



VENEZUELA IN THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS

Tuesday, 17 October 2006

THE TIMES

Latin rival trips up Chavez on council vote

James Bone

President **Chavez** of **Venezuela** suffered a defeat at the UN last night as his campaign to win a seat at the top table of international diplomacy appeared on the brink of failure (James Bone writes).

Armed with petrodollars, Senor **Chavez** had lobbied hard in capitals around the world to win a two-year term on the 15-nation Security Council. Diplomats said that his firebrand speech to this year's UN General Assembly session, in which he railed against against the United States and called President Bush "the devil", may have hurt his nation's chances.

Washington threw its weight behind the rival candidate for the one Latin American seat up for grabs in yesterday's ballot by the 192-nation General Assembly.

Guatemala won a string of surprising victories in the first rounds of balloting, but fell short of the required two-thirds majority of 125 votes.

In the first five rounds, Guatemala received 109, 114, 116, 110 and 103 votes, compared to **Venezuela's** 76, 74, 70, 75 and 83. In the sixth round, **Venezuela** drew level as both countries recieved 93 votes, but slipped back again to lose later rounds 96-89, 102-85, 107-81 and 110-77 before voting was adjourned for the night.

ARCAYA & ASOCIADOS

MCEDDE - Torre Miranda "A" Oficina 82-A - Ave. Francisco de Miranda - Caracas, 1060 - Venezuela
T 263.4716/1526 - F 266 1608 - A&A@arcaya.com



The results suggested that **Venezuela** and Guatemala could fail to win a seat on the Security Council for 2007-08, prompting a compromise candidate to step in. Likely contenders included Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic or Uruguay.

Diplomats recalled that voting in a Cuba-Colombia contest in 1979 went to 154 ballots over three months before Mexico finally emerged as a compromise.

John Bolton, the US Ambassador to the UN, predicted a protracted struggle.

Citgo launches ad campaign amid backlash

By Brett Clanton, Houston Chronicle

[Houston Chronicle \(MCT\)](#)

Citgo Petroleum Corp. went on the attack Monday in new ads that blast what it calls "misleading and inaccurate" criticisms of the Houston-based arm of the Venezuelan oil company.

The ads reaffirm its commitment to the U.S. market and work to counter the backlash from a speech a month ago by Venezuelan President Hugo **Chavez**, in which he called President Bush "the devil" during a visit to the United Nations.

In the first ad, which appeared Monday in the Washington Post, Citgo President Felix Rodriguez said critics are doing more damage to Citgo's thousands of U.S. employees and small-business owners who sell Citgo gasoline than to the company itself.

"We understand that, as a corporation, we cannot always control the environment in which we operate, but we feel compelled to set the record straight out of respect for our employees, business partners and consumers," he said.

Other national and regional newspapers, including the Houston Chronicle, will run the ads later this week, and TV commercials are on the way, Citgo spokesman David McColluma said.



But one analyst said it remains to be seen whether many consumers connect Citgo and the Venezuelan national oil company, Petroleos de **Venezuela**, better known as PDVSA.

"For all intents and purposes, most people don't even know they're owned by PDVSA," Fadel Gheit, with Oppenheimer & Co. in New York, said.

The campaign comes as some protesters on the Internet and anti-**Chavez** activists are calling for boycotts of Citgo stations, and a few weeks after the company drew attention related to its breaking ties with convenience store chain 7-Eleven.

Citgo said it had planned for months to let its decades-old supply agreement with 7-Eleven expire at the end of September. But Rodriquez says in the ads that the story was inaccurately portrayed as a reaction by 7-Eleven to drop Citgo after the backlash over **Chavez's** comments.

For its part, 7-Eleven also said the decision had been in the works, but it seized on the breakup as it announced the launch of its own branded gas.

In a statement, the retailer said, "Regardless of politics, we sympathize with many Americans' concern over derogatory comments about our country and its leadership recently made by **Venezuela's** President Hugo **Chavez**."

Relations between the U.S. and **Venezuela** have been strained since **Chavez** was elected in 1998. The outspoken leader has accused the U.S. of trying to assassinate him in order to capitalize on **Venezuela's** vast oil reserves.

But with the new campaign, Citgo tries to ease tensions by putting attention on the company's U.S. investments and stressing its loyalty to the world's biggest economy.

"The ads are an attempt to clarify our position in the U.S. marketplace and our commitment to that marketplace," McCollum said.

The ad, for example, details that Citgo employs 4,000 people, operates five refineries and sells gasoline through 13,000 independently owned stations across the country.



Citgo said it is too early to tell if the company's sales have taken a hit as a result of **Chavez's** remarks because it doesn't operate gas stations, and contracts with retail gas outlets were in place prior to **Chavez's** speech to the United Nations General Assembly on Sept. 20.

Gheit, however, said it is "highly unlikely" the brouhaha has affected the bottom line in a meaningful way.



Venezuela decides not to buy Spanish planes

[Presenter] The sale of planes by Spain to **Venezuela** will finally not take place. The vice-president of the Bolivarian Republic of **Venezuela**, Jose Vicente Rangel, has described the transaction as unfeasible because of the restrictions imposed by the United States on certain deals with the regime of [President] Hugo **Chavez**. That is how Rangel put it just a few minutes ago after meeting Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos in Madrid. Manuel de Ramon reports:

[Reporter] That's right: **Venezuela** seems to have thrown in the towel for good and has decided not to buy the 12 CASA [Aeronautical Constructions] transport planes it commissioned. Venezuelan Vice-President Jose Vicente Rangel said this morning in Madrid that the contract with CASA is unfeasible due to the conditions imposed because of the USA's restrictions. Rangel, who this morning held a meeting with Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos, said **Venezuela** was prepared to respect the contract [as heard] to acquire 12 Spanish-built EADS [European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company]-CASA planes. At the same time, the Venezuelan vice-president recalled that several of the patrol boats commissioned at the same time are being built in Spain. However, the veto imposed by the United States on certain technological components which the planes use finally prevented the contract from being fulfilled.

I remind you that the contract was signed following steps taken by former Defence Minister Jose Bono and exceeded 500m euros. By contrast, the construction of the patrol boats for **Venezuela**, valued at 1.2bn euros, is



continuing because these boats from the Navantia shipyards do not include US technology.



Guatemala startles Venezuela in U.N. bid

By Pablo Bachelet

U.S.-backed Guatemala got the upper hand in a seesaw tussle Monday to secure a seat on the U.N. Security Council, dealing a surprising blow to Venezuelan President Hugo **Chavez's** ambitions to lead a worldwide anti-Washington front.

But in 10 rounds of voting, Guatemala fell short of the two-thirds majority needed to win the seat, reserved for a Latin American nation, raising the specter of a lengthy battle that eventually could lead to a compromise candidacy.

Venezuelan officials blamed U.S. pressures for blocking their bid to secure a seat that brings international prestige and a voice on such key issues as the nuclear standoffs with Iran and North Korea.

Francisco Arias, **Venezuela's** U.N. ambassador, said Washington was exerting "grotesque, obscene" pressures on U.N. members to vote for Guatemala, and he vowed his country would fight on.

"**Venezuela** is staying; **Venezuela** is by no means pulling out," he said after the fourth round of voting, adding that Washington was campaigning against his country as if "we were inventing a nuclear bomb."

The leftist **Chavez** has been a steady and strident critic of the Bush administration, and a victory in the Security Council race would give him a strong voice in Latin American regional affairs.



Ambassador of Belarus to Russia discusses with Venezuelan businessmen cooperation development issues

BelTA

In the course of the meeting special emphasis was put on implementation of the bilateral agreements reached by the presidents of Belarus and **Venezuela** in the course of the visit of the Venezuelan leader to Minsk in July this year, the Belarusian embassy informs.

Vasiliy Dolgolev told the Venezuelan guests about the political and socio-economic situation in Belarus, its trade-economic and export potential. In turn, representatives of the Venezuelan business circles spoke about cooperation avenues with Belarus.

The diplomatic relations were established between the Republic of Belarus and the Bolivarian Republic of **Venezuela** in February 1997. Belarus considers **Venezuela** to be a promising trade-economic partner among the countries of Latin America. In 2005 the trade turnover between the two states exceeded USD 15 million. Belarus exports to **Venezuela** potash and nitric fertilizers.



"Ecological Tax" Envisaged for 2008 in Venezuela

Venezuela tax agency Seniat has announced the drafting of an ecological tax next year, to come into force in 2008. The tax will be levied on main polluting businesses as part of a wider effort to curb greenhouse effects and assist the state in financing clean-up operations. According to Dow Jones, Seniat superintendent José Gregorio Vielma Mora specifically referred to mining ventures as damaging the ecosystem, also stressing that oil and metallurgic firms will be affected by the tax. Significance: The planned introduction of the environmental tax comes as part of a wider fiscal package that the government will seek to implement in 2008. Vielma Mora indeed also announced a new selective consumption tax (on non-basic staple



items such as cigarettes), and electronic commerce. The coming into force of new taxes in 2007 was abandoned, but we may expect, should **Chavez's** re-election materialise in December this year, to see fiscal reform being drafted then to come into force in 2008.

Other modifications include wealth/estate taxes and the possible return of the bank debit tax (see **Venezuela**: 13 February 2006:). According to El Nacional, a tax on non-productive land, envisaged in the 2001 Land Law, could also be introduced. Under President Hugo **Chavez**, the tax burden on the oil industry has increased and, along with a tough anti-tax evasion campaign, has worked to produce increased tax revenues for the state.



Battle for UNSC Seat Inconclusive, Guatemala Leads Preferences

Venezuela's quest for representation in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is yet another facet of its political battle against the "Empire"; i.e., the United States. With tension between the two countries high, the UNSC election has become a symbolic battle between the superpower and controversial President Hugo **Chavez**, yet **Venezuela's** performance in yesterday's vote has disappointed.

The U.S. choice against **Venezuela** in the fight for the UNSC seat, Guatemala, has so far garnered more votes, and this despite **Chavez's** active global vote-seeking campaign. It seems that his controversial UN speech last month, highly critical of his U.S. counterpart George W. Bush, may have unsettled some initially supportive nations; and U.S. lobbying in favour of Guatemala has also complicated **Chavez's** UNSC aspirations.

The current voting patterns augur long and intense voting sessions until one of the two wins the necessary two-thirds of the votes of the UN members—or until a third party enters the race, breaking the deadlock.

Between U.S. Lobbying and **Chavez's** "Sulphurous" Speech, **Venezuela** is Struggling



A candidate country must secure two-thirds of the votes in the general assembly to win. Indefinite rounds of voting are allowed. In 1979 Colombia and Cuba battled for the seat in 154 rounds; a third party (Mexico) stepped in and ultimately won the race.

The election for one (of two) rotating Latin American seats at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) started in earnest yesterday, only to end with 10 inconclusive rounds of voting. Indeed neither of the Latin American rivals for the post, Guatemala or **Venezuela**, secured the two-thirds backing of the UN hemicycle required for an outright win. On the whole Guatemala dominated the vote, as it led over **Venezuela** in all rounds but one, the sixth, when a tie between the two countries was reached. The 10th vote ended with Guatemala garnering 110 votes, 15 short of the qualified majority, and **Venezuela** securing 77 ballots. The result in this final round of voting was very similar to the first, tending to suggest that, despite some fluctuations, the overall support base for both countries is generally constant.

By-and-large, **Venezuela's** support comes from countries with which it enjoys strong partnerships, on political and economic levels, and those with a similar viewpoint on U.S. foreign affairs policies. These include Russia, China and many Arab nations. Others are expected to have cast a "thank-you" ballot for Venezuelan's cheap oil deal, with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), being the best example of **Venezuela's** seductive petro-diplomacy efforts. However, considering the degree of lobbying from President Hugo **Chavez**, and the large sums of money poured in to cheap oil deals and other accords, **Venezuela's** performance yesterday is likely to disappoint. Understandably intense lobbying from the United States and global leverage is playing against **Venezuela**, but other factors account for this poor showing. The polarised nature of the race has put off some UN members from voting one way or another. The choice between two extremes, and largely antagonistic to boot, is too much for some countries to take in, especially those that seek to maintain good relations with both the Venezuelan and the U.S. administrations. Chile is a notable case in point. The Southern Cone country boasts strong ties with the United States, including a free-trade agreement, but the left-of-centre Concertación government also wants to avoid locking horns with leftist **Venezuela**. The



sensitivity of Chile's diplomatic decision was demonstrated by the fact that the Michelle Bachelet administration left it until the night before the vote to confirm its intention to abstain. In any case, Chilean government spokesman Ricardo Lagos Weber explained its pronouncement as the result of a lack of information to "achieve consensus in Chile". Consensus politics and light-handed diplomacy still reign under the fourth consecutive Concertación administration. An additional negative point for **Venezuela** rests on Hugo **Chavez's** last speech to the UN in which he compared U.S. President George W. Bush to the devil and claimed to have smelled the "sulphur" he left behind after his speech (see **Venezuela**: 21 September 2006:).

Guatemala's Governance Bid

Guatemalan efforts to promote independent reasons to back its candidacy were overshadowed by its conversion into the candidate for the U.S. The Central American nation appeared as something of a puppet of the U.S. government, inadvertently placed in direct conflict with belligerent **Venezuela**. Unflinching backers of Guatemala came in the form Mexico, the United Kingdom, France and Portugal, not to mention the United States itself. Central American colleagues also came to the Guatemalan camp despite the petro-dollars at their disposal from **Venezuela**. The European Union (EU), which, with the UN, played a pivotal role in the conclusion of Guatemala's 36-year civil conflict, gave their backing alongside other nations in the old continent, with the notable exception of Russia. Mexican support to Guatemala has been guaranteed since May this year, strengthened by recent visits from President Vicente Fox and successor Felipe Calderón where both expressed a commitment to mutual development and energy projects when the governing National Action Party (PAN) returns for a second consecutive term on 1 December. Geopolitics made it much easier for more northerly nations in the Americas to throw their weight behind the Guatemalan bid while nations in South America faced the prospect of a stronger loyalty contest from the oil-rich Andean nation. Presiding over Guatemala's search for a seat on the powerful UNSC was new Foreign Minister Gert Rosenthal, who replaced long-serving Jorge Briz in July this year. Facing potential defeat, Rosenthal, who previously represented Guatemala's diplomatic mission to the UN, stressed his country's advantage



while conceding that the Berger administration would support the proposal of a consensus candidate if the deadlock continued for four to five days.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
 109 114 116 110 103 93 96 102 107 110
 76 74 70 75 83 93 89 85 81 77

Outlook and Implications

The General Assembly has become the battleground for both the United States and **Venezuela**. U.S.-backed Guatemala has become the U.S. administration's latest tool to try to contain the rising influence of leftist Venezuelan leader Hugo **Chavez**. U.S. Ambassador to the U.N, hardliner John Bolton has been seen proactively lobbying for votes in favour of Guatemala (see United States: 2 August 2005:). Bolton acknowledged the strong support base in favour of **Venezuela** and said to be readied for a long series of votes. **Venezuela's** ambassador to the UN, Javier Arias Cardenas, publicly criticised U.S. lobbying as putting pressure on smaller nations and divert them from backing **Venezuela**. His comments were echoed earlier yesterday, prior to the opening of voting sessions, by **Venezuela** vice-president Vicente Rangel.

The United States will be keen to prevent **Venezuela** from entering the UNSC, and if successful, it would prove a drastic blow to **Chavez** and his political rebellion against U.S global influence. At home, a defeat would make headlines and could have some impact on the pre-election campaign. The opposition would use it to show that **Chavez's** extreme stance has led **Venezuela** to lose the race and convey a negative image of the country worldwide. It is clear that **Chavez** would use a victory as one against imperialism, helping in his "war on imperialism"-themed re-election bid. A defeat could nonetheless be re-used as to show the long-standing battle **Venezuela** and other developing countries have to wage against Western powers. Guatemala also has important issues at stake in the affair. Anticipating next year's elections, the administration of Oscar Berger is pursuing the seat on the UNSC as part of its legacy, raising his nation's profile within the international community. Relations with the United States



are already strong, having secured an free-trade agreement (FTA) alongside its Central American colleagues and the Dominican Republic.

The current UN election for the Latin American UNSC seat is set to be a protracted and intense one, the first of the kind since the end of the Cold War. It could possibly come to an end with the introduction of a third country in the race, taking tension away from the incumbent polarised options.



Venezuela, Guatemala resume battle for UN Security Council seat

Venezuela was poised Tuesday to press forward its fight for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council against US-backed rival Guatemala.

Neither country emerged victorious in 10 rounds of voting in the UN General Assembly Monday, despite heavy lobbying from **Venezuela's** ambassador Francisco Arias Cardenas and, on the other side, US ambassador John Bolton pulling for Guatemala.

The country that prevails must have two-thirds support in the United Nations General Assembly -- about 125 votes, depending on the number of abstentions among the 192 member states.

The small Central American nation led oil-rich **Venezuela** Monday in every round but the sixth, which was a tie. The final round ended with 77 votes for Caracas to 110 for Guatemala.

After the marathon session, UN General Assembly President Sheikha Haya Rashed Al-Khalifa of Bahrain set further voting -- to resume at 10:00 am (1400 GMT) -- for Tuesday.

UN rules allow for indefinite rounds of voting. A previous battle between Cuba and Colombia lasted two months and 154 rounds. It ended in January 1980 with the election of a third candidate, Mexico.



A loss would sting **Venezuela's** firebrand leader President Hugo **Chavez**, who recently used the UN General Assembly chamber as a platform to call US President George W. Bush "the devil."

In remarks Sunday **Chavez** described winning the non-permanent seat as the centerpiece of his oil-rich nation's foreign policy, and accused Washington of "launching an all-out dirty war" in an attempt to block the bid.

Bolton was seen cornering General Assembly members Monday as he sought to obtain much-needed votes for Guatemala. He also canceled a planned meeting with Bush to lobby against **Venezuela's** inclusion in the council.

Earlier, he said he was prepared for a long fight.

"It's very clear that there is a candidate with a strong predominant vote," he said after Guatemala won the first four rounds of voting. But, he noted, it took 31 days to get a winner in the 2000 US presidential race.

"This has just begun," he said.

Venezuela's ambassador dug in, too.

"With the example of the Vietnamese people (during the US war) how could we give up in a day?" Arias Cardenas said. "With the example of the resistance of other peoples, the Korean people, how could we give up in a day?"

Guatemala's Foreign Minister Gert Rosenthal meanwhile resented Caracas's characterization of his country as tied to the US.

"We are an independent voice, as independent as one can be in an interdependent world," he said, noting that Guatemala has no troops in Iraq and maintains diplomatic ties with Cuba.

Chavez, a thorn in the side of the Washington, has repeatedly said the United States wields too much power.



Washington fears that **Chavez**, who in his recent address to the UN General Assembly said the podium still "smelled of sulfur" after Bush had used it the day before, would be disruptive and oppose every US-led measure.

Venezuela and Guatemala are vying for Argentina's seat on the 15-member Council.

But since neither's bid won unanimous support from the Latin American and Caribbean regional group, it falls to the 192 members of the General Assembly to choose a winner by secret ballot.

Nepal and Indonesia were in the same situation this year as they faced off over the seat being vacated by Japan, which ultimately went to Jakarta.

The assembly also voted Belgium, Italy, and South Africa to take non-permanent seats currently held by Denmark, Greece and Tanzania.

The UN Security Council is made up of 15 members, including five veto-wielding permanent members -- China, United States, France, Britain and Russia -- and 10 non-permanent members, five of which are replaced every year.

The five non-permanent members that will serve until the end of 2007 are Congo, Ghana, Peru, Qatar and Slovakia.

The Charlotte Observer

Found on Charlotte.com

POLITICS NOT CITED, BUT ...
CHRISTOPHER D. KIRKPATRICK

Behind mirrored sunglasses and next to his yellow Mustang with black racing stripe, stock trader James Cox pumped the highest-octane gas he could find at the Petro Express on South Independence Boulevard.

He was happy it wasn't Citgo -- a product of Venezuelan oil fields and a once-familiar sight at Charlotte-based Petro Express gas stations.



Petro Express Inc. is phasing out Citgo Petroleum Corp. gasoline. By next year, the company will no longer sell the brand.

Citgo, the refining arm of Venezuelan national oil company PDVSA, has become the subject of a growing boycott in the United States since Venezuelan leader Hugo **Chavez** referred to the president as "the devil" last month in a United Nations speech.

Until recently, Cox said, he had not thought much about the lineage of individual brands of gasoline.

"I hate (**Chavez**), but usually for gas, where I buy is for the convenience," he said.

Petro Express hasn't cited global politics as the reason for the change, but the brand is disappearing from 45 of its 66 locations this year. The company joins convenience store giant 7-Eleven, which this month dumped Citgo at its 2,100 locations.

Dallas-based 7-Eleven said it had a change in the works for several years, but noted in a written statement that "regardless of politics, we sympathize with many Americans' concern over derogatory comments about our country."

Petro Express announced last week an ongoing remodeling of its locations and called the changes "renewed emphasis on the Petro Express brand."

"We have chosen to market the Petro Express fuel brand in lieu of any national brand," the company said in a written statement. The statement did not mention Citgo. Petro Express spokesman Simon Moye didn't return repeated telephone calls from the Observer.

For the past two years, Citgo has given millions of gallons of discounted heating oil to the poor in several states -- including New York, Connecticut, Vermont, Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Maine -- in what is widely seen as an effort by **Chavez** to embarrass and irritate the U.S. government and make himself look good.



But this year, some communities are balking at **Chavez's** offer.

Maine Gov. John Baldacci, who approved an agreement last winter to buy discounted oil, said he had no plans this year to seek a similar arrangement. In Boston, a City Council member wants a landmark Citgo sign near Fenway Park taken down and replaced with an American flag. In Florida, a lawmaker asked the state to cancel Citgo's exclusive contract to sell fuel at turnpike service stations.

And some Alaskan villages recently refused free heating oil from **Venezuela**, on the patriotic principle that no foreigner has the right to call their president "the devil."

A clerk at one of the Petro Express stores that still carries the Citgo brand said the gasoline would remain at his location until next year when the final 21 stores are remodeled. He said the station would still accept the Citgo gas card until then.



Gas station owners challenge Citgo boycott; GAS STATIONS BY JANE BUSSEY

Dealer Maximo Alvarez sees so many reasons why a boycott of Citgo gas stations will leave **Venezuela** and its president unscathed that the words tumble out as he lists them.

Perhaps the most important: **Venezuela** may own Citgo Petroleum Corp., but it is private dealers who own the 14,000 stations in the United States.

And so, Alvarez explains, a boycott aimed at **Venezuela's** president is really slapping people like him instead.

In recent months, the push for a boycott against **Venezuela** has gained strength because of President Hugo **Chávez's** colorful criticism of President Bush. Yet the relationship between cash at the gas pump and oil earnings in **Venezuela** is complicated, and it is far from clear that the boycott is having any effect.



"They are punishing the wrong people. Citgo does not own one single station in the United States," said Alvarez, who owns and operates 55 stations in South Florida.

Calls for a Citgo dealer boycott go back as far as January. But the buzz has escalated in recent weeks, after **Chávez** called Bush "the devil" at the U.N. General Assembly in September.

