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Mexico

Post Report



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Preface

Mexico City has been a world capital for centuries. To drive from the Cathedral in the Zocalo situated on the site of the ancient Aztec Temple, through the last vestiges of the colonial city, and up Avenida Reforma to Chapultepec Park, is to experience one of the world's great urban environments. Mexico City's Zona Rosa has moderately priced, first-rate restaurants. Shopping in both Mexico's small towns and major cities offers buyers a wide variety of handmade goods. Mexico is one of the world's few countries which has not only preserved its handicraft industry but is expanding it.

The climate in Mexico City, Guadalajara, Tijuana, and Mazatlan is delightful. Mexican beaches are world famous. Its colonial cities are unique and its pre-Columbian ruins are unmatched. Mexico is a tourist paradise that surrounds the everyday lives of Mission employees.

An assignment to Mexico can be exciting and rewarding and a high point in a Foreign Service career.

Cover: Popocatepetl Volcano, as viewed from Tlalmananco, State of Mexico.

Photos on Cover and pages 2, 17, 18, 19, 24, 28, 32, 38, 42, 50, 51, 53, and 54 appear courtesy of the Mexican Government Tourist Council.

This is the official post report prepared by the post. The information contained herein is directed to official U.S. Government employees and their families. Any other information concerning the facts as set forth herein is to be regarded as unofficial information.

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The Host Country

Area, Geography, and Climate

Mexico, about one-fourth the size of the U.S., is Latin America's third largest country. The terrain ranges from low desert plains and jungle-like coastal strips to high plateaus and rugged mountains. In the high plateau of south-central Mexico lies the Valle de Mexico, called "Anahuac" or "Country by the Waters" by the native Indians because of the area's many lakes during the pre-Hispanic period.

Plateau regions are temperate; mountain temperatures are cool; and seacoast temperatures are hot. The country experiences a rainy season from June to October and a dry season from November to May. Southern and eastern Mexico receive the heaviest rainfall. The longest of Mexico's few rivers is the Rio Grande, known in Mexico as the Rio Bravo. Small boat harbors are numerous, but few are of major importance, and many first-class natural harbors are undeveloped. Veracruz, on the gulf coast, is the main seaport. Since June 4, 1976, Mexico has enforced a 200-mile maritime economic zone.

Although Mexico shares a 2,000-mile border with the U.S., its history, people, customs, and way of life are distinctly its own.

Population

Mexico has a population of 68 million (1980 census). It has the second largest population of any Latin American country and is the world's most populated Spanish-speaking country. Nearly 50% of the population live in the central plateau region (14% of the national territory). About two-thirds are mestizo (mixed Indian and Spanish blood); Mexico has avoided the division of other Latin American countries by proudly considering its population a distinct Mexican race.

Mexico began an aggressive and far-reaching national family planning effort in 1973 to reduce the population growth rate from its all-time high of 3.5% in 1973 to its current 2.7% level. Mexico is one of



This map of Mexico shows the location of the Embassy in Mexico City and the other nine constituent posts which make up U.S. representation in Mexico.

the most successful in reducing its population growth rate. The target population growth rate of 1% is to be achieved by 2000.

Spanish is the national language, but in some areas only Indian dialects are spoken. The literacy rate is about 72%.

Mexicans are generally friendly and courteous and usually act more formally on social occasions. Handshaking is the minimum greeting among both men and women; more often the warm "abrazo" is exchanged among close friends.

Public Institutions

The country's official name is the United Mexican States (Estados Unidos Mexicanos). The Mexican constitution of February 5, 1917, provides for a Federal Republic composed of 31 States and the Federal District, where the capital is located. The constitution provides for in-

dependent executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the Federal government.

The executive branch is dominant; its power is vested in the President, who promulgates and executes the laws of the Congress and also legislates by executive decree in certain economic and financial fields. The President is elected by universal adult suffrage for a 6-year term and may not be reelected. In the absence of a Vice President, when an incumbent President is removed from office, or dies, Congress elects a provisional President. However, if this occurs within the first 2 years of a term, new elections are held.

Congress is composed of a Senate and a Chamber of Deputies. Sixty-four Senators (two from each State and the Federal District) are elected to 6- and 3-year terms. Under constitutional and legislative reforms adopted in 1977, the Chamber of Deputies was enlarged to include 300 Deputies to be elected in single-member districts by a plurality system and 100 Deputies to be elected by proportional

representation from the minority parties. This guarantees minority representation in the Chamber.

The judicial system consists of local and Federal courts, including a Supreme Court. The President appoints Supreme Court justices, upon Senate approval. The Mexican judicial system is based on Roman civil law.

State governments are headed by an elected Governor and have unicameral legislatures. The Governor serves for 6 years. Gubernatorial elections are not held concurrently with Federal elections. The President appoints the Regent who is chief executive officer of the Federal District.

Local government is on a municipal level. Mayors and city council members are popularly elected for 3-year terms.

Arts, Science, and Education

Mexico City is also Mexico's cultural center. Mexican people have a high degree of cultural awareness. To some extent this is due to both official and private efforts to foster and popularize Mexico's cultural heritage. Several foreign cultural exchange institutes and numerous museums, galleries, and other cultural centers support intellectual and artistic activities.

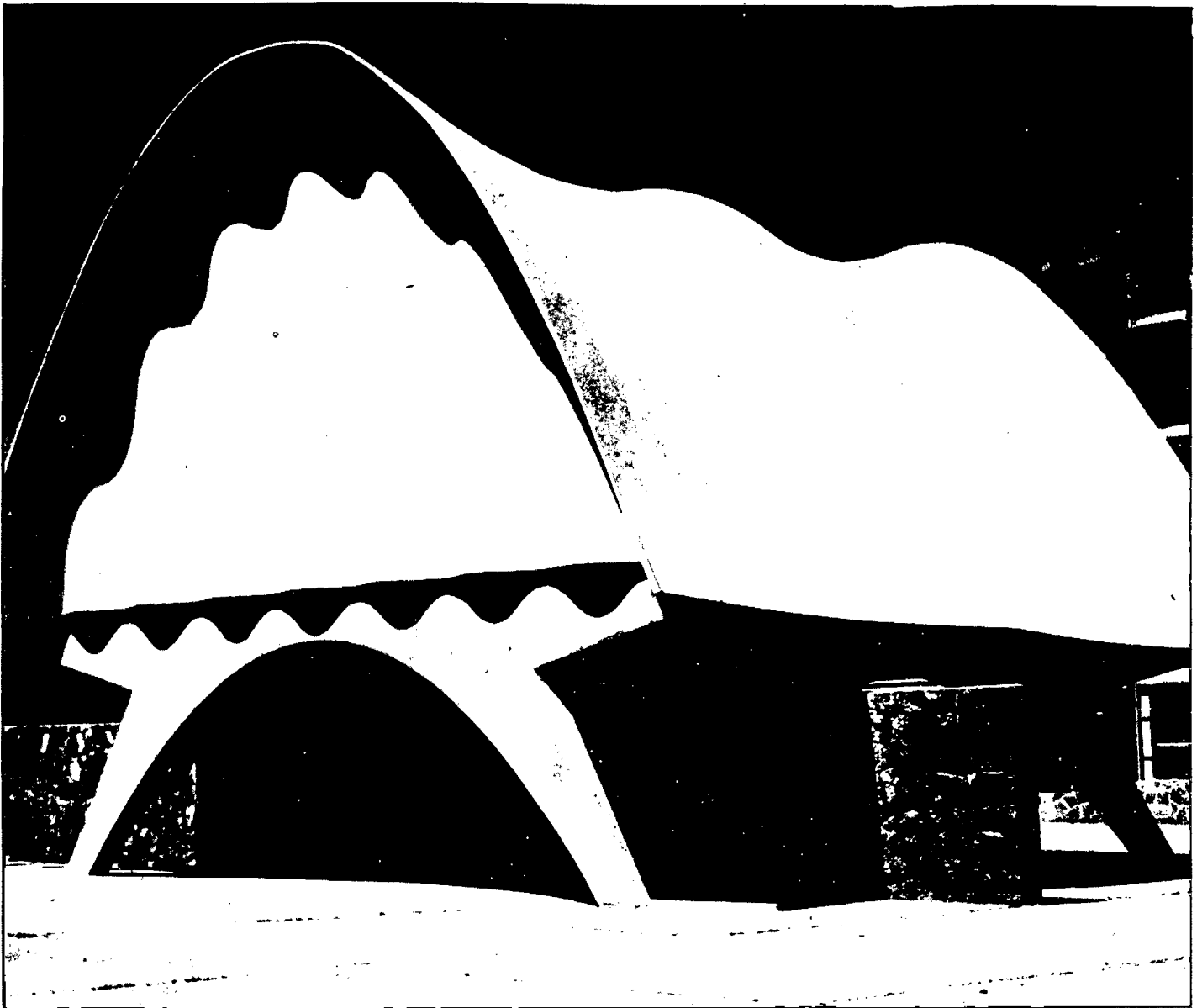
Public and private efforts have been made to bring cultural presentations to areas outside the capital. Most cities have facilities for performances of traveling theatrical and musical groups.

Fifteen U.S.-Mexico binational centers promote friendship and understanding

between Americans and Mexicans. Called "institutos" or "centros," these self-supporting, nonprofit institutions accomplish cultural exchange through teaching English (more than 30,000 Mexicans learn English annually); teaching Spanish to foreigners; maintaining a library; and sponsoring concerts, art exhibits, lectures, and seminars involving the leadership and youth of their communities. The oldest center is located in Mexico City at Hamburgo 115; the newest center is also in Mexico City at Colonia del Valle, Xola 416. USIS has information on these centers.

Benjamin Franklin libraries, sponsored by USIS, are located in Mexico City and Guadalajara, and, under special ar-

Scientific research is pursued at the university level. Shown here is the Laboratory of Cosmic Rays.



rangement with the Binational Center, in Monterrey. They are U.S.-style libraries with free public services. The libraries also sponsor cultural activities similar to the Binational Centers.

Personnel at border posts can take advantage of cultural activities in U.S. border towns, particularly in cooperation with nearby universities, colleges, and secondary schools. They and their dependents often attend these schools.

The National Autonomous University of Mexico is one of the oldest institutions of higher education in the Americas. It shares a prestigious reputation with the Colegio de Mexico, the Autonomous Technological Institute of Mexico, and the Ibero-American University. Because instruction is in Spanish, Americans prefer the University of the Americas where some classes are taught in English. The university's main campus is in Cholula, near Puebla. A branch campus is in Mexico City near the Embassy. Dependents often attend universities, private colleges, and junior colleges in the U.S.

Commerce and Industry

Mexico's economy has undergone a period of unprecedented crisis, resulting from 4 years of excessive government spending. Although government spending generated an economic growth rate of over 8% for 1978-81, it also created inflationary pressures and an economically unhealthy reliance on external borrowing.

The new administration's 10-point "Immediate Program for Economic Recovery" includes a reduction in the growth of public sector spending, encouragement of production programs, and the maintenance of a mixed economy, partially state-owned or -dominated and partially privately owned. The President also supported negotiations for a 3-year stabilization program with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The plan, ratified in December 1982, includes a \$3.9 billion loan to Mexico over a 3-year period.

For the first time in 39 years, real economic activity declined (by 0.2%) in 1982, and the 1983 output is also expected to decline.

To complement adjustment programs, a new exchange rate became effective on December 20, 1982. A dual exchange rate system was introduced. A third exchange rate, established to cover the payment of dollar-denominated debts within Mexico, was abolished on March 14, 1983. The dual exchange rate consists of a "free"

rate and a controlled rate, the latter for the payment of principal and interest on the public sector external debt, interest on the private sector debt, and for improved exports.

In order to ease the expected rise in unemployment, the administration announced a job-creating project in December 1982, which expects to provide some 500,000-700,000 public works jobs for both the urban and rural unemployed.

Public sector overall spending is projected to decline in real terms in 1983. A reduction in real expenditures is expected in all sectors, including the petroleum industry, which is a marked departure from earlier spending patterns.

Severe shortages of foreign exchange have characterized Mexico's economic crisis. The government is arranging \$2 billion in official credits to facilitate needed imports of food, spare parts, and basic industrial inputs. The U.S. will provide 50% of the credits. The Mexican Government has received trade-related loans from the World Bank. It is also seeking additional World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank funds. Mexico has also successfully negotiated a \$5 billion commercial bank loan from the country's external creditors.

Inflation soared in Mexico, as reflected in the national consumer price index, by 98.8% from December 1981 to December 1982, compared with 28.7% for the same period a year earlier. Such inflation rates were unprecedented in Mexican history. The dramatic change in the peso's value (which was devalued 83% in dollar terms during 1982) helped push prices up. This also affected net financing in the banking system, as banks were unable to attract new depositors and private sector demand for funds dropped steeply.

Mexico's balance of payments was altered dramatically in 1982, due principally to the high costs of imports resulting from the depreciation of the peso against the dollar, higher tariffs, and from August onward, the scarcity of dollars. Imports fell 39.7% from 1981 to 1982, and the trade balance registered a surplus for the first time in 39 years. Although a sharp drop in imports was responsible for the marked shift in the trade balance, the lower import volume has severely affected the country's productive capacity. Shortages of imported goods are forcing slowdowns or stoppage in many industries. The short-

ages, in turn, aggravate the unemployment problem. Foreign exchange earnings have been affected by a decline in world oil prices, as petroleum is an important Mexican export. Foreign tourists (a major revenue source) declined by 6.7% in 1982, in light of the unsettled economic situation. On the other hand, the decline in Mexican tourism to the U.S., brought on by the peso/dollar parity change, has adversely affected the U.S. border economy.

Mexico's economic outlook for the next few years will reflect the administration's ongoing measures to adjust current economic imbalances.

The most dramatic change resulting from the economic crisis and adjustment program has been in Mexico's external accounts. The sharp decline in imports in the second half of 1982 has continued. Imports in 1983 are projected at \$1-\$2 billion less than the \$14 billion 1982 total. The government is planning a significant improvement in nonpetroleum exports in 1983, to generate foreign exchange and maintain production levels in the face of declining domestic demand.

In order to encourage foreign investment, the administration has granted exceptions to the 1972 Foreign Investment Law, which limits foreign participation in a given enterprise to 49% of the equity. Foreign investment could offset the sharp decline in the level of domestic savings and the decline in public and private investment.

The former administration nationalized the Mexican banking system on September 1, 1982. Legislation passed in December 1982 permits up to one-third of the bank's shares to be bought by the public, although no one person or company can hold more than 1% of a bank's equity.

Mexico has been the third largest market for U.S. imports in recent years. The \$10 billion decline in total Mexican imports from 1981 to 1982 is estimated to have cost thousands of U.S. jobs. According to U.S. Department of Commerce data, U.S. exports to Mexico declined 32% from 1981 levels to less than \$12 billion in 1982. In addition, the scarcity and sharply higher cost of dollars have meant payment arrears which have hurt revenues and profits for many U.S. firms. Mexican imports are expected to continue to decline in 1983. Due to a severe drought, food imports are expected to surpass \$2 billion in 1983, implying that food will have a historically higher share of total imports.

