

Our Voice



Drug addiction has become one of the most serious problems facing today's world. One hundred and six countries—including Canada, the United States, and Mexico—met in Vienna in 1988 to unify their efforts and stop the advance of—and if possible eliminate—drug use which is sapping both individual and collective energy, and threatening the security of numerous nations. Enormous quantities of money are spent to stem the tide of this crime; and on the other side it is one of the most lucrative illegal businesses in the world.

The participants at the Vienna meeting determined that production, trafficking, and consumption of drugs are all parts of one single crime. The struggle against and eradication of this poison was proclaimed to be the "collective responsibility" of everyone touched by any one of these stages.

The biggest drug market in the world is in the United States. Within its borders can be found the entire process, from production to consumption. Yet drugs must be smuggled in from abroad to meet America's demand.

The world congress also condemned money laundering and the banking system's practices of secrecy which

protect criminals made wealthy by dint of illegal activities.

In 1989, the Instituto de las Américas and the Center for Iberian and Latin American Studies at the University of California San Diego, with experts from several countries of the continent, studied the policies that have thus far been used to combat the drug problem. In this issue we publish their conclusions with regard to Mexico and the northern part of the continent.

This group's proposal is to focus government action on warning young people of the dangers of drugs which, while offering a short-lived escape from difficult realities, destroy the brain and the capacity to think: mankind's most precious gift. It has been demonstrated that pursuing only producers and traffickers is useless. As long as there is demand, there will be supply.

The NAFTA negotiations continue: in this issue some of our experts present their views, demonstrating, with those published in the last *Voices of Mexico*, the diversity of opinion in Mexico on this extremely important initiative between the three North American countries.

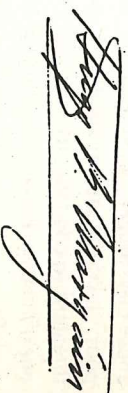
Our previous issue featured an article about the Olmec heads, one of the treasures

of our archeological heritage. In this issue we present a description of the remarkable and little-known El Zapotal in the State of Veracruz.

Here we also include an account of the most modern museum in Mexico—in the city of Puebla—as a follow-up to our presentation of the Anthropological Museum of Mexico City in our last issue.

Mexico's political parties were asked for their positions on one hundred and three subjects of national interest. Thirteen parties replied to the questionnaire, and we present here the answers of the three largest.

Voices of Mexico aims to bring Mexico's economic, political, social, and cultural opinions to the United States and Canada, and aims to reflect the variety and texture of standpoints which thrive in Mexican society and the increasingly plural world. ❖



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