On Sept. 25, state Rep. Adam Hasner, R-Delray Beach, stoked the fervor by calling for the Bush administration in Tallahassee to kick the Citgo stations off Florida's Turnpike, saying the state "must send a clear message to **Chávez**." The contract lasts through 2008.

Some bloggers have jumped on the notion, with one site saying "Citgo = Hugo." And the Dallas-based chain 7-Eleven announced that politics played into its decision to terminate a supply agreement with Citgo.

"Certainly **Chavez's** position and statements over the past year or so didn't tempt us to stay with Citgo," said 7-Eleven spokeswoman Margaret Chabris.

Citgo executives protested, and 7-Eleven conceded that the decision was in fact announced last July -- before **Chávez's** speech riled Americans.

Citgo Petroleum Corp., based in Houston, is a subsidiary of **Venezuela's** state-run Petróleos de **Venezuela**, or PDVSA. In two stages from 1986 to 1990, PDVSA acquired Citgo, giving **Venezuela** a secure distribution outlet at a time when oil prices were low and giving Citgo access to the largest crude oil reserves in the Western Hemisphere.

GLOBAL PLAYER

But Citgo is far from alone in using Venezuelan oil. **Venezuela** is one of the top four petroleum suppliers to the United States, along with Canada, Mexico and Saudi Arabia.

Jorge R. Piñon, former president of Amoco Latin America and now at the University of Miami, said the impact of Venezuelan oil stretches across the entire energy market.



"It is extremely difficult for a U.S. consumer to avoid the use of Venezuelan crude oil or Venezuelan refined products," said Piñon, who recently reviewed import figures. ``Most of the jet fuel that we use here in South Florida at the airports is sourced out of **Venezuela**."

Citgo has equity holdings in U.S. and offshore refineries, along with other oil companies, and supplies crude oil to them. Citgo also sells its refined petroleum products to nearly all the big oil companies in the United States. And other big oil giants, including ChevronTexaco, ConocoPhillips and Valero, in turn produce oil in **Venezuela**.

In Florida, avoiding Venezuelan oil is even harder.

Florida power plants use fuel from **Venezuela**. And much of the asphalt in the United States comes from **Venezuela**.

It is hard to ascertain the boycott's impact on Citgo stations. Citgo executives did not answer telephone messages. Juan Rodriguez, who is Citgo's legal counsel in South Florida, said the boycott was having more impact in other parts of the United States.

MINIMAL IMPACT

Although Alvarez said the boycott's impact on his business is small, he has taken to the air waves and other outlets recently to send out the message that a Citgo boycott is punishing the franchisee owners and not **Venezuela** or **Chávez**.

Alvarez, who was part of the Pedro Pan airlift of children from Cuba and is no fan of **Chávez**, said Americans must make up their own minds. ``We are in a free market, and people have their choice."

Standing at Alvarez's busy station at Sunset Drive and Galloway Road in South Miami-Dade at morning rush hour last week, it would be hard to say the boycott against Citgo is working. But on a recent evening, the Citgo station on Alton Road in Miami Beach was empty, while customers filled all the pumps at the next station.



Alvarez said his stations are successful because of competitive prices, but also because they are large, well-lit and staffed by employees in blue shirts and ties. And for now, that seems to have trumped any boycott against Citgo.

The South Florida dealer said Citgo has been a reliable supplier in times of crisis. After Hurricane Rita, Citgo rushed gasoline supplies to Turnpike stations.



Madmen bent on destruction; LATIN AMERICA BY CARLOS ALBERTO MONTANER

Venezuelan President Hugo **Chávez** will build 20 military bases in Bolivia, which will be situated on the borders with five other nations: Chile, Peru, Paraguay, Argentina and Brazil. Those installations will be under the control of Venezuelan and Cuban personnel, in complicity with Bolivian soldiers. Most certainly, the Cubans will carry Venezuelan passports and identification papers. It isn't easy to tell them apart. They're alike, even in their virtues and defects. The cost of the new Venezuelan armaments will rise to \$30 billion. **Venezuela** has become the leading international buyer of arms and military equipment.

The plan reprises an old dream and early strategic concept created by Fidel Castro and Che Guevara: to turn Bolivia, a country in the heart of Latin America, into the subversive bastion of South America. That conviction cost Guevara his own life in 1967.

First target: Chile

Bolivia is a country from which the entire Andean region can be destabilized by fanning ethnic conflicts. It is a country (soon with the right bases) from which the new warplanes bought by **Chávez** in Russia can operate. I expect the Chileans -- the first targets in the sights of the Venezuelan colonel ready to "swim in the Bolivian sea" -- are aware of the enormous danger that will hang over them in the not-too-distant future.



Chávez, in cahoots with Evo Morales, intends to seduce and recruit the Bolivians into his revolutionary adventure by means of a gigantic aid plan that includes medical treatment, literacy campaigns and abundant food. He is sure that such massive aid will demolish any nationalistic wariness. He already is very much appreciated by the Bolivian masses and will be even more so in the future. Bolivia is the poorest country in the continent. Several hundreds of millions of dollars conveniently distributed (**Chávez** calculates) may achieve the miracle of attracting the enthusiastic adhesion of the neediest people and the complicity of the radical groups to the cause of a redemptive conquest of Latin America, a step on the road to 21st-century socialism.

No sense of boundaries

What we're witnessing is the consequence of a delirious vision of history and global political reality. Months ago, last December, that vision was explained in Caracas by Cuban Foreign Minister Felipe Pérez Roque, and the world was foolish enough not to pay any attention. Castro and **Chávez**, two absolutely messianic characters without any vestige of prudence or sense of boundaries, came to the conclusion that Marxism had revived after the debacle that ended the Soviet Union and its European satellites 15 years ago. From that conclusion, they derived the sacred mission that both assumed with the responsibility and fervor of crusaders: Caracas and Havana would bear on their shoulders the task of redeeming a humanity cowardly abandoned by Moscow.

That's the hair-raising picture before our eyes: Caracas-Havana, and now La Paz, are the new Moscow, mother and father of world socialism. The task they have as signed themselves begins with the revolutionary conquest of South America and the installation in all its nations of sympathetic governments that will collaborate in the final battle against ``imperialism."

What is the objective of that battle? Obviously, to bring the United States and its despicable European acolytes to their knees. To end forever the iniquitous exploitation of the Third World by the creation of a grandiose collectivistic and egalitarian civilization that will reign eternally for the glory of humanity.



Hungry and hopeless

It would be a huge mistake to dismiss this blueprint to conquest just because it's the senseless madness of a couple of characters who didn't take Prozac when they should have. The Third Reich spawned by the Nazis was no less mad or absurd, yet it cost the world 40 million dead and the monstrous Holocaust. Cuba is an impoverished Third World island, hungry and hopeless, but that didn't deter its government from participating in successful coups d'etat in Madagascar and Yemen, or sending its troops to fight in bloody African wars, both in Angola and Ethiopia, for 15 years.

With his petrodollars and the help and guidance of the Cubans, who are expert and combat-tested, **Chávez** is building the largest Spanish-speaking army: 1.2 million men who will have at their disposal the most destructive air force in all of South America. Once that machine is well oiled, he won't hesitate to put it to use as the Cuban armed forces were once used. Once the tool is available, it will inevitably be put into operation. No matter that **Chávez** is mad. Madmen also kill.

The Miami Herald
Found on Miami.com

**U.N. fight: Guatemala surprising Venezuela; Guatemala shocked
 Venezuela but fell short of two-thirds majority needed to win a seat on
 the U.N. Security Council. UNITED NATIONS
 BY PABLO BACHELET**

U.S.-backed Guatemala got the upper hand in a see-saw tussle Monday to secure a seat on the U.N. Security Council, dealing a surprising blow to Venezuelan President Hugo **Chávez's** ambitions to lead a worldwide anti-Washington front.

But in 10 rounds of voting Guatemala fell short of the two-thirds majority needed to win the seat, reserved for a Latin American nation, raising the specter of a lengthy battle that could eventually lead to a compromise candidacy.



Venezuelan officials blamed U.S. pressures for blocking their bid to secure a seat on a body that brings a country international prestige and a voice on key issues like the nuclear standoffs with Iran and North Korea.

Francisco Arias, **Venezuela's** U.N. ambassador, said Washington was exerting "grotesque, obscene" pressures on U.N. members to vote for Guatemala, and vowed his country would fight on.

"**Venezuela** is staying. **Venezuela** is by no means pulling out," he said after the fourth round of voting, adding that Washington was campaigning against his country as if ``we were inventing a nuclear bomb."

The leftist-populist **Chávez** has been a steady and strident critic of the Bush administration, and a victory in the Security Council race would give him a strong voice in Latin American regional affairs as well.

Most analysts had expected **Venezuela** to outpoll Guatemala in the election, one of the most disputed in Security Council history. **Chávez** had traveled the globe in search of votes, touting himself as a voice opposed to Washington. U.S. officials have complained that **Chávez** has been using his oil wealth to expand his influence.

But diplomats privately said **Chávez** hurt **Venezuela** in a speech last month at the U.N. General Assembly, where he called President Bush "a devil." Guatemalan Foreign Minister Gert Rosenthal, who attended the session, said after the 10th ballot that his country would maintain its candidacy for now but would be willing later to consider a compromise.

"We're going to see how things evolve in the next day or two," he said. More rounds of voting are expected today.

Although the vote was secret, many South American and Caribbean nations as well as African and Arab nations were known to be backing **Venezuela**, while Washington and most European and Central America nations were supporting Guatemala. Chile, Ecuador and Peru abstained in the first round but did not say how they voted in the later ballots.



The winner will succeed Argentina in a two-year term on the Security Council, beginning in January.

Guatemala won the early rounds of balloting and by the third round secured 116 votes, just eight short of the two-thirds needed to win.

Venezuelan diplomats fanned out in the cavernous hall, with Arias methodically greeting each delegation several times. Former Venezuelan foreign minister Roy Chaderton, designated by **Chávez** as a special envoy for the U.N. campaign, also worked the aisles.

On occasion, the Venezuelan and U.S. diplomats would politely ignore each other as they bumped into one another during their lobbying runs. U.S. Ambassador John Bolton and the assistant secretary of state for western hemispheric affairs, Thomas Shannon, were seen chatting up other delegates. "In the year 2000, I spent 31 days in Florida," Bolton told reporters at one point, referring to the long U.S. presidential election recount. "This has just begun."

The delegates' tables soon became a clutter of pamphlets, with the leftist-populist **Chávez** delegation dominating the literature.

Delegates also received a small bag with sweets from **Venezuela**, while Guatemalan diplomats handed out an embroidered wristband.

On the sixth round, **Venezuela** and Guatemala tied at 93 votes, and the Venezuelan delegation erupted in a loud applause. But Guatemala reversed the tide and by the 10th round obtained 110 votes against 77 for **Venezuela**.

Monday's election recalled the 154-round standoff between Cuba and Colombia in 1979 that resulted in Mexico winning as a consensus candidate.

In Caracas, Venezuelan Vice President José Vicente Rangel said his country had demonstrated the firmness of its foreign policy in the face of "pressure" and "bribes" from the U.S. delegation. "We are confronting the empire."

But **Chávez's** main opponent in Dec. 3 presidential elections, Manuel Rosales, described **Venezuela's** failure to win the seat as a "democratic



whipping for those who do not understand that the world is advancing toward freedom and democracy."

The Miami Herald
Found on Miami • com

Guatemala falls short of votes to take U.N. seat BY PABLO BACHELET

U.S.-backed Guatemala got the upper hand in a see-saw tussle Monday to secure a seat on the U.N. Security Council, dealing a surprising blow to Venezuelan President Hugo **Chávez**'s ambitions to lead a worldwide anti-Washington front.

But in 10 rounds of voting Guatemala fell short of the two-thirds majority needed to win the seat, reserved for a Latin American nation, raising the specter of a lengthy battle that could eventually lead to a compromise candidacy.

Venezuelan officials blamed U.S. pressures for blocking their bid to secure a seat on a body that brings a country international prestige and a voice on key issues like the nuclear standoffs with Iran and North Korea.

Francisco Arias, **Venezuela**'s U.N. ambassador, said Washington was exerting "grotesque, obscene" pressures on U.N. members to vote for Guatemala, and vowed his country would fight on.

"**Venezuela** is staying, **Venezuela** is by no means pulling out," he said after the fourth round of voting, adding that Washington was campaigning against his country as if "we were inventing a nuclear bomb."

The leftist-populist **Chávez** has been a steady and strident critic of the Bush administration, and a victory in the Security Council race would give him a strong voice in Latin American regional affairs as well.

Most analysts had expected **Venezuela** to outpoll Guatemala in the election, one of the most disputed in Security Council history. **Chávez** had traveled the globe in search of votes, touting himself as a strong voice opposed to



Washington. U.S. officials have complained that **Chávez** has been using his oil wealth to expand his influence.

But diplomats privately said **Chávez** hurt **Venezuela** in a speech last month at the UN General Assembly, where he called President Bush ``a devil."

Guatemalan Foreign Minister Gert Rosenthal, who attended the session, told reporters after the 10th ballot that his country would maintain its candidacy for now but would be willing later to consider a compromise.

"We're going to see how things evolve in the next day or two," he said. More rounds of voting are expected Tuesday.

Although the vote was secret, many South American and Caribbean nations, as well as African and Arab nations were known to be backing **Venezuela**, while Washington and most European and Central America nations were supporting Guatemala. Chile, Ecuador and Peru, abstained in the first round but did not say how they voted in the later ballots.

The winner will succeed Argentina in a two-year term on the Security council that begins in January 2008.

Guatemala won the early rounds of balloting and by the third round secured 116 votes, just eight short of the two-thirds needed to win.

Venezuelan diplomats fanned out in the cavernous hall, with Arias methodically greeting each delegation several times. Former Venezuelan foreign minister, Roy Chaderton, designated by **Chávez** as a special envoy for the U.N. campaign, also worked the aisles.

On occasion, the Venezuelan and U.S. diplomats would politely ignore each other as they bumped into one another during their lobbying runs. U.S. Ambassador John Bolton and the assistant secretary of state for western hemispheric affairs, Thomas Shannon, were seen chatting up other delegates.



"In the year 2000, I spent 31 days in Florida," Bolton told reporters at one point, referring to the long U.S. presidential election recount. ``This has just begun."

The delegates' tables soon became a clutter of pamphlets, with the leftist-populist **Chávez** delegation dominating the literature. One Venezuelan handout reminded diplomats that their vote was secret and that **Venezuela** represented ``independence."

"Raise your voice against imposition," the brochure urged.

Delegates also received a small bag with sweets from **Venezuela**, while Guatemalan diplomats handed out an embroidered wristband.

On the sixth round, **Venezuela** and Guatemala tied at 93 votes, and the Venezuelan delegation erupted in a loud applause. But Guatemala reversed the tide and by the 10th round it obtained 110 votes against 77 for **Venezuela**.

Monday's election recalled the 154-round standoff between Cuba and Colombia in 1979, which finally ushered in Mexico as a consensus candidate.

In Caracas, Venezuelan vice president José Vicente Rangél said his country had demonstrated the firmness of its foreign policy in the face of "pressure" and "bribes" from the U.S. delegation. ``We are confronting the empire."

But **Chávez**'s main opponent in Dec. 3 presidential elections, Manuel Rosales, described **Venezuela**'s failure to win the seat as a ``democratic whipping for those who do not understand that the world is advancing towards freedom and democracy."



The Washington Post

washingtonpost.com

**Venezuela Is Denied Security Council Seat; New Vote Scheduled Today
as Intensive Campaign Fails to Win Two-Thirds of Ballots**

Colum Lynch and Juan Forero

Venezuela was stymied Monday in its bid to win a seat on the U.N. Security Council, a result that shocked diplomats who had expected President Hugo **Chavez's** leftist, oil-rich government to gain a platform on the international stage.

Guatemala finished ahead of **Venezuela** in nine of the first 10 rounds of secret voting held by the U.N. General Assembly. But neither secured the required two-thirds vote to succeed Argentina on Jan. 1 in the open Latin American seat on the 15-nation council.

Voting will resume Tuesday.

Delegates at the United Nations had predicted that **Venezuela** would easily receive enough support for the seat, but the opening ballot showed Guatemala ahead 114 to 74. **Venezuela** gained votes through the day but never did better than a 93 to 93 tie with Guatemala. Afterward, several envoys expressed surprise that **Venezuela** had fared so poorly.

The result came as a relief to the United States, which had lobbied actively on behalf of Guatemala. **Chavez's** government, U.S. officials warned, would play a destructive role on the council, lending its support to those countries, including Iran, Sudan and North Korea, that have defied the United Nations.

It also represented a personal blow to **Chavez**, who had run a costly political campaign that involved millions of dollars in aid to poor countries as well as state visits to Russia, China and the Middle East.

Chavez may have undercut his country's chances with a provocative speech last month before the General Assembly, in which he described President



Bush as "the devil." And once-solid support for **Venezuela** in South America, from countries including Chile and Paraguay, wavered after **Chavez's** government entered into a military pact with Bolivia, which has lost territory to both those countries.

The United States, Britain, China, Russia and France enjoy permanent membership on the 15-member Security Council. The other 10 seats are distributed regionally for two-year terms; a vote by the General Assembly fills five seats each year. South Africa, Indonesia, Italy and Belgium were easily elected Monday for their regions.

But the deadlock over the Latin American seat raised the prospect of a long election and that a compromise candidate -- possibly Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Uruguay or Chile -- might enter the race. Mexico and Cuba received single votes on some ballots Monday.

Chavez has been hostile to Washington for years, but he has been particularly antagonistic since the White House offered tacit support for a 2002 coup that briefly removed him from power. **Venezuela's** U.N. ambassador, Francisco Javier Arias Cardenas, characterized the race as a challenge between a fearless champion of the developing world and the world's lone superpower.

"We are not competing with a brother country. We are competing with the biggest power on the planet," he said.

Some delegates said **Chavez's** Sept. 20 speech alienated moderate members who felt he had violated U.N. protocol.

For those who view the General Assembly chamber as "a very sacrosanct place," **Chavez's** performance exhibited "bad taste," said Tanzania's ambassador, Augustine P. Mahiga. "It can be a platform for the battle of ideas but not for the vilification of one country."

Mahiga said, however, that Washington's intensive promotion of Guatemala's bid may have helped its cause in some capitals and "swayed" others to vote against it.



"It's a double-edged sword," he said. The race was "perceived as a contest between the United States and **Venezuela**."

Alberto Garrido, an author and analyst in Caracas who has written several books on **Chavez**, said the vote is a serious setback for **Chavez's** campaign to project Venezuelan influence beyond Latin America.

Venezuela has bought foreign debt from Argentina, sold crude oil at cut-rate prices to smaller Caribbean islands and provided aid to Africa -- all efforts designed, in part, to counter U.S. influence.

"This is a big setback in **Chavez's** strategy," said Garrido, whose latest book, "**Chavez's Wars**," deals with the president's conflicts with the Bush administration and other foes. "He had a plan to become the institutionalized voice of the south, if he had gotten that seat. This is a blow, perhaps the biggest blow in his geopolitical strategy."

In **Venezuela**, the government's failure to secure a seat was called "an embarrassing defeat" by Manuel Rosales, who is running against **Chavez** in December's presidential election. The president retains the support of a majority of Venezuelans, recent polls have shown, but opponents accuse him of ignoring spiraling crime, chronic unemployment and poverty while he focuses on making a name for himself abroad.

Chavez has spent much of his presidency outside **Venezuela**. But since July, as the Security Council campaign has built, his travel schedule has become feverish, with trips to Russia, China, Vietnam, Iran and Belarus.

The Venezuelan government's argument that it would be a voice for those countries suffering at the hands of U.S. imperialism did not strike a chord with enough nations, said Milos Alcalay, a former Venezuelan ambassador to the United Nations.

"To argue that **Venezuela** would go to the Security Council to be the counterweight against imperialism didn't mesh with the philosophy that this is a body that aims to find things in common," said Alcalay, who resigned his post because of opposition to **Chavez's** policies.



"This was firstly a rejection of combative language, but it was also a rejection of **Venezuela's** claim to be the voice of those who do not have a voice, of Africa, the nonaligned," he said. "And really, they do have a voice. Africa elected South Africa as its spokesman."

Venezuela in fight for place on UN council

Olivia Ward

[The Toronto Star](#)

The United Nations Security Council's 10 non-permanent members have been labelled the "silent majority" because they take a back seat to the powerful five permanent members who can shoot down resolutions with a veto.

But yesterday the volume rose dramatically as the UN General Assembly was deadlocked in an emotional vote for a new crop of non-permanent security council members that will represent their regions by serving a two-year term at the heart of international diplomacy.

Venezuela - a sworn enemy of the United States under President Hugo **Chavez** - has waged a fierce campaign against Washington-backed Guatemala for Latin America's seat, one of five that will change hands at the end of this year.

"Right at this moment the United States has activated a full-blown dirty war against **Venezuela**," **Chavez** told reporters in Caracas, continuing a line of flamboyant anti-American diatribes that have included denouncing President George W. Bush as "the devil."

A number of diplomats said **Chavez's** strident tactics had discouraged their votes.

The vote continues today until a nation reaches the requisite 125 votes in General Assembly or a compromise candidate emerges.

In 1979, the assembly conducted 155 rounds in a race between Colombia and Cuba, with Mexico emerging as the compromise candidate.



After 10 rounds of voting that took up much of yesterday, Guatemala maintained a lead, but both countries fell short of the votes required to gain a seat on the 15-member council. Five of the members are permanent - the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France - and have veto power. The other 10 serve two-year terms, with five of them elected each year.

The UN itself has 192 member countries.

Mexico and Cuba briefly threw their hats in the ring to break the tie, but gained no support from the packed house of diplomats.

New rounds of voting will be held between now and the end of December, and new Latin countries may emerge on the ballots.

In other regions, three other Security Council members were elected without contest, including South Africa, Italy and Belgium. Indonesia won over Nepal to represent Asia.

But the Latin vote was one of the General Assembly's most tumultuous, a "David and Goliath" contest between Washington and **Chavez**. Although each new round of voting was greeted with loud cheers by **Venezuela's** delegation, the failure to win the seat was a humiliating rout after **Chavez's** wide acclaim at a recent meeting of non-aligned nations, a group of 118 developing countries that includes Iran.

The New York Times

Venezuela Slips in Voting for Seat on the Security Council

By WARREN HOGE

Venezuela's campaign to gain Latin America's open seat on the Security Council next year suffered a setback on Monday when Guatemala, backed by the United States, established a wide lead and maintained it after 10 ballots.

Neither country obtained the necessary 125 votes -- two-thirds of those voting -- to win the seat outright, but Guatemala ended the day with a lead of 110 to 77.



The balloting, which at one point had the countries tied with 93 votes each, resumes Tuesday and could last days, until one prevails or the Latin American group decides to bring forth a compromise candidate.

The initial outcome was a distinct blow to the ambitions of Hugo **Chavez**, the fiery populist leader of **Venezuela**, who has turned the contest into a focus of his campaign against Washington, and traveled widely and spent his country's oil largess liberally to promote its candidacy.

Francisco Arias Cardenas, **Venezuela's** ambassador, said his country was not battling Guatemala, which he called "a brother country," but "fighting against the owners of the universe."

A Venezuelan victory, he said, would give small and impoverished nations "an independent voice needed on the Security Council to fight against the power of money."