Transportation

Automobiles

An automobile is desirable at all posts. Air-conditioning is recommended for lower altitude posts where year-round temperatures reach uncomfortable highs and in Mexico City to filter pollution. In the more temperate climates, like Guadalajara, air-conditioning is optional but desirable.

GM, Ford, Chrysler, American Motors, Datsun, Renault, and VW cars are made in Mexico, and adequate repair services are available for these makes. Good auto service, especially for power steering, power brakes, and automatic transmissions is hard to find and expensive. Many people find that the simplest cars get the best service. However, traffic and parking make power steering and automatic transmissions desirable. Costs for parts are high, and Mexican products are not up to U.S. standards; parts for late model American cars (even though the same model is manufactured in Mexico) often cannot be obtained in Mexico and must be ordered from the U.S., which delays repair work. Install a locking gas cap before coming to Mexico.

Some cars, especially large ones with optional equipment, can lose up to 25% of their power at Mexico City's altitude; such cars should have 8-cylinder engines. Many single people and employees with small families prefer compacts or midrange models. To insure efficient operation of your car in Mexico City, have it tuned for high altitude either before or after arrival at post.

Gas is sold only by the government monopoly "Pemex." Keep tanks full when traveling cross country, since gas stations are not as numerous as in the U.S. However, enough stations on major routes can supply most gasoline needs. Two grades of gasoline are available: Pemex Extra, in a silver pump, is 94 octane unleaded; Pemex Nova, in a blue pump, is 81 octane and leaded. Extra is becoming scarcer, especially outside metropolitan areas. Although diesel fuel is available, it is hard to find away from the main highways.

Driving is on the right. Major U.S. border points and Mexico City are linked by hard-surfaced roads. The best route to Mexico City and points south is Highway 85 which begins at Nuevo Laredo and proceeds south through Monterrey, then connects with Highway 40 to Saltillo and Highway 57 to Mexico City. However, the road is mostly two lane, and traffic, especially commercial, is heavy. Average

time from Laredo to Mexico City is 14 to 15 hours of hard driving; a good midway stopping point is in Matehuala, which is almost exactly halfway. A more scenic route south of Monterrey but more time consuming and arduous is via Ciudad Victoria on a continuation of Highway 85. Toll roads (cuota) are designated by the letter "D" after the highway number and are safer and faster than free (libre) routes.

Another route leaves the U.S. at Nogales, Arizona, and reaches Mexico City via Mazatlan and Guadalajara. The road from El Paso, Texas, through Chihuahua, Hidalgo de Parral, Durango, Zacatecas, Leon, and Queretaro is also good but not as scenic. Good overnight accommodations exist on all routes. The Mexican Department of Tourism provides a reliable highway emergency assistance patrol, easily spotted by its green service truck.

When the Embassy receives your assignment notice, detailed driving directions will be sent to you. Wandering livestock is a serious nighttime driving hazard on all highways. For this reason, and as a security precaution, employees on official travel are prohibited from driving after sundown, and personal travel by car at night is not advised.

City police officers often stop cars with out-of-country license plates for minor traffic violations.

All personal vehicles can enter Mexico for the first time on a tourist basis by obtaining a Mexican temporary import permit at the border. You will need a U.S. car title or other proof of ownership as well as a valid drivers license. Upon arrival at post, the Embassy General Services Office (GSO) will document the car through the Foreign Ministry. You must have third-party liability insurance issued by a Mexican company. This requirement **must** be enforced since Mexican law requires the driver of a vehicle involved in an accident to show proof of financial responsibility. In the absence of such a guarantee, a driver may be held, pending court settlement. You must carry proof of insurance in your car. Several insurance companies offer plans which automatically cover you for 30 days after crossing the border. Contact one of these firms before entering Mexico, to alert them to your travel plans. All incoming personnel receive information on liability insurance.

Comprehensive and collision insurance is available from both U.S. and Mexican companies. The Foreign Service Lounge has brochures of U.S. companies.

The Embassy assists employees and dependents (minimum age 18) in acquiring Mexican driver permits. A valid license, regardless of origin, will suffice until a Mexican permit is obtained. Dependents aged 16-18 with a valid U.S. license must take a short drivers education course and have written parental approval to obtain a valid Mexican license. The GSO has further information.

The Mexican Government closely regulates importation and operation of privately owned motor vehicles and applies special rules to personnel of foreign diplomatic and consular establishments. The following rules apply to all American employees and dependents assigned anywhere in Mexico:

- The Mexican Government regulates automobile manufacture and assembly in Mexico, and diplomatic and consular employees can import only those makes and models similar to those made or assembled in Mexico. These acceptable cars are labeled Category A and are listed for model year 1972 and later; all unlisted makes and models, assembled in Mexico or not, may not be imported. No car over 10 years old may be imported. A list of cars acceptable for import is pouched to all incoming personnel upon receipt of assignment notice at post.

- Diplomatic and consular officers and all members of the technical and administrative staff of the Mission, including constituent posts, may import only one Category A vehicle during their tour, regardless of the length of tour or transfer within Mexico.

All employees may purchase, without limitation, cars manufactured or assembled in Mexico or fully eligible for sale in the country, but they are expensive.

At times the Mexican Government has interpreted its rules in different ways. GSO must approve importation of any vehicle before entry into Mexico. Cable approval requests, including the vehicle's make, model, and serial number.

Local and Regional

Air transportation is good between major Mexican and U.S. cities. Seven U.S. airlines, two Mexican, and several others provide service from Mexico to the U.S. and other countries. Service among the Mexican cities where American Consulates are located is acceptable.

Railroad service within Mexico and between Mexico and the U.S. is slow but adequate, and fares are low.



Traffic congestion adds to Mexico's severe pollution problems. Shown here is Paseo de la Reforma on a smoggy day.

Mexico also has an extensive bus system providing service throughout the country and to and from the U.S. However, buses are often overcrowded and accidents are numerous. Alternate ways of traveling are recommended.

Daily flights are available between Mazatlan and Mexico City, as are several flights each week to Los Angeles, Denver, Tucson, Phoenix, Dallas, San Francisco, Seattle, and El Paso. Mexican rail lines

connect Mazatlan with other cities in Mexico, as well as with the border at Nogales, Arizona, and Mexicali, Baja California. Also, Route 15, an all-weather road, connects Nogales, Arizona, with Mazatlan.

Bus transportation within Mazatlan is adequate. To enjoy the post fully, as well as many nearby beautiful mountain resorts, you need a car.

Communications

Telephone and Telegraph

Local and international service is good, and both national and international calls may be dialed directly. Long-distance calls are accepted in English. Rates for local service are lower than in the U.S., but long-distance rates (domestic and international) are higher. Telephone credit cards are accepted. All employees are eligible for the 35% tax exemption on long-distance calls.

At certain posts, including Mexico City, obtaining a telephone for new residences in suburban areas can be difficult and may involve a long wait. If possible, rent quarters with a telephone.

Domestic and international telegraph service is good. Telegrams are accepted in English and may be billed to home telephone numbers.

Mail and Pouch

Letters may be sent by open international mail, by Department of State pouch, or via the post office box in Laredo, Texas. Transmittal time by all three routes between Mexico City and Washington, D.C., averages 10 days. The fastest, most reliable service is through the Laredo, Texas, address. Department pouch facilities are recommended when sending important documents. Parcel post, periodicals, and letters can be sent through either the pouch facilities or the Laredo post office. Addresses are as follows:

All mail via Laredo

Full name
U.S. Embassy, Mexico City
P.O. Box 3087
Laredo, Texas 78041

Letter mail via pouch

Full name (Agency)
Post
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Packages and periodicals via pouch

Full name (Agency)
Post
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20521

Parcels weighing up to 2 pounds are sent via air pouch, as are all properly identified packages containing prescription medicines, prescription eyeglasses, hearing aids, batteries, prosthetic devices, orthopedic shoes, and other emergency items for health and welfare, regardless of weight.

Packages sent via pouch cannot weigh more than 40 pounds, be more than 24 inches in length, or exceed 62 inches in length and girth combined. Items cannot be registered or insured. Liquids, fragile items, perishables, explosives, and tobacco products are prohibited. Domestic postage must be paid to Washington, D.C. Customs declarations are not required. The Department of State will accept no responsibility for loss or damage to mail via

Department pouch facilities. In addition, mail sent through Laredo can be registered and/or insured only to Laredo, Texas. No insurance or registration is possible once it crosses the border into Mexico if it has been addressed to Laredo.

Merida. Address magazines and periodicals from the U.S. as follows:

Full name
AmConsul, Merida
P.O. Box 3087
Laredo, Texas 78041

Radio and TV

Radio VIP, affiliated with CBS, is an English-language FM radio station in Mexico City. It provides music and world news coverage 18 hours daily. Guadalajara's English-language radio station also offers music and major network coverage.

Both color and black-and-white TV programs are broadcast in Mexico and, although most programs are in Spanish, a few U.S. productions (mainly movies) are broadcast in English with Spanish subtitles. Cablevision is available in many parts of Mexico City; a fee for installation is charged and a monthly subscription costs about US \$180. Cablevision carries mostly U.S. programs and broadcasts about 12 hours daily. Consular posts near the U.S. border can receive U.S. TV broadcasts.

U.S. TV sets (both color and black and white) can be used in Mexico and are of better quality than those available here. Mexico City has converted completely to 60 cycles, but voltage regulators protect TV's, stereos, and fine AM-FM equipment against periodic current surges. Voltage regulators are available locally.

Newspapers, Magazines, and Technical Journals

U.S. newspapers are sold in most large Mexican cities, although prices are higher than in the U.S. *The News* is a daily English-language newspaper with adequate world and local coverage.

Most U.S. magazines can be purchased in local stores at higher than U.S. prices, or may be subscribed to through either the Laredo address or Washington, D.C., at domestic rates. Each issue arrives 1-2 weeks late. Most people prefer to buy weekly news magazines locally.

Several bookstores in Mexico City sell books in English (mostly paperback) at a 15%-20% markup over U.S. prices.

USIS maintains Benjamin Franklin Libraries in Mexico City, Monterrey, and Guadalajara with books in Spanish and English. Some people belong to U.S. book clubs.

Health and Medicine

Medical Facilities

The Embassy Health Unit, staffed by the regional medical officer and a Foreign Service nurse, provides routine office care and examinations and assists in emergencies. An American contract staff psychologist works on a part-time basis. Medicines and miscellaneous first-aid supplies for treating minor illnesses and injuries are available. All required immunizations, excluding yellow fever, are given at the Health Unit. An office laboratory and a regional psychiatrist are being added to Health Unit services this year.

Each post maintains a list of English-speaking doctors and dentists (most U.S. trained). The regional medical officer for Mexico and Cuba periodically visits each Consulate and gives medical advice concerning ongoing medical problems there.

Each post is familiar with recommended local hospitals, clinics, and laboratories. Consular posts have only first-aid supplies. Local doctors provide medical care unless the illness is serious enough to warrant medical evacuation to the U.S.

The American-British-Cowdray Hospital (ABC Hospital) in Mexico City treats emergencies and is used for hospitalizations. Most major medical and surgical problems are evacuated to Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas. Border posts use the nearest U.S. medical facility. All medical evacuations to the U.S. are coordinated through the regional medical officer.

Drugstores in all post cities carry a complete line of drugs at reasonable prices, but spot shortages have occurred. Most drugs available are made in Mexico and many are manufactured by subsidiaries of U.S. drug firms. Bring a sufficient supply of any prescription medicine you regularly take. Refills from your local pharmacy may take a long time. Determine the procedure for obtaining refills before leaving the U.S. Check with the Health Unit about drugs prescribed locally to insure that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration considers the drug safe.

Ciudad Juarez. General practitioners, specialists, dentists, oculists, optometrists, and medical and surgical treatment obtainable in El Paso are excellent. Services

of William Beaumont Army Medical Center are available under the Department of State emergency medical treatment program. Army facilities at Ft. Bliss in El Paso are also used for routine State Department medical examinations. The William Beaumont Army Medical Center does not handle Consulate General personnel for routine medical treatment as this is not covered by the agreement between State and Defense. However, with numerous hospitals and medical specialists available in Ciudad Juarez and El Paso, this presents few difficulties. Staff members normally locate a family doctor and dentist from among those already used by people at post.

Guadalajara. Several well-equipped hospitals and clinics and numerous English-speaking physicians, many U.S. trained, provide adequate medical care. Despite the latest diagnostic and treatment equipment, laboratory and nursing care do not meet U.S. standards. Several good, English-speaking dentists are available. An American nurse is contracted for 4 hours biweekly to administer shots and offer medical advice. The post also has contract agreements with two U.S.-trained doctors for exams and referral.

Hermosillo. Local medical facilities, which include several privately owned hospitals, are fairly diversified, reliable, and adequate. Many doctors studied in the U.S. Most medicines are available and are of good quality but expensive. More sophisticated medical services in all fields are available in Tucson or Phoenix, Arizona. Aeromexico Airlines has daily flights to both cities.

Matamoros. For emergency treatment, house calls, etc., several well-qualified, highly competent doctors are available. However, hospital facilities are poor. Medical facilities in Brownsville are adequate but overcrowded. Excellent dental care is available in Brownsville. Specialists and excellent hospital facilities and diagnostic equipment are available in Harlingen, Texas, about 25 miles from Brownsville. Harlingen is becoming a recognized medical center with superior facilities.

Mazatlan. Local medical facilities available to Americans are inadequate by U.S. standards. Several private hospitals and clinics are adequate for routine requirements.

Several U.S.-trained doctors and dentists practice in Mazatlan, and diagnostic

services are adequate. More sophisticated medical advice and services in all fields of specialization are available in Los Angeles (a 2-hour flight from Mazatlan) or in Tucson, Arizona (a 1½-hour flight from Mazatlan).

Mazatlan can be an unhealthy post, particularly during hot, humid summers, when food contamination and spoilage can cause digestive upsets. More difficult intestinal problems, amoebiasis and Giardia are common, especially among children. Occasional outbreaks of dengue fever and other tropical diseases occur. Medicines to treat these diseases are available locally.

Merida. Merida is an unhealthy post, and although no salary differential is allowed, time-and-a-half is counted toward retirement. Amoeba and other digestive upsets are common and care should be taken to prevent infection from hepatitis and similar diseases. Although mosquitoes are numerous, malaria is rare. Local doctors are competent, but medical facilities are inadequate. Several good dentists, oculists and opticians, and other specialists practice here. However, postoperative care is poor and evacuation to the U.S. is recommended for all but emergency surgery.

Monterrey. Many of the city's general practitioners and specialists are highly recommended; many are U.S. trained. Good dentists, some of whom are U.S. trained, are available. Two large, modern, well-equipped hospitals are used for emergency care. Diagnostic labs are adequate for ordinary requirements. Medical services are usually adequate, except in difficult and unusual cases which may require U.S. treatment.

Nuevo Laredo. Medical and dental facilities in Laredo, Texas, are reasonably good, and employees at the Consulate customarily consult doctors in the U.S. However, dental clinics abound in Nuevo Laredo, with many providing excellent treatment at reasonable prices.

Tijuana. Many capable dentists and doctors are in the San Diego area. Employees and their dependents needing hospitalization usually go to one of the many first-class hospitals in the Chula Vista and San Diego area. An American contract medical adviser performs medical examinations in Tijuana for the post. Required immunizations are provided free by the Public Health Service in Chula Vista, California.

