

Mexican President Vicente Fox Supports Stronger Intra-Gulf Ties

In the September 8, 2001 *Miami Herald* article “Florida Alliance Coming, Fox Says”, venerable journalist Andres Oppenheimer reveals that Mexican President Vicente Fox has broached with Florida Governor Jeb Bush the concept of a Mexico/Florida “strategic alliance”. According to the newspaper, such a groundbreaking scheme would involve the participation of Florida in the Puebla-Panamá Plan being carried out -- with the backing of the Inter-American Development Bank and other major financial institutions -- by Mexico and Central America. The key infrastructure development strategy inherent in Puebla-Panamá might rely on multinational firms in south Florida to help with the construction of electrical plants, roads, and other public works in a relatively underdeveloped region shared by the seven countries of Central America and the eight states of southeastern Mexico. The majority of these latter are members of the Gulf of Mexico States Accord.

Source: *The Miami Herald*, 9-8-2001, “Florida Alliance Coming, Fox Says”, by Andres Oppenheimer.