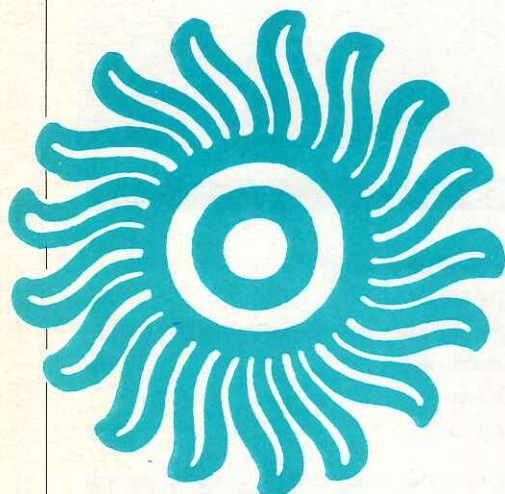


# Our voice

**I**n a world in which an increasingly active interrelationship is now the trend, and the exchange of ideas is fundamental, *Voices of Mexico* has been known in the United States for the last five years to have been doing very worthwhile work under the directorship of Mariclaire Acosta.

*Voices of Mexico* will continue to be published; the University authorities having decided to restructure it and to incorporate it with the The Center for Research on the United States. It will, therefore, go on providing the north of our continent with Mexican views on present international events, starting with this issue –No. 17– covering the last quarter of 1991.



*The majority of our northern neighbors know little about what Mexico is really like. The same is true here; Mexicans are often unaware of what people in the north are thinking. Because of this lack of knowledge, unnecessary problems arise –problems that would be avoidable if only we knew each other better.*

*However, this is no easy task: Mexico is the vanguard of the Latin nations of this hemisphere, bordering as it does on the Anglo-Saxon lands to the north. Social, cultural, political and economic differences make for difficult and complicated dialogue, which would be easier if there were a mutual effort to get to know the*

*different situations in the three countries of North America. This is even more urgent now because of the Free Trade Agreement that is being negotiated.*

*The aim of this magazine is to open more and more space for understanding based on objective knowledge –the source of mutual respect– which is essential if we wish to live together in harmony and justice.*

*The differences between the three countries are deep-rooted: up north the Anglo-Saxon and French cultures predominate, whereas here we have an Indian-Spanish one. The language is different and sometimes the ideals too.*

*The United States is now taking on an increasingly dominant worldwide role, as it no longer has to share it with the Soviet Union. From being bipolar, after the Second World War, the world is now, as we near the end of the century, becoming unipolar and the "Cold War" is becoming a thing of the past.*

*Mexico's position is different. Our attention is concentrated on solving social problems that have so far proved to be extremely difficult to eradicate. We are overwhelmed by mass poverty. The redistribution of wealth aims to achieve a fairer society, by narrowing the immense gap between rich and poor.*

*There is a big difference between our northern neighbors' economic development and that of Mexico. The United States is the richest power in the world. Canada too is a rich country, while we are still in the first, difficult stages of progress. There is enormous asymmetry in the economic field. In spite of the differences, we can and must live together in peace and harmony working out our common problems by dint of reason. The rules of thought are common to all of us. We are all subject to logic.*

*The Free Trade Agreement between Canada, the United States and Mexico opens up a historic opportunity for us, if we know how to negotiate it for our mutual benefit in all the different branches of the economy. The progress brought about by the enormous regional market –although all of us will have a share in it– will raise Mexico's standards of living. It has always been said that there is no progress without social justice, and social problems cannot be addressed without the resources stemming from development. In this issue several articles by well-known specialists comment on the regionalization of the northern part of this continent.*

*Mexico's contribution to world culture is extraordinary. The most outstanding Indian civilizations, with the exception of the Incas in the south, all developed here in Mesoamerica. During colonial times, New Spain left its permanent stamp of European culture enriched by its obvious syncretism with the native Indian civilization.*

*Modern Mexico is outstanding for its murals, its music, its architecture and its literature, to mention but four branches of culture. Our University is a prominent example of modern Mexican architecture.*

*Our literature received international recognition when Octavio Paz was awarded the Nobel Prize. Several years earlier, Alfonso García Robles had received the Nobel Peace Prize for his untiring work to bring about the signing of the Tlatelolco Treaty, by which nuclear weapons were outlawed in Latin America, but nuclear energy was allowed to be used for peaceful purposes. The Treaty proposed an exemplary change: atomic energy, instead of being used to kill and destroy, should be used for construction and progress. An energy that is unsurpassed up to now, the energy "the suns feed on", harnessed in the service of progress and peace.*

*Every issue of the magazine will present a sample of Mexico's past and present cultural riches.*

*Our task is to bring the voice of Mexico to the northern part of the continent, convinced as we are of the need to avoid disagreements arising from the lack of objective knowledge about what we really are. Let us make reason and dialogue our common strong points* ❧

**Hugo B. Margáin**  
Editorial Director