Community Health

Air pollution is severe in Mexico City. However, based on available information no cause exists to suspect that exposure during a tour here will increase the risk of chronic disease or future illness in healthy individuals. Pre-existing cardiopulmonary disease, however, is aggravated here.

Tapwater is not safe to drink. The treated water becomes contaminated during distribution due to the antiquated piping and overuse. Boil water before drinking.

A high incidence of tuberculosis is found in the general population. TB detection and treatment are in cooperation with the World Health Organization. But, because many people are not reached by the program, screen all servants for TB before hiring them.

Malaria has been eradicated from most urban areas, but some rural areas are still a risk. The Health Information Booklet for International Travel lists these areas. Before traveling to tropical parts of Mexico consult with the Embassy Health Unit about the need for anti-malaria drugs.

The combination of aridness related to the altitude and the long dry season and severe air pollution causes irritation of the mucous membranes of the respiratory tract. Upper respiratory problems such as rhinitis, sinusitis, and bronchitis are the leading causes of medical attention in Mexico. People prone to these problems suffer greatly because of the ever-present irritant environment.

Vaccination for yellow fever is required by Mexico; however, the Embassy Health Unit does not have the vaccine.

Intestinal parasites are prevalent in Mexico. Exercise caution in selecting food sources. Carefully clean and treat fruits and vegetables with iodine or chlorine before eating them raw. Most dairy products are considered safe.

Drugs of all types are readily available in Mexico City. Mexican laws are strict with those who use and traffic in narcotics, and teenagers are tried as adults. Most drug-related offenders are jailed for lengthy periods.

Preventive Measures

Due to the complexity of medical problems in Mexico City, all persons assigned to post should report promptly to the Health Unit for a medical briefing.

All adults assigned to Mexico City must receive pulmonary function evaluation before coming to post because of the



Popular Mariachi folk music is performed throughout Mexico. Shown here are Mariachis a la entrada del Fuerte de Loreto, Puebla.

post's high altitude. In addition, anyone with a history of cardiopulmonary disease such as asthma, emphysema, chronic bronchitis, high blood pressure, coronary artery disease, and/or valvular heart disease should have a thorough medical evaluation of any of these problems before proceeding to post. (Report the history of any of these problems to M/MED and Personnel if Mexico is being considered as a possible assignment.)

Routine childhood diseases are more prevalent here due to inadequate vaccination programs. All dependent children should have the usual inoculations completed in the U.S. Contaminated food and water supplies cause an increased incidence of hepatitis, typhoid, paratyphoid, amoebiasis, Giardia, and intestinal worms.

Pregnant women should not smoke. Potential adverse effects of smoking on the fetus are increased by the altitude and air pollution.

Cigarette smokers increase the risk of developing cardiopulmonary diseases at Mexico City's altitude and should greatly reduce the amount smoked, or quit altogether.

During stagnation conditions when there is an expected or obvious accumulation of air pollutants, residents should be cautious and avoid strenuous outdoor activity.

Despite government efforts to control the source, i.e., stray dogs and other rabid animals, rabies is prevalent throughout Mexico. All pets require health certificates and immunizations certified by a Mexican consular official resident in the originating area.

Parents should consider having their children immunized against rabies before coming to Mexico. The Health Unit

stocks the vaccine (a human product). Joggers and individuals who may work in rural areas should also receive the anti-rabies shots.

Adults should have current immunization status for typhoid (every 3 years), diphtheria, tetanus (every 10 years), and yellow fever (every 10 years). Gamma globulin is given every 6 months to everyone over age 12 to prevent hepatitis.

Because of Mexico's high altitude, newcomers should allow for acclimatization. Avoid overeating, alcoholic beverages, and undue exertion for the first few days and until you do not suffer from lightheadedness, insomnia, slight headache, or shortness of breath.

The Health Unit will provide newcomers with helpful do's and don't's regarding your health.

Employment for Spouses and Dependents

Employment opportunities are limited because Mexican law prohibits foreigners from holding jobs which Mexicans can fill. Spouses have successfully taken positions in the fields of education and English instruction. Finding other employment is almost impossible. Spouses and dependents at border posts may choose to work in the U.S.

The Embassy and some Consulates hire a few dependents temporarily, most often in secretarial positions. These positions require at least 40 wpm and almost always a working knowledge of Spanish. The Embassy liaison officer would like to

emphasize to dependents that if you want to work in Mexico, you should brush up on your secretarial skills. They are often in demand.

No employment opportunities are available in Juarez. However, some employment can be found in adjacent El Paso, Texas.

Often, in summer and at Christmas, the Para Consular Assistant (PCA) program operates in the nonimmigrant visa unit (NIV). Student/teen employment programs provided limited employment for students during the summers of 1980, 1981, 1982, and 1983. If funds are available, the program will again provide limited employment next summer for high school and college-aged students within the Embassy.

Matamoros. Although dependents cannot currently work on the Mexican side of the border, job opportunities do exist in Brownsville. Particularly noteworthy are positions in retail marketing and real estate, two of the area's most important industries. Professional career opportunities are more limited. A wide variety of community service and volunteer organizations exists as well.

Merida. Only on rare occasions is Consulate Merida able to provide temporary employment.

Monterrey. The Consulate General in Monterrey hires spouses to work on a part-time, intermittent, temporary (PIT) basis when the workload is very heavy, and the Department authorizes such hiring.

Nuevo Laredo. Employment opportunities in Nuevo Laredo are limited to one seasonal (1-2 week) PIT position in the NIV unit, during the peak season. A variety of employment opportunities is available in Laredo, Texas.



American Embassy

Mexico City

Mexico City is a cosmopolitan capital: The glass-walled skyscrapers lining the Paseo de la Reforma, the stunning architecture of the Museum of Anthropology, the elegant restaurants of the "Zona Rosa," the numerous deluxe hotels, the Lomas residential area with its palatial homes, and up-to-date supermarkets are all signs of a world metropolitan center. But underneath all this surface glitter remains the capital of a developing country.

Mexico City lies in a long valley high in the mountains of central Mexico. Many of the peaks encircling the city are extinct volcanoes, including the spectacular "Iztaccihautl," (iss-tak-SEE-wattle) or "Sleeping Lady," and "Popocatepetl," (po-po-ca-TEH-petal) or "The Warrior."

Although Mexico City is only 19° N. of the Equator, the high altitude (7,349 feet) creates a fall-like climate all year. The two seasons are the dry and rainy seasons. The latter lasts from June until October when 2-3 hours of rain fall every day. The weather is coolest December through February when nights and early mornings can be quite cold, but daytime temperatures are warmer. March, April, and May are "summertime," but because of the altitude the nights remain cool; it is also especially dusty as these months are at the end of the dry season. Average temperature is 60°F, relative humidity is 54%, and annual rainfall is 29 inches.

Air pollution is a problem in Mexico City. Traffic congestion in the city also makes driving hazardous. Fender benders are common and defensive driving is an absolute must. Pedestrians must exercise great care in crossing streets.

Mildew is not usually a problem although some houses are particularly damp and care should be taken when storing books. Bugs and insects, including mosquitoes and flies, may be a problem during the rainy season. Few homes have screens.

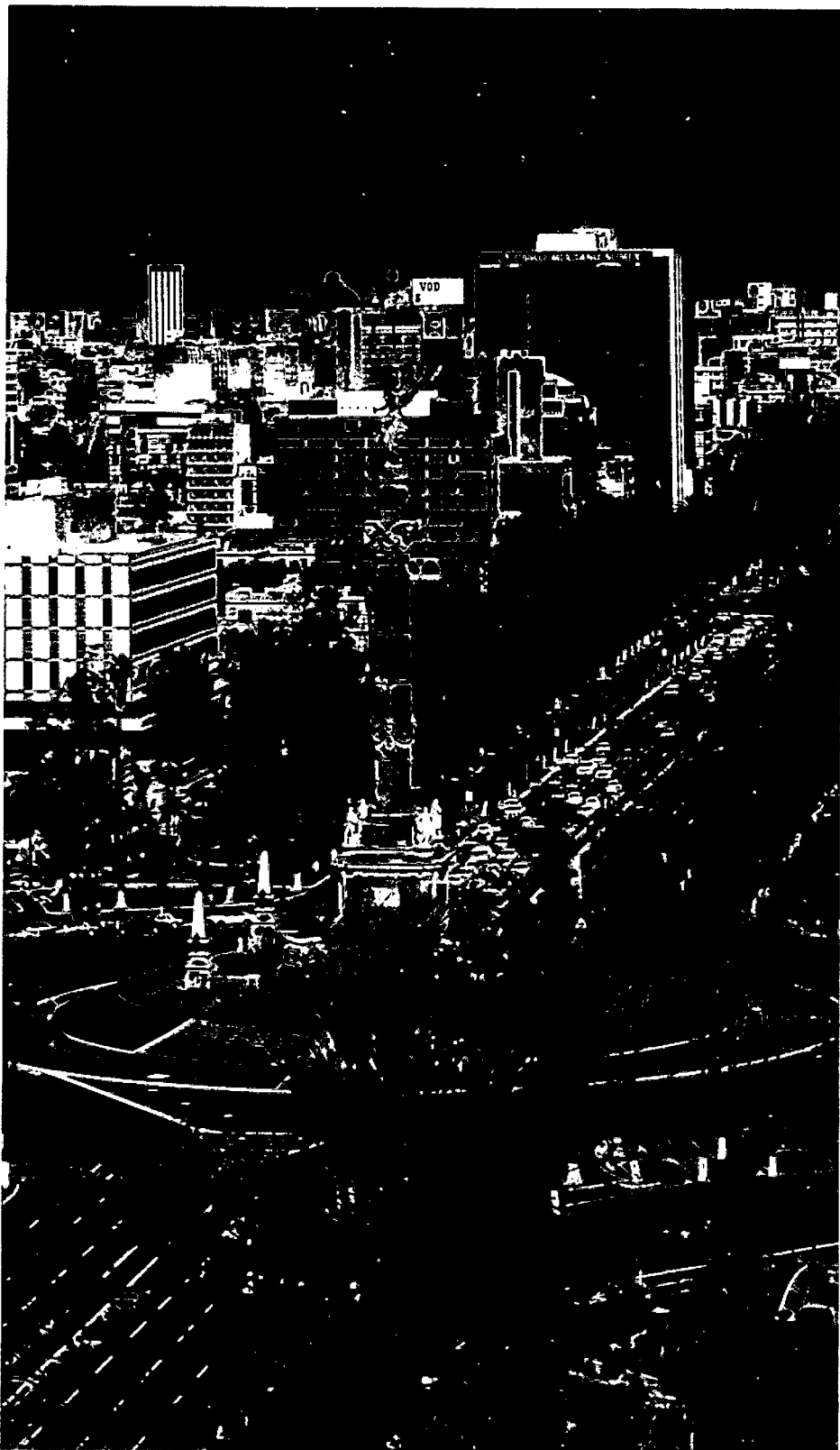


The American Embassy, Mexico City.

About 46,000 of the Mexico City consular district's residents are registered with the Embassy. Around 44,000 of the district's residents live in Mexico City. Smaller colonies of British, French, Germans, Lebanese, Spaniards, Japanese, and other nationalities are also present.

The Post and Its Administration

The Embassy in Mexico City is one of the world's largest diplomatic missions, due principally to the enormous amount of tourist, official, and commercial interchange between the U.S. and Mexico. The Embassy and constituent posts employ over 1,100 people, some 60% of



Mexico City's famous "Angel" on Paseo de la Reforma. The American Embassy is the white marble building on the left.

whom are Mexican citizens. In addition to the diplomatic relations between the two governments, the Mission offices foster closer relations through economic, cultural, informational, commercial, and agricultural activities.

Agencies within the Mission besides State are Agriculture, the Battle Monuments Commission, Commerce (U.S. Travel and Tourism Administra-

tion, Weather Bureau, and U.S. Trade Center), Defense, the U.S. Information Service (USIS), Justice (Drug Enforcement Administration, Immigration and Naturalization Service, and Legal), and Treasury (Customs and Internal Revenue Service).

Most offices are in the Chancery, an eight-story building with marble facade and inner court completed in 1964. The Chancery is at Paseo de la Reforma 305. The mailing address is:

American Embassy
Apartado Postal
88 Bis
Mexico 1, D.F., Mexico

The telephone is (905) 553-33-33. Hours in most offices are Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 5:30 pm.

A general duty officer and a consular duty officer are on duty after hours. The switchboard is always open, and a Marine Guard is on duty at all times.

Upon Arrival at Post. Most persons arrive by air or car. New arrivals traveling by plane or train are met if they inform the Embassy in advance. Employees are encouraged to arrive during office hours to streamline the settling-in process. If you arrive after hours, call the Marine Guard to find out whom to contact.

Mexico City has an active Embassy Liaison Office (ELO) which provides direct personal information about housing, schools, shopping, dependent employment, etc. The Embassy liaison officer is a dependent of a U.S. employee at post, and serves the Embassy community, as well as assisting new arrivals and their families.

All employees should report to the ELO on the third floor by 9 am for orientation. Immediately following is in-processing at the Personnel Office.

Housing

Temporary Quarters

Many hotels near the Embassy are adequate for a temporary stay. Although most housing is found within a month, most new arrivals stay in suites or furnished apartments with housekeeping facilities. Very few accept pets. Mexico City is a mecca of tourists and most hotels fill up early, so give the Embassy as much advance notice as possible of your arrival time and temporary housing needs.

Permanent Housing

The Ambassador's residence, owned by the U.S. Government, is a modern, two-story house. The DCM and Defense attache have government-owned housing. As circumstances dictate, the Ambassador assigns housing for one other senior officer. The State Department provides U.S. Government-leased housing and major appliances (but not stoves and furniture) for counselors of Embassy. Senior representatives of other U.S. agencies are provided housing, major appliances, and furnishings according to agency policy and directives. The Embassy will provide detailed information upon request.

Most employees live in government-leased housing; in the near future, housing assignments will be made prior to an employee's arrival at post. Any special housing needs should be made known to the General Services Office (GSO) as soon as possible.

Most single people and some families live in apartments. Be prepared to spend up to 6 weeks finding permanent quarters and then to invest in light fixtures, curtains, and perhaps rugs.

Furnishings

Household furnishings used in the U.S. are suitable here. Bring basic items you own. People without furniture may wish to wait until after arrival to decide whether to buy items locally or order from the U.S. Upholstered pieces (sofas, easy chairs, etc.) and wool rugs are expensive here, and quality and selection are limited. The same is true for upholstery fabrics. However, upholstery work is reasonable and satisfactory, so some buy fabrics in the U.S. and have the work done here. Some colonial-style furniture is sold, but buy only from reputable outlets that guarantee their work and use quality materials. A variety of inexpensive drapery material is sold, and curtains can be made at reasonable prices. Contact the GSO for more information concerning the post's policy of procuring draperies for newcomers. Window sizes vary, so do not buy draperies in advance. Many new apartments include carpeting and curtains. Household linens and kitchenware may be expensive, as is fine china. Local pottery is attractive and inexpensive. If you have them, bring plenty of wool and/or electric blankets; homes are poorly heated, if at all, and nights are cold. Thick wool Indian blankets in a variety of colors are

available locally and are popular among handicraft enthusiasts.

