

Mexico City

February 19, 1980

Two years of planification and exchange culminated today in the formation of the Hispanic American component of the bilateral Hispanic American-Mexican Commission. This historic event is the result of a suggestion made by President Lopez-Portillo to a meeting of Hispanic organizations in Mexico last September. President Lopez-Portillo took that opportunity to recommend the formation of a workable mechanism for exchange between Mexico and the several Hispanic organizations now existing in the United States. The President suggested this mechanism in order to minimize the duplication of requests made by various Hispanic American groups. The Commission could become a focal point of the interests of all groups.

A workable and representative group of Hispanic organizations was designated during a full morning session between leaders of several organizations and Dr. Guido Belsasso, Director General of Instituto Nacional de Estudios de Trabajo. Dr. Belsasso was representing the Secretario de Trabajo, Mr. Ojeda Paullada, who has already been identified by President Lopez-Portillo as one of the members of the Mexican component of the Commission. The Secretario de Educacion Publica, Mr. Fernando Solana Morales, has also been appointed as a representative to the Mexican component of the Commission.

Of the ten Hispanic organizations named to the Commission, eight were represented at the Monday session. The full list includes:

ORGANIZATIONREPRESENTATIVE

The American G.I. Forum of the U.S.

MR. LUPE SALDAÑA

Aspira of America

MR. MARIO ANGLADA

Image*

League of United Latin American Citizens

MR. RUBEN SANDOVAL

(LULAC)

Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational
FundMR. AL PEREZ
(MALDEF)Mexican American Women's National Association
(MANA)

MS. WILMA ESPINOZA

National Association of Farmworker Organizations
(NAFO)*

National Council of La Raza

MR. HECTOR de LEON for

National Forum of Hispanic Organizations

MR. RAUL YZAGUIRRE

SER-Jobs for Progress

MR. RODOLFO B. SANCHEZ

MR. PEDRO CARZA

* Unable to attend

It is important to note that during his meeting with the Hispanic organizations in September, President Lopez Portillo was quite clear that a better dialogue between Mexico and Hispanic Americans could be enhanced by the formation of this commission. The entity would in no way be seen as a vehicle for interfering in the internal affairs of the United States or Mexican governments.

Themes for dialogue between the Mexican representatives and the ten Hispanic American organization representatives already include tourism, education and cultural matters. It is hoped that both economic development and health as well as other areas of interest can be touched upon by the Commission.

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