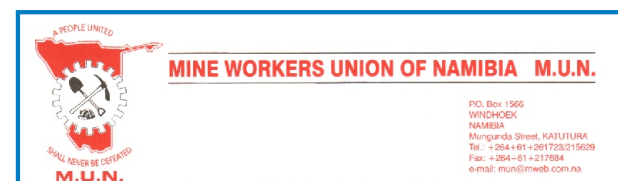
### ROAD FUND ADMINISTRATION

**There is someone or a group of some people out there who likes to play a prank on motorists by e-mailing a hoax about "revised fines for speeding" in Namibia just before a long weekend or a holiday season dawns upon the Namibian nation. This person or persons, may be with 'good intentions' but ill-informed, has been circulating the hoax e-mail to all and sundry to scare the Namibian motorists about the dangers of over-speeding. The originator of the hoax might be doing this with 'good intentions' because about 2 years ago, the same impersonator circulated the same type of e-mail, with the logo of the Road Fund Administration, just before the advent of a long weekend probably with an intention to make sure that the drivers keep within the speed limits on our national roads.**

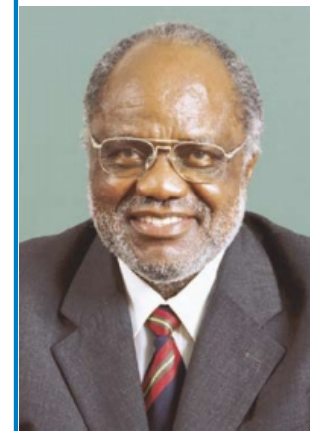
**However, the Road Fund Administration takes strong exception to the usage of our official logo for this hoax because of two reasons: the RFA has no mandate over traffic violations and any traffic-related matters; and secondly, the use of our logo without our express permission is a serious crime and whoever is using it for their own benefit and without our permission should face the full weight of the law. Our mandate is to collect road user charges or fees for the rehabilitation and maintenance of the Namibian national road network. Our funds therefore benefit the Roads Authority and recipient local authorities for the rehabilitation and maintenance of the roads. Although we have actively and financially contributed to the road safety campaigns, such as Xupifa Eemwenyo Road Safety Campaign for years and road safety is one of our values, we do not have a mandate to adjudicate over what fines should be meted out to those who violate traffic rules. That mandate still remains the exclusive domain of the traffic departments at the national and local authorities' level.**

**The Road Fund Administration therefore wish to assure the nation that we are strictly adhering to our mandate as per our Act, the RFA Act No. 18 of 1999, and we wish our nation safe travelling as we travel extensively to different Trade Fairs and Expos and to celebrate Heroes Day on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2009 in different localities of our beloved Land of the Brave.**

**Penda Kiiyala  
Chief Executive Officer  
Road Fund Administration**



The President, General Secretary, Staff and all members of the Mine Workers Union wish to congratulate His Excellency, President Hifikepunye Pohamba on his 74th birthday anniversary



We wish him continued strength, health for many years to come. May you continue to lead our nation towards a future filled with peace and opportunities