A Security Council seat would also give Mr. **Chavez** a global platform to vent his grievances against Washington, a reason why the United States has conducted its own vigorous lobbying against the idea.

Mr. **Chavez** gave a histrionic preview of what could be expected when he addressed the opening of the General Assembly last month and called President Bush "the devil," adding that he could still smell sulfur on the podium where Mr. Bush had spoken the day before.

While the real power on the 15-nation Security Council is exercised by the five permanent members with vetoes -- Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States -- **Venezuela** could be a spoiler in the Council's efforts at consensus and its ability to draft its frequent policy statements, a process that requires unanimity.

While potentially disruptive, **Venezuela's** presence would have little real effect on resolutions, which need only nine votes (and no vetoes) to pass.

Monday's vote was held to fill the seat being vacated by Argentina, one of the five elected members of the panel finishing their two-year terms at the end of the year.



In uncontested races on Monday, South Africa was named to replace Tanzania, and Belgium and Italy were endorsed to replace Denmark and Greece. Indonesia defeated Nepal for the seat held by Japan.

United Nations rules permit marathon ballots, and a battle between Cuba and Colombia in 1979 continued for two months and 155 rounds until the election of a third candidate, Mexico.

"In the year 2000, I was in Florida for 31 days," said John R. Bolton, the American ambassador, recalling the post-election fight of President Bush to win the presidency that year. "This has just begun."

The New York Times

Link to Chavez May Have Hurt Ecuadorean Candidate

By SIMON ROMERO

Rafael Correa, the charismatic economist who garnered a surprisingly weak showing Sunday in the first round of voting for president, finds himself in a situation that has plagued leftists in other Latin American elections this year: defending his ties to President Hugo **Chavez** of **Venezuela**.

Alvaro Noboa, a conservative banking and banana magnate, surged ahead by attacking Mr. Correa's admiration for Mr. **Chavez** and his advocacy of nationalistic economic proposals that seemed inspired by Mr. **Chavez's** policies. The two candidates are expected to compete in a runoff election on Nov. 26.

"Noboa saw the advantage of running against Correa but also against **Chavez**," said Simon Cueva, an economist and political analyst at the Corporation for Development Studies, an Ecuadorean research institute.

Mr. Noboa won about 27 percent of the vote and Mr. Correa 22 percent, with about 70 percent of the votes counted on Monday. Mr. Correa challenged the results and said fraud might have marred the count, which suffered from delays. Election officials suspended a contract with the Brazilian company overseeing electronic tabulations.



Mr. Noboa called Mr. Correa a "friend of terrorists, a friend of **Chavez**, a friend of Cuba." Mr. Correa said Mr. Noboa would rule Ecuador like a "banana plantation."

It has been a challenging week for Mr. **Chavez**. **Venezuela** failed to win enough votes on Monday for a seat on the United Nations Security Council, possibly depriving its president of an international platform he desires.

The unexpected results in the election here, meanwhile, point to growing unease in some parts of Latin America with political projects whose ambitions coincide too closely with those of Mr. **Chavez**.

"Daniel Ortega must be a little nervous," said Michael Shifter, an analyst at Inter-American Dialogue, a policy institute in Washington. Mr. Ortega, who is considered the front-runner in Nicaragua's presidential election next month, has been endorsed by Mr. **Chavez**, who has been relatively quiet about Mr. Correa's campaign in Ecuador.

The perception of support from Mr. **Chavez** has been a mixed blessing in other recent elections. Alan Garcia, whose first term as Peru's president ended in hyperinflation, mounted a comeback this year to defeat Ollanta Humala, an ultranationalist former army officer who had been endorsed by Mr. **Chavez**.

Venezuela's relations with Mexico remain tense after Felipe Calderon, a conservative, defeated Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, a leftist, for the presidency this year. Mr. Calderon used images of Mr. **Chavez** in television ads during the campaign to criticize Mr. Lopez Obrador.

Now Mr. Noboa, a billionaire who controls more than 100 companies in Ecuador and other countries, signaled that he would end diplomatic relations with **Venezuela** and Cuba if elected. "I'm not a hypocrite," he said in televised comments. "I don't like the double standard."

Issues other than **Venezuela** have also dominated Ecuador's presidential race. Mr. Noboa wants to negotiate a trade agreement with Washington and favors extending an agreement that would allow American soldiers to



remain in Manta, an air base used by the United States military for drug surveillance flights.

Mr. Correa, like most of the other Ecuadorean presidential candidates, disagreed with Mr. Noboa on those issues. Drawing inspiration from Argentina, Mr. Correa also said he wanted to renegotiate Ecuador's foreign debt, a move that worried foreign banks about dealing with another messy default.

Mr. Noboa and Mr. Correa both campaigned as populists, as did Gilmar Gutierrez, the brother of a deposed former president, who finished third. Mr. Noboa campaigned from the right as a God-fearing businessman, promising cheap housing and handing out free wheelchairs to handicapped supporters.

Mr. Correa promises a "citizen's revolution" by rewriting Ecuador's Constitution. He also evoked an affinity with Mr. **Chavez** by professing admiration for the Venezuelan's "Bolivarian" ideals.

Mr. Correa said during the campaign that Mr. **Chavez** was a friend and acknowledged meeting with him in **Venezuela** as recently as August. He repeatedly denied receiving campaign financing from **Venezuela's** government.

Almost until the voting on Sunday, the election seemed Mr. Correa's to lose. One opinion poll by Cedatos/Gallup put his support at 37 percent at the start of October, within grasp of winning the 40 percent necessary for a first-round victory. He would also have needed a 10 percentage point lead to win.



Venezuela Hits in Advance 2006 Tax Haul Target

Venezuelan tax agency Seniat hit in advance the tax haul target for full-year 2006, which was set at 39.8 trln Venezuelan bolivars (\$18.535 bln/14.802 bln euro).

The receipts from internal taxes totalled 27.7 trln bolivars (\$12.9 bln/10.302 bln euro), the national tax superintendent, Jose Gregorio Vielma Mora, said.



The customs revenue stood at 9.8 trln bolivars (\$4.564 bln/3.645 bln euro), Vielma Mora added.

The revenue from value added tax (VAT) collections accounted for 45 pct of total tax haul, the income tax for 38.4 pct and the bank debit tax for 0.9 pct.

On October 13, 2006 Seniat posted 39.62 trln bolivars (\$18.451 bln/14.735 bln euro) in tax collections, which represented 99.51 pct of the 2006 target.

Taking into consideration the current tax haul result, Seniat has revised its tax haul target for 2006, fixing it at 50 trln bolivars (\$23.285 bln/18.595 bln euro), Vielma Mora said.



Venezuela CVG Telecom To Sign Six Contracts Worth \$140 Mln with Chinese Companies

Venezuelan state telecommunications company CVG Telecom plans to sign six frame contracts worth some \$140 mln (111.7 mln euro) with three major Chinese telecommunications companies, the Venezuelan Minister of Basic Industries and Mines (Mibam), Jose Khan, said in a statement on October 16, 2006.

The contracts, signed to enhance the development of the Venezuelan telecommunications sector, included:

- a contract worth \$6.0 mln (4.79 mln euro) with Alcatel Shanghai Bell for the construction of a network access point;
- a contract worth \$24 mln (19.2 mln euro) with the same company for a network management centre;
- a contract worth \$15 mln (12 mln euro) with the same company for a national microwave network;
- a contract worth \$24 mln (19.2 mln euro) with Huawei Technologies for the development of a central transport system;



- a contract worth \$46 mln (36.7 mln euro) with the above company for the development of a national access system;
- a contract worth \$25 mln (19.9 mln euro) with ZTE Corporation for the development of a second national access system.

CVG Telecom also reached other agreements with Chinese telecommunications companies, but CVG Telecom has yet to obtain sufficient resources for them. These contracts are for the development of a fibre-optic network in southern **Venezuela** and a mobile phones plant. The plant may be completed by the end of 2007 and will have the capacity to produce one million phones per year. Its location has not been defined yet.

The contracts are designed to improve the access to modern technologies and telecommunications services in **Venezuela** and will also contribute to the improvement of the social conditions in the less urbanised areas of the country.

THE INDEPENDENT

Chavez suffers setback in bid for Security Council seat

By David Usborne in New York

Hugo **Chavez**, the President of **Venezuela** who has based his political appeal partly on confronting the "imperialist" United States at every opportunity, was frustrated last night in his efforts to win a seat on the UN Security Council.

After 10 inconclusive rounds of secret voting at the General Assembly to decide which Latin American country should take up one of five non-permanent seats open in January, neither **Venezuela** nor its rival Guatemala had reached the two-thirds majority required. Further rounds will be held today.

Support for both countries fluctuated significantly between rounds, creating an unusual sense of drama in the chamber. Guatemala ended the day with a clear edge but if it fails to reach the two-thirds mark this morning, Latin



American states may have to offer an alternative candidate, possibly Costa Rica.

A failed **Venezuela** bid would be a setback for Mr **Chavez** who spent months traveling the world lobbying for support often lavishing countries with aid.

Some diplomats said he had erred with his less-than-diplomatic address to the Assembly last month when he branded President George Bush the "devil".

By contrast, it would represent a signal victory for the US, which had made no secret of its opposition to **Venezuela's** bid. After 10 rounds, Guatemala had support from 110 countries against 77 for **Venezuela**. "There is a clear preponderance for Guatemala," claimed US Ambassador John Bolton "This reminds me of Florida in 2000, votes go up and votes go down."

Mr **Chavez**, who faces reelection in December, is likely to come under domestic criticism for squandering money on the Council bid.

Venezuela would have held the seat for two years and Mr **Chavez** had vowed to use it to frustrate the US in the chamber.

Elected without contest to represent other regions yesterday were Italy, Belgium, South Africa and Indonesia.

platts

Venezuela's PDVSA to upgrade refineries' power system: report

Venezuelan state oil company PDVSA has set aside \$1 billion to improve the electric system that feeds its refineries after a series of refinery shutdowns due to power problems, Caracas daily El Universal reported Saturday.

The company will use the funds to acquire new equipment to improve electricity infrastructure, especially in Zulia and Anzoategui states, the daily cited company president Rafael Ramirez as saying.



The money will come from a state development fund called Fonden, which has already dedicated \$3 billion to the national power sector since 2004, the report said.

Venezuela will also undertake new power projects linked to new oil projects in the Orinoco heavy oil belt and the Gran Mariscal de Ayacucho Industrial Complex, Ramirez said in the report.

A 50,000 b/d fluid catalytic cracker at PDVSA's El Palito refinery operated at below capacity for some two weeks after an unplanned shutdown due to an electric failure on September 26. PDVSA said the FCC was fully operational as of October 10. A fire also shut a 190,000 b/d crude distillation unit at PDVSA's Amuay refinery in July.

Ramirez denied that Venezuela's refinery problems had caused recent gasoline shortages in the Dominican Republic. Venezuela offers to send Dominican Republic up to 50,000 b/d, but the country is only using 35,000 b/d, Ramirez said. "We haven't denied to send them more," he said.

Ramirez also said that Venezuela has not held back shipments to the United States, although he did say that PDVSA bought a dispatch of alkylates from BP to produce fuel.

PDVSA said October 9 that refinery shutdowns had not caused the company to stop fulfilling its contractual obligations to export fuel, despite media reports to the contrary.

The Washington Post

washingtonpost.com

Venezuela Is Denied Security Council Seat; New Vote Scheduled Today as Intensive Campaign Fails to Win Two-Thirds of Ballots

Venezuela was stymied Monday in its bid to win a seat on the U.N. Security Council, a result that shocked diplomats who had expected President Hugo



Chavez's leftist, oil-rich government to gain a platform on the international stage.

Guatemala finished ahead of **Venezuela** in nine of the first 10 rounds of secret voting held by the U.N. General Assembly. But neither secured the required two-thirds vote to succeed Argentina on Jan. 1 in the open Latin American seat on the 15-nation council.

Voting will resume Tuesday.

Delegates at the United Nations had predicted that **Venezuela** would easily receive enough support for the seat, but the opening ballot showed Guatemala ahead 114 to 74. **Venezuela** gained votes through the day but never did better than a 93 to 93 tie with Guatemala. Afterward, several envoys expressed surprise that **Venezuela** had fared so poorly.

The result came as a relief to the United States, which had lobbied actively on behalf of Guatemala. **Chavez's** government, U.S. officials warned, would play a destructive role on the council, lending its support to those countries, including Iran, Sudan and North Korea, that have defied the United Nations.

It also represented a personal blow to **Chavez**, who had run a costly political campaign that involved millions of dollars in aid to poor countries as well as state visits to Russia, China and the Middle East.

Chavez may have undercut his country's chances with a provocative speech last month before the General Assembly, in which he described President Bush as "the devil." And once-solid support for **Venezuela** in South America, from countries including Chile and Paraguay, wavered after **Chavez's** government entered into a military pact with Bolivia, which has lost territory to both those countries.

The United States, Britain, China, Russia and France enjoy permanent membership on the 15-member Security Council. The other 10 seats are distributed regionally for two-year terms; a vote by the General Assembly fills five seats each year. South Africa, Indonesia, Italy and Belgium were easily elected Monday for their regions.



But the deadlock over the Latin American seat raised the prospect of a long election and that a compromise candidate -- possibly Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Uruguay or Chile -- might enter the race. Mexico and Cuba received single votes on some ballots Monday.

Chavez has been hostile to Washington for years, but he has been particularly antagonistic since the White House offered tacit support for a 2002 coup that briefly removed him from power. **Venezuela's** U.N. ambassador, Francisco Javier Arias Cardenas, characterized the race as a challenge between a fearless champion of the developing world and the world's lone superpower.

"We are not competing with a brother country. We are competing with the biggest power on the planet," he said.

Some delegates said **Chavez's** Sept. 20 speech alienated moderate members who felt he had violated U.N. protocol.

For those who view the General Assembly chamber as "a very sacrosanct place," **Chavez's** performance exhibited "bad taste," said Tanzania's ambassador, Augustine P. Mahiga. "It can be a platform for the battle of ideas but not for the vilification of one country."

Mahiga said, however, that Washington's intensive promotion of Guatemala's bid may have helped its cause in some capitals and "swayed" others to vote against it.

"It's a double-edged sword," he said. The race was "perceived as a contest between the United States and **Venezuela**."

Alberto Garrido, an author and analyst in Caracas who has written several books on **Chavez**, said the vote is a serious setback for **Chavez's** campaign to project Venezuelan influence beyond Latin America.

Venezuela has bought foreign debt from Argentina, sold crude oil at cut-rate prices to smaller Caribbean islands and provided aid to Africa -- all efforts designed, in part, to counter U.S. influence.



"This is a big setback in **Chavez's** strategy," said Garrido, whose latest book, "**Chavez's Wars**," deals with the president's conflicts with the Bush administration and other foes. "He had a plan to become the institutionalized voice of the south, if he had gotten that seat. This is a blow, perhaps the biggest blow in his geopolitical strategy."

In **Venezuela**, the government's failure to secure a seat was called "an embarrassing defeat" by Manuel Rosales, who is running against **Chavez** in December's presidential election. The president retains the support of a majority of Venezuelans, recent polls have shown, but opponents accuse him of ignoring spiraling crime, chronic unemployment and poverty while he focuses on making a name for himself abroad.

Chavez has spent much of his presidency outside **Venezuela**. But since July, as the Security Council campaign has built, his travel schedule has become feverish, with trips to Russia, China, Vietnam, Iran and Belarus.

The Venezuelan government's argument that it would be a voice for those countries suffering at the hands of U.S. imperialism did not strike a chord with enough nations, said Milos Alcalay, a former Venezuelan ambassador to the United Nations.

"To argue that **Venezuela** would go to the Security Council to be the counterweight against imperialism didn't mesh with the philosophy that this is a body that aims to find things in common," said Alcalay, who resigned his post because of opposition to **Chavez's** policies.

"This was firstly a rejection of combative language, but it was also a rejection of **Venezuela's** claim to be the voice of those who do not have a voice, of Africa, the nonaligned," he said. "And really, they do have a voice. Africa elected South Africa as its spokesman."



In First Day of Voting, Venezuela Fails To Win Security Council Seat

BENNY AVNI -

[The New York Sun](#)

UNITED NATIONS - In a setback for its increasingly popular president, **Venezuela** was unable to marshal enough support yesterday to win a seat on the U.N. Security Council.

A routine U.N. General Assembly vote on the five of the 10 elected seats on the Security Council turned dramatic as neither **Venezuela** nor its rival for the Latin American council seat, Guatemala, won the necessary support of two-thirds of the 192 assembly members.

Yesterday's secret General Assembly process resembled a day at the races, with one-minute rounds of voting. Separating them were 20-minute intervals, as paper ballots were counted and delegates exchanged opinions, sipped espresso in the nearby lounge, and lobbied each other.

During the early morning rounds, Venezuelans handed out small packets of Venezuelan-made chocolate while Guatemalans gave away colorful wristbands made of beads. Some Muslim delegates said they put off eating the chocolate until sundown as part of the daily Ramadan fast.

Behind the scenes, however, was intense lobbying, with **Venezuela** promising oil deals, America - which supported Guatemala's candidacy - pledging political incentives, and both sides threatening retaliation for those who voted against them. The result was, in the words of one Venezuelan diplomat, a "roller-coaster ride."

The race was closely watched in Caracas, where a national presidential election is scheduled for early next year. President **Chavez** has invested his prestige and petrodollars in the Security Council race, and some of his fiercest anti-American rhetoric has been reserved for it.

Yet Mr. **Chavez's** famous September speech at the U.N. General Assembly, in which he called President Bush "el Diablo," could have hurt his country's candidacy.



"You have to work within certain parameters," the Panamanian ambassador to the United Nations, Ricardo Arias, said. The speech led many diplomats to believe that if **Venezuela** gained a Security Council seat, Mr. **Chavez** would go too far to split the council and render it ineffective, Mr. Arias added.

"We are fighting against the biggest power on the planet," the Venezuelan ambassador to the United Nations, Francisco Javier Arias Cardenas, said. "The U.S. is fighting us as if we were holding a nuclear bomb to destroy it."

Guatemala began the day with 109 supporters, 15 votes shy of the two-thirds majority needed to win the seat. **Venezuela**, which until yesterday was acting as if its election were assured, received only 76 votes in the first round.

In later rounds, the rivals moved to a 93–93 tie. After 10 rounds, however, Guatemala was back in the lead, with 110 supporters to **Venezuela's** 77.

Mr. Cardenas vowed to preserve his country's "dignity" and said **Venezuela** would hang onto its core group of supporters "until the last moment." But the Guatemalan foreign minister, Gert Rosenthal, said, "If this goes on for days and neither party gets the two-thirds, both should withdraw for a third candidate."

In October 1979, the General Assembly went through a record 154 rounds of voting as Cuba and Colombia vied for a council seat. Both finally withdrew in January 1980 after Mexico stepped in as a compromise candidate.

At one point yesterday, as the assembly seemed deadlocked, one country voted Mexico in, only to be countered in the next round by a vote for Cuba. Most diplomats said publicly that for now, the contest is between **Venezuela** and Guatemala, but that at least three countries - Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, and Uruguay - could enter the race.

Earlier yesterday, South Africa, Italy, Belgium, and Indonesia easily won enough votes for council seats. But after 10 rounds of voting for the Latin American seat, the president of the General Assembly, Sheikh Haya Rashed Al Khalifa, called a halt to the voting until today.



"In the year 2000, I spent 31 days in Florida. This has just begun," the American ambassador to the United Nations, John Bolton, said.



Zapatero y Chávez mantendrán un encuentro en Cumbre Montevideo

El presidente del Gobierno, José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, mantendrá un encuentro con el líder venezolano, Hugo **Chávez**, en la próxima Cumbre Iberoamericana que se celebrará a principios de noviembre en Montevideo, según afirmó hoy el vicepresidente de **Venezuela**, José Vicente Rangel.

Tras reunirse esta mañana con el ministro de Asuntos Exteriores, Miguel Angel Moratinos, en el Palacio de Santa Cruz, Rangel confirmó la celebración de ese encuentro y expresó el deseo de su Gobierno de "profundizar al máximo" la "excelente" relación con España que -recalcó- "es muy transparente, muy productiva y muy fecunda para ambas naciones".

El vicepresidente venezolano negó que haya pedido a Moratinos el apoyo de España para que su país sustituya a Argentina en el Consejo de Seguridad de Naciones Unidas, y dijo que "el voto en este episodio para nada compromete las relaciones internacionales de **Venezuela** con ningún país".

"Nosotros no le hemos pedido el voto a nadie y, mucho menos, presionado. Hemos conversado con los distintos representantes de los países, les hemos informado de nuestra política, y si ellos nos apoyan, bienvenido ese apoyo. Si no nos apoyan, no ha pasado nada", manifestó.

En cualquier caso, Rangel consideró que su país "ya ha ganado la batalla" en Naciones Unidas, puesto que "pelear con el coloso" -en referencia a Estados Unidos que, según dijo, "está presionando a todos los países"- es "ya un éxito".

En cuanto a las elecciones presidenciales celebradas en Ecuador el pasado domingo, el dirigente venezolano admitió que su Gobierno tiene "sus



simpatías y su corazoncito", pero insistió en que no se "involucra" puesto que son los ecuatorianos quienes deben decidir su futuro.

Preguntado por la venta de 12 aviones de EADS-CASA a **Venezuela**, después de que la Administración estadounidense denegara la licencia necesaria para sus componentes tecnológicos, el vicepresidente venezolano lamentó "enormemente" que no se haya podido materializar.

"Eso tiene que ver, más que con la relación **Venezuela-España**, con la relación España-EEUU, porque EEUU ha impuesto una serie de normas que impiden la venta de esos aviones a **Venezuela**", recordó Rangel quien añadió que "la limitación, en este caso, es a la soberanía española y no a la de **Venezuela**", que puede comprar esos equipos en "cualquier parte del mundo".



Chile dice A.Latina busca consenso para Consejo ONU

Chile aseguró el martes que América Latina inició la búsqueda de un candidato de consenso para ocupar un sillón en el Consejo de Seguridad de Naciones Unidas, luego de que Guatemala y **Venezuela** no lograron imponerse tras 11 rondas de votaciones en la organización.

Después de la maratónica votación del lunes en Nueva York para el asiento latinoamericano en el Consejo de Seguridad, los países candidatos de la región comenzaron a flexibilizar sus posiciones, dijo el canciller chileno, Alejandro Foxley.

"Finalmente a última hora de ayer y después de 10 votaciones, los países que se presentaron están mostrando una primera disponibilidad a conversar y están apareciendo otros países", dijo Foxley a la radio local Cooperativa.

"Hoy hay mucha incertidumbre en Nueva York, pero lo interesante es que empezó a producirse la apertura de los distintos países y sectores para buscar una solución", agregó.



Sin embargo, en la undécima ronda que se realizó en la mañana del martes, el panorama lucía similar al de la víspera. Guatemala logró 107 votos a su favor, frente a 76 de **Venezuela** y ocho abstenciones.

Chile se abstuvo de votar por Guatemala, que tiene el apoyo de Estados Unidos, pero tampoco entregó su apoyo a **Venezuela**, férreo opositor a Washington.