Some household Hospitality Kits are available on a first-come, first-served basis. These kits contain basic items needed to set up housekeeping—dishes, pots and pans, bed and bath linens, etc. They are **not** intended to replace air-freight, but merely to enable an employee to move into permanent quarters before airfreight and effects arrive. Employees are responsible for loss or damage.

Utilities and Equipment

Houses and apartments have electricity and hot and cold running water. Water pressure varies and is often low during the dry season; most residences have reserve storage tanks—don't rent a house without one. Expect to be without water occasionally for several hours or, more rarely, for several days. Electricity is expensive, especially if you have electric heaters, and service is sometimes uncertain during the rainy season. Gas is cheap, so use gas stoves and clothes dryers. However, most apartments and houses have stoves; if not, the GSO will provide one. Few Mexican ovens have thermostats; bring an oven thermometer. All gas appliances should have automatic safety pilots.

The Embassy has refrigerators and washers and dryers for State employees. USIS usually furnishes a refrigerator and washer and dryer.

Lamps and light fixtures are not provided. An interesting selection sold by local merchants can be expensive. Electrical current is 110v, 60-cycle, single phase.

Central heating is rare and many homes do not have other provisions for heat (except perhaps a fireplace that may heat one room). Electric heaters are quite useful on cold winter nights but are somewhat expensive to operate. Portable gas or kerosene heaters are useful and can be purchased locally; but exercise care in their use. Try to find a home that gets some sun.

Food

A wide variety of locally grown and imported fresh fruits and vegetables is reasonably priced. Supermarkets stock a variety of meat and fish, dairy products, fresh produce, and canned goods. Fresh foods are measured and sold in kilograms or fractions thereof. Several large

markets have unusual fruits and vegetables needed in foreign dishes.

Most foods are obtained at prices much lower than those in the U.S., but imported items are expensive. Locally produced packaged mixes and canned foods are becoming more available, but they vary in quality and are expensive. Ham, fresh pork, eggs, and milk are comparable in price and quality (although only certain brands of milk are considered safe). Poultry and seafood are good and plentiful. Beef is reasonable but not aged and quality is lower than in the U.S. Strained baby foods are expensive, and of lower quality. Mexican beer and rum are excellent and reasonable in price. Most bottled soft drinks are sold (not diet sodas, however, nor diet foods of any kind). Frozen foods are practically nonexistent. Although current food prices are generally reasonable, due to inflation, food prices are rising steadily. Because of the lack of quality control, foodstuffs of all kinds—fresh or canned, meat, dairy, or vegetable—can vary from excellent to inedible.

The Embassy U.S. Employees Association's small commissary stocks alcoholic beverages and wines, tobacco products, a selection of groceries (dried, canned, and frozen foods), and personal items which are not readily available or are expensive locally, including dog and cat food. Individuals may order in case-lots from a wholesale grocer in south Texas through the commissary.

A Chancery cafeteria serves breakfast, lunch, coffee, and snacks on workdays.

Clothing

Clothing needs in Mexico City do not vary a great deal during the year. Some winter clothing is useful for cold spells; be sure to bring sweaters, raincoats, and umbrellas. Light summer clothes are essential for travel to low-altitude areas where the climate is hot, but are only needed in Mexico City from March through May or June. Clothing of all kinds is sold at prices comparable to or less than in the U.S., and quality is generally lower. Bring U.S. swimsuits and underwear for children and adults. Mexican-made stockings and pantyhose do not generally fit taller women.

Mexican shoes are stylish and well made. However, lasts often do not fit American feet. They do not go beyond American size 8 for women and 10 for men, and narrow sizes are scarce. Children's shoes of satisfactory price and quality are available.

Men. In Mexico City men wear light- to medium-weight business suits. At least one dark suit is needed. A light-weight suit is comfortable in April and perhaps May and for traveling to lower altitudes. A light-weight, all-weather raincoat is convenient during the rainy season.

Bring informal sportswear (sport shirts, sweaters, slacks, etc.). Bring or order from the U.S. shirts, shoes, ties, pajamas, underwear, and socks. They are sold here but not in U.S. quality or variety. Several good tailors are available, and some men have had suits made from imported materials. Hats and shorts (except for sports) are rarely worn.

Mexican Government officials wear dark suits to all functions; Mexican Government functions never require black tie (tux). However, Mexican and American business representatives and diplomats sometimes specify black tie for their dinner parties, so middle and senior officers should bring such attire.

Women. Wool, polyester, knit, and cotton suits, jacket dresses, and pantsuits are recommended for comfort and versatility for changes of temperature and occasion. A light-weight coat is needed for chilly nights and early mornings. Bring a raincoat for the rainy season. Bring an evening wrap; a fur stole or cape is good for dressier evenings. Full-length furs and heavy coats are rarely worn. Except for March, April, and May when it can be quite warm, Mexico City has a fall-to-early-winter climate; "layered" clothing is best because temperatures may change rapidly. Long-sleeved blouses, sweaters, and jackets are useful. Suits are very popular. Remember, homes and public places are rarely heated.

Required dress for receptions, cocktail parties, dinners, etc., varies according to rank and representational activities. Most Mexican women wear current U.S. fashions for both afternoon and evening social events. Evening dresses may be short or long; currently, fewer long dresses are seen.

Shorts are not generally worn except for recreation and at resorts. Women's readymade clothes, including sweaters, are expensive. Some people have purchased



At street markets, shoppers can buy clothing, food, colorful baskets, and art objects.

attractive locally made dresses, some knitted and crocheted, and some which are representative of the Mexican culture. Dressmakers charge medium to high prices.

Good Mexican textiles are available but often are not preshrunk, colorfast, or drip-dry. Bring favorite materials, especially knits and miracle fibers which are expensive and inferior here, for sewing or for tailoring. Order fabrics from catalogs and fabric clubs in the U.S. Patterns sold locally cost twice those in the U.S. Selection of sewing accessories and notions (particularly thread) is limited, and quality is often poor.

Well-crafted silver, brass, and copper jewelry is less expensive than in the U.S., although prices are rising somewhat with inflation. Native semiprecious stones such as turquoise, opals, and topaz in silver or gold mountings are reasonable if you shop carefully.

Children. Children's clothes are expensive. Most parents bring a complete wardrobe for each child and order future needs from the U.S. Dress is similar to that in the U.S. Older boys and girls wear Levi-

style jeans and cords with appropriate tops; girls occasionally wear dresses. Grade school children dress as in the U.S. Levis are available, but the selection of sizes and lengths is not as wide. Some schools require uniforms. Bring diapers and baby clothing.

Supplies and Services

Electricians, plumbers, and service people are unreliable; sometimes several appointments are needed before anyone shows up.

Supplies

Most U.S. supplies and services are available but quality varies. Imported items are expensive. Many American firms have branch factories in Mexico but the merchandise is priced higher than in the U.S. and is often inferior in quality. Some employees bring their favorite cosmetics, toiletries, special drugs, and other items and restock during trips to the U.S.

Most medicines and drugs can be filled at local drugstores at U.S. prices. Some popular brands of toiletries and cosmetics are sold, but quality may be questionable. Hygiene supplies are available.

Many U.S. toy companies are represented here by local manufacturers; a variety of U.S. name brands is sold. Quality varies, but it is generally acceptable.

Film and local developing are available. Engraving and printing can be done locally. Cocktail napkins, English greeting cards, stationery, birthday party supplies, gift wrapping paper, and ribbons are sold, but selection is limited and quality is often low.

Small hardware and repair supplies are hard to find. Bring clothes hangers with clamps.

Basic Services

Drycleaning is adequate and cheaper than in the U.S. Commercial laundries are few as most washing is done at home. A few Laundromats can be found. Beauty and barbershops are numerous and compare favorably with those in the U.S. in price and service. Reasonably priced shoe repair is available.

Radio, TV, and phonograph services on some brands are satisfactory. However, some parts are scarce, and repair work may be costly.

Auto service and repair on U.S. makes is fair. Parts, if available, are expensive but can be imported from the U.S.

Catering is available for large parties.

Domestic Help

Most U.S. homes have at least one maid. Most speak no English. Maids are frequently hired on a part-time, live-out basis for laundry and cleaning.

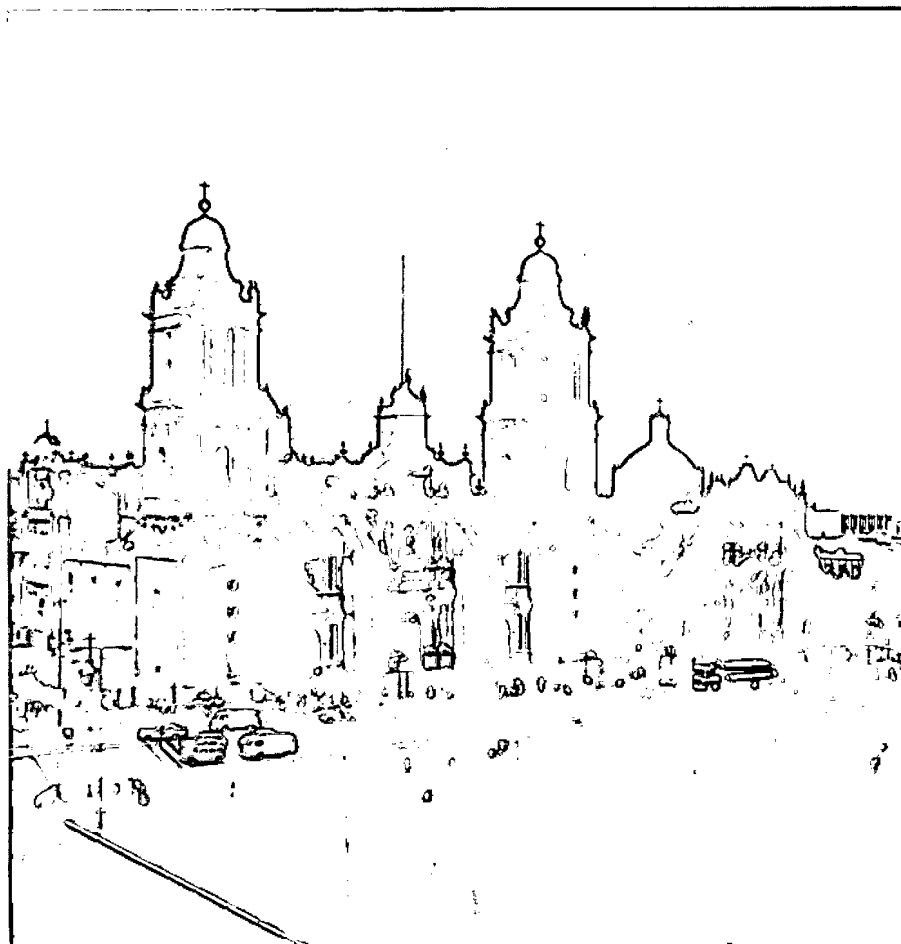
Families with small children need maids since babysitters are few, and a house should not be left unattended.

Most homes and many apartments have separate servants quarters. All live-in servants expect 1 day a week off, and the law requires they have 6 working days off a year with pay. Many people grant servants 2 weeks off with pay. Employers provide food and uniforms.

Religious Activities

Mexico is predominantly Catholic. Services are usually in Spanish, but several are in English. Other English-language services include Baptist, Christian Science, Church of Christ, Episcopal, Jewish, Latter-day Saints, Lutheran, Methodist,

Mexico City's National Cathedral in Zocalo.



Quaker, Seventh-day Adventist, Union Evangelical Interdenominational, and Unitarian. Church announcements are printed regularly in *The News* and *Esta Semana*.

Education

Dependent Education

Almost all American children attend private schools. The caliber of education is generally good, but acceptance standards can be inconsistent. No child is guaranteed admission to any school in Mexico City.

About half the Embassy children attend the American School Foundation. More and more Embassy families are using Greengates School. Colegio Junipero, Lomas High School, and Sierra Nevada are other choices. Some high school-aged children attend U.S. schools.

The American School Foundation at Calle Sur 136 No. 135, Colonia Tacubaya, is a bicultural, bilingual school which offers coeducational programs in preprimary, elementary, junior high, and high school. The school is accredited by

the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. It receives some support from the Office of Overseas Schools of the Department of State, but the American School is not affiliated with the U.S. Embassy and Embassy children are not guaranteed acceptance. However, under the terms of our grant to the school, it must accept all dependent children who meet admission standards. It has 2,500 students, about 40% Mexican, 40% American, and the rest other nationalities. Classes in the grade school are conducted half day in Spanish and half day in English through the fifth grade, after which Spanish is taught as a second language. The school year starts in early September with a 2-week vacation Christmas and Easter, and ends late in June. Uniforms are not required. Most children must take a preadmittance entrance exam. No remedial facilities are

available, nor are special provisions made for gifted students. The school tries to provide a bicultural education, but its program does not duplicate U.S. schools.

Greengates School is a private, coeducational school based on the British system for kindergarten (age 4) through high school. Its address is Av. Circunvalacion Pte. 102, Balcones de San Mateo, Edo. de Mexico, Mexico. Applicants are tested for acceptance and placement. The school year is from early September through late June; it is divided into three terms. The fall term ends at Christmas and the winter term ends at Easter. Classes are taught in English; Spanish is required as a second language and French is offered beginning with grade 6. Uniforms and black shoes are currently required and are available in Mexico City, though the gray pants for boys are of better fit and quality in the U.S. About 30 nationalities are represented in the student body. Expenses at Greengates fall within the education allowance.

Colegio Junipero (Juniper School), at Calle Bondonjito 238, Colonia Tacubaya, is the only Catholic bilingual, parochial school in Mexico City. Affiliated with St. Patrick's English-speaking Church, it accepts pupils from kindergarten through grade 6. Classes through grade 6 are taught half day in English, half day in Spanish. Its vacation schedule is similar to that of

the American School. Locally sold uniforms are worn.

The Lomas High School, at Reforma 1530, teaches in English; Spanish is a foreign language. It is coeducational from grades 9 to 12. Uniforms are not required. The schedule is similar to the U.S. system.

Except for Greengates School, most schools must conform with Mexican Government requirements that all elementary grades be taught in Spanish at least half of every schoolday and that the approved curriculum be observed. Special Spanish classes are provided for the non-Spanish speaker.

In addition Montessori, French, German, and Mexican schools are available, as are several small schools teaching the Mexican-American curriculum. Many nursery schools and kindergartens are available. Most schools have bus service.

Special Educational Opportunities

The University of Mexico (Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, or UNAM) has an estimated enrollment of 100,000 (including 50,000 in the "preparatorias," equivalent to the last 3 years of an American high school) and offers many degrees, including economics, law, medicine, architecture, dentistry, engineering, and the humanities. Most

classes are in Spanish. It has a school for foreigners offering master's degrees in different Latin American specialty subjects. Undergraduates can transfer credits to U.S. colleges.

The National University of Mexico, the National Polytechnical Institute, the Ibero-American University (Jesuit directed), and the graduate-level Colegio de Mexico and Anahuac are among the city's leading institutions of higher learning. However, most students receive graduate training abroad (largely in the U.S.). The Colegio Nacional offers a free high-level lecture program by leading Mexican intellectuals and scientists.

