

World Affairs Council of Washington, DC

1800 K St, NW, Suite 1014 ♦ Washington, DC 20006 ♦ Tel: 202.293.1051 ♦ Fax: 202.293.3467
Contact: Mark Fernando ♦ 202.293.1051 ♦ mfernando@worldaffairsdc.org

~~~~~Press Release~~~~~

WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF WASHINGTON HOSTED AMBASSADOR BERNARDO ALVAREZ HERRERA

AMBASSADOR OF THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA

On July 25th, 2007, **Ambassador Bernardo Alvarez Herrera** delivered remarks to the World Affairs Council of Washington D.C., as part of the Council's Meet the Ambassadors Series. His remarks, titled "Venezuela: Energizing Democracy and Democratizing Energy," dealt with Venezuela undergoing an important social, economic and political transformations aimed at promoting what has been called "Socialism of the 21st Century." According to the Ambassador, these transformations have not only reconfigured societal relations but have also helped shape the country's foreign policy over the past seven years. As part of these transformations, Venezuela has expanded the means of democratic participation, grown and diversified the economy, pushed innovative social programs and put the country's energy sector to the service of the Venezuelan people and our neighbors in the Global South.



"The administration of President George W. Bush has looked upon Venezuela's new direction and energy proposals with disdain, skepticism and concern. This is due to the fact that Venezuela's new goals have clashed with Washington's insistence on free trade as the only means to development and integration, representative democracy as the only viable political organization of society, U.S. energy security as the sole consideration of global energy policy and the use of preventive war and transformational diplomacy as its main diplomatic tools"

-Ambassador Bernardo Alvarez Herrera

Heidi Shoup, Executive Director of the World Affairs Council of Washington D.C., believes strongly in providing a forum for expressing influential viewpoints on Latin American relations and reform, including that of Venezuela and Ambassador Herrera. "The Ambassador's remarks are a positive step towards fostering understanding between Venezuela and the United States, not only for energy and oil issues but for all foreign policy".

A transcript of Ambassador Herrera's speech can be found on our website, www.worldaffairsdc.org

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