"Lejos de adoptar una posición cómoda, tomamos una decisión que siempre es difícil de asumir, que es más fácil presentar el blanco y el negro, pero ni la vida, ni la política, ni la historia son así", dijo a periodistas la presidenta chilena, Michelle Bachelet.

"Asumimos una postura que va a permitir (...) construir una solución definitiva. Vamos a llegar a un candidato de amplio apoyo", agregó la mandataria.

Ninguno de los dos países en carrera ha logrado conseguir la mayoría de dos tercios de votos necesaria para una victoria en la Asamblea General de la ONU, que tiene 192 naciones.

"Ahora, la elección está abierta (...) se está conversando y la situación está fluida. Hay que tener paciencia. Me parece que las posiciones están convergiendo (...) a una voz única en América Latina", comentó Foxley.

"Chile está muy activamente conversando con todos y creo que hay que tener paciencia y probablemente lo que va a ocurrir al final es que vamos a tener un candidato de consenso", agregó, pese a que **Venezuela** dijo que no se retiraría de la disputa.

La votación para el sillón en el Consejo de Seguridad se ha transformado en una batalla de influencia entre Estados Unidos y **Venezuela**, que bajo el gobierno del presidente Hugo **Chávez**, ha intentado formar una alianza en Asia, Africa y el Medio Oriente para desafiar los intereses del país norteamericano.

En América Latina, los países se dividieron para las primeras rondas de votación. Argentina, Brasil, Paraguay, Uruguay y Bolivia optaron por la



candidatura venezolana y México y Colombia y gran parte de las naciones centroamericanas apoyaron a Guatemala.

El Consejo de Seguridad está integrado por 15 miembros, de los cuales 10 tienen carácter rotativo y permanecen en el puesto por un período de dos años. Estados Unidos, Gran Bretaña, China, Rusia y Francia son miembros permanentes con poder de veto en la entidad de Naciones Unidas.

EL MERCURIO

El renacer del populismo

En el último tiempo hemos observado un renacimiento del discurso y las políticas populistas en Latinoamérica. El paladín de este nuevo populismo es el Presidente Hugo **Chávez**, de **Venezuela**, que en su cosecha siglo XXI ha adoptado una nueva versión de populismo internacional.

El populista latinoamericano tradicional usa los recursos públicos para impulsar hasta lo insostenible la economía doméstica y ganar con ello el apoyo popular. **Chávez** va más lejos, y gasta grandes sumas en conseguir apoyo para la "revolución bolivariana" fuera de sus fronteras. Los populistas clásicos siempre terminan en una crisis económica. Hugo **Chávez** bien puede terminar allí, pero no necesariamente, porque es populista rico, con recursos.

El mandatario venezolano tiene, ciertamente, seguidores y admiradores en Latinoamérica: el Presidente Evo Morales, en Bolivia; Ollanta Humala, en Perú (populista sin éxito); el candidato Rafael Correa, en Ecuador (populista en duda). El Presidente Kirchner no puede clasificarse directamente en el mismo grupo; practica otro tipo de populismo, de corte microeconómico, y no de exportación, uno que se apoya en las regulaciones y los controles.

En Chile, el discurso de **Chávez** tiene algunos adeptos, pero ellos son minoría. Frente a la candidatura de **Venezuela** al Consejo de Seguridad de las Naciones Unidas, nuestra Presidenta decidió juiciosamente abstenerse. Algunos han planteado públicamente que con ello la Presidenta privilegió la



unidad de la Concertación, que -ciertamente- se habría visto seriamente fracturada si nuestro país hubiera votado por **Venezuela**. Sin embargo, quiero creer que en esta decisión primó el interés del país y la sana orientación de nuestra política exterior. Resultaba muy difícil justificar un voto favorable a **Chávez**, cuando éste ha edificado su política exterior sobre la intervención abierta en los asuntos internos de otros países.

¿Qué es el populismo?

El renacer del populismo ha masificado también el uso de este vocablo, y en algunos casos se utiliza en forma muy inadecuada, lo que revela un profundo desconocimiento del verdadero significado del término. Conviene, entonces, revisar los antecedentes del populismo.

Una de las características centrales del populismo clásico es utilizar la política económica para estimular de manera artificial el crecimiento de la economía. El gobernante populista se las arregla para producir una gran expansión de la cantidad de dinero en el gasto fiscal, sin considerar las restricciones presupuestarias del país. Esto termina invariablemente produciendo un estallido inflacionario, una crisis fiscal y -lamentablemente no pocas veces- la caída del gobierno o el adelantamiento de las elecciones.

Podemos distinguir cuatro etapas en la evolución de un gobierno populista. En una primera etapa, la de gloria, las políticas económicas parecen dar resultados. Aumentan el crecimiento, el empleo y los salarios. El control de precios parece contener la inflación e impide que la disminución de inventarios se traslade a un aumento en los precios.

En una segunda etapa se empieza a dudar de la efectividad de las políticas. Los inventarios y las reservas internacionales caen; el déficit fiscal aumenta de manera preocupante. En fin, se percibe que algo no anda bien y disminuye la confianza de la gente.

Y llega el colapso

Luego viene el colapso. La escasez de inventarios llega a un punto que hace necesario el racionamiento, la inflación se dispara, la recaudación de impuestos se desploma, se produce un déficit de cuenta corriente



insostenible y el empleo y los salarios caen. El país entra en recesión; las elecciones deben adelantarse o -a veces- el gobierno cae.

Finalmente llega la cuarta etapa, en que se hace necesaria la aplicación de medidas ortodoxas para restaurar la estabilidad económica bajo un nuevo gobierno y -muchas veces- con un programa de ajuste del Fondo Monetario Internacional. En todo este proceso los pobres son los más perjudicados.

Si los efectos negativos del populismo son tan claros, ¿por qué se han repetido en Latinoamérica? Tal vez la gente tiene mala memoria, o posee escasa educación en temas macroeconómicos. También resulta interesante constatar que en los países que han experimentado el populismo, muchos estaban convencidos de que sus situaciones eran únicas. Pero hay algunas leyes económicas que prueban ser universales.

Resulta interesante resaltar las grandes similitudes en las condiciones macroeconómicas de todos los países que han sido víctimas del populismo. La mayoría de ellos se encontraba al inicio del experimento en una situación de bajo crecimiento, estancamiento o recesión. La situación de pobreza era bastante generalizada y la desigualdad de ingresos era muy elevada.

Esta condición de desigualdad produce el escenario perfecto para la aparición de líderes carismáticos, con gran retórica, que terminan entusiasmando al pueblo. Este tipo de líderes logra cautivar a las masas, que ven que los gobiernos del pasado no han logrado resolver sus problemas.

El populismo en Latinoamérica es un fenómeno conocido, que tiene más de medio siglo de consecuencias completamente previsibles y nefastas. Entre sus precursores están Getulio Vargas, en Brasil, y Juan Domingo Perón, en Argentina. Pero eso ocurrió en el siglo XX. Hugo **Chávez** ha llevado el populismo del siglo XXI a escala internacional y con abundante uso de recursos. Sin embargo, sus adeptos en Latinoamérica han cosechado más derrotas que éxitos. Chile, por su parte, sabrá resistir sus cantos de sirena. No apueste al triunfo de la revolución bolivariana.



EL MERCURIO

Venezuela estuvo lejos del apoyo esperado

Las posibilidades de que **Venezuela** logre un asiento como miembro no permanente del Consejo de Seguridad se esfumaban ayer después de una maratónica jornada de 10 rondas de votación lideradas por Guatemala. Sólo en una oportunidad, durante la sexta consulta, ambos países tuvieron un empate de 93 sufragios.

En la décima votación, Guatemala obtuvo 110 votos, frente a los 77 de **Venezuela**, que perdió cuatro apoyos respecto de la novena ronda.

Después de esta votación y al no haber obtenido ninguno de los dos países los dos tercios necesarios, la sesión fue aplazada para hoy.

Los 192 países de la Asamblea General se volverán a reunir a partir de las 10.00 hora local (11.00 en Chile) para seguir con el proceso de elección del país que representará al grupo de Latinoamérica y el Caribe en el Consejo de Seguridad.

La jornada

Las tres primeras votaciones fueron ganadas por Guatemala por 109-76, 114-74 y 116-70. En la cuarta consulta la distancia se acortó: **Venezuela** repuntó y la ventaja de los guatemaltecos se redujo a 110-75. En la quinta votación Guatemala logró 103 sufragios, su resultado más bajo hasta ese momento, y **Venezuela** subió a 83. En la sexta se produjo el empate. Y las cuatro restantes fueron ganadas por Guatemala.

Ambos países tiene ahora una "pausa de reflexión" para evaluar sus aspiraciones, indicó el embajador de Chile, Heraldo Muñoz.

El diplomático añadió que "ambos candidatos decidieron seguir adelante" con sus aspiraciones y descartó que se busque inmediatamente un tercer país de consenso para suceder a la Argentina en el Consejo.



Tras el adverso resultado conseguido por **Venezuela**, el gobierno del Presidente Hugo **Chávez** culpó a Estados Unidos por la falta de apoyos para su candidatura.

El vicepresidente de **Venezuela**, José Vicente Rangel, indicó que la fallida campaña diplomática de su país se debe a que "estamos luchando con el imperio, con todos los recursos que tiene el imperio, estamos dando esa batalla acertadamente", dijo a la televisora estatal VTV desde Madrid, donde realiza una gira de trabajo.

El principal candidato opositor a la presidencia de **Venezuela**, Manuel Rosales, expresó que el resultado se debe a la diplomacia de **Chávez** marcada por su cercanía con Cuba. Sugirió al Mandatario que "lo lógico es que se buscara una salida intermedia más honorable, para que nuestro país no se siga desdibujando en el escenario internacional", dijo Rosales.

Si bien el voto es secreto, una serie de naciones apoyaron abiertamente a **Venezuela**, como Rusia, China, Irán, la Unión de Estados Africanos, la Liga Árabe y gran parte del Caribe, así como Bolivia, Argentina, Brasil y Uruguay. Por su parte, Alemania, México, Colombia y Centroamérica se pronunciaron anteriormente a favor de Guatemala. Chile, Italia y Ecuador se abstuvieron.

Los otros asientos no permanentes para el Consejo fueron ocupados por Bélgica, Indonesia, Italia y Sudáfrica.

La votación obtenida por Italia (186 votos) le permitirá volver al Consejo después de 10 años y fue definida por el Primer Ministro, Romano Prodi, como "un resultado plebiscitario" y por el vicepremier y canciller, Massimo D'Alema, como "un voto extraordinario".

El canciller de Bélgica (180 votos), Karel De Gucht, abogó por una cooperación estrecha entre los cinco miembros europeos del Consejo de Seguridad de la ONU, con el fin de representar un punto de vista común, aunque sin comportarse como un miembro permanente.

"La presencia de cinco Estados europeos -Italia, Bélgica y Eslovaquia como miembros no permanentes y Reino Unido y Francia como permanentes- en



el Consejo de Seguridad de la ONU crea un potencial importante", aseguró De Gucht en Bruselas.

Por ello, el ministro ha pedido al representante permanente de Bélgica ante la ONU, Johan Verbeke, "reactivar el diálogo" entre los cinco miembros comunitarios. También abogó por "una mayor cohesión" entre los debates en el Consejo Europeo y los que se realizan dentro del Consejo de Seguridad de la ONU.

La composición del Consejo

El Consejo de Seguridad tiene cinco miembros permanentes con poder de veto: China, Francia, Rusia, Gran Bretaña y Estados Unidos, a los que se le suman 10 que no son permanentes y que son elegidos por dos años sin derecho a la reelección inmediata.

Los países que abandonan el Consejo el próximo 31 de diciembre son Argentina, Dinamarca, Grecia, Japón y Tanzania.

De esta forma, el Consejo quedará compuesto por los nuevos miembros - Italia, Bélgica, Sudáfrica, Malasia y quien reemplace a Argentina-, los cinco permanentes, además del Congo, Ghana, Katar, Perú, Eslovaquia.

"Si fuera una competencia con Guatemala no habrían visto ustedes allí a (el embajador estadounidense John) Bolton presionando, sentándose al lado de países pequeños dando una muestra de prepotencia grosera, obscena".

Nicaragua recibirá otros 960.000 litros de combustible venezolano **El Nacional**

Venezuela enviará a Nicaragua un segundo cargamento de 960.000 litros de combustible, como parte de un acuerdo con los municipios gobernados por el FSLN. El alcalde sandinista de la capital, Dionisio Marengo, declaró a El Nuevo Diario que el cargamento llegará el viernes, en una operación similar al primer embarque de combustible importado de **Venezuela** hace 10 días. Marengo admitió que la importación del primer cargamento de 320.000 litros de diesel, el 7 de octubre, no se realizó adecuadamente y el



combustible tuvo que ser vendido a varias alcaldías y cooperativas de transportistas.

ABC

España vota por Guatemala frente a Venezuela para el Consejo de Seguridad

NUEVA YORK. La aspiración del presidente Hugo **Chávez** a ocupar un asiento en el Consejo de Seguridad en los próximos dos años o, como dice él, «para dar voz al Sur frente al imperio mundial del abuso», no alcanzó el objetivo deseado en las seis votaciones que hasta el cierre de esta edición había celebrado la Asamblea General de la ONU. En casi todas ellas Guatemala, el otro país que aspira al asiento regional de Latinoamérica, le había superado, aunque en la última, la pugna alcanzó un empate.

«Hay un claro candidato que agrupa la mayor parte del apoyo mundial», había dicho en principio el embajador estadounidense John Bolton, que ha movido los hilos de medio mundo para vetar al país que le ha declarado la guerra abierta en el terreno de la dialéctica. La votación se llevaba a cabo en el mismo escenario donde hace menos de un mes **Chávez** llamó «diablo» al presidente George W. Bush y lo ilustró con el olor a azufre que decía encontrar en el pódium.

Para algunos analistas, el autodenominado líder de la revolución bolivariana sellaba ese día el fracaso de su candidatura al Consejo de Seguridad con la mofa de su intervención. Quien tuviera alguna duda del papel que su país iba a desempeñar entre los quince, la veía resuelta. Frente a ello, Guatemala dice estar a favor de la política del consenso.

En la primera votación, el país centroamericano obtuvo 109 votos, frente a los 76 de **Venezuela**, y en las siguientes rondas consiguió arañarle hasta seis votos. Su marca más alta fue de 116-70, lo que seguía lejos de los 124 que necesita. Sin embargo, esta marca se obtuvo en la tercera votación, y regresó a los 110-75 en la cuarta, y 103 a 83 en la quinta, lo que abrió la puerta a las especulaciones sobre quién y por qué estaba cambiando la intención de un



voto que es secreto. Sin embargo, en la sexta votación ambos países empataban a 93 votos, con lo que todo quedaba igualado.

Voto apalabrado

España había dado a conocer su voto desde hace mucho. Según fuentes diplomáticas, el gobierno de José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero se había prometido su apoyo a Guatemala cuando **Venezuela** ni siquiera había presentado aún su candidatura. Madrid se disculpó ante este país con el argumento de que no podía faltar a su palabra.

Su voto estaba en línea con el de la mayor parte de los países de Europa Occidental que se inclinaron por Guatemala. **Chávez** se llevaba los 14 votos de los caribeños, agrupados en la liga del Caricom, con quienes ha resultado especialmente generoso en las ventas de petróleo a crédito, aunque ayer los rumores en la ONU apuntaban a que los cambios de la tercera votación procedían de este grupo. Entre sus aliados estaban también los países de la Liga Árabe, que agrupa a más de una veintena, y los poderosos como Rusia y China. De las seis abstenciones que se mantenían constantes en cada ronda de votaciones, se conocían sólo las de Chile y Perú. Otros países latinoamericanos se preparaban para saltar como candidatos alternativos en caso de que no se destrabara este punto muerto. De entre ellos se hablaba de Panamá, Uruguay, República Dominicana y Costa Rica.

Piden cautela con el boicot contra Citgo

By JANE BUSSEY

[El Nuevo Herald](#)

El comerciante Máximo Álvarez ve tantas razones por las que un boicot de las estaciones de gasolina Citgo no va a afectar a **Venezuela** y a su presidente, que las palabras salen apresuradas cuando las dice.

Quizá la más importante: **Venezuela** podría ser propietaria de Citgo Petroleum Corp., pero los propietarios son los concesionarios privados de las 14,000 estaciones que hay en Estados Unidos. Y así, Álvarez explica que un boicot dirigido al presidente de **Venezuela** es en realidad una bofetada para personas como él.



En estos últimos meses, el empuje para un boicot contra **Venezuela** ha ganado fuerza debido a la acerba crítica del presidente Hugo **Chávez** contra el presidente Bush. Sin embargo, la relación que existe entre el dinero de las bombas de gasolina y las ganancias del petróleo en **Venezuela** es complicada, y está muy lejos de determinar si el boicot está teniendo algún efecto.

"Están castigando a las personas equivocadas. Citgo Petroleum no es siquiera dueña de una sola estación en Estados Unidos", dijo Alvarez, que es propietario y opera 55 gasolineras en el sur de la Florida.

El llamado para un boicot contra los vendedores de Citgo comenzó en enero. Pero se ha escalado en estas últimas semanas, después que **Chávez** calificó a Bush de "diablo" en la Asamblea General de la ONU en septiembre.

El 25 de septiembre, el representante estatal Adam Hasner, republicano por Delray Beach, aumentó el fervor pidiendo en Tallahassee que la administración de Bush sacara a las estaciones de Citgo del Turnpike de la Florida, diciendo que el estado "debe enviarle un mensaje claro a **Chávez**". El contrato caduca en el 2008.

Algunos bloggers han entrado en el asunto con uno de los sitios en internet diciendo que "Citgo = Hugo". Y la cadena de mercados 7-Eleven, con sede en Dallas, anunció que la política jugó un papel en su decisión de terminar el acuerdo de abastecimiento de gas con Citgo.

"Claro que la posición de **Chávez** y sus declaraciones durante este último año no nos animaron a quedarnos con Citgo", manifestó la portavoz de 7-Eleven, Margaret Chabris.

Los ejecutivos de Citgo protestaron y 7-Eleven admitió que, de hecho, la decisión se anunció el pasado julio, antes que el discurso de **Chávez** disgustara a los americanos.

Citgo Petroleum Corp., con base en Houston, es una subsidiaria de Petróleos de **Venezuela**, o PDVSA, dirigida por el gobierno venezolano. En dos etapas, entre 1986 y 1990, PDVSA adquirió Citgo, dándole a **Venezuela** una posición segura de distribución en momentos en que los precios del petróleo



estaban bajos, y dándole así acceso a las reservas más grandes de crudo en el Hemisferio Occidental.

Pero Citgo no está sola en el uso de petróleo venezolano. **Venezuela** es uno de los cuatro principales países abastecedores de petróleo a Estados Unidos, junto con Canadá, México y Arabia Saudita.

Jorge R. Piñón, ex presidente de Amoco para América Latina que en la actualidad trabaja en la Universidad de Miami (UM), dijo que el impacto del petróleo venezolano se extiende a todo el mercado energético.

"Es muy difícil para un consumidor norteamericano no consumir el petróleo crudo ni los productos refinados de **Venezuela**", dijo Piñón, que recientemente revisó cifras de importación. "La mayor parte del combustible de avión que usamos en los aeropuertos del sur de la Florida viene de **Venezuela**".

Citgo tiene acciones de valor adquirido en Estados Unidos y en las refinerías cerca de la costa, junto con otras compañías petroleras, y les suministra crudo a todas ellas. De igual modo, Citgo vende sus productos refinados a casi todas las grandes firmas petroleras de EEUU. A su vez, otros gigantes petroleros, entre los que se hallan ChevronTexaco, ConocoPhillips y Valero, producen petróleo en **Venezuela**.

En la Florida, tratar de no consumir petróleo venezolano es aun más difícil. Las plantas floridananas de energía eléctrica emplean petróleo de **Venezuela**, y gran parte del asfalto que se usa en el país es igualmente venezolano.

No es fácil indagar sobre el impacto del boicot en las gasolineras Citgo. Los ejecutivos de la empresa no respondieron los mensajes telefónicos que se les dejaron en sus contestadoras. Juan Rodríguez, consejero legal de Citgo en el sur de la Florida, dijo que el boicot estaba teniendo más impacto en otras partes del país.

Aunque Alvarez dijo que el impacto del boicot en su negocio es pequeño, recientemente ha acudido a programas radiales y a otros sitios para enviar el mensaje de que un boicot a la Citgo a quien castiga es a los dueños de la franquicia y no a **Venezuela** ni a **Chávez**.



Alvarez, que formó parte de la Operación Peter Pan, en la que miles de niños cubanos escaparon de la isla, y no es precisamente un simpatizante de **Chávez**, dijo que los estadounidenses deben decidir por sí mismos. ``Vivimos en una economía de mercado libre y la gente toma su propia decisión".

La semana pasada, si uno permanecía un rato en la concurrida gasolinera de Alvarez, en la esquina de Sunset Drive y Galloway Road, en el sur de Miami-Dade en la hora pico, le costaba trabajo decir si el boicot contra la Citgo funcionaba o no. Sin embargo, más recientemente, una estación de gasolina Citgo, ubicada en Alton Road, en Miami Beach estaba completamente vacía, mientras los automovilistas llenaban sus tanques en la gasolinera vecina.

Alvarez dijo que sus gasolineras tenían éxito gracias a los competitivos precios que tenían, pero también porque eran grandes, bien iluminadas y los empleados tenían buen aspecto, todos con camisas azules y corbatas. Por el momento, no parece que el boicot esté funcionando.

El empresario del sur de la Florida dijo que Citgo ha sido un suministrador eficiente en momentos de crisis. Después del huracán Rita, Citgo le entregó con gran rapidez suministros de gasolina a las gasolineras del Turnpike.

"El gobernador Jeb Bush le dio personalmente las gracias a Citgo", expresó Alvarez.

Diario de León

Venezuela resiste el pulso de Bush para entrar en el Consejo de la ONU

Su contrincante, Guatemala, lideró las cuatro primeras votaciones pero sin apoyo suficiente

España ofreció su voto al país centroamericano antes de que Caracas se postulase

La elección del representante de América Latina para el puesto de miembro no permanente en el Consejo de Seguridad de las Naciones Unidas (ONU)



fue tan reñida ayer como se esperaba. Ni Guatemala ni **Venezuela** pudieron lograr su objetivo a la primera, en una votación vista como un pulso entre Caracas y Washington que emplearon todas sus armas en una dura campaña iniciada meses atrás.

Al cierre de esta edición, ninguno de los dos aspirantes había obtenido los votos necesarios para entrar en el selecto club. Tras cuatro rondas, las votaciones se suspendieron hasta primeras horas de la tarde (noche en España). En la primera se eligió a Italia, Bélgica, Sudáfrica e Indonesia. Los candidatos debían obtener dos tercios o más de los 192 miembros de la Asamblea General, es decir 128. Ni Guatemala ni **Venezuela** lo lograron, quedando en la cuarta votación 110 a favor del primero frente a 75 para el segundo, con seis abstenciones.

Según el reglamento de la ONU, a partir de la quinta ronda se podrá ya votar por un tercer candidato, para lo que sonaban Uruguay y Costa Rica, entre otros.

