

# voices

of MEXICO

News, Commentary and Documents on Current Events in Mexico and Latin America

SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER 1986 NUMBER 1

2

## Presentation

### VOICES OF MEXICO

#### Editorial Board

Sergio Aguayo, Juan José Bremer, José María Bulnes, Jorge Bustamante, Jorge Carpizo, Juan Casillas, Ignacio Chávez, Carlos Fuentes, Margo Glantz, Rosario Green, Miguel León-Portilla, Jorge Alberto Lozoya, Jorge Madrazo, Hugo B. Margáin, Porfirio Muñoz Ledo, José Juan de Olloqui, Manuel Peimbert, Olga Pellicer, Ruy Pérez Tamayo, Gérard Pierre-Charles, Elena Poniatowska, Arcadio Poveda, Iván Restrepo, Federico Reyes Heróles, César Sepúlveda, Rodolfo Stavenhagen, Carlos Tello, Raquel Tíbol, Luis Villoro.

Director:	<b>Mariclaire Acosta</b>
Editor:	<b>Arturo Arias</b>
Assistant Editor:	<b>Rafael Azuela</b>
Design:	<b>Juan Escareño</b>
Art Director:	<b>Ofelia Infante</b>
Management:	<b>Arturo Arias</b>
Advisor to the Editors:	<b>Montserrat Gispert</b>
Distribution:	<b>Books on Wings</b>
Production Manager:	<b>Ofelia Infante</b>
Production Assistants:	<b>Marcie Mersky</b> <b>Megan Thomas</b>
English Translation:	<b>Marcie Mersky</b> <b>Megan Thomas</b>
Typography and Printing:	<b>Litográfica Oro S.A.</b>

### UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL AUTONOMA DE MEXICO



Rector:	<b>Jorge Carpizo</b>
Secretary General:	<b>José Narro Robles</b>
Administrative Secretary General:	<b>José Manuel Covarrubias</b>
Secretary to the Rector:	<b>Carlos Barros Horcasitas</b>
Attorney General:	<b>Eduardo Andrade Sánchez</b>
Coordinator of Humanities:	<b>Jorge Madrazo</b>

Direct all advertising and subscriptions to *Books on Wings*. P.O. Box 59, Vista Grande Station, Daly City, CA 94016, Tel.(415) 467-1454.

All editorial correspondence should be sent to *VOICES OF MEXICO*, Filosofía y Letras No. 88, Col. Copilco-Universidad, 04360 México D.F. Tels. (905) 658-5853 and (905) 658-7279. Allow 2 weeks for delivery.

*VOICES OF MEXICO* is published quarterly. Subscriptions are \$10.00 per year and \$14.00 for those other than in North America. Single issues are \$3.00 each.

All rights reserved. Registered at the Post Office as a periodical. Copyright under the International Copyright Convention. Copyright reserved under the Pan American Convention.

A great national debate is going on in Mexico today, with important ramifications that reach beyond the country's borders. It's as if we were at a kind of crossroads in our history; things that seemed indisputable dogma before, such as the role of the State in the economy, the laws which prevent the church from participating in political activities or the very concept of national sovereignty, are now being questioned again across the length and breadth of the country.

A variety of events fan the flames of the debate. For example, hearings in the U.S. Senate, which would normally have gone unnoticed, charging that Mexico is dragging its heels in the fight against drug traffic, acted as a catalyst to worsen the already deteriorated diplomatic relationship between our two countries. All this happened while we were hosts to the month-long Soccer World Cup. Thousands of foreign fans visited Mexico during it, as the country was submerged in the worst economic crisis of its modern history. No sooner was the Cup over, when electoral processes began in a number of places, to renovate a significant part of the country's local, political leadership.

All of this gives us some idea of the extremely tense climate that serves as context for the great national debate. We Mexicans are on edge and highly sensitive: for the first time in sixty years the foundations of the modern Mexican state, as it emerged from the Revolution, are being questioned all over again.

In this number, *VOICES OF MEXICO* hopes to lay out some of the issues in the debate, such as the effects of the current economic policy that the government has implemented, the role of foreign investment in the country, or whether the political system is really ready for a change towards bipartisanship, to name a few.

In this effort, we are concerned with processes, rather than with isolated events. Thus, we've taken up topics that may seem to be removed from the flow of daily life in the country; the articles on the *maquila* industry along the northern border and on CONASUPO, the state-owned regulatory enterprise for basic goods, are examples. Writing about them doesn't constitute "news," in the strict sense. Nonetheless, these and other issues, such as the problems of the Lacandon jungle or Mexico City's pollution, are important in the context of the debate we've mentioned. The ways in which they are faced by the nation as a whole will leave a major imprint over the coming years. That's why we've chosen to talk about them, and about events in Latin America that share a part of the logic of our own situation.

Finally, we present a panorama of Mexican life and culture, in which we discuss books, films, theater and exhibits. To do justice to an additional element of richness and variety in our lives, we've decided to incorporate a section on Mexican cooking, proud legacy of our cultural tradition. We hope our readers enjoy it.

**Mariclaire Acosta**