



SECRETARY OF STATE ANTONY BLINKEN AND ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER, SANTIAGO CAFIERO.

Bilateral Relations

PRODUCTIVE MEETING BETWEEN FOREIGN MINISTER SANTIAGO CAFIERO AND SECRETARY OF STATE ANTONY BLINKEN

Region

ARGENTINA ELECTED TO CHAIR THE COMMUNITY OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES

Congress

FOREIGN MINISTER CAFIERO MET WITH NANCY PELOSI, SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE, AT THE CAPITOL

EMBASSY OF ARGENTINA, WASHINGTON, D.C.

ARGENTINA IN FOCUS

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From Left to Right: US Ambassador to Argentina, Marc Stanley, Foreign Minister Santiago Cafiero, Ambassador Jorge Argüello and Secretary of States, Antony Blinken. Photo Credit: US DoS.

PRODUCTIVE MEETING BETWEEN FOREIGN MINISTER SANTIAGO CAFIERO AND SECRETARY OF STATE ANTONY BLINKEN

The Argentine Foreign Minister, Santiago Cafiero, visited Washington DC between January 17 and 19. During his visit he met with Secretary of State Antony Blinken, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi, the Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Bob Menéndez, senior officials from the White House, Defense Department, State Department, and representatives of the main local think tanks.

The two foreign ministers held their meeting in the Thomas Jefferson Room in the State Department Harry Truman building.

Both officials highlighted the outstanding level of their bilateral relationship and the open and fluid dialogue between the two governments. They appreciate their shared principles, visions and interests, and discussed



Once again, I share with you the latest edition of our Embassy Newsletter. This edition includes an article about the meeting between Foreign Minister Santiago Cafiero and Secretary of State Antony Blinken in the Thomas Jefferson Room in the State Department Harry Truman building.

In this edition we also include an article on the VII CELAC Summit, which marked the start of Argentina's pro tempore presidency, elected by consensus.

Finally, an article on the constructive working meeting between Foreign Minister Cafiero with the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi, in her office at the Capitol.

Jorge Argüello
Ambassador to the United States

THEY DISCUSSED ISSUES RELATED TO THE CONSOLIDATION OF DEMOCRACY, THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, GLOBAL HEALTH AND THE FIGHT AGAINST THE PANDEMIC, THE COMMERCIAL RELATIONSHIP, SCIENTIFIC-TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION, AND THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM AND DRUG TRAFFICKING, AMONG OTHERS.

the promotion and protection of human rights, global health and the fight against the pandemic, the commercial relationship, scientific-technological cooperation, and the fight against terrorism and drug trafficking, among others.

The Argentine Foreign Minister stated that our country has embarked on a path aimed at consolidating macroeconomic stability and achieving a sustainable and inclusive economic growth. In addition, he expressed the need for the political support of the United States at the International Monetary Fund, to ensure that Argentina's growth is not constrained.

In this regard, Blinken maintained that he firmly supports the negotiations with the IMF and looks forward to a prompt positive resolution. He also highlighted the macroeconomic growth rates presented by Foreign Minister Cafiero and stressed Argentina's importance in the hemisphere. ■

issues of mutual interest on the global and regional stage.

They also stressed that the election of Argentina to preside over the United Nations Human Rights Council coincides with the United States rejoining this organization, which creates a very favorable scenario to work together to achieve their agenda.

Likewise, they discussed the recent appointment of our country to chair CELAC, which Argentina considers is an appropriate space to promote, together with the countries of the region, diverse regional cooperation initiatives and to strengthen links with the extra-regional partners. In addition, both ministers confirmed their presence at the ministerial meeting convened by Canada on Haiti on January 21.

During their review of the bilateral work agenda, they discussed issues related to the consolidation of democracy,

ARGENTINA ELECTED TO CHAIR THE COMMUNITY OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES

The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) was created in 2011 by the 33 countries that comprise the region. It is celebrating its first decade of life at a moment when it's seeking to renew and multiply its ties.

CELAC is a mechanism for consultation, unity and regional political dialogue, heir to the Rio Group. It held its VI Summit in September 2021, in Mexico. The VII Summit, which took place in Buenos Aires on January 7, 2022 marked the beginning of Argentina's pro tempore presidency, elected by consensus.