La dura batalla por el asiento en el Consejo se recrudeció en la recta final, librándose en dos escenarios: uno, en los despachos y los pasillos de la ONU, y otro, ante la opinión pública. Si **Venezuela** pareció ganar en este último, Estados Unidos lo hizo en el primero a la luz de los resultados. Según algunos analistas, la presión de la Casa Blanca se habría impuesto a la «petrodiplomacia» chavista.

La voz de los pobres Todavía resuenan en el palacio de cristal las palabras que pronunció en septiembre el presidente Hugo **Chávez** desde la tribuna de la Asamblea, cuando llamó «diablo» a George W. Bush. En aquella ocasión, habló con pasión de la candidatura de su país al Consejo: «No defenderemos sólo nuestra voz, sino la de todos aquellos países del Sur, los más pobres, defenderemos la dignidad y la verdad». Caracas prometía actuar como contrapeso de Estados Unidos, que veía la posibilidad de tener sentado en la misma mesa a **Venezuela** -aliado de Irán- como un permanente dolor de cabeza. Porque llegado el caso no sería más que eso, dado que el impacto del Gobierno de **Chávez** sería limitado debido a su condición de miembro no permanente, sin derecho de veto.



«Esto se trata simplemente de si un país es responsable de verdad o lo que quiere es tener una pelea constante con EE.UU., paralizando y bloqueando el tra-bajo del Consejo», dijo semanas atrás la secretaria de Estado Condoleezza Rice.

España apoyó a Guatemala debido a un «compromiso previo» que el Ejecutivo de Zapatero asumió antes que de **Venezuela** anunciara que aspiraba a ese puesto, decisión que aplaudió el Partido Popular.

EL PAIS

Venezuela pugna con Guatemala por entrar al Consejo de Seguridad SANDRO POZZI

Guatemala y **Venezuela** dejaron abierta ayer la disputa en Naciones Unidas por uno de los dos asientos rotatorios reservados en el Consejo de Seguridad a los países de América Latina y el Caribe, que quedará vacante el próximo 31 de diciembre. La contienda era muy ajustada, aunque el país centroamericano dominó en nueve de las diez primeras rondas. Caracas ejerció una intensa batalla diplomática que le permitió remontar puestos y plantar cara ante la presión de Estados Unidos.

El ritual se repite cada año, cuando la Asamblea General debe designar a los ocupantes de cinco de los diez puestos rotatorios que quedan vacantes a final de año. En esta ocasión están en juego los que dejan libres Argentina, Dinamarca, Grecia, Japón y Tanzania, que salen del órgano más poderoso de la ONU tras dos años de presencia. Italia, Bélgica, Suráfrica e Indonesia superaron la primera ronda, lo que les garantiza un asiento como representantes de Europa Occidental, África y Asia. Las rotaciones suelen pactarse en el seno de los grupos regionales antes de que se sometan al refrendo de los 192 miembros de la ONU.

En el caso de América Latina, la decisión llegó abierta. **Venezuela** contaba, en principio, con el apoyo de Argentina, Brasil, Paraguay, Uruguay y Bolivia, así como de China, Rusia, los países del Caribe y de la Liga Árabe.



Colombia, México y los países de Centroamérica apoyaban a Guatemala, alegando razones geográficas y de vecindad.

Las primeras rondas colocaron a Guatemala con una ventaja superior a los 30 puntos. El voto, en todo caso, es secreto y se necesita el apoyo de dos tercios de la Asamblea para que las candidaturas puedan prosperar. Si ninguno de los aspirantes logra esa mayoría, el voto vuelve a repetirse. En 1979 fueron necesarias 154 rondas, cuando Cuba y Colombia se disputaban un asiento, que tras tres meses de batalla recayó en México. El embajador de EE UU, John Bolton, dijo que la contienda acaba de empezar mientras su homólogo venezolano, Francisco Arias, le acusaba de jugar sucio, aunque se mostró confiado en ganar el pulso.

EL PAIS

Guatemala disputa a Venezuela una plaza en el Consejo de Seguridad SANDRO POZZI

Guatemala y **Venezuela** se disputaban anoche en Naciones Unidas uno de los dos asientos rotatorios reservados en el Consejo de Seguridad a los países de América Latina y el Caribe, que quedará vacante el próximo 31 de diciembre. El país centroamericano se mantenía a la cabeza en las cuatro primeras rondas celebradas. Caracas, entretanto, ejercía una intensa batalla diplomática para hacerse con el puesto y plantar cara a la presión de EE UU.

El ritual se repite cada año, cuando la Asamblea General debe designar a los ocupantes de cinco de los diez puestos rotatorios que quedan vacantes a final de año. En esta ocasión están en juego los que dejan libres Argentina, Dinamarca, Grecia, Japón y Tanzania, que salen del órgano más poderoso de la ONU tras dos años de presencia. Italia, Bélgica, Suráfrica e Indonesia superaron la primera ronda, lo que les garantiza un asiento como representantes de Europa Occidental, África y Asia. Las rotaciones suelen pactarse en el seno de los grupos regionales antes de que se sometan al refrendo de los 192 miembros de la ONU.



En el caso de América Latina, la decisión llegó abierta. **Venezuela** contaba, en principio, con el apoyo de Argentina, Brasil, Paraguay, Uruguay y Bolivia, así como de China, Rusia, los países del Caribe y de la Liga Árabe. Colombia, México y los países de Centroamérica se postulaban por Guatemala, alegando razones geográficas y de vecindad.

Las primeras rondas colocaron a Guatemala con una ventaja superior a los 30 puntos. El voto, en todo caso, es secreto y se necesita el apoyo de dos tercios de la Asamblea para que las candidaturas puedan prosperar. Si ninguno de los aspirantes logra esa mayoría, el voto vuelve a repetirse. En 1979 fueron necesarias hasta 154 rondas, cuando Cuba y Colombia se disputaban un asiento, que tras tres meses de batalla recayó en México. El embajador de EE UU, John Bolton, dijo que la contienda acaba de empezar mientras su homólogo venezolano, Francisco Arias, le acusaba de jugar sucio, aunque se mostró confiado en ganar el pulso.

Guatemala aventaja a Venezuela en busca de un sitio en el Consejo de la ONU **MERCEDES GALLEGO** El Comercio

Caracas logra aminorar su diferencia en la quinta votación, que aún es insuficiente

La aspiración del presidente Hugo **Chávez** por ocupar un asiento en el Consejo de Seguridad en los próximos dos años o, como dice él, «para dar voz al sur frente al imperio mundial del abuso», sufrió ayer una derrota en las cinco votaciones que hasta el cierre de esta edición había celebrado la Asamblea General de la ONU. En todas ellas Guatemala, el otro país que aspira al asiento de Latinoamérica, le superaba con mucho. «Hay un claro candidato que agrupa la mayor parte del apoyo mundial», dijo satisfecho el embajador estadounidense, John Bolton, que ha movido los hilos de medio mundo para vetar al país que le ha declarado la guerra abierta en el terreno de la dialéctica. La votación se llevaba a cabo en el mismo escenario donde hace menos de un mes **Chávez** llamó «diablo» a George W. Bush y lo ilustró con el olor a azufre que dijo había dejado en el podio el presidente de EE UU. Para algunos analistas, el autodenominado líder de la revolución



bolivariana sellaba ese día el fracaso de su candidatura al Consejo de Seguridad con la mofa de su intervención. Quien tuviera alguna duda del papel que su país iba a desempeñar entre los 15, la veía resuelta. Frente a ello, Guatemala dice estar a favor de la política del consenso. En la primera votación, el país centroamericano obtuvo 109 votos, frente a los 76 de **Venezuela**, y en las siguientes rondas consiguió arañar hasta seis votos. Su marca más alta fue de 116-70, lejos de los 124 que necesita. Sin embargo, esta marca se obtuvo en la tercera votación, y regresó a los 103-83 en la cuarta, lo que abrió la puerta a las especulaciones sobre quién y por qué estaba cambiando la intención de un voto secreto, según el vicepresidente venezolano, José Vicente Rangel.. España había dado a conocer la suya desde hace mucho. Según fuentes diplomáticas, el Gobierno de José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero había prometido su apoyo a Guatemala cuando **Venezuela** ni siquiera había presentado aún su candidatura. Madrid se disculpó ante este país con el argumento de que no podía faltar a su palabra. El voto de España Su voto estaba en línea con el de la mayor parte de los países de Europa Occidental que se inclinaron por Guatemala. **Chávez** se llevaba los 14 votos de los caribeños, agrupados en la liga del Caricom, con quienes resulta especialmente generoso en las ventas de petróleo a crédito, aunque ayer los rumores en la ONU apuntaban a que los cambios de la tercera votación procedían de este grupo. Entre sus aliados estaban también la Liga Árabe, que agrupa a más de una veintena, y los poderosos como Rusia y China. De las seis abstenciones que se mantenían constantes en cada ronda de votaciones, se conocía sólo las de Chile y Perú. Otros países latinoamericanos se preparaban para saltar como candidatos alternativos en caso de que no se destrabara este punto muerto. De entre ellos se hablaba de Panamá, Uruguay, República Dominicana y Costa Rica. Por su parte, el embajador venezolano dijo seguir «optimista», a pesar de sentirse «defraudado». Quienes no tuvieron problemas en su elección fueron Bélgica e Italia, que representarán a Europa, así como Sudáfrica, por África, e Indonesia, por Asia.



el Periódico

EEUU impide la entrada de Venezuela en el Consejo de Seguridad MERCEDES HERVÁS NUEVA YORK

La candidatura de **Venezuela** a un puesto no permanente en el Consejo de Seguridad de la ONU, frente a la férrea oposición de Estados Unidos, desencadenó ayer una furiosa batalla de votaciones en la Asamblea General, cuyos 192 miembros debían decidir quién ocupará a partir de enero el puesto que dejará vacante Argentina. "Nosotros no competimos con un país hermano", recalcó el embajador venezolano ante las Naciones Unidas, Francisco Arias Cárdenas, aludiendo a Guatemala, su competidor para obtener el puesto. "Competimos con el país más poderoso del planeta, y en su propia casa", añadió, refiriéndose a EEUU.

Las primeras cuatro rondas de votaciones mostraron que ninguno de los dos países tiene el necesario apoyo --dos tercios o 128 votos-- para ocupar un puesto en el Consejo. Por ello, mientras se preparaba anoche una quinta votación, se contemplaba ya en la ONU la posibilidad de que otros países latinoamericanos puedan presentarse candidatos, para desbloquear la situación. Uruguay, Chile y la República Dominicana son los más probables.

Venezuela, que no pasó de 76 votos en las rondas, sufrió un auténtico revolcón, tras la ofensiva diplomática de su presidente, Hugo **Chávez**, para recabar apoyos. Sin embargo, el efecto positivo de sus viajes fue eclipsado por la mala acogida a sus exabruptos contra EEUU, en su alocución ante la Asamblea General del pasado septiembre. Algunos diplomáticos recordaron que **Chávez** tildó al presidente George Bush de "demonio", y dijo que su paso por la tribuna de oradores había dejado "peste a azufre".

DOS BLOQUES EEUU montó su ofensiva a favor de la candidatura de Guatemala, apoyada por Centroamérica, Europa y algunas naciones africanas y asiáticas. En el otro bando, **Chávez** contaba con el apoyo de varios países suramericanos y caribeños, la mayoría de los árabes, varios africanos, China y Rusia. A diferencia de Guatemala, que nunca ha pertenecido al órgano ejecutivo de la ONU, **Venezuela** ha estado cuatro veces entre sus 10 miembros no permanentes, que ejercen durante dos años y



no tienen derecho de veto, como los cinco permanentes. La Asamblea eligió ayer sin

EL MUNDO

Guatemala y Venezuela no logran un puesto en el Consejo de Seguridad JULIO VALDEON. Especial para EL MUNDO

NUEVA YORK.- **Venezuela** y Guatemala mantuvieron una dura pugna a lo largo del día de ayer para lograr uno de los dos puestos que corresponden a un país del continente latinoamericano en el Consejo de Seguridad de Naciones Unidas.

Pero anoche aún no se pudo saber qué país ocupará el puesto que deja vacante Argentina, porque tras la décima votación, en la que Guatemala obtuvo 110 votos frente a los 77 de **Venezuela**, se suspendió el proceso de elección, que se reanudará hoy a las 10.00 (hora local). Perú es el segundo país latinoamericano representado en el Consejo.

En medio de un fuego de acusaciones, reuniones apresuradas, y presiones, la jornada alcanzó insospechadas turbulencias. **Venezuela**, que según su embajador, Francisco Arias Cárdenas, no estaba «compitiendo con una nación hermana sino con EEUU», acusó a este país de haber chantajeado a ciertas naciones pequeñas para cambiar su voto.

En la sexta votación, **Venezuela** empató a 93 votos con Guatemala, hasta entonces por delante. En la anterior votación, Guatemala había obtenido 103 votos por 83 de **Venezuela**. Cualquiera de los dos países requiere una mayoría de al menos 125 países (dos tercios del pleno asistente a la sesión) para obtener la plaza.

Mientras se sucedían las deliberaciones nadie olvidaba el discurso del presidente venezolano, Hugo **Chávez**, hace un mes. En aquella ocasión tildó de «diablo que amenaza a la humanidad» a Bush. **Venezuela** contaba para su elección con el apoyo de los otros cuatro países del Mercosur, la Liga Árabe, la Unión Africana y los 15 del Caricom, además de Cuba, Bolivia, China,



Rusia e India. Guatemala, por su parte, estaba respaldada por el resto de países centroamericanos, así como por EEUU, México, Colombia, Canadá, Reino Unido, España, Japón y Alemania.

Los esfuerzos por lograr un consenso fueron frenéticos. Se especuló con la posibilidad de alcanzar un acuerdo, presentando a un candidato del gusto de ambas partes. De no lograr imponerse ninguno de los contendientes otros países latinoamericanos están entre los candidatos. Costa Rica, Uruguay y Chile son los que suenan con más fuerza.

A la espera de lo que finalmente suceda con el puesto latinoamericano, Indonesia, Sudáfrica, Italia y Bélgica fueron elegidos sin problemas como miembros no permanentes del Consejo de Seguridad de la ONU en representación de sus grupos regionales para el bienio 2007-2008.

EL MUNDO

Bachelet le retira su apoyo a Chávez

A causa de los desaciertos de su política exterior, Hugo **Chávez** perdió el apoyo de Chile para que su país ocupe un asiento rotatorio en el Consejo de Seguridad de Naciones Unidas.

El portavoz del Gobierno chileno, Ricardo Lagos Weber, explicó que «ninguna de las actuales candidaturas reúne la mayoría suficiente» y señaló que Santiago «no desea fomentar las divisiones en Latinoamérica».

Durante los últimos meses, Michelle Bachelet luchó contra viento y marea para que **Chávez** ocupara el mencionado asiento en la ONU. Aparte de su buena sintonía con el ex teniente general, la inclinación de la presidenta se debía también a consideraciones estratégicas, puesto que Chile atraviesa por una crisis de energía y **Venezuela** es el primer productor de petróleo de Latinoamérica.

Esa reflexión no convenció al PDC -integrante de la coalición de Gobierno-, para quien votar por Caracas significaba enemistarse con Washington. Sin



embargo, fue el propio **Chávez** quien le sacó las castañas del fuego a Bachelet. Primero, al consagrarse como el caudillo de una cruzada antiamericana. Luego, al no retirar inmediatamente de su cargo a un embajador que se tomó la libertad de acusar al PDC de haber apoyado el fallido golpe de estado en **Venezuela**. Por último, al financiar la construcción de la base militar que Bolivia ha construido en la frontera con Chile.

Duro pulso de EEUU para evitar que Chávez entre en el Consejo **Gaceta de los Negocios**

Nueva York. El conflicto entre EEUU y **Venezuela** se trasladó ayer a la sede de la ONU. Guatemala y **Venezuela** se enfrentaban por el puesto que deja vacante Argentina en el Consejo de Seguridad y con Washington dispuesto a hacer todo lo posible para evitar la entrada del Gobierno de Hugo **Chávez** en este importante órgano de la ONU. La batalla fue tan dura como se preveía.

Guatemala lideró siete de las ocho votaciones, pero sin lograr los dos tercios de la mayoría necesarios para imponerse. En las tres primeras votaciones, Guatemala fue sumando votos hasta alcanzar un máximo de 116 frente a 70 de Caracas. Sin embargo, en la cuarta votación la tendencia cambió. Guatemala empezó a perder apoyos y llegó a empatar en la sexta ronda con su rival. Ambos países lograron 93 votos, el mejor resultado para **Venezuela** hasta el momento. A partir de la séptima vuelta, Guatemala remontó y mantuvo claramente su liderazgo (102-85).

Ambos países desplegaron una intensa campaña diplomática. **Venezuela** contó con el apoyo de China, Rusia y las naciones árabes, así como de Argentina, Brasil, Paraguay y Uruguay, socios en el Mercosur. Guatemala, con el de la superpotencia y casi todo el resto de países.

En esta dura pugna, España se inclinó por Guatemala. El Gobierno explicó que se comprometió con este país cuando presentó su candidatura. Posteriormente llegó la de **Venezuela**, pero no modificó su decisión inicial.

Más fácil fue reemplazar a los otros cuatro miembros no permanentes que estaban en juego para los próximos dos años. Italia, con 186 votos, y



Bélgica, con 180, fueron elegidos para ocupar el asiento que dejarán vacante el 1 de enero Grecia y Dinamarca. En sustitución de Tanzania fue designado Suráfrica, con 186 votos, mientras que Indonesia, con 158 apoyos, se impuso a Nepal.

En el pasado, EEUU también libró duras batallas para impedir que entrasen sus enemigos . Lo logró con Libia y Sudán, pero no con Cuba y Siria.



Venezuela e Guatemala mantêm impasse em votação da ONU

A Guatemala manteve ampla liderança sobre a **Venezuela** em votação na manhã deste terça-feira para um assento latino-americano no Conselho de Segurança da Organização das Nações Unidas (ONU). A vaga, rotativa, é para o período 2007-2008.

A 11a rodada de votação na Assembléia Geral da ONU terminou com 107 votos para a Guatemala, apoiada pelos EUA, e 76 para a **Venezuela**. Houve oito abstenções.

Nenhum dos dois países conseguiu a maioria de dois terços para uma vitória e, assim sendo, a votação continua.



Bolívia espera assinar acordos de gás em breve--jornal

O presidente boliviano, Evo Morales, disse esperar que os novos contratos com empresas petrolíferas estrangeiras, após a nacionalização dos hidrocarbonetos, sejam negociados antes da data limite de 28 de outubro, segundo uma entrevista publicada nesta terça-feira.



As companhias devem renegociar contratos para dar ao Estado boliviano mais controle sobre a produção de energia e uma maior participação nos lucros, segundo o decreto de nacionalização do setor, assinado pelo governante esquerdista em maio.

"Esperamos assinar contratos transparentes, ratificados pelo Congresso, que darão às companhias a segurança jurídica desejada", disse Morales ao jornal francês Le Monde.

A Bolívia, país mais pobre da América do Sul, tem a segunda maior reserva de gás natural do continente, atrás apenas da **Venezuela**.

Os maiores investidores estrangeiros nos campos de gás natural da Bolívia são a companhia petrolífera brasileira Petrobras , a espanhola Repsol-YPF , a francesa Total e o produtor britânico BG Group Plc .

Um melhor desempenho da indústria de gás aumentou a receita tributária e isso permitiu que a Bolívia projetasse terminar o ano de 2006 com um superávit fiscal pela primeira vez em três décadas, afirmou Morales.

O déficit fiscal da Bolívia alcançou um máximo de 8,8 por cento em 2002, porém atingiu o menor nível em 15 anos em 2005, de 1,6 por cento do Produto Interno Bruto (PIB).

"Pela primeira vez em muito tempo, finalizaremos o ano com um superávit fiscal de 1,5 por cento", declarou.

As maiores receitas foram obtidas em grande medida graças à lei de hidrocarbonetos de 2005, que anulou os contratos existentes e introduziu um imposto de 32 por cento sobre a produção, somados a 18 por cento de isenções, acrescentou o presidente.

"Antes da lei de hidrocarbonetos ser aprovada em 2005, o Estado obtinha apenas 318 milhões de dólares a partir deles. Com os novos impostos introduzidos pela lei, a receita alcançou 906 milhões", afirmou.



A Bolívia assinará esta semana um acordo com a Argentina que elevará em mais de três vezes a quantidade de gás natural que fornece a seu vizinho e também proporcionará dinheiro extra ao país andino, explicou Morales.

"Nosso decreto de nacionalização de 1o de maio de 2006 e o acordo que assinaremos com a Argentina na quinta-feira, dia 19 de outubro, nos farão ganhar 1,26 bilhão de dólares", apontou o primeiro presidente indígena da Bolívia.



América Latina busca candidato de consenso para ONU, diz Chile

O Chile disse na terça-feira que a América Latina iniciou uma busca por um candidato de consenso para ocupar uma vaga no Conselho de Segurança da Organização das Nações Unidas (ONU).

A declaração aparece depois de a **Venezuela** e a Guatemala não terem conseguido vencer a disputa pela vaga em dez rodadas de votação realizadas na ONU.

Após a maratona de votações de segunda-feira, em Nova York, para decidir o ocupante da vaga latino-americana do Conselho de Segurança, os países candidatos da região começaram a tornar mais flexíveis suas posturas, disse o chanceler chileno, Alejandro Foxley.

"Finalmente, na última hora de ontem e após dez votações, os países que se apresentaram estão mostrando uma disponibilidade de conversar e estão aparecendo outros países", afirmou Foxley à rádio chilena Cooperativa.

"Hoje, há muita incerteza em Nova York, mas o interessante é que os mais diferentes países e setores começaram a abrir-se na busca por uma solução", acrescentou.

O Chile não quis votar na Guatemala, que conta com o apoio dos EUA, e nem deu apoio à **Venezuela**, um opositor ferrenho do governo norte-americano.



Nenhum dos países envolvidos na disputa obteve, na segunda-feira, a maioria de dois terços necessária para uma vitória na Assembleia Geral da ONU, da qual participam 192 países.

"A eleição agora está aberta. Estamos conversando e a situação está indefinida. Temos de ter paciência. Parece-me que as posições estão convergindo rumo a uma voz única na América Latina", afirmou Foxley.

"O Chile está conversando intensamente com todos e acredito que, com paciência, vamos chegar, provavelmente, à conclusão de que teremos um candidato de consenso", acrescentou, apesar de a **Venezuela** ter dito que não se retiraria da disputa.

A votação sobre a vaga no Conselho de Segurança transformou-se em uma batalha de influência entre os norte-americanos e os venezuelanos, que, sob o comando do presidente Hugo **Chávez**, tentaram formar uma aliança com a Ásia, a África e o Oriente Médio a fim de desafiar os EUA.

Os países latino-americanos dividiram-se nas primeiras rodadas de votação. A Argentina, o Brasil, o Paraguai, o Uruguai e a Bolívia optaram pela **Venezuela**. O México, a Colômbia e grande parte dos países da América Central votaram na Guatemala.

O processo de escolha do membro latino-americano do Conselho de Segurança continuará na terça-feira.

O órgão é composto por 15 membros, dos quais dez permanecem ali durante mandatos de dois anos. Os EUA, a Grã-Bretanha, a China, a Rússia e a França são os membros permanentes do Conselho de Segurança e possuem poder de veto.

