Bolivia

A roar of applause filled the Rotunda when Secretary of State Madeleine Albright took the stage as moderator of a key World Leaders Forum event focused on strategies to end discrimination against women. Albright, a champion of gender equality at the State Department, was plain about the importance of the subject: “Respect for women is like a canary in a coal mine,” she told the audience. “If it’s an open room, there are women that are being treated as equals.”

Addressing the audience from the floor of the Senate, Foreign Minister Blas de Orla said that “gas war,” as the conflict was known, spread protests led to the ouster of former president Fernando Lugo in June last year. The referendum gave the government the right to control over the energy sector. By 1997, however, a severe economic crisis led to the devaluation of the boliviano, which citizens believed that “their sacrifices for war in Iraq not as move for political

The referendum allowed Bolivia to sell a portion of its energy resources to foreign companies, leading to a significant increase in foreign investment. This, in turn, fueled a movement, a political force born out of the Country’s Morningside campus.

Leffingwell lecture this year was co-sponsored by the Council on Foreign Relations in Europe throughout the 1990s, Poland Stresses Need for Transatlantic Cooperation

Prime Minister of India Reaffirms Strong U.S. Ties

I am an impassioned speech to an overflow audience at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York last week, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh addressed the audience.

“I believe India and the U.S. can and should work together to fulfill our shared commitment to a free and open Asia,” he said.

At the end of his remarks, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright appeared on stage to deliver her closing remarks.

Bolivia is one of South America's poorest and least-developed countries. Yet it is also potentially rich, due to the recent discovery of vast oil and gas reserves. The contrast between a history of economi- cal exploitation and a future of resource management has been evident in all of Bolivia's societal issues—such as the political battles that have resul- ted from efforts to formulate new energy policies—was the main topic addressed by Bolivian president Carlos Mesa.

Carlos Mesa became president of Bolivia in October 2003, after a wide- spread protests led to the ouster of his predecessor, Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada. The dispute centered on the country's energy re- source management, which was seen as a risky investment.

The referendum was held in April 2004, and approved by 59% of the electorate. It gave the government the right to control over the energy sector.

Under his administration, Carlos Mesa said, the nationalization of industry in the 1960s had not led to wide- spread economic progress. In the early 1980s, the country was embarked on an experiment to cre- ate a market economy by with- drawing from managing the econo- my and ending corruption and inef- ficiency.

By 1997, however, a severe econo- mic crisis led to deval- uation, a fall in GDP and high levels of foreign debt.

In his administration, Carlos Mesa said, a referendum was approved in 1997 that went with the U.S. law that had made it possible to use U.S. dollars.

“This doesn’t mean we are going back to the 1950s and an America that is isolated from the world,” Carlos Mesa explained, adding that Bolivia respects and needs the U.S. companies. He said his government was attempting to “balance state power and foreign investment to guarantee peace and social stability and avoid any kind of explosion.”

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Afgahnistan, Advance Women’s Issues

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