

Media Advisory, The Bilateral Commission on the Future of United States-Mexican Relations to meet; co-chairs Sen. Hugo Margain and William D. Rogers available to speak to media

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MEDIA ADVISORY

EDITORS: The Bilateral Commission on the Future of United States-Mexican

Relations will meet in the San Diego-Tijuana area on October 9-11. On October 9-10 they will meet in Tijuana, and on Saturday, October 11, they will meet at the Institute of The Americas on the University of California, San Diego campus.

The meetings are CLOSED to the public and the media, but commission co-chairs Sen. Hugo Margain of Mexico and William D. Rogers of the United States will be available to the media, should there be interest in speaking with them, at the Institute of the Americas.

DATE: Saturday, October 11

TIME: 2 p.m.

LOCATION: West patio of the Institute of the Americas Building, UCSD.

RSVP: Please contact the UCSD Public Information Office, (619) 534-3120 by Friday, October 10, if a representative of your organization would be interested in speaking with Sen. Margain or Mr. Rogers on Saturday.

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News from the Ford Foundation

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New York, September 11--The Ford Foundation today announced the formation of an independent Bilateral Commission on the Future of United States-Mexican Relations. The group will undertake a two-year study and issue public recommendations in late 1988.

Franklin A. Thomas, the Foundation's president, said that the project will explore constructive ways of managing U.S.-Mexican affairs during the coming quarter century. "We have asked the commission to address the full range of tough issues affecting the common interests of the two countries," he explained, "including debt, trade, migration, Central America, and drugs. No two neighbors face the problems Mexico and the United States confront. We need a hard look at the long-run trends, at the prospects for mutual understanding, and at realistic opportunities for bilateral cooperation."

He also stressed that the project is an independent undertaking. Though funded by the Foundation, the commission will operate with complete autonomy. Its members will speak as individuals.

Ernesto Fernandez Hurtado, a leading member of the public banking sector and ex-director of the Bank of Mexico;

Carlos Fuentes, novelist and literary critic;

Socorro Diaz, senator from the State of Nayarit and director of the newspaper El Dia; and

Mario Ojeda, president of the College of Mexico.

"Senator Margain and I look forward to working with such a professionally distinguished and broadly representative group of citizens," Mr. Rogers said. "Their willingness to serve underscores both the seriousness and the importance of U.S.-Mexican relations."

The commission will hold its first meeting on October 9-11 in the border cities of Tijuana and San Diego. It will thereafter meet three or four times a year, in various sites in Mexico and the United States. "We plan to invite current and former officials of both countries to address the commission on selected issues," Mr. Rogers added, "and to seek the advice and counsel of experienced practitioners. This will be an open process."

"The publication of our recommendations in the fall of 1988 will coincide with the inauguration of new presidential administrations in both countries," Senator Margain observed. "We are hoping to make an impact on the 1990s and beyond."

Staff directors for the project will be Rosario Green, director of the Matias Romero Institute in Mexico, and Peter H. Smith, professor of history and political science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. They will also jointly chair a research committee composed of prominent scholars from the two countries that will produce background papers for the commission.

The commission will be co-chaired by Hugo Margain, currently a member of the Mexican Senate, and William D. Rogers, a Washington lawyer and long-time specialist on hemispheric affairs. Margain has been secretary of the treasury in Mexico and ambassador to the United States. Rogers is former under secretary of state for economic affairs and former assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs.

Other members of the commission from the United States are:

Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, a Los Angeles attorney and former congresswoman; Henry Cisneros, mayor of San Antonio;

Lawrence S. Eagleburger, former under secretary of state for political affairs and now president of Kissinger Associates, Inc.;

Roger W. Heyns, president of the Hewlett Foundation;

Nancy Kassebaum, senator from Kansas;

Robert S. McNamara, former secretary of defense and former president of the World Bank;

Charles W. Parry, chairman and chief executive officer of the Aluminum Company of America; and

Glenn E. Watts, recently retired president of Communications Workers of America and former vice president of AFL-CIO.

Commission members from Mexico are:

Hector Aguilar Camin, journalist and newspaper editor;

Gilberto Borja, president of a major construction firm in Mexico City; Juan Jose Bremer, chair of the committee on foreign relations of the Mexican Chamber of Deputies;

Fernando Canales Clariond, businessman from Monterrey and recent opposition candidate for the governorship of the state of Nuevo Leon;

The Ford Foundation has long been active in Mexico and has an office in Mexico City. In addition to fostering research and development on socioeconomic issues, the Foundation has supported programs on U.S.-Mexican relations in both Mexico and the United States. The new project is "an outgrowth and extension of previous efforts," Mr. Thomas noted. "It does not supplant them in any way. In addition to sponsoring the work of the bilateral commission, the Foundation will continue its longstanding commitment to Mexico and Mexican development."