Venezuela longe do Conselho **Jornal de Notícias**

Com a Assembleia Geral das Nações Unidas a votar uma nova composição para o Conselho de Segurança, parece afastado o cenário de a **Venezuela** de Hugo **Chávez** se tornar numa pedra ainda maior no sapato da Administração norte-americana, obtendo um dos dez lugares não permanentes. Numa



votação ontem realizada, a Guatemala, país que lhe disputa o lugar reservado ao Grupo América Latina/Caraíbas, obteve 109 votos, contra 76.

Neste grupo, a primeira votação não foi conclusiva, pois a eleição requer maioria de dois terços, que, no caso, correspondia a 124 votos, tendo havido sete abstenções. Os dois países têm protagonizado, nos últimos meses, uma intensa batalha diplomática para convencer os diversos países dos respectivos méritos, sendo que os EUA apoiam a Guatemala, tentando a todo o custo evitar a chegada da **Venezuela** ao Conselho, ocupando o lugar que ainda é da Argentina.

À margem deste combate, Bélgica, Itália, África do Sul e Indonésia conquistaram os restantes lugares em disputa. Os três primeiros destes países resultaram de consenso no seio dos respectivos grupos, indo ocupar, em Janeiro, os lugares da Dinamarca e da Grécia, entre os europeus, e da Tanzânia, no grupo africano. Já o novo representante asiático saiu de uma votação em que a Indonésia bateu o Nepal (158 votos contra 28), indo ocupar o lugar que será deixado pelo Japão.

O Conselho de Segurança é composto por 15 países, sendo cinco membros permanentes (China, Estados Unidos, França, Reino Unido e Rússia), com direito de veto. Quanto aos restantes dez, são renovados todos os anos, processando-se a eleição em tranches de cinco (cumprem, portanto, mandatos de dois anos). Até ao fim de 2007, continuarão a integrar este órgão o Congo, o Gana, o Peru, o Qatar e a Eslováquia.

Magnata venceu candidato amigo de Hugo Chávez

Orlando Castro

[Jornal de Notícias](#)

A o contrário do que indicavam as sondagens, a bipolarização não só se tornou uma realidade no Equador como mostrou uma clara viragem à Direita nas presidenciais de anteontem. O magnata das bananas, Álvaro Noboa, venceu a primeira volta e vai disputar a segunda com o até agora mais do que favorito Rafael Correa.

Com 70,59% dos votos apurados, o Tribunal Eleitoral dava 26,66% a Noboa, um dos homens mais ricos do país, que prometeu transformar o



Equador num modelo de capitalismo. Rafael Correa, que liderava as sondagens com vários pontos de vantagem, registava 22,5% dos votos.

Noboa, de 55 anos, não hesitou em chamar comunista a Rafael Correa, ao mesmo tempo que dedende o livre-mercado, a dolarização, o alinhamento total do Equador com os Estados Unidos da América e, é claro, o afastamentos da esfera de influência da **Venezuela** e de Cuba.

Por sua vez, Correa, de 43 anos, amigo do presidente venezuelano Hugo **Chávez**, moderou o seu habitual discurso radical procurando, ao que parece sem grande êxito, ganhar votos à Direita. O ex-professor de Economia, que critica a dolarização da economia vigente desde 2000, disse que a segunda volta, no dia 26 de Novembro, será "entre os que ainda querem o Equador como uma pátria e os que querem converter o país num grande mercado ao serviço dos EUA".

Já em campanha para a segunda volta, Correa tenta demonstrar que a reforma da Constituição é tão importante quanto a criação de empregos. Noboa, que se diz orientado por Deus para encontrar um futuro melhor para o país, terá de derrotar o sentimento antimercado que prevalece num país que escapou incólume à onda de privatizações em moda na América Latina.

O novo presidente tomará posse em Janeiro, substituindo o interino Alfredo Palacio, vice-presidente que assumiu o cargo devido ao impedimento legal de Lucio Gutiérrez, em Abril de 2005. Desde 1996, os últimos três presidentes eleitos não conseguiram concluir os mandatos.



ONU: impasse latino-americano

Foram realizadas dez rodadas de votação, mas o impasse se manteve depois de quase sete horas de sucessivos escrutínios na Assembléia Geral. Nem Guatemala nem **Venezuela** conseguiram ontem o número de votos necessários para ocupar a vaga rotativa de representante da América Latina no Conselho de Segurança da ONU. Por isso, hoje começa tudo de novo e há



possibilidade de um terceiro candidato ser indicado, embora embaixadores dos dois países tenham dito que não vão desistir.

Para conquistar a vaga rotativa no mais importante fórum político da ONU é preciso obter dois terços dos votos dos 192 países representados na Assembleia Geral.

Contrariando as expectativas, a Guatemala teve uma expressiva votação de manhã e, na terceira rodada, parecia que estava para ser eleita. Nos corredores, já se comentava que seria uma constrangedora derrota para o presidente Hugo **Chávez** e, dentro do plenário, os venezuelanos agradeciam aos eleitores, parecendo se despedir.

Mas, em mais uma surpresa, a **Venezuela** foi ganhando terreno até os dois países chegarem a um inusitado empate (93 a 93) na sexta rodada, o melhor resultado conseguido pelos venezuelanos que, a partir daí, foram perdendo votos para a Guatemala, até a votação ser suspensa às 18h30m (hora local).

Na busca de votos, **Venezuela** distribuiu chocolates no plenário

A votação vem mobilizando fortemente a ONU há vários meses e ontem a campanha eleitoral correu solta o tempo todo. O embaixador americano, John Bolton, foi orientado a faltar a uma reunião em Washington e durante as rodadas de votação, ia de mesa em mesa no plenário, tentando arrancar votos para a Guatemala entre os indecisos. A **Venezuela** distribuía chocolate aos delegados e a Guatemala dava aos delegados uma pulseirinha da sorte, parecida com as fitinhas do Senhor do Bonfim.

— Não vamos nos retirar. Estamos concorrendo, não contra um país irmão, mas contra a mais poderosa potência do planeta, os donos do Universo — disse o embaixador venezuelano na ONU, Francisco Arias Cardenas

O Brasil, assim como todos os países do Mercosul, votaram na **Venezuela**, obedecendo a uma diretriz acordada pelos presidentes dos cinco países numa reunião de cúpula em Córdoba, há dois meses. Mas a América Latina se dividiu. O Chile declarou abstenção e sabe-se que Peru e Equador também ficaram em cima do muro. México e Colômbia votaram na Guatemala.



— Não entramos no mérito das candidaturas, respeitamos os dois candidatos, mas votamos na **Venezuela** como um membro pleno do Mercosul — disse o embaixador brasileiro, Ronaldo Sardenberg.

Muitos não contaram em quem votaram. A Europa apostou na Guatemala; Ásia e a África se dividiram, o que explicaria essa votação abaixo do esperado para a **Venezuela**.

Por trás dessa intensidade de emoções entre os habitualmente frios diplomatas, pairava a figura de Hugo **Chávez** na abertura da Assembléia Geral da ONU, no dia 20 de setembro, dizendo que o presidente George W. Bush era “o diabo”.

— Votei na Guatemala porque achei de mau gosto os comentários no plenário da ONU. Mas a campanha aberta dos Estados Unidos pela Guatemala também pode ter tirado votos deles — disse o embaixador da Tanzânia na ONU, Augustine Mahiga.

Le Monde

L'amitié envahissante du Venezuela

Les ambassades occidentales ne croient pas aux rumeurs de coup d'Etat en Bolivie, lancées par un site Internet d'extrême gauche et relayées par le président vénézuélien Hugo **Chavez**, le 11 octobre. Le gouvernement bolivien a démenti, tout en appelant les citoyens à défendre la démocratie.

" Défenseur du peuple " - une sorte de médiateur de la République -, Waldo Albarracin est épuisé par ses efforts déployés à Huanuni (280 km au sud-est de La Paz), depuis l'affrontement entre mineurs qui a fait 16 morts, les 5 et 6 octobre. " L'opposition tente de tirer profit des difficultés, mais n'a aucune prise sur les conflits ou les événements, assure-t-il. Le gouvernement devrait éviter de dresser des listes d'ennemis et faire preuve de sérénité et de tolérance. "

Ancien candidat à la présidence de la République, Samuel Doria Medina, élu centriste à l'Assemblée constituante, estime " qu'il n'y a pas de conspiration,



mais une déception par rapport aux grandes attentes de changement suscitées par l'élection d'Evo Morales ". " Il croit que gouverner c'est voyager et faire des discours, poursuit M. Doria Medina. Entre-temps, le taux d'exécution du budget ne dépasse pas les 20 %, faute de capacité de gestion. Les annonces n'ont pas de suite, les ministres et les parlementaires n'ont pas de projet. "

M. Morales ne rate pas une occasion de réaffirmer ses affinités avec Fidel Castro et avec M. **Chavez**. A l'Assemblée générale des Nations unies, le soutien de la Bolivie à la candidature du **Venezuela** à un poste non permanent au Conseil de sécurité ne fait pas de doute. Les deux pays ont signé un accord de défense qui préoccupe le Pérou voisin mais apparemment pas le Chili, qui n'entretient pas de relations diplomatiques avec La Paz. Le Sénat bolivien, contrôlé par l'opposition, pourrait d'ailleurs ne pas ratifier cet accord.

L'influence vénézuélienne commence à gêner l'entourage présidentiel lui-même. Le décret de nationalisation des hydrocarbures, daté du 1er mai, a été précédé de deux voyages à Caracas de l'équipe chargée du dossier. Un proche de M. **Chavez** a proposé ses services à M. Morales en matière de médias et de communication.

Le nationalisme bolivien s'accommode mal de cette ingérence " désintéressée ". Le 7 octobre, l'ambassadeur du **Venezuela** à La Paz, Julio Montes, auparavant en poste à La Havane, a déclaré que les Vénézuéliens étaient prêts à " verser leur sang " pour M. Morales. M. Montes a été appelé à plus de circonspection par le chef de la diplomatie bolivienne, David Choquehuanca.

Le Monde

Conseil de sécurité : Washington préfère le Guatemala au Venezuela d'Hugo Chavez

L'Afrique du Sud, l'Indonésie, l'Italie et la Belgique ont été élues membres du Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU. La bataille continue pour le siège sud-américain



En dépit d'une intense campagne, le **Venezuela** du président Hugo **Chavez** a subi un revers diplomatique, lundi 16 octobre, en obtenant moins de voix que son rival, le Guatemala, au cours d'une élection indécise pour remporter un siège au Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU.

Malgré dix tours de scrutin, ni le Guatemala, soutenu par Washington, ni le **Venezuela**, très critique des Etats-Unis, n'ont pu rassembler les deux tiers des voix des 192 pays de l'Assemblée générale de l'ONU, nécessaires pour siéger deux ans au Conseil de sécurité.

L'élection devait reprendre mardi et durer jusqu'à la victoire d'un candidat - le record étant de 155 tours. Le scrutin s'est terminé, lundi soir, sur un score de 77 voix pour le **Venezuela**, contre 110 voix pour le Guatemala, qui a dominé tous les tours, à l'exception du sixième, qui a vu les deux pays à égalité. L'Assemblée générale a par ailleurs élu, lundi, à une large majorité, l'Afrique du Sud, l'Indonésie, l'Italie et la Belgique.

Selon des diplomates, le **Venezuela**, qui partait favori, paye le prix d'un discours du président **Chavez**, prononcé à l'Assemblée générale le 20 septembre et au cours duquel il s'en était violemment pris au président américain, George Bush, qu'il traite régulièrement " d'idiot " ou de " terroriste ". " Hier, le diable est venu ici et ce lieu sent encore le soufre ", avait-il déclaré, avant de se signer.

" Avant le discours, **Chavez** avait les voix nécessaires, mais il a fait peur ", assure la diplomate d'un pays en développement. " Le président du **Venezuela** a poussé la plaisanterie un peu loin, ce qui a donné des arguments à Washington, qui l'accuse de vouloir transformer le Conseil en cirque ", estime un diplomate européen.

Les Etats-Unis ont mené une campagne active en faveur du Guatemala, notamment en faisant pression sur leurs alliés. Ce soutien " a été tellement flagrant qu'il a pu détourner des voix contre le Guatemala ", estime Augustine Mahiga, ambassadeur de la Tanzanie à l'ONU. Face au **Venezuela**, 5e exportateur de brut mondial, le Guatemala fait valoir que ses troupes participent aux missions de maintien de la paix de l'ONU.



Hugo **Chavez** a fait campagne à travers le monde, signant de nombreux accords énergétiques ou établissant des relations diplomatiques avec onze pays africains en quinze mois. Il s'est aussi rapproché de pays comme l'Iran, la Syrie ou la Corée du Nord. M. **Chavez**, qui milite pour un " socialisme du XXI^e siècle ", est un critique virulent de l'" impérialisme " des Etats-Unis, qui ont semblé soutenir, en avril 2002, une tentative de coup d'Etat contre lui.

L'élection à un siège du Conseil fait l'objet de tractations savantes et d'échanges de bons procédés entre pays, au sein des groupes régionaux, souvent plusieurs années avant qu'une place ne se libère. Le vote étant à bulletin secret, l'opinion personnelle des ambassadeurs peut jouer.

Le Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU est composé de cinq membres permanents dotés d'un droit de veto (Chine, Etats-Unis, France, Royaume-Uni et Russie) et de dix membres élus, renouvelés par moitié tous les ans. Ces derniers ont peu de pouvoir, mais peuvent fixer le programme du Conseil, lorsqu'ils le président (pendant un mois), et influencer les votes.



Onu/Onzième tour infructueux entre le Guatemala et le Venezuela

Un onzième tour de scrutin à l'Onu a confirmé mardi l'avance du Guatemala sur le **Venezuela** sans permettre toutefois d'attribuer le siège de l'Amérique du Sud au Conseil de sécurité des Nations unies

Cent-sept voix se sont portées sur le Guatemala contre 46 pour le **Venezuela**. Huit Etats membres de l'Assemblée générale de l'Onu se sont abstenus.

Un Etat doit obtenir la majorité des deux tiers pour intégrer l'exécutif onusien, soit 128 voix.

En 1979, il avait fallu 155 tours de scrutin pour tenter de départager la Colombie et Cuba. Le Mexique s'était finalement imposé en tant que candidat de compromis.



LE FIGARO

Chavez en passe de perdre sa bataille à l'ONU

MALGRÉ des semaines de tractations diplomatiques, le président vénézuélien Hugo **Chavez** n'a pas réussi à convaincre la majorité des 192 pays membres de l'ONU de choisir son pays comme membre non permanent du Conseil de sécurité contre le candidat des États-Unis, le Guatemala. Hier, après dix tours de scrutin, ce dernier menait par 110 voix contre 77, après avoir été à égalité avec le **Venezuela**, à 93 voix partout. Aucun des deux n'ayant atteint la majorité des deux tiers (125 voix), d'autres tours de scrutin seront nécessaires.

C'est une gifle pour Caracas, car ce vote, en apparence banal, est le résultat d'un affrontement digne de l'époque de la guerre froide, entre la Maison-Blanche et celui qui s'est autoproclamé son principal détracteur, Hugo **Chavez**. Le Conseil de sécurité est constitué de quinze sièges. Cinq sont occupés par des membres permanents, détenteurs d'un droit de veto - la Chine, les États-Unis, la France, la Grande-Bretagne et la Russie. Dix sièges tournent entre tous les autres pays, selon une répartition géographique. C'est le remplacement, cette année, de l'Argentine qui a déclenché les passions. Lorsque le **Venezuela** a fait savoir qu'il brigait la succession, Washington a déployé une machine de guerre pour empêcher son élection. Aucun des grands pays latino-américains n'ayant accepté d'être un candidat « anti-**Venezuela** », l'Administration Bush s'est tournée vers un de ses indéfectibles alliés, le Guatemala. Le petit pays d'Amérique Centrale, dépourvu de moyens, n'a pas fait campagne. La Maison-Blanche a mis à son service ses finances, ses réseaux et son administration. Depuis des semaines, chaque visite d'un fonctionnaire américain dans un pays étranger se conclut par une ferme recommandation à voter pour le Guatemala.

Éviter l'humiliation



La stratégie américaine a fonctionné. Si le Guatemala n'a pas été élu, la diplomatie de Washing-ton a empêché le **Venezuela** de l'emporter, malgré une campagne fondée sur la distribution de pétrodollars et une rhétorique anti-impérialiste. Caracas s'est attaché des alliés dans la région (notamment le Brésil et l'Argentine), une partie du monde arabe, grâce à la condamnation de la guerre menée l'été dernier par Israël au Liban, des voix africaines, et l'appui de la Chine et la Russie, soucieux de contrebalancer la puissance américaine. Les collaborateurs du président vénézuélien avouaient, ces derniers jours, leur inquiétude : le discours virulent de **Chavez** à la tribune des Nations unies en septembre, au cours duquel il a comparé Bush au diable, a refroidi l'enthousiasme de nombreux pays. « Nous avions le vent en poupe quand les États-Unis incarnaient l'agresseur, il ne fallait pas rentrer dans leur jeu », confie un diplomate vénézuélien. Un haut fonctionnaire français confirme : « Voter pour le Guatemala ne fait pas plaisir, car c'est un cadeau aux États-Unis. Mais **Chavez** va trop loin et, avec les essais nucléaires de la Corée du Nord, le contexte international ne se prête plus à la provocation. »

À deux mois de la présidentielle au **Venezuela**, l'opposition se félicite déjà de cette défaite de la diplomatie de Hugo **Chavez**. À New York, l'ambassadeur de Caracas auprès de l'ONU, Francisco Arias Cardenas, nuançait déjà, avant le scrutin, sa portée : « Quel que soit le résultat, il faut se rappeler que le **Venezuela** n'affronte pas le Guatemala, mais la première puissance mondiale. »

S'il ne gagne pas, le **Venezuela** doit empêcher le « petit » Guatemala de gagner des voix supplémentaires lors des prochains scrutins. Les grandes manoeuvres vont commencer en Amérique latine pour trouver un troisième candidat susceptible de plaire aux deux camps. Ce ne sera pas facile.



ONU - Quatre nouveaux membres du Conseil de sécurité élus à l'Assemblée générale - le Guatemala et le Venezuela encore en lice

L'Assemblée générale de l'ONU a élu hier la Belgique, l'Indonésie, l'Italie et l'Afrique du Sud qui occuperont les sièges de membres non permanents du Conseil de sécurité à partir du 1er janvier 2007, pour un mandat de deux ans, tandis que le vote se poursuit pour départager le Guatemala du **Venezuela**.

Les quatre sièges pourvus sont actuellement occupés par le Danemark, la Grèce, le Japon et la Tanzanie. Reste à pourvoir le siège de l'Argentine.

Les membres étaient élus selon leur origine géographique qui confère deux sièges à l'Afrique et à l'Asie, deux à l'Europe de l'Ouest et autres Etats et un à l'Amérique latine et aux Caraïbes, au cours du scrutin de cette année.

Les élections au Conseil de sécurité se tiennent au scrutin secret, par l'intermédiaire de papiers, contrairement aux votes réguliers de l'Assemblée générale qui sont électroniques.

Pour remporter un siège, les candidats doivent obtenir au moins les deux tiers des membres présents et votant, y compris dans les régions où un seul candidat se présente.

La Belgique a remporté 180 voix, l'Italie 186, l'Afrique du Sud (seul candidat pour l'Afrique) 186 et l'Indonésie 158.

Au quatrième tour, le Guatemala continuait de mener par 110 voix contre 75 pour le **Venezuela**. C'est toutefois encore insuffisant au regard de la majorité de 124 voix requise sur les 192 Etats Membres des Nations Unies.

Les cinq autres membres non-permanents du Conseil de sécurité, dont le terme expire le 31 décembre 2007, sont la République du Congo, le Ghana, le Pérou, le Qatar et la Slovaquie. Les cinq membres permanents sont la Chine, les Etats-Unis, la Fédération de Russie, la France, le Royaume-Uni.



Le choc des populismes en Equateur

ARMENGAUD Jean-Hébert

Le chaviste Rafael Correa affrontera le milliardaire de droite Alvaro Noboa, le 26 novembre.

"Le second tour va se jouer entre un populisme de gauche et un populisme de droite", se lamentait hier le quotidien équatorien El Comercio, après l'annonce des premiers résultats du premier tour de l'élection présidentielle de dimanche. Alors que certains sondages le donnaient vainqueur avec même une possibilité de l'emporter dès le premier tour le candidat de gauche "antipartitocratie", Rafael Correa n'arrive qu'en deuxième position, avec 22,5 % des voix, selon les résultats partiels proclamés par le tribunal suprême électoral, sur la base de 70 % des bulletins dépouillés.

"Berlusconi andin". Le 26 novembre, il disputera le second tour face au milliardaire de droite Alvaro Noboa, qui se dit "candidat de Dieu" et obtient 26,6 % des voix. Ce "Berlusconi andin" de 56 ans, considéré comme la première fortune du petit pays d'Amérique du sud, est aussi connu comme "le roi de la banane", deuxième ressource du pays, même si son conglomerat d'entreprises comprend aussi des sociétés financières, immobilières, des banques et des médias. Derrière son Parti révolutionnaire institutionnel d'action nationale (Prian), il avait déjà franchi le premier tour en 1998 et 2002, mais en échouant aux portes du palais présidentiel de Carondelet. Alvaro Noboa, qui ne se défait pas de sa bible dans les meetings, se définit comme "un homme productif qui a toujours aimé venir en aide aux pauvres" et promet "de ramener des millions de pauvres équatoriens au niveau des classes moyennes de pays comme l'Espagne, le Chili, l'Italie et les Etats-Unis". Avec ce dernier pays, il veut mener à son terme la négociation en cours sur un traité de libre-échange (TLC) qui, selon lui, pourra permettre la création de centaines de milliers d'emplois. Il a annoncé que, s'il arrivait au pouvoir, il couperait "les relations" avec Cuba et le **Venezuela**. Et accuse son adversaire Rafael Correa d'être financé par le président vénézuélien Hugo **Chávez**.



Erreurs. Hier, Correa a contesté le résultat de l'élection et dénoncé que des erreurs informatiques dans le décompte officiel pouvaient l'avoir privé d'un suffrage sur trois. "On essaie de nous voler la victoire, a-t-il lancé. On est en train de tromper le pays. Nous avons gagné, selon le décompte effectué par notre propre système avec nos représentants [dans les bureaux de vote]." Cet économiste de 43 ans veut, à l'opposé de son adversaire, rompre toute négociation avec Washington sur le TLC. Il veut surtout faire table rase de "la démocratie pseudo-représentative", convoquer une assemblée constituante et réduire les pouvoirs des députés qu'il considère comme la cause de la crise politique quasi-permanente que traverse le pays depuis la fin des années 90 : les trois derniers présidents élus n'ont pu terminer leur mandat, destitué par les députés ou renversé par un putsch. L'antiparlementarisme de Correa l'a même conduit à ne pas présenter de candidats à la chambre des députés pour les législatives qui avaient lieu également dimanche mais dont les résultats n'ont pas été proclamés.

Le candidat social-démocrate León Roldós, donné un temps parmi les favoris mais qui n'est arrivé que troisième, avec 15,8 % des voix, refusait hier de donner des consignes de vote pour le second tour : "Ce serait comme demander aux électeurs de choisir le sida pour échapper au cancer."