The University of the Americas in Cholula, Puebla, near the state capital city of Puebla, is an American-run college with an American curriculum which transfers credits to U.S. colleges. Tuition is low and dormitories are available at reasonable cost. Cholula is about a 2-hour drive over good roads from Mexico City. A small branch of the university is located in Mexico City.

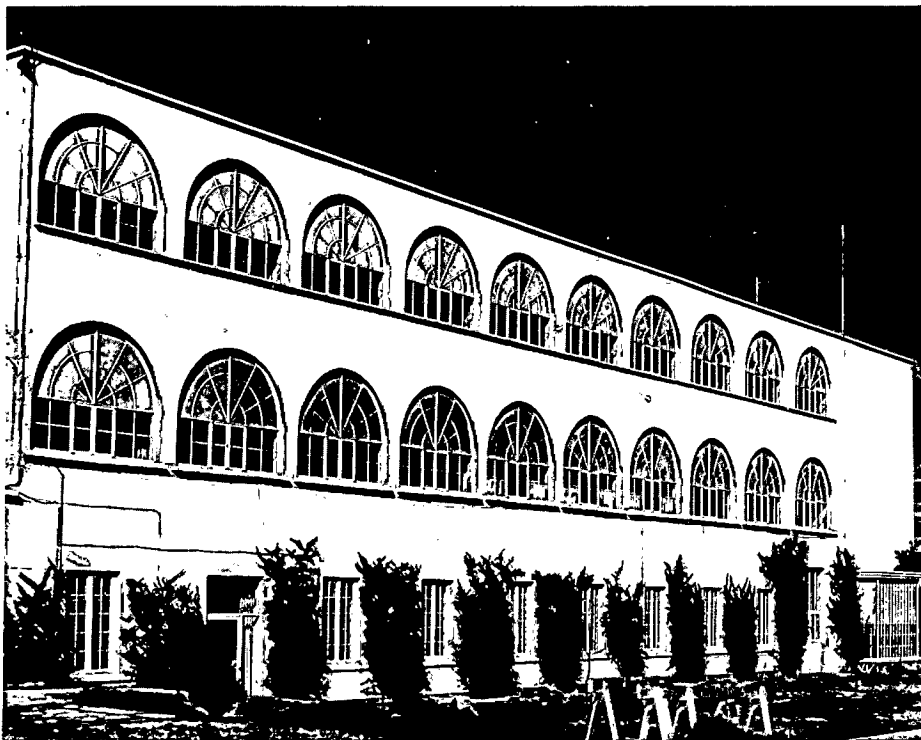
U.S. International University in Mexico City is a branch campus of U.S. International University of San Diego. It is U.S. accredited and all classes are in English. About one-third of the 100 enrolled students are American. The university grants associate (AA) degrees in various subjects, with a BS/MS/MBA business program and a BA/MA psychology program.

Post Orientation Program

On arrival U.S. employees assigned to Mexico City are processed through the Embassy's Personnel Office and receive an informative welcome kit. A check-in procedure provides for interviews and orientation in various Embassy offices. In addition, the ELO offers assistance with housing, shopping, and finding your way around Mexico City.

Periodically, the Embassy has an orientation program for new American personnel and their adult dependents to brief them on U.S. objectives in Mexico, host country conditions, and the Embassy's organization.

The *Aztec Calendar*, the Embassy's news bulletin, is published weekly. It contains official and unofficial announcements, information on the American Embassy Association (AEA) activities, and classified ads. Submit newsletter material to the Personnel Office.



The American School Foundation offers a bicultural, bilingual, coeducational program. About 40% of those attending are American.

The AEA hospitality committee members provide additional assistance to new arrivals and their families.

The Embassy and consular posts offer Spanish-language classes at government expense to official personnel and adult dependents of agencies with agreements for language instruction with the Foreign Service Institute. The Personnel Office coordinates the Embassy program.

The Embassy issues photo ID cards to all U.S. employees who need them. ID cards are issued to dependents over age 13. Photographs are taken on Mondays.

Recreation and Social Life

Sports

Several private country clubs operate in Mexico City, but diplomatic memberships are limited and dues are high. Consequently, few members of the Embassy community belong.

A few sports clubs offer swimming, tennis, soccer, and jai alai. Among these are the Reforma Athletic Club, the Centro Deportivo Israelita, Club Arturo Mundet, and the Junior Club. Limited diplomatic memberships are available, and some accept applications from other embassy employees. However, dues are high, and many are far from downtown.

A YMCA, about 1½ miles from the Embassy, has facilities for all racquet sports, swimming, weight lifting, basketball, and volleyball. Exercise classes are also held. An initial membership fee and monthly fee must be paid to use the facilities.

The Maria Isabel Sheraton (near the Embassy) also has some athletic club facilities, including exercise classes.

Runners must adapt to Mexico City's high altitude. Heavy traffic and air pollution dampen some runners' enthusiasm, but Chapultepec Park and other locations provide pleasant settings.

Bowling is popular. Over 100 people compete in the Embassy Bowling League, which meets weekly almost year round.

Other sports include swimming, bicycling, and horseback riding, but facilities are limited. Although sports equipment is sold in Mexico it is usually higher priced than in the U.S.

As in most Latin countries, soccer is a favorite spectator sport. Others include horseracing, jai alai, American football, baseball, softball, basketball, and polo. Bullfights are held almost every Sunday in the world's largest arena.

Riding is popular among Mexicans, and many riding clubs are available in Mexico City and its environs. Some allow hourly riding, but most require "pensioning" or owning a horse which is expensive. Horses may be rented to ride "Mexican saddle" in the country around Mexico City.

Mexico offers quail, dove, duck, and big game hunting. Good bird hunting is found near the capital but bigger game is too far away for weekend hunting. The Mexican Government requires special permits to possess firearms or to use them for hunting or sport shooting. The regional security officer will obtain necessary firearms and hunting permits for assigned personnel (see Firearms and Ammunition).

Freshwater fishing for trout and bass is good, and some of the world's best deep-

sea fishing is off Acapulco, Mazatlan, Los Cabos, and Guaymas on the west coast and Veracruz and Tampico on the gulf.

Mountain climbing at nearby Popocatepetl and Iztaccihautl is popular for the hardy and those accustomed to high altitudes.

Touring and Outdoor Activities

Touring and sightseeing possibilities are good. The Mexico City area has several archeological ruins, excellent museums, glass factories, old cathedrals, and colorful markets. The Museum of Anthropology is world renowned for its anthropological tour of Mexico and displays of modern Indian cultures; the building's architecture is a real treat. English-language courses and guided tours through the museum are offered several times a year.

Chapultepec Park is a popular lagoon-centered woodland, several miles square, located in the heart of Mexico City. It offers a zoo, bridle paths, picnic areas, playgrounds, a miniature train, botanical gardens, rental bicycles, boating, and a colorful amusement park.

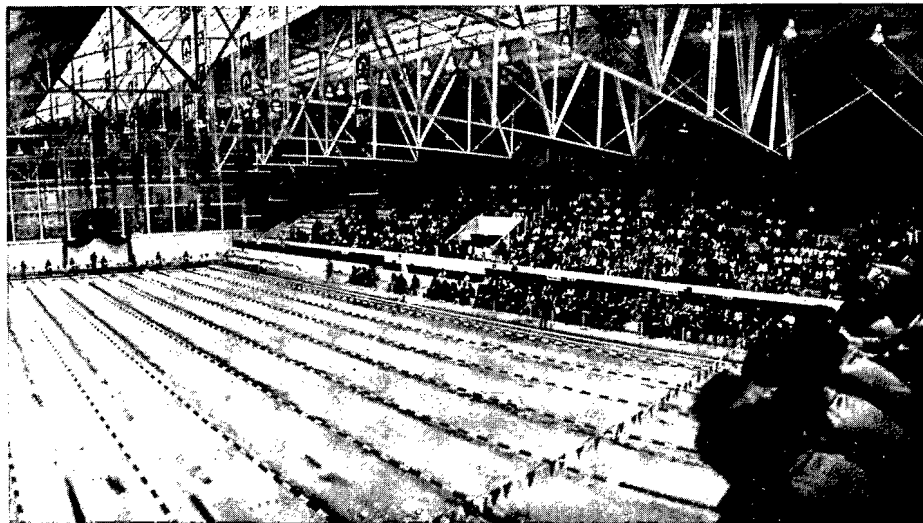
Mexico City's central location makes weekend trips to lower altitudes and to scenic resorts and towns possible. Car, train, or plane travel is relatively easy. Hiking and picnicking amid impressive scenery can be enjoyed 30-90 minutes from the city.

Summer activities for children are limited. Summer jobs are unavailable for high school- and college-aged students, so most families spend a few weeks traveling during summer.

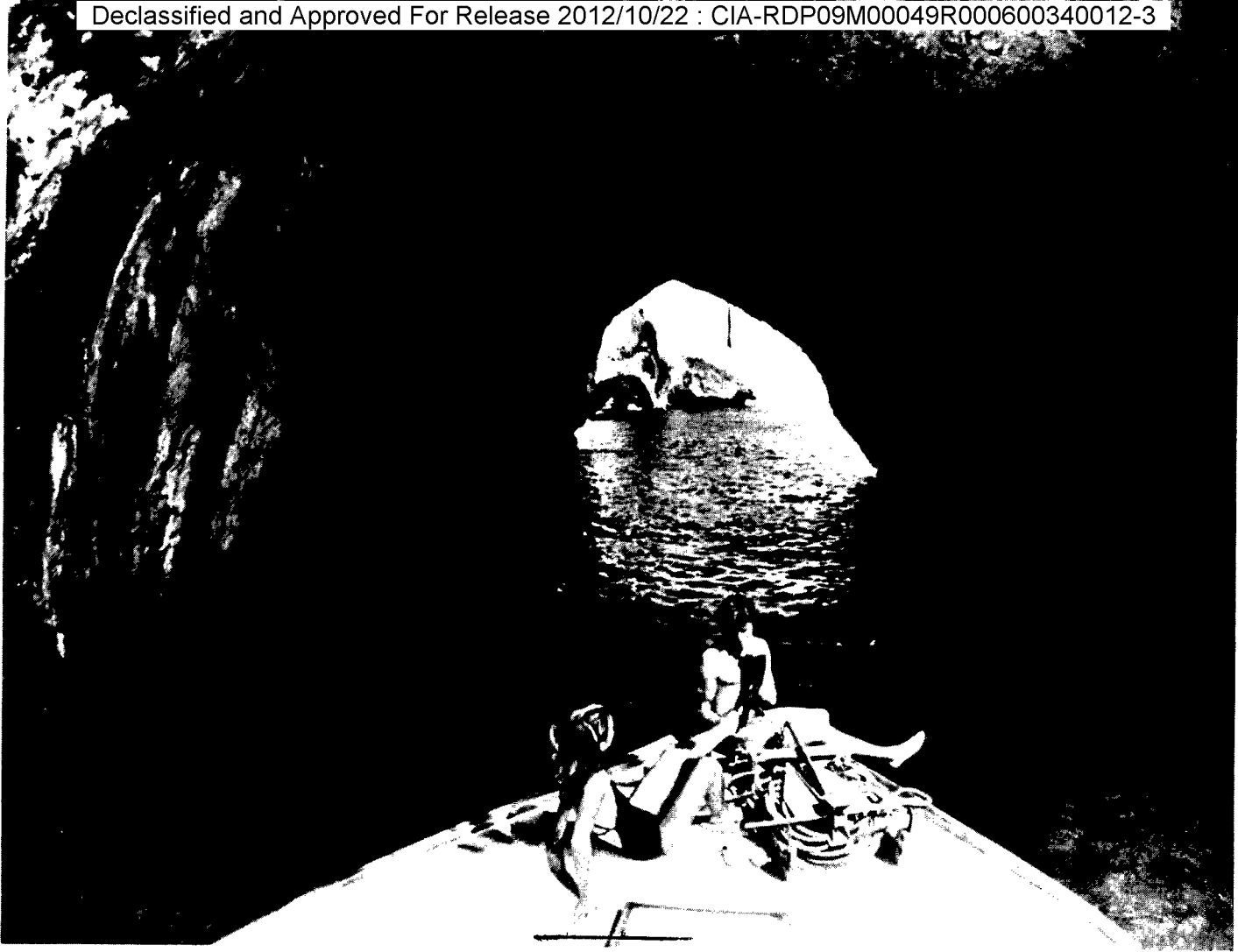
The following are among the better known tourist spots in Mexico:

Acapulco. An hour by air or 7 hours by car from Mexico City, Acapulco's scenic bay attracts visitors from around the world. The climate is tropical, and swimming, boating, skindiving, deep-sea fishing, and water skiing are favorite sports. It is expensive and crowded in season.

Yucatan Peninsula. Chichen Itza, the most extensive archeological zone uncovered on the Yucatan Peninsula, is 77 miles over good roads from Merida and can be reached in about 1½ hours by car. The ruins of Uxmal are 48 miles from Merida on the road to Campeche, about a 1-hour car trip. The island resorts at



Swimming is a popular sport in Mexico City. Shown here is an Olympic swimming pool.



Leisure time activities can include scuba diving near Puerto Vallarta (above) or touring such sites as the San Juan de Ulua Castle (below).

Cozumel, Isla Mujeres, and the new resort at Cancun are beautiful and offer many of the same sports as Acapulco.

Cuernavaca is about a 1 ½-hour drive from Mexico City by four-lane highway. The 5,000-foot altitude makes it a pleasant getaway.

Oaxaca, situated in a valley about 5,000 feet above sea level, is a day's trip by car or an hour by air from Mexico City. Archeology buffs find it fascinating since the ruins of Monte Alban and the temples of the ancient Zapotecan civilization are nearby.

Taxco is a 3-hour drive from Mexico City and is a colorful stopover en route to Acapulco. Taxco, an old mining town where Jose de la Borda mined 40 million pesos of silver when a peso was worth half a dollar, is now a national monument. By law its cobblestone streets may not be changed and new buildings must conform to the old architecture.





Chapultepec Park offers bridle paths, botanical gardens, and an amusement park in downtown Mexico City. Shown here is the Flower Market (above) and the impressive umbrella-type ceiling of the park's Museum of Anthropological History (below).



Other interesting places are Guanajuato, a charming mountain mining town with cobblestone streets and red-tiled roofs; Puebla, a town of colonial Spanish architecture which provides a good view of "The Warrior" and "The Sleeping Lady" volcanoes; and San Miguel de Allende, one of the most famous places in Mexico for its atmosphere, art, and climate.

Several of the consular posts are also popular vacation spots. These include Guadalajara and Mazatlan.

Entertainment

During 1976-82 First Lady Carmen Romano de Lopez Portillo placed unusual emphasis on the plastics and performing arts and Mexico City became one of the world's most active, culturally vibrant capitals. It is assumed that the arts will continue to flourish under the new administration, but perhaps not at the same intensity.

The National Institute of Fine Arts (INBA) provides audiences with a broad range of cultural activities at its numerous concert halls, theaters, museums, and other facilities. World-class symphony orchestras, modern dance companies, chamber ensembles, opera companies, jazz groups, and ballet companies periodically perform at INBA's Palace of Fine Arts. Superb art exhibits, both Mexican and foreign, frequently are held at the Palace. Mexico's famed Ballet Folklorico also performs each Wednesday and Sunday.

