

Sixth Annual Briefing Session for Professional Journalists, sponsored by Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies to be held

May 23, 1986

Journalists reporting about economic and political events within Mexico will hear from a range of experts, including Mexico's Secretary of Foreign Relations Bernardo Sepulveda Amor, during the Sixth Annual Briefing Session for Professional Journalists, sponsored by the Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies at the University of California, San Diego.

The two-day symposium will take place June 9-10, at the La Jolla Marriott Hotel.

Sepulveda will give the keynote luncheon address entitled, "Mexico and the United States: Issues at Stake," at 1:40 p.m., June 9, to be followed by a brief question and answer period. The talk will focus on how the U.S. and Mexico can effectively manage the critical issues affecting their relations. Non-participating journalists are welcome to attend Sepulveda's address.

The keynote dinner speaker on June 9 will be Carlos Monsivais, a prominent literary critic, novelist and political columnist. Monsivais will discuss how Mexican intellectuals are dealing with their country's current economic and political crises.

The symposium will contain five panel discussions, focusing on matters of immigration, economics, political development, issues regarding Central America, and the role of the Mexican media. Panelists will include some of the leading political and economic figures in Mexico. Talking about Mexico's economy will be Salvador Kalifa, Chief Economist for Grupo Alfa, one of the largest private sector conglomerates in the world. Hector Aguilar, the editor for Nexos and La Jornada in Mexico City, and a leading political columnist, will address recent political developments in Mexico.

Other panelists are: Jaime Serra, director of the Center for Economic Studies, El Colegio de Mexico; Susan Drake, director of the Hispanic Children's Law Project which addresses issues of education, health care and the general treatment of children of immigrants; Laurence Whitehead, from Oxford University and the Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies, who will give a European perspective on the Reagan administration's policies regarding Mexico; Kitty Calavita, Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies, will discuss current immigration enforcement practices and whether or not they are effective, and Hector Tajonar, a producer and director for Televisa, Mexico's largest television network.

Donald L. Wyman, acting director of the Center, said, "The timing for this session is particularly critical. Important national elections will be held in Mexico in July. The economic crisis in the country is getting worse, political uncertainties are rising, social tensions are being aggravated. Many observers believe that Mexico has become one of the most serious foreign policy concerns for the United States."

Sepulveda is the second-highest ranking officer in the Mexican Government. Before attaining his present post, he was Ambassador of Mexico to the U.S., and Secretary of International Affairs of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), from October 1981 to March 1982.

As a member of Mexican delegations to United Nations' conferences, Sepulveda attended the Third U.N. Conference on the Law of the Sea and the Vienna Conference of the Law of Treaties. He was also President to the United Nations Sixth Commission on Transnational Corporations, serving as Mexican representative to that commission since 1977. Since 1967, Sepulveda has been Professor of International Law and of International Organizations at El Colegio de Mexico.

The purpose of these annual symposiums for journalists is to provide participants with informed analyses and stimulating discussion to help them understand and convey through the media the nature and importance of the profound economic, political and social change which modern Mexico is currently undergoing.

Ricardo Chavira, representing Time Magazine, said the symposium was the "most practical and helpful meeting that I have attended in many years." Joseph Reaves of the Chicago Tribune, said, "Excellent. An investment that will yield daily dividends for a long, long time."

For registration information, contact Graciela Platero, at (619) 452-4503.

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