Ballottage sud-américain - -

Le **Venezuela** d'Hugo **Chavez**, bête noire des Etats-Unis, ne paraissait pas en mesure hier d'accéder au Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU, obtenant un total de voix bien inférieur à la majorité des deux tiers requise, lors d'un vote à l'Assemblée générale. Le **Venezuela** a été nettement distancé par le Guatemala, qui lui dispute le siège du groupe Amérique latine/Caraïbes à pourvoir. Au quatrième tour, le Guatemala a obtenu 110 voix contre 75 au **Venezuela**, tous deux échouant à atteindre la majorité des deux tiers requise, soit 124 voix compte tenu de six abstentions. La tendance s'est inversée entre les 3e et 4e tours, le Guatemala perdant des voix, tandis que le **Venezuela** en gagnait, sans qu'il soit possible d'affirmer que cette tendance



allait continuer. Le règlement permet de poursuivre le vote indéfiniment si aucun des deux candidats ne se retire. Toutefois, à partir du 5e tour, un troisième candidat peut se présenter.



PRESIDENTIELLE - "Ce n'est pas le moment pour un candidat antiaméricain"

Le passage en tête du premier tour d'Alvaro Noboa est-il une surprise ?
Comment expliquez-vous ce résultat ?

- La population a peut-être choisi de voter pour Alvaro Noboa car il n'est pas opposé aux Etats-Unis. Le meilleur candidat des Equatoriens doit convaincre sans tourner le dos à leur puissant partenaire commercial. Rafael Correa aurait difficilement pu recueillir la majorité des voix parce qu'il est pro-Hugo **Chavez** et que c'est la première fois qu'il se présente à l'élection présidentielle. Alvaro Noboa en est à sa troisième tentative. Rafael Correa pouvait bénéficier d'un vote de protestation contre les autres candidats, mais son discours anti-américain a vraisemblablement inquiété les équatoriens. Le discours d'Alvaro Noboa a pu être plus convaincant que celui des autres candidats, en particulier sur la question de la redistribution des richesses. La réussite équatorienne de la famille Noboa, devenue le premier exportateur mondial de bananes, a joué. De plus, Alvaro Noboa aurait dépensé la somme de 2,5 millions de dollars pour mener sa campagne.

Comment l'Equateur peut se stabiliser politiquement ?

- L'Equateur manque encore de maturité politique. La culture équatorienne est très ouverte, cordiale et s'oppose aux interdits. Les électeurs s'embarquent avec une certaine innocence pour des candidats pas forcément formés pour la politique. Si la démocratie est respectée au niveau des élections - les accusations de Rafael Correa quant à d'éventuelles fraudes sont certainement infondées - le président, une fois élu va commettre des irrégularités jusqu'à ce que des forces s'unissent pour le mettre dehors. Ce phénomène de quasi coup d'Etat est particulièrement présent depuis une



dizaine d'années, car après chaque élection, le président favorise typiquement la corruption, le clientélisme, le populisme. La gouvernance entre la présidence et l'assemblée nationale est incohérente. L'assemblée est fragmentée par des petits partis. Il n'existe pas de grandes structures politiques capables de durer. Chaque élection voit la naissance de nouvelles alliances, celui qui passe étant celui qui parle le plus fort.

Si la droite était élue, serait-ce aussi en opposition de la vague gauche qui a déferlé en Amérique latine ?

- Les Equatoriens ont un peu peur de la situation au **Vénézuela** ou en Bolivie, où les nouveaux dirigeants se montrent favorables une rupture brutale. Tenir tête aux Etats-Unis, comme peuvent le faire Hugo **Chavez** ou Evo Morales, est, pour le peuple équatorien, invraisemblable. Le pays possède d'importantes ressources pétrolières et a déjà mis dehors de grandes compagnies américaines. Or, l'Equateur, souhaite voir aboutir les discussions sur un accord bilatéral de libre-échange avec les Etats-Unis, comme cela s'est produit pour le Pérou. Ce n'est pas le moment pour l'Equateur d'élire un candidat opposé aux Etats-Unis car les négociations pour le renouvellement des contrats avec cinq grandes compagnies pétrolières, dont Total, vont commencer. Un sabotage de la part de la population locale est déjà envisageable, la société Perenco a déjà été occupée. Les Equatoriens vivent très mal le fait qu'on ne puisse pas exporter du pétrole du fait de retards techniques ou de la corruption.

ONU: CONSIGLIO SICUREZZA; AMERICA LATINA, 13/A FUMATA NERA.

ANSA - Political and Economic News Service

Tredicesima fumata nera in due giorni, la terza della giornata dopo il terzo voto aperto sul seggio latinoamericano in Consiglio di Sicurezza.

Il Guatemala ha avuto 112 voti, 13 voti in meno della maggioranza dei due terzi necessaria per l'elezione; il **Venezuela** è sceso a quota 75. Cinque nazioni si sono astenute.



In base alle procedure Onu si torna adesso a votare in ballottaggi tra i due paesi rivali, mentre nei corridoi del Palazzo di vetro alcuni ambasciatori latinoamericani hanno caldeggiato la convocazione di una riunione del gruppo per trovare una via di uscita.

ONU: D'ALEMA, SU VENEZUELA POTREMMO CAMBIARE POSIZIONE

[Agenzia Giornalistica Italia](#)

L'Italia si e' astenuta nel voto per la candidatura del **Venezuela** per un seggio a rotazione al Consiglio di Sicurezza delle Nazioni Unite, ma potrebbe anche cambiare posizione. E' lo stesso ministro degli Esteri, Massimo D'Alema, a parlarne nel corso di una conferenza stampa a Lussemburgo, dove sono riuniti da ieri i capi delle diplomazie dell'Unione Europa. "Noi ci siamo astenuti. Non si poteva", ha spiegato il capo della Farnesina, "votare a favore della candidatura di un Paese per le posizioni politiche assunte. Ma non si poteva nemmeno votare contro la candidatura di un Paese dove vive oltre un milione di italiani. Se alla fine il nostro voto dovesse risultare determinante e sciogliere il dilemma potremmo anche cambiare posizione".

ONU: CONSIGLIO SICUREZZA, RESTA LA SPACCATURA.

[ANSA - Political and Economic News Service](#)

Nella prima votazione del secondo round per un seggio latinoamericano in Consiglio di Sicurezza nel biennio 2007-2008 è continuata l'impasse di ieri: il Guatemala è ancora in testa con 107 voti contro i 76 del **Venezuela**.

Hanno votato in 191 su 192 membri dell'Onu. Otto stati si sono astenuti. Il quorum per l'elezione era di 122.

Ieri vi erano state dieci votazioni, tutte senza esito.



Guatemala davanti a Venezuela in voto per seggio a Consiglio Onu

Il presidente venezuelano Hugo **Chavez** ha rischiato ieri una sconfitta politica per mano del piccolo paese del Guatemala, appoggiato dagli Usa, nella sua corsa a un seggio nel potente Consiglio di Sicurezza, dove l'Italia ha ottenuto ieri, come da previsioni, uno dei 15 posti non permanenti.

A un certo momento delle 10 votazioni previste, condotte dai 192 membri dell'Assemblea Generale, il **Venezuela** si trovava in situazione di parità con il Guatemala, ma alla fine della giornata si trovava con 77 voti conquistati contro 110, un risultato simile a quello ottenuto nel primo ballottaggio otto ore prima.

La votazione prosegue oggi e si concluderà quando una nazione raggiungerà i due terzi dei favori richiesti dall'Assemblea, a meno che non dovesse spuntare un terzo candidato, come compromesso fra le parti. Nel 1979 l'Assemblea è stata costretta a votare 155 volte in una corsa agguerrita fra Colombia e Cuba, con il Messico che alla fine è stato eletto come candidato di compromesso.

La votazione per un posto da concedere a una nazione sudamericana si è trasformata in una battaglia fra Stati Uniti e **Venezuela**, che sotto la guida di **Chavez** ha tentato di formare un'alleanza in Asia, Africa e Medioriente per lanciare una sfida agli interessi internazionali di Washington.

"Penso che dobbiamo essere realisti", ha detto ai giornalisti il ministro degli Esteri del Guatemala Gert Rosenthal, precisando che se il voto dovesse rimanere lo stesso per diversi giorni "bisognerebbe probabilmente pensare a un candidato del continente che ottenga un consenso unanime".

"Ma ancora non è il momento", ha concluso Rosenthal.

Il Consiglio di Sicurezza è composto da cinque membri permanenti che hanno il diritto di veto -- Stati Uniti, Russia, Cina, Gran Bretagna e Francia - - e da altre 10 nazioni che hanno diritto a un seggio temporaneo di due anni, dei quali cinque vengono eletti ogni anno.



Per quanto riguarda le altre nazioni, Sudafrica, Indonesia, Italia e Belgio hanno ricevuto i voti necessari per ottenere il posto della durata di due anni, a cominciare dal primo gennaio del prossimo anno.

Prenderanno il posto di Tanzania, Giappone, Danimarca e Grecia. E' la prima volta in assoluto che il Sudafrica ottiene un posto al consiglio, le cui decisioni prese su temi come la pace e la sicurezza mondiale sono vincolanti per tutti gli altri membri delle Nazioni Unite.

Chavez contro "el diablo" il Venezuela all'attacco di Bush - lo scontro **[La Repubblica](#)**

WASHINGTON - Ha chiamato il suo nervoso ambasciatore «a un assalto con la baionette». Ha riscosso cambiali e promesso favori e petrolio a nazioni africane, centramericane, arabe, asiatiche, ma ancora non ce l'ha fatta a sconfiggere «el Diablo» e a strappare un seggio al Consiglio di Sicurezza dell'Onu. Il nuovo Castro con il petrolio, Hugo **Chavez**, sta vivendo ore d'inferno mentre le 192 nazioni presenti all'Onu votano per scegliere il quinto membro temporaneo del Consiglio, dopo le facili vittorie di Italia, Belgio, Sudafrica e Indonesia, e nella lotta biblica tra i dollari del «Diablo Bush» e i petrodollari del diavolello indio, il **Venezuela** non ce la farà, dicono i grandi cinici in completo blu del Palazzo di Vetro. Mentre il **Venezuela** e il Guatemala, il candidato civetta del diavolo yanqui, duellano fra di loro per i 128 voti necessari per la vittoria, dietro le porte chiuse si cerca il terzo candidato, il candidato di compromesso.

Sono stati i soldi e il petrolio promessi a delegazioni di piccole nazioni sempre sensibili al danaro a disperdere «l'odore di zolfo» dell'«imperialismo americano», come lo ha definito lui. E se la votazioni ancora continuano, il «Hugo **Chavez** Travelling Circus», il circo viaggiante del più stravagante leader vivente dell'America Latina, ha avuto nel Palazzo di Vetro il successo di pubblico che il suo vivace impresario sperava.

Aveva forse un pochino esagerato nella retorica, anche davanti a una audience come l'assemblea dell'Onu dove il «Bush Bashing», le bastonate a Bush, raccolgono sempre ampi consensi. Avere definito il Presidente americano come un «asshole» (che possiamo tradurre eufemisticamente



come «uno stronzo»), un «borracho», un beone, un ignorante, il nemico pubblico numero uno, un malato mentale e infine come l'Anticristo, non poteva essere la maniera migliore per conquistare le già scarse simpatie dell'Amministrazione Usa. Neppure Fidel, l'idolo di **Chavez**, era mai arrivato a dare dello stronzo a un Capo dello Stato Americano.

Chavez si era vantato, prima di lasciare New York, di «avere in tasca» quei 128 voti, facendo capire che il petrolio a 60 dollari al barile, dove ora si trova dopo avere sfiorato anche i 70, aveva riempito le casse del governo di Caracas con abbastanza fondi, e strumenti di ricatto, per intascare la vittoria tra i latinoamericani e gli africani. Anche al Jazeera, la rete del Qatar che di queste cose ha una certa esperienza, spiegava che, dietro gli show e gli appelli alle baionette, sono i barili di petrolio a convincere quei 93 paesi che hanno votato per lui, ad appena 35 voti dal trionfo.

Ma anche «el Diablo yanqui» ha le sue risorse e la sua collaudata capacità di persuasione. Senza che Bush personalmente rispondesse alle vivaci definizioni di **Chavez** (a quello ha pensato il padre, George Bush il Vecchio, chiamando il Presidente venezuelano «un asino» e un «buffone» dai microfoni della Cnn), il Dipartimento di Stato aveva lavorato per vie interne e discrete l'Oas, l'Organizzazione degli Stati Americani, l'Unione Europea, il Consiglio d'Europa, le nazioni asiatiche, spiegando che portare il **Venezuela** nel Consiglio di Sicurezza avrebbe significato la fine di quel che rimane della già modesta autorità di quell'istituzione. E avrebbe seriamente e personalmente indispettito il Diavolo.

Né Hugo **Chavez** può sperare sui democratici, i nemici più aspri di questa Casa Bianca, che lui era riuscito a offendere come americani. Dopo un comizio in una chiesa di Harlem, il quartiere nero di Manhattan che i visitatori dal Terzo Mondo puntualmente ed erroneamente considerano una sorta di estensione della propria emarginazione, nel quale **Chavez** aveva chiamato «killer» il Presidente Bush, no, anzi, un «genocida demente», il deputato di Harlem Charles Rangel, pur famoso per le sue intemperate anti-repubblicane, si era detto «personalmente offeso». «Non posso ammettere che qualcuno venga in casa mia a insultare il Presidente della mia nazione. Il dissenso e il contrasto politico sono una cosa, le insolenze volgari, tutt'altra».



All'esorcista che voleva liberare il mondo da Bush rimarrà, se alla fine i dollari di George si riveleranno meno fetidi dei petrodollari di Hugo, la soddisfazione di avere comunque fatto ballare il Satana Texano, e di avere provato l'acre piacere della sceneggiata nella quale si esibì Nikita Kruscev, con la sua scarpa picchiata sul tavolo della delegazione Sovietica. Qualcuno, più scaramantico o forse più attento lettore della storia, avrebbe potuto far notare a **Chavez** che quegli show non portano buono e che dopo quella scarpata Kruscev sarebbe rimasto meno di quattro anni alla guida del proprio Paese, perché neppure i missili nucleari o i petrodollari permettono di tirare la coda al «Diablo» impunemente.

**Astaldi:con Ghella e Impregilo nuova commessa da 1,7mld \$ in
Venezuela**
Il Sole 24 Ore-Radiocor

La Repubblica del **Venezuela** affiderà un nuovo lavoro ferroviario del valore di 1,7 miliardi di dollari al raggruppamento di imprese formato pariteticamente da Astaldi, Ghella e Impregilo. L'annuncio, riferisce una nota del costruttore romano, è stato dato dal presidente venezuelano Hugo **Chavez** in occasione dell'inaugurazione della tratta ferroviaria Caracas-Cua del valore di 2,5 miliardi di dollari eseguita dallo stesso raggruppamento di imprese. I lavori, secondo le previsioni, inizieranno nei primi mesi del 2007. La nuova commessa si aggiunge ai contratti già in fase di esecuzione nel paese per un valore complessivo di 4,5 miliardi di dollari. Com-sal-y

LEEWARDER COURANT

Venezuela aast op zetel Veiligheidsraad

NEW YORK Binnen de Verenigde Naties woedt een hevige strijd om een tijdelijke zetel in de Veiligheidsraad namens de Latijns-Amerikaanse wereld. De voornaamste gegadigden zijn **Venezuela** en Guatemala.



Venezuela probeert koste wat het kost de zetel te bemachtigen, al was het alleen maar om de Verenigde Staten dwars te zitten. Guatemala, dat door Washington wordt gesteund, probeert dat uit alle macht te verhinderen.

Na tien stemrondes heeft nog geen van beide landen voldoende steun weten te krijgen. Guatemala lijkt de beste papieren te hebben. Dat land heeft tot nu toe 110 landen achter zich weten te scharen.

Venezuela kan rekenen op de steun van 77 landen. Om de zetel te bemachtigen moet een land tweederde van de lidstaten (124 stemmen) achter zich krijgen. Vandaag wordt de stemming voortgezet.

De stemming is vooral een strijd om invloed geworden tussen **Venezuela** en de VS. De Venezolaanse president Hugo **Chávez** stelt alles in het werk om het Washington diplomatiek zo moeilijk mogelijk te maken. Guatemala heeft juist beloofd zich constructief op te stellen.

In 1980 deed zich een soortgelijk gevecht voor tussen Cuba en Colombia. Die strijd duurde uiteindelijk twee maanden. Na 154 stemrondes werd uiteindelijk een derde kandidaat gekozen: Mexico.

De strijd om de andere tijdelijke zetels verliep gisteren soepeler. België, Italië, Zuid-Afrika en Indonesië zijn vanaf 1 januari lid van de Veiligheidsraad. Van de tien niet-permanente leden worden elk jaar vijf nieuwe gekozen.



Rückschlag für Venezuelas Streben nach Sitz im UN-Rat

Venezuela hat bei seinen Bemühungen um einen Sitz im UN-Sicherheitsrat einen Rückschlag erlitten. In zehn Wahlgängen verfehlte das lateinamerikanische Land in der Vollversammlung der Vereinten Nationen (UN) am Montag die erforderliche Zwei-Drittel-Mehrheit. Das vom erklärten US-Gegner Hugo **Chavez** regierte **Venezuela** fiel zum Schluss mit 77 Stimmen hinter seinen Mitbewerber Guatemala zurück, für den 110 Länder stimmten.



Neu in das höchste UN-Gremium als nichtständige Mitglieder wurden Indonesien, Italien, Belgien und erstmals in seiner Geschichte auch Südafrika gewählt. Ihm gehören neben den fünf Vetomächten USA, Frankreich, Großbritannien, Russland und China zehn weitere Länder an, die jeweils für zwei Jahre bestimmt werden. Deutschland war in den Jahren 2003 und 2004 Mitglied.

Venezuelas Präsident **Chavez** erhofft sich von einer Wahl in den Sicherheitsrat eine internationale Aufwertung seines ölreichen Landes. Im September hatte **Chavez** US-Präsident George W. Bush vor der UN-Vollversammlung als Teufel bezeichnet, der bei seinem Auftritt Schwefelgeruch im Plenarsaal hinterlassen habe.

Der venezolanische UN-Botschafter Francisco Javier Arias Cardenas sagte, die USA hätten versucht, die Abstimmung zu einem Wettbewerb zwischen sich und seinem Land zu stilisieren. "Wir konkurrieren nicht mit einem Bruderland, wir treten gegen die größte Macht des Planeten an." **Venezuela** werde seine Bewerbung in den am Dienstag geplanten weiteren Runden nicht zurückziehen. Dagegen deutete Guatemalas Außenminister Gert Rosenthal einen Rückzug an. Noch sei dafür die Zeit aber nicht reif. Die längste Abstimmungsschlacht mit 155 Runden hatten sich 1979 Kuba und Kolumbien geliefert. Als Kompromisskandidat setzte sich schließlich Mexiko durch.

Venezuela und Guatemala bewerben sich um den Lateinamerika zustehenden zweiten Sitz im Sicherheitsrat. Ihn macht Argentinien zum Jahresende frei. Peru bleibt bis Ende 2007 Ratsmitglied wie die Republik Kongo, Ghana, Katar und die Slowakei.

Amerikas indianere: 'Vores tid er kommet'

Rune Geertsen

[Dagbladet Information](#)

Indianere fra Canada i nord til Argentina i Syd mødtes i La Paz for at hylde Bolivias indianske præsident Evo Morales og planlægge en samlet strategi for at gå 'fra modstanden til magten'



For bare et år siden var det utænkeligt. Men i sidste uge fik omkring 1.000 indianere, flere af dem inviteret af Bolivias regering, stillet en sportshal på La Paz' militærakademi til rådighed for at planlægge, hvordan indianere fra hele det amerikanske kontinent kan komme til magten.

De kaldte det mødet mellem ørnen, quetzal-fuglen og kondoren - mellem Nord-, Mellem- og Sydamerika. Midt på hallens basketball-bane steg en konstant røg fra en ceremoni til Pachamama, Moder Jord op, og der blev tygget hellige koka-blade i kilovis, mens indianerne i fire dage i sidste uge diskuterede en samlet politisk strategi under overskriften 'Fra modstanden til magten'.

"Vi har modstået kolonialismen i 514 år, og nu bevæger vi os fra modstanden mod magten," sagde ayamara-indianeren Fernando Huanacuni, en af de bolivianske arrangører af mødet til Information. "Evo Morales (Bolivias nyvalgte indianske præsident, red.) er symbol på dette. Han er vores håb. Han er synliggørelsen af en usynlig proces, der altid har været i gang."

Tiden har ændret sig - indianerne taler med store bogstaver, og magten lytter. Siden starten af 90'erne har indianere i Latinamerika i stigende grad gjort sig synlige og krævet deres rettigheder og kultur respekteret.

Tilbagekomstens tid

2006 har været den foreløbige kulmination, med indsættelsen af Sydamerikas første indianske præsident i Bolivia, Evo Morales, en forestående FN-resolution om indianske folk, der har været 22 år undervejs, og det netop overståede første møde mellem kontinentets indianske folk. Og det er ifølge indianerne ikke tilfældigt.

"Indianernes tilbagekomst er en profeti," sagde Fernando Huanacuni.

Ifølge både den andinske og maya-indianske kosmovision befinder vi os i Pachakutik-æraen - tilbagekomsten, forandringens tid, en 18-årig periode, der startede i 1992.



"Vores forfædre har sagt, at i nærværelse af anti-natur og anti-liv opstår livets og naturens kraft. Neoliberalismen, der råder i verden, truer netop naturen, harmonien, ligheden og fællesskabet. Vi oprindelige folk - naturens og Moder Jords stemme - vender derfor uafvendeligt tilbage. Vores tid er kommet," sagde Fernando Huanacuni.

En anden idé om magt

Magten, som indianerne søger, er ikke en vestlig idé om magt, men derimod genoprettelsen af indianske autoriteter og love og selvbestemmelse for indianske nationaliteter, der skal leve side om side i en plurinational stat. Bolivia er på vej mod dette gennem det igangværende arbejde med en ny indiansk inspireret grundlov. Kontinentets indianere kom til Bolivia for at støtte denne proces og finde inspiration til at gøre det samme i Mexico, Guatemala, Chile, Colombia, Peru osv.

"Bolivianernes kamp har givet os energi til at tro på en mere retfærdig verden, på en lysere fremtid for mayafolket," sagde Dolores Salles fra Guatemala, hvor 68 procent af befolkningen er indianere. "Evo Morales er også min præsident."

Med mødet i La Paz har indianerne nu for alvor samlet deres kræfter omkring en ikke-socialistisk, frem for alt kulturel, kritisk neoliberalisme, og med indiansk organisering som mål. Selvom både **Venezuela** og Cuba fik solidaritetserklæringer med på vejen, insisterer indianerne på, at de er ejere af deres eget politiske projekt.

"Vi er hverken til højre eller til venstre - fremad er vores eneste retning," sagde den peruanske indianerleder Martin Pallares til Information. "Vi har tidligere været splittet på tværs af politiske partier, men nu står vi sammen."