The National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) administers an extensive cultural program which often includes first-rate American orchestras, soloists, and dance companies. Most of UNAM's activities are held at their new Centro Cultural. Tickets for INBA and UNAM programs are moderately priced.

Mexico City also boasts one of the world's foremost museums: the National Anthropological Museum. Inaugurated in 1964, this handsome building houses the world's most extensive collection of pre-Columbian art. Lecture tours spread out over several weeks are available. The Anahuacali Museum, which contains Diego Rivera's pre-Hispanic collection, has a smaller pre-Columbian art display.

Near the Anthropological Museum, in Chapultepec Park, is the Museum of Modern Art, which provides an overview of 80 years of Mexican art, as well as numerous excellent, rotating foreign and Mexican exhibits. Closeby is the Rufino Tamayo Museum, inaugurated in 1980, which displays a good collection of paintings and sculpture by 20th-century artists

from Mexico, the U.S., Europe, and elsewhere.

Other fine museums include the San Carlos, the Pinacoteca Virreinal, the Frida Kahlo Museum (where she and Diego Rivera lived for many years), Chapultepec Castle and, in nearby Tepozotlan, the National Museum of Religious Art.

For those interested in Mexico City's active art scene, the city offers over a dozen fine commercial art galleries which periodically show the best of Mexican—and, to a lesser extent, foreign—artists. A few of the most outstanding include the Galeria de Arte Mexicano, the Galerias Ponce, del Circulo, Arvil, Pecanina, and Juan Martin.

Mexico City has many modern movie theaters which offer recent foreign and Mexican films. U.S. films are in English, with Spanish subtitles. Prices are controlled and inexpensive. Cablevision provides programming of all three major U.S. networks for a moderate monthly fee.

A broad range of restaurants and cuisines is available. Several restaurants offer dancing, and a few good discotheques are available. Prices are moderate.

Social Activities

Within the Embassy. The Embassy has an independently managed social club/bar, open Wednesdays and Fridays after work in the Chancery cafeteria. The Marine Guard Detachment periodically holds open houses at the Marine House, located several miles from the Embassy.

Among Americans. The American Embassy Association (AEA) is active. Monthly meetings feature programs oriented toward a wider knowledge and appreciation of Mexico. The group raises money to provide scholarships for Mexican students. It also keeps a list of charitable organizations requesting volunteers.

Some senior Embassy members belong to the University Club, primarily a luncheon club.

Well-known organizations with branches in Mexico City include the American Legion, Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, Daughters of the American Revolution, Junior League, Kiwanis, Knights of Columbus, Lions, Navy League, Rotary, Shriners, and various U.S. college alumni clubs.

International Contacts. Although Mexicans are friendly when met socially, close personal relationships are hard to establish. A good knowledge of the language and a real effort to make friends, as in most of

Latin America, help to develop friendships. Business contacts and official social occasions offer chances to meet the local people.

The Newcomer's Club is open to all English-speaking women who have lived in Mexico City 2 years or less. Monthly coffees feature speakers on all aspects of life in Mexico, from the practical (legal responsibilities if involved in an automobile accident) to the colorful (traveling the Pacific coast). In addition, the club sponsors numerous interest groups—book club, bridge, tennis, tours, gourmet cooking, etc.—which are open to all members.

Official Functions

Nature of Functions

Official functions in Mexico City follow the pattern of most large embassies. Most entertaining is at home with receptions, cocktail-buffets, dinner parties, or luncheons. However, more restaurant entertaining is used for a working breakfast or luncheon.

The size of the Embassy staff makes it impractical to include all commissioned officers on the diplomatic list. Inclusion is limited to the Ambassador, the minister-counselor, counselors of Embassy, military attaches, and heads of agencies with diplomatic titles. Officers with consular titles are put on the consular list.

Standards of Social Conduct

Protocol generally follows the rules in *Social Usage Abroad*, published by the Department of State. The following procedures are adhered to by officers of all agencies assigned to Mexico City with diplomatic and consular titles:

The Ambassador does not require use of calling cards. Cards for the Ambassador are left with the Ambassador's secretary soon after arrival.

The Personnel Office makes appointments for new officers of their sections to meet the Ambassador.

Employees invited to representative functions of the Ambassador and other senior officers should arrive 15 minutes early and assist in all ways to make the gathering a success.

Officers should bring an initial supply of calling cards with them; 200 in the offi-

cer's name and 100 "Mr. and Mrs." cards for married personnel are sufficient. Cards can be engraved in Mexico City.

All personnel will find a supply of "informals" useful for invitations.

Special Information

Overland Surface Shipments

For personnel assigned to Embassy Mexico City, consign and mark shipments as follows:

American Embassy Warehouse
620 Logan Street
Laredo, Texas 78040

Mark for

Full name
American Embassy
Mexico, D.F.

Shipments via Sea

Since the Embassy uses a customs broker for shipments entering at Veracruz, Tampico, Acapulco, Manzanillo, or Mazatlan, consign and mark all sea shipments for personnel assigned to Embassy Mexico City as follows:

Villasana y Cia., S.A.
Av. Independencia 848
Veracruz, Ver.
Mexico

Villasana y Cia., S.A.
Edificio Luz
Tampico, Tamps.
Mexico

Villasana y Cia., S.A.
Edificio Alvarez
Acapulco, Gro.
Mexico

Villasana y Cia., S.A.
Venustiano Carranza 12
Mazatlan, Sinaloa
Mexico

Villasana y Cia., S.A.
Juarez 236
Manzanillo, Colima
Mexico

All shipments must be marked

Full name
American Embassy
Mexico, D.F.

Unaccompanied Baggage

Small lots of unaccompanied baggage, which must consist solely of clothing and minor personal effects initially needed by the traveler, may be cleared at the port of entry or at Mexico City with a free-entry

permit. Otherwise, passport and keys are required. Do not include such items as TV sets.

Address airfreight as follows:

Full name
American Embassy
c/o Agencia General de Carga
Aerea, S.A.
Aeropuerto Internacional
Mexico, D.F.

See Notes For Travelers, Customs and Duties, for further information on shipping effects.

U.S. Defense Attache Office

The Defense Attache Office (DAO) is located in Room 465 on the fourth floor of the Embassy. The Mexican Secretariats of National Defense (for Army and Air Force) and Marine Affairs (for Navy) are the primary host country military contacts of the DAO.

Uniforms for Military Officers

Attaches and assistant attaches wear uniforms for appointments or calls on the Secretariats of National Defense and Marine Affairs, when making calls to Mexican military installations, and on certain other official occasions as prescribed by the Defense attache (DATT). Dress uniforms are required for some social events. Authorized ribbons/medals and aiguillettes are worn, and a set of miniature medals is required as directed by service regulations for the uniform worn. Light-weight uniforms are suitable, but not mandatory.

Army. The Defense/Army attache and assistant Army attache need at least two Army green uniforms, one Army blue uniform, and one field (fatigue) uniform. The Army blue and white mess uniforms are optional, and neither the Army evening dress nor cape is required. The Army warrant officer needs one Army green uniform, and the dress blue uniform if already owned.

Air Force. The Air attache (AIRA) needs two combination 1 uniforms and a mess uniform with both black and white jackets.

Navy. The Naval attache (ALUSNA) needs the full bag required by U.S. Navy uniform regulations. Formal dress uniform is not required and tropical dinner dress B uniform is not worn.

Marine Corps. The assistant Naval attache (USMC) should have the full bag required by USMC uniform regulations to include dinner/mess dress uniforms.

Uniforms for Enlisted Personnel

Enlisted attache personnel are rarely required to wear the uniform but should bring those indicated below. Light-weight uniforms are suitable but not mandatory.

Army. One Army green uniform, with both a green and a white dress shirt and both standard and black bow ties are needed. The Army blue uniform should be brought if already owned.

Navy. One service dress blue uniform and one summer blue are needed. If you already own a full dress blue uniform, bring it.

Air Force. One combination 1 uniform and a white shirt and black bow tie are needed.

Civilian Attire

Duty Wear for All Personnel. Civilian business suits; slacks, sports coat, and tie; or appropriate dress are worn for duty in the Embassy. Female personnel may also wear appropriate pants/blouse combinations for duty.

Evening Wear for Attaches/Assistant Attaches. Civilian clothing (suits, sports coats and slacks, or appropriate dress) are worn to most informal receptions and social occasions in the home. A tuxedo or formal gown may be worn occasionally but is not required.

Evening Wear for Warrant Officer and Enlisted Personnel. Business suit, sports coat with slacks, or appropriate dress will meet all social requirements.

Dependents of All Personnel. See Clothing—Mexico City.

Calling Cards and Invitations for Defense

Attaches and assistant attaches need some calling cards and invitations which may be purchased locally at reasonable cost. Calling cards for other personnel are optional.

Defense Housing

The DATT occupies a government-owned and furnished four-bedroom house, and all other personnel occupy privately leased houses or apartments.

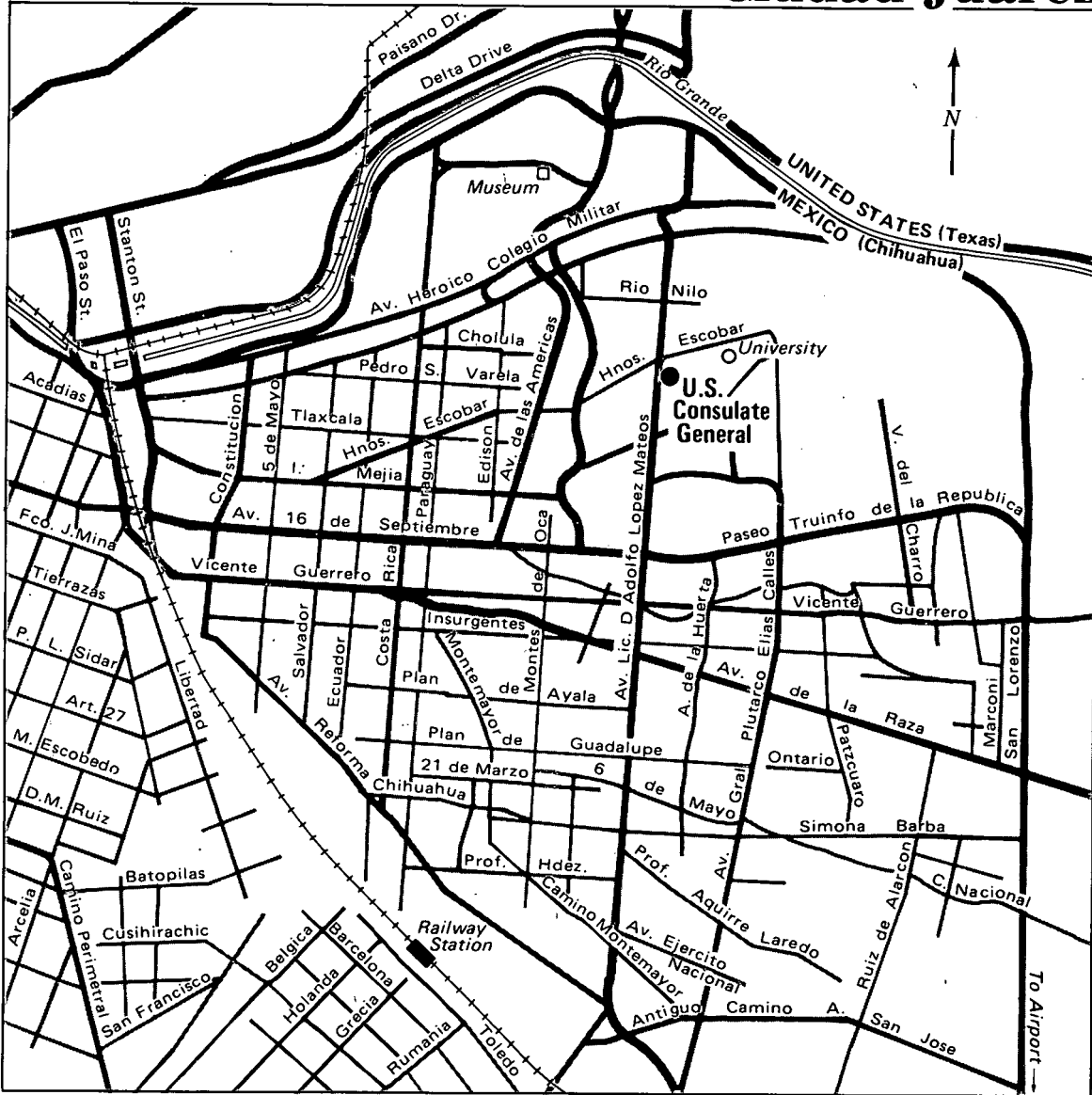
Defense Household Goods/Unaccompanied Baggage

The DATT has weight restrictions imposed since government furnishings are provided. Detailed listings of the items furnished are on file in DIA/ATT-7 and should be consulted prior to sorting items for shipment and storage. All other personnel should bring a complete assortment of furniture and appliances, as no items are available from government sources. Individuals should read the Personal Property Consignment Identification Guide (PPCIG) carefully and insure that all shipments are handled as directed therein. You are encouraged to either telephone or cable the DAO as soon as you learn of a pending assignment. A DAO sponsor will be assigned and will give you a copy of the Mexico portion of the PPCIG and other documents to facilitate planning for your assignment.

Travel and Transportation

Travel to Mexico is either by privately owned car or commercial air. Individuals arriving by air are met with government transportation if the DAO has advance notice. Individuals arriving by car should, upon reaching the outskirts of Mexico City, call the Embassy switchboard (555-33-33) and ask for the DAO (extensions 3775/3776) to get directions to the Embassy and/or to the hotel. The DAO also has a direct line (525-2845) during normal duty hours. If you arrive on a weekend, holiday, or after normal duty hours, ask the Embassy switchboard for the DAO duty officer.

Ciudad Juarez



5654 5-84 STATE(GE)

Consulate General

Ciudad Juarez

With a population of over 750,000, Ciudad Juarez (commonly called Juarez) is Mexico's fifth largest city and the largest of all cities along the U.S.-Mexico border. Juarez is a blend of old and new, is tourist oriented, and has strong cultural and economic ties with the U.S. Yet it is proud of its Mexican heritage and its history as chief city of the State of Chihuahua, "Cradle of the Revolution." Consulate General personnel find opportunities to make close and lasting friendships among the bankers, lawyers, doctors, manufacturers, and merchants, many with close family, business, and educational links with the U.S.

Under Mexico's border industrialization program, designed to raise the standard of living along the entire border, several industrial plants, many of them wholly owned subsidiaries of American firms, have been established here to take advantage of low labor costs. The "twin plant" concept, with plants in Ciudad Juarez performing labor-intensive work in cooperation with mechanized operations in their counterpart plants in the U.S., has developed industrial links between this city and El Paso, Texas, just across the border.

In recent years the national frontier program (PRONAF) center with its historical museum, convention hall, nationwide arts and crafts display, private shops, and modern hotels has added much to the city's cultural and tourist attractions. The large Chamizal Park along the border opposite El Paso, Texas, is being developed into a beautiful area of gardens, playgrounds, and parkways which are transforming the northern approaches to the city.

