

# The Riddle

Durito appears in the postscript of this communiqué to give another clue to solve the riddle that first appears in “Of Trees, Criminals and Odontology” and continues in “Durito on Cartoonists.” This clue comes while the Zapatistas are consulting with their base communities of support regarding the first table of the San Andrés Accords on Indigenous Rights and Culture.

February 1996

To the National and International Press

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am sending this letter along with a communiqué to a familiar addressee.

I hope you will know how to interpret my lamentable and long absence from the epistolary medium. With such companions as were present, abstention was best. Now that, it seems, they have calmed down a bit, it is possible to relapse into so amiable a vehicle of expression. I am sure that you have already solved the riddle of the postscript “RORRIM EHT DNA OTIRUD” and that, of course, you will not tell me. For those who are still struggling, here is another clue (the previous one was in the letter-salutation to the Fifth European Gathering in Solidarity with the Zapatista Rebellion): there are seven times seven the seven mirrors. Simple, no? The governmental protests against the U.S. militarization of the northern border “forget” the national protests against the governmental militarization of the entire country. Why do they militarize Chiapas, Tabasco, Guerrero, Veracruz, Puebla and Oaxaca? To cover the backs of the governors in league with Salinas? Well, then soldiers need to be sent to Tamaulipas, Nuevo León, Chihuahua (yes, I know that it is dominated by the PAN, but for that very reason), and, “but of course,” the well-promoted (in Europe) Aguascalientes.

*Vale. Salud*, and please! tell the PRI not to assassinate any of its high officials before the Zapatistas finish consulting with their communities.<sup>1</sup>

From the mountains of the Mexican Southeast

Subcomandante Insurgente Marcos

Mexico, February 1996

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1 On February 16, 1996, after consulting with their communities, the EZLN, represented by 17 *comandantes*, signed the Accords of Indigenous Rights and Culture, which the government would later refuse to honor. Regarding assassinations, see note in “Durito Names Marcos Squire.”

P.S. that the early bird gets.

Durito says that in the next episode he will solve the riddle. There's nothing to it, with all his hands and feet calculations are a breeze. To whomsoever solves it on their own, we'll give, at no cost whatsoever, a two-hour long talking session with the ex-leftist, ex-GCI, ex-Trotskyite, ex-ultra, ex-MAP, ex-“forty-niner,” ex-*Punto Crítico*, and ex-smiley face, Jorge Del Valle.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> As a faculty member at the UNAM, Del Valle participated in the 1968 student uprisings and was also a member of the Internationalist Communist Group or GCI (Grupo Internacional Comunista) and other leftist groups.