The SENTINEL-VOICE, December 26, 1985

## OUR HISPANIC NEIGHBORS

## **MONTERREY:** The Story Continues

I am Antonio, your guide. Let me continue the story of *El Cinco de Mayo* and of the Emperor Maximilian.

Yesterday, we saw how the Conservatives blamed President Juarez for all of Mexico's troubles. They wanted him to resign.

England, France and Spain sent troops to Mexico to collect their money. The English and Spanish troops were called back home, but Napoleon III, the Emperor of France, sent more French soldiers to Mexico.

On May 5, 1862, the French troops were defeated by the Mexican *guerrillas*. This was the first time a French army had lost a battle for a very long time. *El Cinco de Mayo* (the 5th of May) is a national holiday in Mexico (see *The ADVANCER*, Vol 2 no. 47).

Napoleon III was very angry. The French troops were the greatest army in all of Europe. He did not like having his soldiers defeated by the guerrillas of a poor country like Mexico. He sent 30,000 more soldiers to Mexico. The Mexican Conservatives joined with the French soldiers to defeat President Juarez' Republican army.

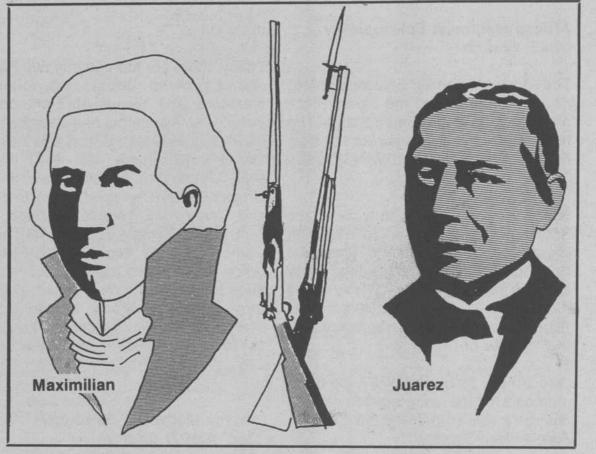
Juarez and some of his government officials left Mexico City. They knew they could not defeat so many French

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church. I want to help our Black community institutions as much as I can."

"How are your **filing** skills?" asked Charles.

"That is what I do best," said Lillian. "I started working in the office at school as a file clerk. There are a lot of school records to file. I am fast and **accurate**.



soldiers. They moved from place to place. Some of Juarez' generals *deserted* ran away). Some of his generals joined the Conservatives. Finally, Juarez and a few friends went into the desert to hide from their enemies.

On May 28, 1864, Archduke Maximilian, brother of the Emperor of Austria, landed in Veracruz. Napoleon had promised to help Maximilian to become the Emperor of Mexico. The Civil War in the United States ended in 1865. Napoleon was afraid that the U.S. would enter the war because of the *Monroe Doctrine* which says that foreign countries are not to meddle in the countries of North and South America.

Oh, I see we are out of time again. If you would like me to continue the story, meet me here tomorrow morning. I promise to finish it then. *Hasta luego! (Later!)* 

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"How about your spelling and gram- g mar?" Charles asked.

"I always check the spelling of words I'm not sure of in the dictionary," Lillian said. "I have learned many new words in this way. My grammar is pretty good, too. Do you have grammar books that I check with if I have a problem?"

"Yes, Lillian, we have several very good

grammar books that can help you. I really like your attitude. You are going to be a real help to me. I'm glad you answered our ad,'' Charles said.

"I'm glad that I always read our local Black-owned newspaper. It has helped me in so many ways." Lillian said. "I'll be doing something for our community and something for myself, too. You can't beat that combination!"

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