Ciudad Juarez is situated 3,700 feet above sea level in an arid desert region surrounded by treeless mountains. It is a region of cloudless days, low humidity, and an average rainfall of under 10 inches. The climate consists of four seasons: sum-

mer is long but its heat is tempered by low humidity; fall is brief but pleasant; winter temperatures fluctuate from below freezing to moderate with infrequent light snowfall; and spring is brief and pleasant. Duststorms, which can occur any time of the year, are the weather's most unpleasant feature.

The Post and Its Administration

The Consulate General is a two-story building located just off the PRONAF center at Avenida Lopez Mateos 924. The telephone number is Juarez 3-40-48. A recorded message gives the telephone number of the post's afterhours answering service.

Postal addresses are:

P.O. Box 10545
El Paso, Texas 79995

OR

Apartado Postal 164
Ciudad Juarez
Chihuahua, Mexico

The U.S. postal system is used for most incoming/outgoing mail.

Work hours are from 8 am to 4:45 pm all year, with 45 minutes for lunch. Ciudad Juarez operates on central standard time throughout the year, but El Paso operates on mountain standard time during winter and daylight saving time in summer.

Housing

Temporary Quarters

Newly arrived personnel may stay in one of several hotels either in Ciudad Juarez or El Paso. Most recent arrivals have stayed at Hotel Plaza Juarez, a comfortable motel just 2 blocks from the Consulate General.

Permanent Housing

The principal officer is provided government-leased and -furnished housing. All other employees are provided government-leased, unfurnished housing. Housing quality is good, and employees

can normally expect to move into permanent housing shortly after arrival.

Post housing is normally centrally heated and air-conditioned. Electrical current in Juarez is 120v, 60-cycle, AC. Public utilities are adequate, but gas pressure may fall and electrical current fluctuates during high use periods. Some water pressure loss may occur during peak usage periods. Local and long-distance telephone service is good, and calls are easily made to the U.S. All types of household appliances and furnishings are available in El Paso furniture and department stores. The post can include in an initial free-entry request items bought in El Paso.

Furnishings

The principal officer's home is completely furnished. All other personnel are issued a refrigerator and washer and dryer. You must either ship all other furniture or purchase it here. Free entry can be obtained for furniture purchased in El Paso after arrival.

Food

Modern supermarkets are numerous in both Juarez and El Paso, and shopping for food presents no problems. Food costs are somewhat less than in the Washington D.C., area, especially fresh fruits and vegetables which are often plentiful. Many Americans prefer to buy these items and some meats in Juarez.

Clothing

A seasonal wardrobe is necessary in Juarez with emphasis on light-weight clothing in view of the long summer. In winter, medium-weight suits for men are appropriate as are knit or woolen skirts and dresses for women. Although subfreezing temperatures are rare, penetrating winds make lined coats, hats, and gloves comfortable. Formal wear is seldom worn. Because of infrequent rain, little rainwear is needed, but bring umbrellas.



Theater is popular throughout Mexico. Here is the Juarez Theater in Guanajuato.

Fashion trends in Juarez follow those in the western U.S., except that shorts are rarely worn in public. Women's slacks and pantsuits are worn for home entertainment, as are long dresses and skirts. El Paso has good department stores and high-fashion specialty shops.

Religious Activities

Both Protestant and Catholic churches are in Ciudad Juarez and El Paso. All services are held in Spanish in Ciudad Juarez. El Paso has a synagogue and temple.

Education

Dependent Education

At Post. Americans with school-aged children may use El Paso's good public or private schools. The post's education allowance is based on the cost of tuition at El Paso public schools, plus daily transportation costs to and from Juarez. Currently, the post has three children attending public junior and high schools in

El Paso, and two younger children attend a private school.

Schools in Juarez offer instruction in Spanish with English taught as a second language. Several good Mexican private schools, mostly church operated, are available.

The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP), with an enrollment of 10,000 day students, grants bachelor of arts and sciences and master of arts degrees, with night and summer school courses available. Tuition for out-of-state residents is expensive.

Away From Post. Currently, no children are studying away from post.

Recreation and Social Life

Several public golf courses are in the El Paso area. Bowling, tennis, and horseback riding are popular. Bullfights, greyhound races, and "charreadas" (Mexican rodeos) in Ciudad Juarez, and horseracing in Juarez and nearby Sunland Park, New Mexico, are seasonal attractions. The El Paso YMCA, YWCA, and Museum of Art offer various evening and weekend classes (swimming, arts and crafts, music, etc.) for adults and children. Concerts, plays, and other cultural offerings are frequent in El Paso and, to a lesser but increasing extent, in its sister city. The Consulate General currently obtains free guest memberships for officers at the Juarez Country Club. The country club offers two swimming pools, several tennis courts, golf, racquetball and handball courts, and a weight room, in addition to restaurant facilities.

Juarez has many good restaurants. El Paso restaurants are good, with steaks and Mexican dishes the specialty. Several restaurants offer Chinese, Italian, French, and other cuisines. Prices range from moderate to expensive. Alcoholic beverages are served in many popular establishments.

Reception of Juarez's two TV channels and El Paso's five, in both black and white and color, is excellent.

Nearby touring attractions include the state capital of Chihuahua, about 4 hours south by rail or car. The Big Bend National Park and Davis Mountains in west Texas, Carlsbad Caverns, Elephant Butte Lake, and the Ruidoso-Cloudcroft Highlands (with excellent skiing facilities) of southern New Mexico are destinations for a weekend or longer.

Your social life depends largely on your initiative. Official functions are few, except for the principal officer. Consular personnel need at least some calling cards.

Special Information

Your household effects will remain in the hands of the shipping agent or customs broker, depending on origin of shipment and packing instructions, until you find permanent quarters in Ciudad Juarez. Household shipments should be addressed as follows:

Full name
American Consulate General
c/o Armstrong Moving and Storage
5A Zane Grey
El Paso, Texas 79906

As this is the shipping agent's warehouse address, send GBL's and other documents to:

Armstrong Moving and Storage
3800 Buckner
El Paso, Texas 79906

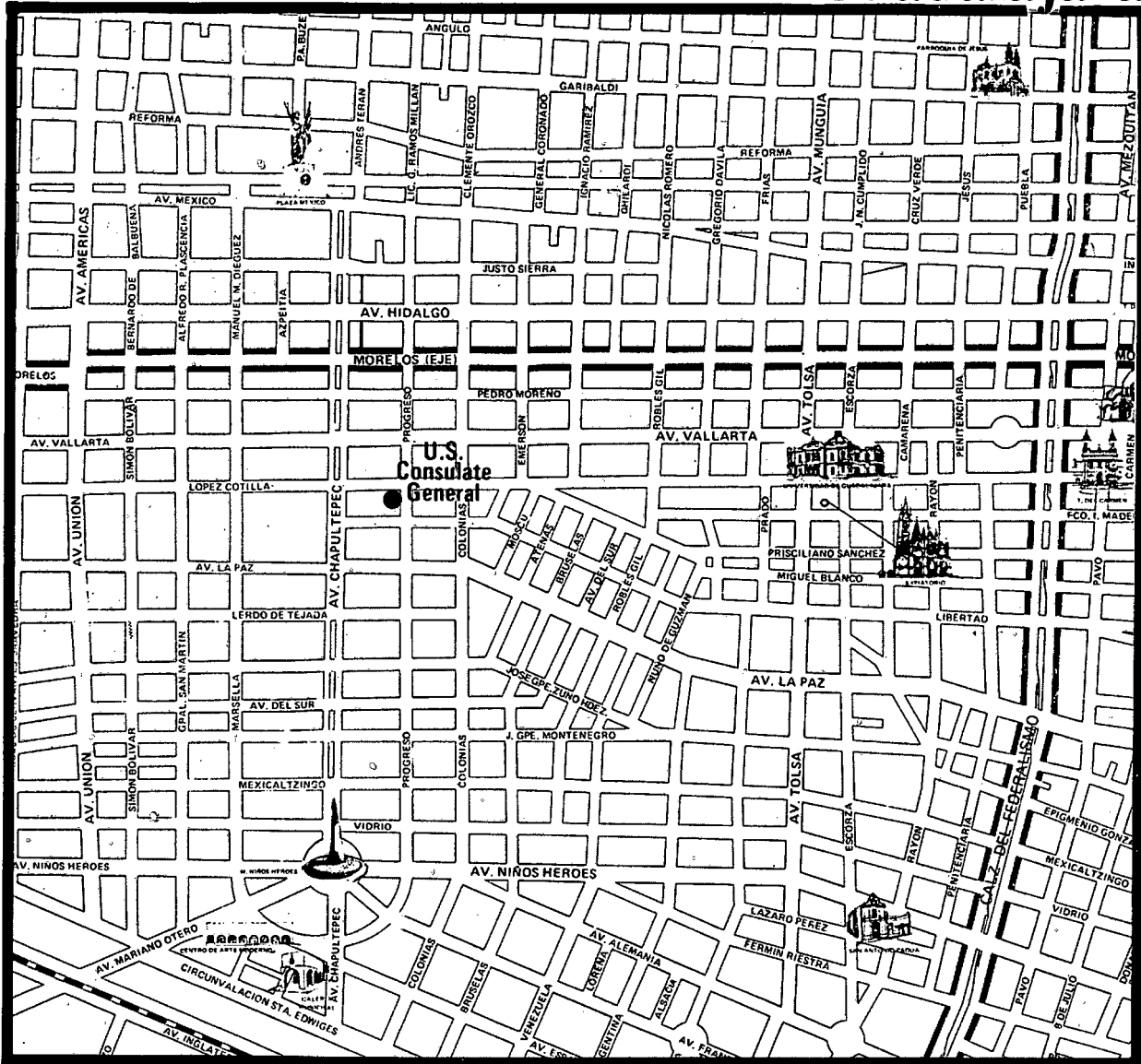
Unaccompanied baggage and small shipments suitable for handling by railway express should be addressed to the shipping agent's warehouse address above through the El Paso customs broker.

For shipments originating outside the U.S., the U.S. Despatch Agent in New York or San Francisco will be used, depending upon point of origin. Cases should be addressed:

Full name
American Consulate General
c/o Armstrong Moving and Storage
5A Zane Grey
El Paso, Texas 79906

See Notes For Travelers, Customs and Duties, for more information on shipping effects.

Guadalajara



Consulate General

Guadalajara

Guadalajara, with a population of over 2 million, including 8,000 resident Americans, is on a broad tableland almost surrounded by mountains cut by deep gorges. Its people, the Tapatios, are proud of their city and its history and traditions. The climate is temperate year round. At 5,092 feet, Guadalajara is high enough to escape the coastal heat and dampness in summer. Average temperatures are similar to Los Angeles. The atmosphere is dry except during the mid-June to October rainy season, when brief showers occur daily. From mid-April to mid-June daytime temperatures are often in the low 90's. The many varieties of flowers and trees which bloom all year in Guadalajara contribute to allergies and upper respiratory problems. Increasing air pollution also aggravates these problems. The altitude is high enough to require adjustment and to cause temporary fatigue, shortness of breath, and lack of energy.

The city has been modernized: widened and paved streets, new water and sewage systems, new parks and buildings, shopping malls, etc.

The Post and Its Administration

The Consulate General is a large, two-story, air-conditioned building at Progreso 175 in the Zona Rosa section of Guadalajara. Office hours are from 8 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday. The telephone number is 25-29-98 or 25-27-00. A recorded message gives the number of a paging service which contacts the duty officer after work. The staff includes members of USIS, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Social Security Administration, Drug Enforcement Administration, and Department of Agriculture. All offices, except that of the USDA, are in the Consulate General

building. The Consulate General also has a support agreement with the binational Screwworm Commission. The post office address is Apartado Postal 1-1 Bis, 44100 Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico.

The post's Community Liaison Office (CLO), staffed by a volunteer, encourages arriving staff and families to write to the community liaison officer or administrative officer for additional information.

Housing

Temporary Quarters

Guadalajara has many hotels, motels, and furnished apartments adequate for a temporary stay. Incoming personnel are normally offered accommodations in one of the furnished apartments called "suites," which usually include a furnished kitchenette. Most have play areas for children and swimming pools. Very few allow pets. Notify post immediately of your arrival date, as suites and hotel rooms are scarce during the winter "high season."

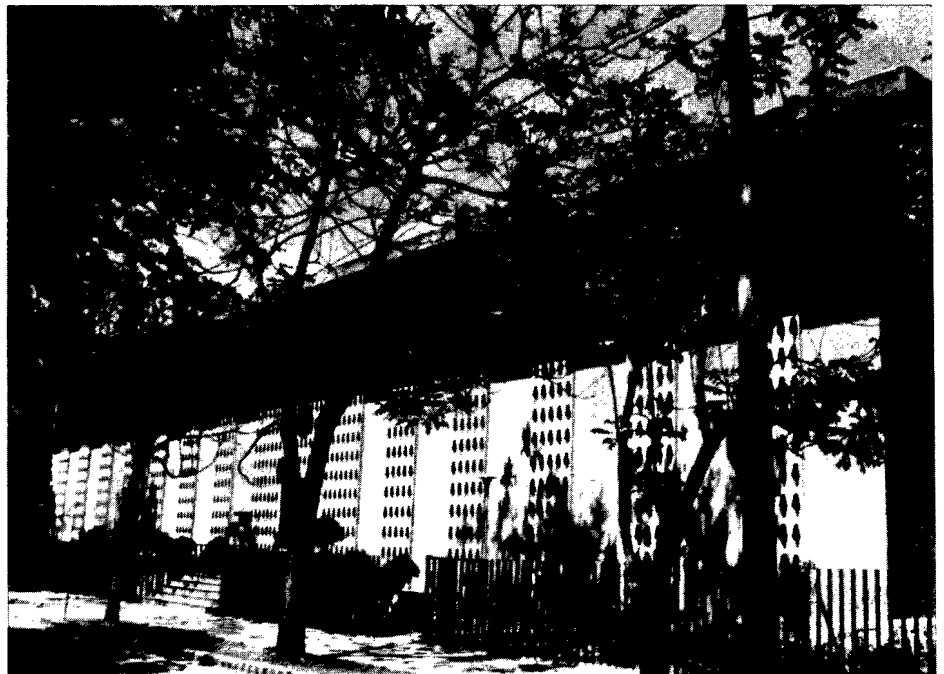
Permanent Housing

The principal officer has government-leased housing with major appliances (stove, refrigerator, upright freezer, and washer and dryer). The house is a four-bedroom, ranch-style with a swimming pool. The administrative officer has more detailed information. All other employees are notified of housing availability through Personnel (State) or parent agency channels when the post receives notice of assignment.

Most families live in single-family houses, but single employees often prefer apartment living. Adequate housing is usually found within 6-8 weeks.

Furnishings

Guadalajara is a full shipment post. Bring most household furnishings. The Department of State provides refrigerators and washers and dryers. Some houses and many apartments are furnished with stoves. Furniture and appliances are available locally but are not of U.S. quality and are more expensive.



American Consulate General, Guadalajara.

Utilities and Equipment

Electric service is 110v, 60-cycle, AC, as in the U.S. Dryers and other heavy appliances should be 110v as 220v lines are not common and are expensive to install. Bring converters to convert natural gas appliances to bottled gas (liquid propane). Voltage regulators to protect TV's and stereos from electrical surges are available here.

Domestic Help

Maids are available, though good ones are increasingly hard to find. Salaries have increased along with the inflation rate. Some personnel employ part-time maids mainly for cleaning. Maids do not speak English.

