

A new era for Voices of Mexico

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Voices of Mexico was started with the aim of providing North American readers with information on cultural, social and political aspects of Mexico, and in particular those which might contribute to a better understanding between our two regions. The magazine was born of the conviction that those interested or potentially interested in Mexico should be better informed, and that the wider dissemination of knowledge and mutual awareness would have a positive effect on the relationship between our two societies.

Mari Claire Acosta, who directed the magazine from the time it was started, together with the rest of her team made an intense effort to realize this aim. The National University of Mexico wishes to express its gratitude for her dedication, and for the excellent results which she achieved.

This issue marks the beginning of important changes in Voices of Mexico, although the original objectives of the magazine have not been altered. The aim is to adapt our material to the changing relationship with our northern neighbors. First, starting with this issue, the magazine has been incorporated into The Center for Research on the United States. This change means that the Coordination of

Humanities will not merely maintain its present level of involvement, but even increase its interest and support for Voices of Mexico so that it might more fully achieve its goals.

From now on Voices of Mexico will be located in a research center, one of whose main purposes is to improve the relationship between Mexico and its northern neighbor. Some of the researchers at the center specialize in the analysis and development of this dialogue.

The links between Mexico, the United States and Canada are going through a period of redefinition and intensification. We need to increase the scope of our knowledge and sensitivity in regard to the implications which those changes will have on the economic, cultural, social and political life of Mexico. This is one of the principal tasks for The Center for Research on the United States. Likewise, there should be more information about the realities of Mexico in those countries.

The Center for Research on the United States, in spite of its present name, has also developed a program which studies Canada, which undoubtedly will become increasingly important. It has a nucleus of specialists with the necessary awareness and contacts to provide even greater and more effective means of keeping both our current and potential readers informed.

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We should like to emphasize that the University is conscious of the fact that while our relationships with our Anglo-Saxon neighbors are intensifying we should not weaken our historical ties with Latin America, whose links with us form a critical part of our national identity. Furthermore, the University is firmly convinced that these ties need to be strengthened to enhance cooperation in cultural, social, economic and political spheres. To this end, the University has several programs which are specifically oriented towards Latin America.

In the case of Voices of Mexico and the research center where it is published, this awareness takes the form of the need to ensure that the magazine remains receptive to topics and problems which we have in common with other Latin American countries, and which affect our relationship with countries in the northern hemisphere.

In the light of these objectives the decision of our university rector, José Sarukhán, to choose Hugo B. Margáin as the new director of the magazine was very fortunate. Hugo B. Margáin's intellectual, professional and diplomatic background make him an expert not only on Mexico, its connections with Latin America and the challenges it faces in the new international context, but also on the society and culture of the north. His prestige in intellectual and diplomatic spheres allows him to attract contributors of high quality and relevance, as he has done in this issue.

Finally, I would like to make special mention of the excellent work done by Mónica Vereá, the director of The Center for Research on the United States, who performed the delicate task of developing the magazine's approach, and making it a part of the center's program of activities 