

XXVII Mexico and United States of America Interparliamentary Meeting Joint Communique

The Mexico and United States parliamentary delegations gathered in Cancun in the framework of the XXVII Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Meeting. At the end of their deliberations they manifested the following:

— The XXVII Mexico-United States Interparliamentary meeting provided an opportunity for Representatives and Senators from both countries to review the fundamental issues on the political and economic agenda of our bilateral relations.

— The Meeting took place in an atmosphere of absolute frankness and with a constructive spirit. Problems were not eluded, difficulties were not avoided, and positive aspects and advances towards overcoming obstacles were objectively recorded.

— The delegations reviewed the international political and economic situation, as well as the premises underlying each nation's foreign policy. Differences and coincidences in this area were analyzed with objectivity and mutual respect.

As a result of their deliberations, the Mexican and North American congressmen coincided in drawing up the following considerations:

— Relations between Mexico and the United States can only develop constructively in an atmosphere of absolute respect for our peoples' sovereign right to decide over their own destiny.

— The XXVII Interparliamentary Meeting contributed to a better mutual understanding of the different perspectives and approaches resulting from our particular historical, social and cultural realities. Important points of agreement were also reached.

— Relations between our two countries require a propitious atmosphere for dealing with the basic issues in a mature and objective manner and from a global long-term perspective.

— Political accusations and unjustified public statements do not contribute to creating the favorable atmosphere to deal with the very specific challenges posed by our bilateral relationship.

— It is absolutely necessary to foment a better understanding of our diverse realities as well as to promote balanced cultural interchange to contribute to friendly relations based on mutual respect for the historical roots and social and cultural realities of each country.

The working group responsible for reviewing political issues reached the following conclusions:

— The situation in Central America must be dealt with by peaceful and negotiated means if the conflict is to be resolved.

— Peace in the region is accorded the highest priority, as is the need to reestablish conditions for social and economic development.

— The delegations agreed that regional pacification efforts

must be reactivated and strengthened. At the same time, they stated that Contadora must be supported and strengthened as a forum for dialog and agreement in Central America. In this context the Delegates welcomed the Arias Plan.

— The Delegates also coincided in the need to re-activate discussions between the Central American governments.

— The Mexican Delegation expressed its concern over the impact of the United States Immigration Law (Simpson-Rodino) on undocumented Mexican workers. In the same vein, it referred to the problems which have arisen in the United States because of the shortage of labor to harvest crops. The North American congressmen referred to the great contribution Mexican workers have made to the economy and culture of some states of the Union, and emphasized that it is regrettable that differences have arisen between the spirit of the Simpson-Rodino Bill and its application through its by-laws.

— The U.S. delegates reiterated that one of the Law's basic objectives was to avoid the exploitation of workers because of the lack of documentation, and that their rights as human beings and as workers would be protected.

— Both delegations agreed to ask the pertinent officials of the governments of the United States and Mexico to apply the flexibility which the North American Congress intended in the spirit of the Law, so as to allow Mexican workers access to their traditional sources of work, providing them with the opportunity to gather the documents they need to legalize their situation and to freely move back and forth between the two countries.

— At the same time they agreed to ask said officials to make sure that the human rights of undocumented Mexican workers are always respected and protected.

— The United States Delegation referred to the Commission to Study International Migration and Cooperative Economic Development which will soon begin to look at the consequences of the Simpson-Rodino Law for countries such as Mexico. In this sense, both delegations agreed to exchange information, something which on Mexico's side will involve placing at the disposition of said Commission the criteria and data which might be helpful for its work and especially in determining the law's various effects, including ones related to the human and labor rights of Mexican workers in the United States.

— Mexico and the United States took note of and praised their governments' efforts to combat the illegal use and traffic of drugs, as well as the job being done by Attorney General Sergio García Ramírez of Mexico and his U.S. counterpart, Edwin Meese III.

— In addition to agreeing to exchange any information related to legislative reforms in this area, the legislators agreed to try to go to the roots of the problem, to the causes giving rise to this scourge. They committed themselves to adapting and bringing up to date legislation to prevent and sanction these illegal actions.

— The delegates took up the commitment to search for new measures to help reduce the consumption and production of drugs. They discussed areas such as education and others af-

fectured by said traffic, and agreed to combat the sale of drugs and the use of profits from this illicit trade.

