

The original documents are located in Box 24, “2/25/76 - Remarks at Meeting of Delegates to the 16th Mexico - U.S. Interparliamentary Conference” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

TALKING POINTS: MEETING WITH MEXICAN INTER-
PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION

FEBRUARY 25, 1976

I AM PARTICULARLY PLEASED TO WELCOME YOU,

THE DELEGATES TO THE SIXTEENTH MEXICO-U.S. INTERPARLIAMENTARY

CONFERENCE, AND YOUR SPOUSES, TO THE UNITED STATES

DURING OUR HISTORICAL BICENTENNIAL YEAR.

THIS IS MY FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE YOU OFFICIALLY,

BUT AS A FORMER MEMBER OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

I AM WELL ACQUAINTED WITH YOUR MUTUALLY-BENEFICIAL ACTIVITIES.

LET ME TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CONVEY THROUGH

YOUR DELEGATION MY WARM PERSONAL GREETINGS TO

PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA, (eh-cheh-veh-REE-ah) WHO TOOK PART

IN THE PARLIAMENTARY MEETINGS HELD IN MEXICO LAST YEAR•

THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO HAVE LONG ENJOYED

FRIENDLY AND HARMONIOUS RELATIONS. MAINTAINING OUR

CLOSE RELATIONSHIP HAS BEEN ONE OF THE IMPORTANT GOALS

OF MY ADMINISTRATION.

IN FACT, MY FIRST TRIP OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES TO MEET WITH
A CHIEF OF STATE WAS MY MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA
IN OCTOBER 1974. WE DISCUSSED A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS
AFFECTING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES AS WELL AS
WORLD AFFAIRS IN GENERAL. WE SAW A LITTLE -- MUCH
TOO LITTLE -- OF BOTH OUR BIG COUNTRIES.

FRANK AND HONEST DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN OUR

GOVERNMENTS -- SUCH AS THIS INTERPARLIAMENTARY MEETING ABOUT

TO COMMENCE -- ARE VITAL TO OUR CONTINUED UNDERSTANDING

AND OUR COLLABORATION WITH OUR GOOD FRIENDS TO THE SOUTH.

WE ARE PREPARED TO CONTINUE OUR CONSULTATIONS AS REGULARLY

AS MEXICO DESIRES, AND ON AS COMPREHENSIVE A BASIS.

I CANNOT OVEREMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH

TO OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH MEXICO•

TRADE, TOURISM,

INVESTMENT, BORDER ACTIVITIES, CULTURAL TIES AND THE NARCOTICS

PROBLEM ARE JUST A FEW OF THE AREAS IN WHICH OUR COUNTRIES

ARE INTERDEPENDENT•

I KNOW THAT YOU HAVE A VERY BUSY PROGRAM AHEAD,
AND A VERY EXCITING ONE. IF YOU ARE SUCCESSFUL IN COMPLETING
THE LENGTHY AGENDA WHICH YOU PLAN TO DISCUSS, YOU WILL INDEED
MERIT THE BREATHING SPELL WHICH IS PLANNED FOR YOU IN VAIL,
COLORADO AT THE END OF YOUR VISIT.

I'M SORRY I WON'T BE ABLE TO JOIN YOU IN VAIL●

AS YOU KNOW, IT'S ONE OF MY FAVORITE PLACES● BUT MY

THOUGHTS WILL BE WITH YOU THEN, AND THROUGHOUT THIS

CONFERENCE, AS YOU CONTINUE YOUR IMPORTANT TASK OF BUILDING

ON THE CORDIAL RELATIONS THAT HAVE LONG EXISTED BETWEEN THE

PEOPLE OF OUR TWO GREAT COUNTRIES●

END OF TEXT