Skinger retorik

Ifølge den amerikanske forsker Tim Steigenga - forfatter til bogen *Oprørsstemmer i Latinamerika: Indianske folk, politisk mobilisering og religiøs forandring* - er mødet og de internationale netværk, der er opstået, et vigtigt skridt videre mod magten for indianerne. Og de har muligheden for at nå deres mål, siger han - hvis de skruer ned for deres til tider skingre, pro-



indianske og anti-neoliberale retorik. Det kan blive en hindring for at nå støtte fra ikke-indianere.

"Nu skal jeg ikke fortælle de indianske ledere, hvad de bør gøre. Men hvis jeg var dem, ville jeg vælge en mere dæmpet diskurs, der fokuserer på overdragelse af magt til indianske samfund, respekt for indianske rettigheder og konkrete politiske forslag, der gavner indianske folk."

Den 12. oktober, årsdagen for den spanske invasion af Peru, blev sluterklæringen for det indianske møde læst op af den ecuadorianske indianerleder Blanca Chancoso. Det skete ved en demonstration til forsvar for Evo Morales og hans selvudnævnte 'demokratiske revolution', som bliver mere skrøbelig hver dag på grund af pres fra oppositionen og interne stridigheder.

"De transnationales invasion af vores jord og territorier har skabt fattigdom, udvandring og forurening af vores naturressourcer," råbte Blanca Chancoso foran tusinder af bønder og ponchoklædte indianere i La Paz' centrum. "Vi fortsætter (...) vores kamp for at opnå enhed mellem Abya Yalas folk og rekonstruere 'Det Gode Liv', som betyder at leve i harmoni mellem mennesket og naturen. Og vi tilbyder hele verden at acceptere og bruge af vores kulturers værdier."

Deja-vu i Ecuador

Tobias Havmand

[Dagbladet Information](#)

Valget i Ecuador følger skabelonen med en **Chavez**-venstre-populist over for den pro-amerikanske kandidat, der er landets rigeste mand. Spørgsmålet er, om man vil orientere sig mod USA eller de latinamerikanske naboer

Det er til at forstå, hvis den stribe valg, som i øjeblikket ruller hen over det latinamerikanske kontinent, ind imellem kan blive forvekslet for den upartiske iagttagere. For drejebøgerne minder unægteligt meget om hinanden fra valg til valg. Således også i Ecuador, hvor befolkningen søndag nat helt som forudset fik valgt to eksemplarer af den senere tids to arketyper, som skal ud i en anden valgrunde om præsidentposten 26. november.



Bananproducenten Alvaro Noboa slog knebent den tidligere økonomiminister Rafael Correa, og med landets rigeste mand mod en tilhænger af Venezuelas Hugo **Chavez** og selverklæret social reformator følger valget i Ecuador drejebogen fra Mexico, Peru, Bolivia og - om kort tid - Nicaragua og **Venezuela**, hvor valgene i højere grad ligner valg om ideologier end om politikker.

I den kontekst kunne Ecuador, der er et af kontinentets mindre og ikke specielt indflydelsesrige lande, synes mindre betydningsfuldt. Men netop Ecuador viser tydeligere end de fleste af sine større naboer det konkrete valg, som reelt ligger bag flosklerne om Latinamerikas venstredrejning, og det er først og fremmest et spørgsmål om, hvilken alliance, man ønsker at tilhøre - og hvem sengepartneren er.

For og imod USA

Med store forekomster af olie og et styre, der stedse har søgt handlen med udlandet og faktisk har en vare at sælge, ville valget for få år siden helt logisk været USA, specielt taget i betragtning af at de lande, der omkranser Ecuador, Colombia og Peru, må betragtes som to af USA's klareste allierede i Latinamerika. Begge lande har indgået frihandelsaftaler med USA og er tilhængere af den skibbrudne drøm om en frihandelszone fra den ene ende af de amerikanske kontinenter til den anden. En sådan aftale er også på bordet i Ecuador, og den er set ude fra valgets mest afgørende punkt og ud over landets korrumperede politiske kultur også et af de vigtigste stridspunkter mellem de to kandidater. Forretningsmanden Noboa er en klar tilhænger af en frihandelsaftale med USA, mens Correa, der som økonomi-minister i overgangsregeringen under interim-præsidenten Alfredo Palacio blev fyret for at ville bruge en gældsfond til at hjælpe landets mange fattige (omkring 50 procent af befolkningen på trods af olieindtægterne), er modstander af et udvidet samarbejde med USA og i højere grad ser fremtiden i et regionalt samarbejde med lande som **Venezuela**, Bolivia, Argentina og Brasilien. Et samarbejde, der i nogen grad er kørt træt i uenighed og simpel inkompatibilitet, men som Correa skal passe på ikke at nævne for ofte, hvis han ikke vil lide samme skæbne som sin kollega Ollanta Humala, som tidligere på året tabte det peruanske præsidentvalg ikke mindst på grund af **Chavez'** lurende skygge over hans egen kampagne.



Kløft gennem Sydamerika

Blandt andet på grund af det nederlag har Latinamerikas brogede venstrefløj brug for en valgsejr i Ecuador, efter at også Mexico lige netop gik til højre: Hvis Ecuador vælger en frihandelstilhænger som præsident, kan der efterhånden skimtes en sammenhængende kløft ned igennem Sydamerika, hvor den ene del af kontinentet er orienteret mod et regionalt samarbejde og den anden mod et økonomisk samarbejde med USA.

I øjeblikket peger pilen på magnaten Noboa, der vandt første runde med godt fire procent. Spørgsmålet er, om det vil holde i anden runde, og om han i tilfælde af en valgsejr vil kunne gøre det meget bedre end sine forgængere, hvoraf kun tre har siddet præsidentperioden ud siden 1979, og tre omvendt er blevet væltet i løbet af det sidste tiår i utilfredshed over, at de gode petrodollars ikke når langt nok ned i samfundet.

For Correa handler det nok mest om at snakke så meget som muligt om sine sydamerikanske venner, **Chavez**, når han er i den fattige del af byen. Og så lidt som muligt, når han er andre steder.



Lateinamerikanischer Sitz im Sicherheitsrat noch nicht neu besetzt Von Nick Wadhams

Venezuela oder Guatemala - die UN-Vollversammlung hat sich tief gespalten darüber gezeigt, wer vom kommenden Jahr an den frei werdenden lateinamerikanischen Sitz im Weltsicherheitsrat erhalten soll. In zehn Wahlrunden gab es am Montag keine Einigung, die Abstimmung wurde auf (heutigen) Dienstag vertagt. Reibungsloser ging die Wahl der anderen zur Disposition stehenden Sitze vonstatten: Südafrika, Indonesien, Italien und Belgien ziehen am 1. Januar für zwei Jahre in den Sicherheitsrat ein.

Die Neubesetzung des lateinamerikanischen Sitzes galt als Machtkampf zwischen den USA und dem venezolanischen Präsidenten Hugo **Chavez**. Dieser hatte bereits angekündigt, einen Platz im UN-Sicherheitsrat als Gegengewicht zu Washington nutzen zu wollen. Im September bezeichnete



er US-Präsident George W. Bush vor der UN-Vollversammlung als »Teufel«. »Wir kämpfen gegen die wichtigste Weltmacht, die Eigentümer des Universums«, sagte der venezolanische UN-Botschafter Francisco Arias Cardenas am Montag sarkastisch. »Wir sind glücklich, wir sind stark, und wir machen weiter.«

Selbst der guatemaltekische Außenminister Gert Rosenthal äußerte Unbehagen über die öffentliche Kampagne der USA gegen **Venezuela**. Sein Land sei eine unabhängige Stimme, betonte er. »Wir treffen unsere eigenen Entscheidungen.« Zwar führte Guatemala am Montag in neun von zehn Wahlrunden, erreichte jedoch nicht die nötige Zwei-Drittel-Mehrheit von 125 Stimmen.

Aus Diplomatenkreisen verlautete, man sei noch weit davon entfernt, über einen Kompromisskandidaten nachzudenken. Vorläufig schienen weder **Venezuela** noch Guatemala bereit, ihre Kandidatur zurückzuziehen. »In einigen Fällen hat es schon über hundert Wahlgänge gegeben«, sagte der amerikanische UN-Botschafter John Bolton. Den Rekord hält ein Abstimmungsmarathon aus dem Jahre 1979. Die Vollversammlung hatte damals zwischen Kuba und Kolumbien zu entscheiden. Erst nach 154 ergebnislosen Wahlrunden einigte man sich im 155. Durchgang auf den Ersatzkandidaten Mexiko.

Der UN-Sicherheitsrat besteht aus den fünf ständigen Mitgliedern und Vetomächten USA, Russland, China, Frankreich und Großbritannien sowie aus zehn nichtständigen Mitgliedern, von denen jedes Jahr fünf neu gewählt werden. Ihr Mandat läuft zwei Jahre, sie haben kein Vetorecht. Südafrika, Indonesien, Italien und Belgien ersetzen zur Jahreswende Tansania, Japan, Dänemark und Griechenland. Der noch zu wählende lateinamerikanische Kandidat soll Argentinien nachfolgen.



Keine Einigung auf Sicherheitsrats-Mitglied aus Lateinamerika

Die UN-Vollversammlung hat sich bei der Wahl neuer nichtständiger Mitglieder im Sicherheitsrat nicht auf einen Kandidaten aus Lateinamerika einigen können. Nach zehn ergebnislosen Abstimmungsrunden wurde die Wahl auf Mittwoch vertagt. In neun Abstimmungsrunden lag Guatemala deutlich vor **Venezuela**, verfehlte aber jeweils die notwendige Zwei-Drittel-Mehrheit. Im sechsten Wahlgang lagen beide Staaten gleichauf. Die anderen vier frei werdenden Sitze gehen an Südafrika, Indonesien, Italien und Belgien.

In späteren Abstimmungsrunden können sich auch weitere Länder aus Lateinamerika für den freiwerdenden Sitz bewerben. Als mögliche Kompromisskandidaten gelten unter anderem Costa Rica, Panama und Uruguay. Weder **Venezuela** noch Guatemala schienen aber bereit, ihre Kandidatur zurückzuziehen.

Der venezolanische UN-Botschafter Francisco Arias Cardenas beklagte in New York, dass die USA Druck ausübten um zu verhindern, dass sein Land gewählt werde. "Wir kämpfen bis zum Schluss", sagte er. Selbst der guatemaltekeische Außenminister Gert Rosenthal äußerte Unbehagen über die öffentliche Kampagne der USA gegen **Venezuela**. Im Fall einer Wahl werde sein Land als unabhängige Stimme entscheiden.

Die USA unterstützen Guatemala als Nachfolger Argentinien. Der venezolanische Präsident Hugo **Chavez** hatte bereits zuversichtlich angekündigt, einen Platz im Weltsicherheitsrat als Gegengewicht zu Washington zu nutzen. Aus Diplomatentreisen verlautete, **Chavez** habe den Chancen seines Landes empfindlich geschadet, als er US-Präsident George W. Bush vor der UN-Vollversammlung im September als "Teufel" bezeichnete.

Der UN-Sicherheitsrat besteht aus den fünf ständigen Mitgliedern und Vetomächten USA, China, Frankreich, Großbritannien und Russland sowie aus zehn nichtständigen Mitgliedern, die jeweils für zwei Jahre berufen



werden und kein Vetorecht haben. Die Mandate der nichtständigen Mitglieder beginnen am 1. Januar.

WIESBADENER KURIER

Milliardär gegen Chávez-Amigo

Der konservative Milliardär Alvaro Noboa (55) hat bei der Präsidentenwahl in Ecuador überraschend die meisten Stimmen erhalten, muss sich aber in einer Stichwahl dem linkspopulistischen Rafael Correa stellen.

Von

Jan-Uwe Ronneburger

Das Ergebnis der Präsidentenwahl in Ecuador könnte ein politisches Erdbeben in dem seit Jahren instabilen Andenstaat auslösen. Der konservative Milliardär Alvaro Noboa gewann bei der Abstimmung am Sonntag 26,77 Prozent der Stimmen. Mit viereinhalb Prozentpunkten Vorsprung zog er damit überraschend klar an dem linkspopulistischen Favoriten Rafael Correa vorbei, der auf 22,45 Prozent kam. Correa sprach prompt von Wahlbetrug und bezeichnete sich als Sieger.

In der Stichwahl am 26. November werde sein Sieg dann so klar sein, dass er ihm auch durch Betrug nicht mehr zu nehmen sei, fügte der Freund des linken venezolanischen Präsidenten Hugo **Chávez** hinzu. Noboa schimpfte den Wirtschaftsexperten unterdessen einen Kommunisten, den er nach Kuba ausweisen werde. Sich selbst sieht der reichste Mann des verarmten Landes als "von Gott geschickt", was ihm die Ungnade der katholischen Kirche einbrachte. Correa warf er vor, er habe sich den Wahlkampf von **Chávez** finanzieren lassen, zu dem Noboa die diplomatischen Beziehungen abbrechen will.

Während die Kontrahenten in so gut wie allen wichtigen Fragen völlig gegensätzliche Positionen vertreten, ähneln sie sich in ihrer Ablehnung der traditionellen Parteien und präsentierten sich als "Anti-Politiker". Nach



sieben Präsidenten in zehn Jahren und wirtschaftlicher Stagnation trotz Rekordpreisen fürs heimische Erdöl war das für viele Wähler offenbar ausschlaggebend. "Die Menschen wählen Essen, Wohnung und Arbeit. Theoretische Phrasen haben keine Chance", sagt der Politologe Jaime Durán.

Noboa verspricht Freiheit, Wohlstand, Arbeit, Wohnungen, Essen, Gesundheitsvorsorge für alle, ohne genau zu sagen, wie er das bewerkstelligen und bezahlen will. Ausländische Investitionen und ein Freihandelsabkommen mit den USA gehören zu seinen Forderungen, aber viele Fragen bleiben unbeantwortet. Dennoch wirkt er zumindest wegen seines eigenen Reichtums und Dank zahlreicher Wahlgeschenke offenbar für viele arme Ecuadorianer glaubhaft.

Correa hingegen will das bereits fast fertig ausgehandelte Freihandelsabkommen mit den USA in den Papierkorb werfen, die Auslandsschulden nur nach einer Umschuldung weiter bedienen und die US-Militärbasis in der Hafenstadt Manta am Pazifik zum nächst möglichen Zeitpunkt kündigen. Für die parallel abgehaltene Parlamentswahl stellte er gleich gar keine Kandidaten auf, denn an dessen Stelle will er eine verfassunggebende Versammlung für eine "Neugründung" des Landes einberufen. Noboa warf er vor, seinen Reichtum durch die Ausbeutung der Arbeiter und die Beschäftigung von Minderjährigen auf seinen Bananenplantagen zusammengerafft zu haben.

Eigentlich müsste Ecuador ein relativ wohlhabendes Land sein. Es lebt nicht nur vom Bananenexport und Fischereierzeugnissen, sondern exportiert auch Erdöl. Die hohen Weltmarktpreise haben die Wirtschaft beflügelt. Aber wie in vielen anderen Ländern Lateinamerikas ist der Wohlstand extrem ungleich verteilt. 41 Prozent der 13,5 Millionen Menschen leben unterhalb der Armutsgrenze.



el Periódico

EUA impedeix l'entrada de Veneçuela al Consell de Seguretat MERCEDES HERVÁS NOVA YORK

La candidatura de Veneçuela a un lloc no permanent al Consell de Seguretat de l'ONU, davant la fèrria oposició dels Estats Units, va desencadenar ahir una furiosa batalla de votacions a l'Assemblea General. Els 192 membres havien de decidir qui ocuparà a partir del gener el lloc que deixarà vacant l'Argentina. "Nosaltres no competim amb un país germà", va recalcar l'ambaixador veneçolà davant les Nacions Unides, Francisco Arias Cárdenas, al·ludint a Guatemala, competidor seu per obtenir el lloc. "Competim amb el país més poderós del planeta, i a casa seva mateix", va afegir, referint-se als EUA.

Les primeres quatre rondes de votacions van mostrar que cap dels dos països té prou suport --dos terços o 128 vots-- per ocupar un lloc al Consell. Per això, mentre es preparava ahir a la nit una cinquena votació, ja es preveia a l'ONU la possibilitat que altres països llatinoamericans es puguin presentar candidats, per desbloquejar la situació. L'Uruguai, Xile i la República Dominicana són els més probables.

Veneçuela, que no va passar de 76 vots a les rondes, va patir una autèntica rebotada, després de l'ofensiva diplomàtica del president, Hugo **Chávez**, per recaptar suports. L'efecte positiu dels seus viatges va estar eclipsat, però, per la mala acollida als seus exabruptes contra els Estats Units, en la seva allocució davant l'Assemblea General del mes de setembre. Alguns diplomàtics van recordar que **Chávez** havia titllat el president George Bush de "dimoni", i van dir que el seu pas per la tribuna d'oradors havia deixat "pudor de sofre".

DOS BLOCSEls Estats Units van muntar la seva ofensiva a favor de la candidatura de Guatemala, recolzada per Centreamèrica, Europa i algunes nacions africanes i asiàtiques. A l'altre bàndol, **Chávez** comptava amb el suport de diversos països sud-americans i caribenys, la majoria dels àrabs, diversos d'africans, la Xina i Rússia. A diferència de Guatemala, que mai ha pertangut a l'òrgan executiu de l'ONU, Veneçuela ha estat quatre vegades



entre els seus 10 membres no permanents, que exerceixen durant dos anys i no tenen dret de veto, com els cinc membres permanents. L'Assemblea va elegir ahir sense problemes Sud-àfrica, Indonèsia, Itàlia i Bèlgica.



Venezuela onzeker van post in Veiligheidsraad

Noch Guatemala noch **Venezuela** hebben zich maandag kunnen verzekeren van een tijdelijke zetel in de VN-Veiligheidsraad. Na tien stemrondes in de Algemene Vergadering van de volkerenorganisatie besloot voorzitter Qatar de stemming op dinsdag voort te zetten.

De kansen van **Venezuela** voor een van de Latijns-Amerikaanse posten in het invloedrijke orgaan leken maandagavond echter gering geworden. Terwijl beide landen in de zesde ronde gelijk stonden, werd de stemming 's avond afgesloten met 77 stemmen voor het Zuid-Amerikaanse land. Het Midden-Amerikaanse Guatemala, dat wordt gesteund door de Verenigde Staten, had op dat moment 110 landen achter zich geschaard. Een land heeft echter een twee derde meerderheid nodig om verkozen te worden.

De stemming is een strijd om invloed geworden tussen **Venezuela** en de Verenigde Staten. De Venezolaanse president Hugo **Chavez** stelt alles in het werk om het Washington diplomatiek zo moeilijk mogelijk te maken. Guatemala heeft juist beloofd zich de komende twee jaar constructief op te stellen.

Een vorig gevecht, tussen Cuba en Colombia, duurde twee maanden. Het eindigde in januari 1980 na 154 stemrondes met de verkiezing van een derde kandidaat: Mexico.

Eerder op de dag koos de Algemene Vergadering België, Italië, Zuid-Afrika en Indonesië als tijdelijk lid van de raad vanaf 1 januari 2007. Nederland was tijdelijk lid van de Veiligheidsraad in 1999 en 2000. Van de tien niet-permanente leden worden elk jaar vijf nieuwe gekozen.



BM GÜVENLİK KONSEYİ SEÇİMLERİ... -VENEZUELLA- GUATEMALA ÇEKİŞMESİ DEVAM EDİYOR

Anadolu Ajansı

BM Güvenlik Konseyi'nin daimi olmayan üyelerinin seçiminde Guatemala ve **Venezuela** arasındaki çekişme devam ediyor.

BM Genel Kurulu'nda yapılan oylamalarda Afrika bölgesinden Güney Afrika, Asya grubundan Endonezya, Batı Avrupa ve diğer ülkeler grubundan ise Belçika ve İtalya, Konsey'in yeni daimi olmayan üyeleri olarak seçilirken, Latin Amerika ve Karayip bölgesinden Konsey'e seçilecek adaylar arasındaki çekişme devam ediyor.

Şu ana dek yapılan dört oylamada, Guatemala ve **Venezuela** Konsey'e seçilmek için gerekli oyların üçte ikisine ulaşamadı.

Genel Kurul'da yapılan üç oylamada Guatemala 109, 114 ve 116 oy aldı. **Venezuela** ise 76, 74 ve 70 oy alabildi. Dördüncü turda 192 oy kullanıldı. Bu oyların 191'i geçerli sayılırken, Guatemala 110 oy, **Venezuela** ise 75 oy aldı. Dolayısıyla taraflardan hiçbirisi bu turda seçilmek için gerekli olan oyu alamadı.

Genel Kurul oylamaya ara verirken, BM kaynakları bu arada lobi çalışmalarının yoğunlaşacağını ve üçüncü bir adayın ortaya çıkabileceğini söylüyorlar.

BM Güvenlik Konseyi'nin daimi olmayan yeni üyeleri 1 Ocak 2007'de iki yıllık görev sürelerine başlayacaklar. Eski üyeler Japonya, Tanzanya, Arjantin, Danimarka ve Yunanistan'ın görev süreleri 2006 yılı sonunda sona erecek. Beş daimi üyeye sahip olan Konsey'in 10 tane daimi olmayan üyesi var. Görevlerine 2007 yılının sonuna dek devam edecek ülkeler ise Kongo, Gana, Katar, Slovakya ve Peru.



BM GÜVENLİK KONSEYİNİN DAİMİ OLMAYAN YENİ ÜYELERİNİN SEÇİMİ -VENEZUELA, KÖTÜ SONUÇ ALMASINDAN ABD'Yİ SORUMLU TUTTU

Venezuela'nın BM nezdindeki büyükelçisi Francisco Arias Cardenas, BM Güvenlik Konseyi'nin daimi olmayan yeni üyelerinin seçimiyle ilgili yapılan oylamada rakibi Guatemala karşısında kötü sonuç almasından ABD'yi sorumlu tuttu.

Venezuela devlet televizyonu VTV'ye demeç veren Arias Cardenas, "Bu eğer sadece Guatemala ile bir yarış olsaydı, (ABD'nin BM nezdindeki Büyükelçisi John) Bolton'u ve ekibini buralarda, büyük bir küstahlık ve edepsizlik gösterisiye küçük ülkelerin yanına otururken göremezdiniz" dedi.

Venezuela'nın aynı yöntemlere başvurmamakla birlikte ABD'ye karşı savaş verdiğini belirten Büyükelçi Arias Cardenas, ülkesinin değişim isteği ve saygınlıkla mücadele verdiğini kaydetti.

Guatemala ve **Venezuela** arasında yapılan ilk oylamada, Guatemala 109, **Venezuela** 76 oy almıştı. İkinci tur oylamada ise Guatemala yeterli oy alamadığı için oylamaya devam ediliyor.

Arias Cardenas, ayrıca, **Venezuela**'ın kardeş ülke Guatemala ile rekabette olmadığını, bunun ötesinde, BM'nin saygınlığı, özerkliği, bağımsızlığı ve gücü gibi meseleleri ilgilendiren bir mücadelenin söz konusu olduğunu da kaydetti ve "Tanık olduğumuz şey, dünyanın birinci gücüyle, sesini yükselten bir Güney ülkesi arasındaki çatışmadır" ifadesini kullandı.