— They rendered tribute to those who gave up their lives in this line of duty.

— They recognized that in order to reinforce the struggle against international drug traffic, both sides must apply a constructive and cooperative regional approach.

— They called on their respective governments to ratify the Reciprocal Treaty for Legal Assistance, which provides for bringing drug traffic related crimes to trial.

— Both countries reiterated their approval of the agreement adopted in Colorado Springs at the XXVI Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Meeting, which refers to setting up an inter-governmental commission to study the measures adopted by both governments. This should produce recommendations for improving activities currently underway to combat international drug traffic, while maintaining respect for the sovereignty of the various nations involved.

— In relation to border and maritime issues, both delegations coincided in the need to give priority attention to the problems affecting the common border, especially to economic matters. At the same time, the delegations agreed to demand that officials in both countries facilitate the paperwork at border crossings to avoid unnecessary delays in the flow of goods and people.

— The Mexican Delegation recalled that an international agreement on the maritime limits of both countries has already been negotiated at a government level. This agreement is pending approval by the United States Senate. The Mexican Delegation requests that this matter be examined to make sure that the agreement goes into effect in the near future.

— Both delegations agreed to include the issue of radioactive waste and fallout and its effects on the environment, and the issue of nuclear testing on the American Continent, as subjects for analysis during the next Interparliamentary Meeting.

— The delegations also agreed to include the issue of mutual cooperation in the research, prevention and treatment of AIDS. They coincided in the need to cooperate and coordinate efforts with the World Health Organization and with other international institutions in the field of biomedical and health research.

The parliamentary delegations of Mexico and the United States who participated in the working group on economic matters manifested the following:

— They recognized the need to increase communication between both countries, and placed particular emphasis on the need for good trade relations between Mexico and the United States of America.

— They recognized the need to increase communication between the two Congresses on matters such as commerce, investment and others related to economic interchange.

— They recognized that both countries participate in a multilateral trade system and maintain absolute respect for the principles of said system. They are aware of the benefits that can be derived from increased international trade and will exert all their influence to prevent problems arising from protective measures.

— Within the framework of GATT, they recommended the elimination of all non-tariff obstacles to trade in order to allow for greater and more efficient access of farm products to the markets of both countries.

— They recognized the special role of border transactions in the area's development and the need to study measures for mutual cooperation on the problems arising in the border area in both countries.

— They acknowledged that the draw-back or in-bond assembly industry has become a sort of model of cooperation for the two countries to achieve industrial complementarity and to

improve the competitiveness of either side.

— They recognized that in order for Mexico to continue servicing its foreign debt, the country must substantially increase its income from exports.

— They recognized Mexico's advances in liberalizing trade and the careful and responsible efforts of the U.S. government to overcome the country's trade deficit through macro-economic corrective measure rather than through unilateral trade restrictions which might obstruct economic relations between the two countries.

— They recognized that the world's economic interdependence makes it necessary to face up to certain types of situations. It's impossible for each individual nation to seek solutions to its own problems without taking the international context into account. This translates into a political will on the part of both Congresses to foment and increase communication, dialog and negotiation between the two countries.

— They recognized that there is no mutual long-term financial policy, and that formulas for financial cooperation must be found to provide durable solutions to the problematic cycles of instability and uncertainty.

— The Mexican side recommended that the Federal Executive search for an adequate solution to the truck drivers' problems as a pilot proposal in order to stimulate trade between the two countries.

— The delegations dealt with the issues pertaining to tourism and agreed that Mexico has significantly improved security conditions for tourists and that relations between the two countries in this area are excellent, as results show. Thus, they urged the U.S. State Department to revise its quarterly report on the subject.

— The Presidents and members of both delegations agreed that the time has come to take a further step toward greater and more permanent communication between the Congresses of both nations, based on understanding and mutual respect for the sovereign rights of both legislative bodies.

— To this effect, it was recommended that a working sub-commission be set up with congressmen from both countries—four senators and four representatives each— within the framework of the Interparliamentary Conference. This body would be charged with maintaining communication in order to analyze common issues and problems and to follow up on agreements on specific matters. The sub-commission's work will be evaluated at the next Interparliamentary Meeting.

For the U.S. Delegation Rep. Eligio (Kika) De la Garza
Sen. Christopher J. Dodd

For the Mexican Delegation Dip. Nicolás Reynes Berezaluce

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