During the Plenary Session of the XXII Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of CELAC, the Argentine Foreign Minister, Santiago Cafiero, assured that "our common identity is a

political, social, economic and cultural construction", for which reason "we must continue to work together so that it does not stop". He also added that "we are part of a history and we are deeply proud of our culture of encounter, of our culture of peace."

Additionally, Cafiero unfolded an ambitious agenda that covers similar problems and common challenges to the countries of the region. It consists of 15 lines of action that Argentina proposes to discuss, in a "collective work commitment." These axes are the following: post-COVID economic recovery; regional health strategy; space cooperation; science, technology and innovation for social inclusion; comprehensive disaster management; education; institutional strengthening and CELAC agenda against corruption; food safety; dialogue with extra-

Foreign Minister Santiago Cafiero (L), President Alberto Fernández (Ctr.) & Mexican Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard (R). Photo Credit: Presidency.



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regional partners; integration of Latin American and Caribbean infrastructure; environmental cooperation; development and improvement of CELAC's operations; improvement of the situation and condition of women in the member countries; digital transformation and cooperation; and culture.

As stated by President Alberto Fernández, CELAC is a forum that has always promoted consensus and plurality within a framework of democratic coexistence without any kind of exclusions". This is why these characteristics are both part of its essence as well as a guideline for collective action.

President Fernandez's capacity for dialogue in the hemisphere allows Argentina to play an articulating role that can facilitate convergence. This is an opportunity not only for our country, but also for the region and its partners. ■



From Left to Right: Ambassador Jorge Argüello, Argentina Foreign Minister Santiago Cafiero, House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi and US Ambassador to Argentina, Marc Stanley.

FOREIGN MINISTER CAFIERO MET WITH NANCY PELOSI, SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE, AT THE CAPITOL

As part of the agenda carried out during his visit to Washington DC, Foreign Minister Santiago Cafiero held a constructive working meeting with the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi, in her office at the Capitol, seat of the United States Congress. Also present were Ambassador Jorge Argüello, the US Ambassador in Buenos Aires, Marc Stanley, the Chief of Staff of the Foreign Ministry, Ambassador Luciana Tito, and the Representative's National Security Advisor.

During the meeting, Speaker Pelosi fondly recalled her visits to our country and mentioned that some of her family's immigrants from Italy chose Argentina as their first destination, some of whom decided to remain there, while others settled permanently in the United States.

Likewise, the House Speaker evoked the substantial impact the Grandmothers and Mothers of Plaza de Mayo have had in protecting and promoting human rights in the region, a precedent of significant relevance currently, when the Argentine Republic chairs the United Nations Human Rights Council, a space where this issue's mutual significance for both governments' agenda provides a unique opportunity to coordinate their positions.

The Argentine Foreign Minister and Speaker Pelosi made reference to the commitment shared by Argentina and the United States to combat anti-Semitism and agreed on the need to redouble efforts to continue fighting this scourge, as well as to establish mechanisms to continue promoting this agenda.

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Finally, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship conveyed to the Speaker of the House of Representatives that the prompt restitution of the Generalized System of Preferences - a special import regime that is under legislative review in Congress - represents a high priority for Argentina, since the beneficiaries of this regime depend on it to have access to the United States market, and it conditions their competitiveness within it. ■

It should also be noted that both of them celebrated the value of the Argentine Caucus in the House of Representatives, a friendly parliamentary group similar to the one that exists within the Chamber of Deputies in our country. This instance in the US, co-chaired by the Democratic Representative from Connecticut James Himes and the Republican Representative from South Carolina Jeffrey Duncan, undoubtedly constitutes an important platform for building closer ties, mainly between legislators from Argentina and the US, with the aim of promoting exchanges and ideas that strengthen the bilateral cooperation.

Foreign Minister Santiago Cafiero also made reference to the negotiations that the Argentine government is holding with the International Monetary Fund and highlighted both the importance of maintaining the implementation of the policies that foster our country's economic recovery, and of reaching an agreement that supports the growth of Argentina. The importance of the United States in the decision-making process in that organization was also mentioned, and Speaker Pelosi reacted favorably to all these topics.