Food

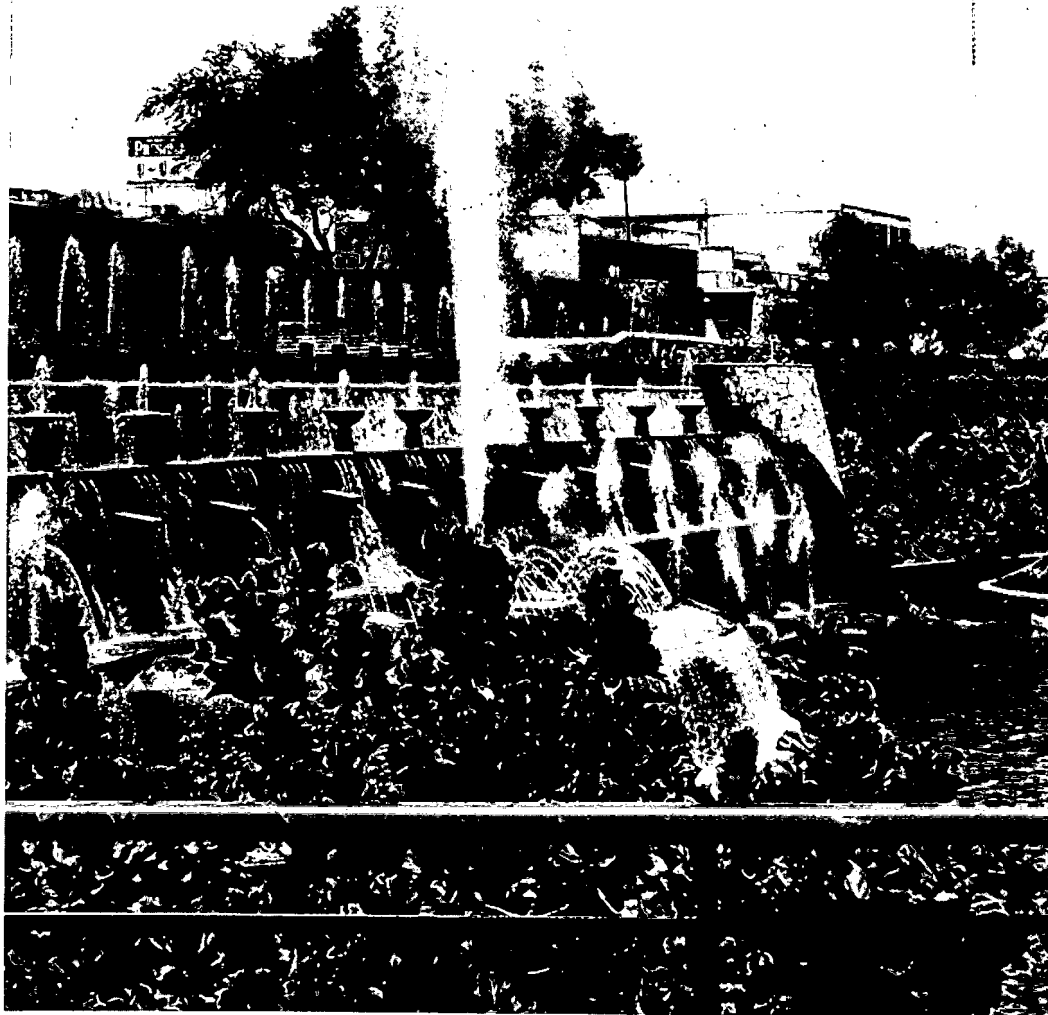
Supermarkets, "tiendas," and specialty food stores are available in the Guadalajara area, in addition to independent butchers, fish and chicken markets, bakeries, and open markets. Kosher foods are not available.

Food stores stock a wide variety of items, including many U.S. brands manufactured in Mexico. Quality is uneven, however, and items are sometimes out of stock. Very few food items are imported from the U.S. Frozen foods are nearly nonexistent. Sugar substitutes, low-calorie foods, and sugar-free items are also practically nonexistent. Certain baking ingredients are hard to find. Dairy products must be purchased with care; not all brands have been pasteurized and if not, are unsafe. Also, processing and preserving techniques differ from those in the U.S., and foods often spoil faster.

Fruits and vegetables should be soaked for at least 20 minutes in chlorinated water or iodine water. The Consulate General has iodine tablets.

City tapwater is safe for bathing and cleaning but not for drinking. Bottled water, necessary for drinking and most cooking, is sold from neighborhood trucks.

In order to obtain grocery items not found in Guadalajara, personnel place cooperative duty-free, caselot orders from wholesalers in Texas four times a year. Personnel also buy smaller quantities of such items on visits to border cities (about 600 miles away).



Alcalde Park in Guadalajara.

Clothing

Clothing needs in Guadalajara are seasonal. Heavy winter clothing is not needed. Light-weight materials are comfortable from April to August, medium-weight from September to November, and medium-weight with an added sweater or light topcoat from December through March. Even in cooler months, Guadalajara is warm by midday and then even medium-weight clothing is uncomfortable

until sundown. Bring raincoats and umbrellas for the mid-June-October rainy season. Very light summer clothes are necessary for travel to low-altitude, hot areas.

Bring a plain dark suit or appropriate dress for official occasions. Formal social occasions are rare, but a white or black tuxedo jacket is appropriate at some functions. Cocktail dresses are useful.



Guadalajara is the city of beautiful fountains and year-round flowers.

Religious Activities

In addition to the many Catholic churches (one has services in English), several Protestant churches offer English-language services. A Jewish congregation offers services in Spanish and Hebrew.

Education

Most children enroll in the American School, located in a good residential area. It offers a coeducational program from prekindergarten through high school, with bilingual instruction in the first six grades. It is a nonprofit, nonsectarian organization with an American school director. It is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Schoolbus service is available. The school year begins in early September and ends in mid-June with 2-week vacations at Easter and Christmas. Prekindergarten, elementary, and some high school-level courses have summer sessions. No uniforms are required.

The John F. Kennedy School offers instruction from kindergarten through grade 6. It is incorporated with the State of Jalisco and is bilingual with English one-half of the day and Spanish the other half. Bus service is available.

The Lincoln School offers a curriculum equivalent to most U.S. schools. It is built on Christian principles, with mandatory 15-minute devotions each morning. Classes are in English with Spanish lessons provided. The grades are prekindergarten through high school. No bus service is offered.

Recreation and Social Life

The climate encourages a wide variety of outdoor sports. Swimming pools, tennis courts, horseback riding, and bowling alleys are available. Four 18-hole golf courses and several 9-hole courses are in the Guadalajara area. Greens fees are about the same as at better U.S. courses. Both private clubs and city recreation facilities offer swimming, tennis, racquetball, basketball, and other sports.

Special interest clubs such as bridge, American Society, and Pro-Musica are active here.

Special Information

Mail Facilities

Three methods are available for sending letters and packages to post. The official international postal address is:

Full name
Apartado Postal 1-1 Bis
Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico

Letters may be sent by mail to this address. The Mexican postal system is efficient and reliable for letter mail, but do not send packages to that address.

For packages the post has two other mailing addresses. The Department of State address is:

Full name
American Consulate General
Guadalajara
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20521

The Laredo address is:

Full name
American Consulate General
Guadalajara
P.O. Box 3088
Laredo, Texas 78041

Shipping Effects

Surface Shipments. All surface shipments should be consigned and marked:

American Embassy Warehouse
620 Logan Street
Laredo, Texas 78040

Mark for

Full name
American Consulate General
Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico

Shipments of household and personal effects arrive by truck via Nuevo Laredo. Do not send any shipment collect. Since some loss from breakage or pilferage occurs, insure and itemize everything on the packing list.

In order for the Embassy GSO to obtain free-entry permits for household and personal effects, submit the following information:

- Name, title, and address of shipper(s).
- Mexican port of entry and means of shipment to that point.
- Specific number of trunks, suitcases, liftvans, cases, cartons, barrels, and crates or packages and detailed list of contents. It is imperative that this information be supplied as soon as possible to prevent unnecessary delays in importation of personal and household effects. Unpacked household effects arriving by van are described as a "lot," but the number of pieces contained therein should be specified. If information is not known, overestimate rather than underestimate.

Documentation. The correct mailing address for documentation papers is different from the addresses and markings for surface shipments. All documentation, i.e., waybills, including letters, etc., must be airmailed to the:

American Consulate General
P.O. Box 3088
Laredo, Texas 78041

See Notes for Travelers, Customs and Duties, for further shipping information.

Monterrey



5615 5-84 STATE(IG)

Consulate General

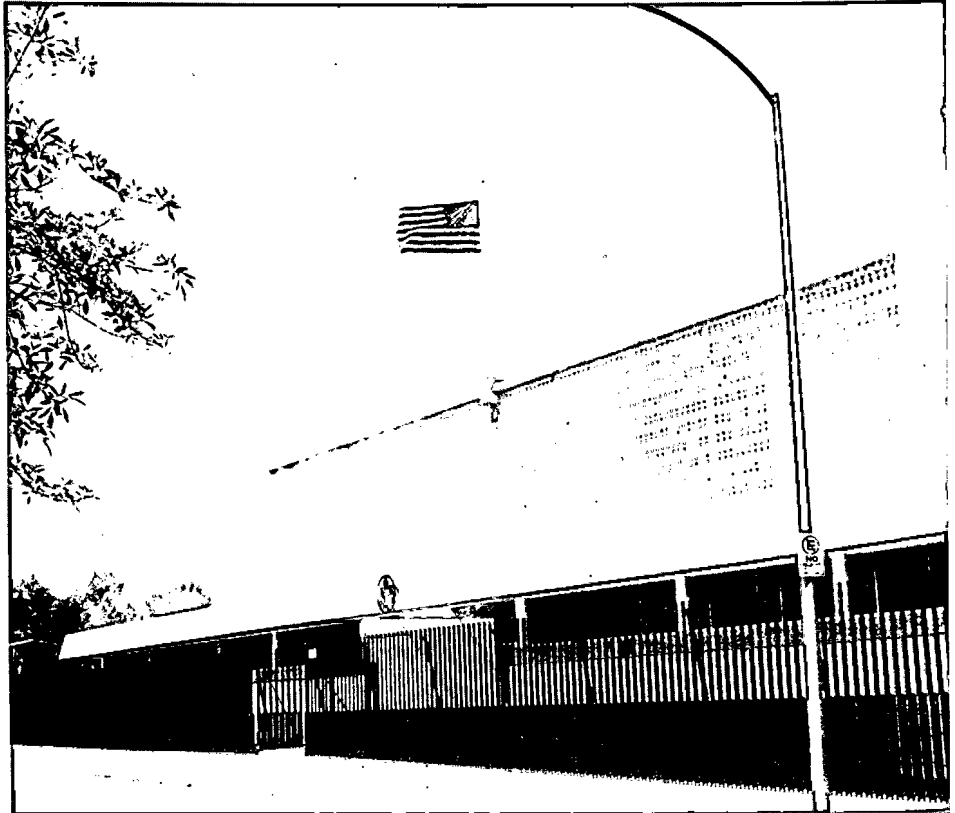
Monterrey

Monterrey, with a metropolitan area population of 2,116,000, is Mexico's third largest city and second most important industrial and financial city. The area's geography and history have given the people of Monterrey, "Regiomontanos" as they call themselves, an individual character. Although the city is heavily industrialized, the surrounding area is primarily agricultural and pastoral. The area's diversity provides an interesting tour of duty.

Monterrey is in a semiarid valley at an altitude of 1,765 feet, surrounded on three sides by rugged mountains. Southeast of the city is one of Mexico's most important citrus-producing areas. Most of the surrounding area, nonetheless, is semiarid and covered with growth.

Most rain falls from September to December, accompanied by high humidity. Summer often begins in early March. Winters are short and not too severe, lasting from December through February. Dust can be a problem, especially in the dry season. The city has developed a serious smog problem; some limited efforts are being made to control pollution. Respiratory ailments are common.

Monterrey has grown rapidly during the last decade. Its rapid expansion has placed strains on public utilities. Much construction is now underway, including a 6-block long pedestrian mall downtown. The city is credited with contributing more than 10% of Mexico's industrial production. It is also headquarters for nationally prominent insurance and banking concerns. As a result, the atmosphere is noticeably different from that in other areas of Mexico. The tone-setting business community is conservative in its politics and religion; advanced in its approach to technical innovation and economic opportunities; closer to American than traditional Latin concepts in business practices; and devoted to the family, hard work, and the expansion of the family enterprise.



Consulate General, Monterrey.

Thousands of U.S. tourists visit the city annually. This creates heavy workloads for the Consular Section. Every officer can expect to become well acquainted with visa, protection, and citizenship problems during a tour.

The Post and Its Administration

The Consulate General has its own two-story, air-conditioned building located at Constitucion Poniente 411. Housed on the ground floor are the Consular Section, USIS, and the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). On the second floor are the offices of the consul general, the Economic/Commercial Section, the Legal Office, the Drug Enforcement Administration Office, and the Administrative Section. A modern auditorium/projection

room in the basement seats 100. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 am to noon and 1 pm to 5 pm. The telephone numbers are 43-06-50 and 43-06-59. The mailing address is Apartado Postal 152, Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, 64000 Mexico.

Housing

Temporary Quarters

Monterrey has several hotels and motels which are adequate for a temporary stay, but they lack kitchen facilities. Furnished apartments with kitchenette facilities are not available.

Permanent Housing

The principal officer is provided government-leased, furnished housing including major appliances (stove, refrigerator, upright freezer, and washer and

dryer). The BPAO is provided an unfurnished house. No other government housing is available for Consulate General employees, although nine officers now live in government-leased quarters.

While suitable housing is available, it may take 4-8 weeks to find, and rents are high and continually rising. Since most apartments and houses require the tenant to furnish stoves, refrigerators, space heaters, kitchen cabinets, hot water heaters, washers and dryers, air-conditioners, and light fixtures, be prepared for substantial initial expenses. The government currently provides all new arrivals with refrigerators, washers and dryers, and stoves. Furnished housing is hard to obtain and is expensive.

Since lengthy delays in telephone installation are common, rent quarters with a phone. Make sure that the owner will not remove the phone during your tour.

Furnishings

American-style furniture, at prices much higher than in the U.S., is sold locally. Inexpensive, durable wicker and reed furniture and custom-made furniture by local crafters are also available, particularly of the Spanish colonial influence. Stoves, hot water heaters, light fixtures, and household items can also be bought here. A complete range of furniture and major appliances can be bought at shops in U.S. border towns. Piped natural gas or bottled gas is commonly used for cooking, water heaters, and space heaters. Electric fans or air-conditioners (220v models preferably) are used in at least one room. Electrical current in Monterrey is 110v, 60-cycle, AC.

Occasionally blackouts last several hours. In addition, the voltage fluctuates. Voltage regulators, although not absolutely necessary, are good to have for sensitive stereo equipment. Water is cut off sometimes for several hours a day, especially during drier periods.

Food

Some American foods are sold locally, but frozen foods are rare and expensive. Most fruits and vegetables familiar to Americans, as well as tropical and semitropical fruits, are available. Meat prices are generally lower and the meat tougher than in the U.S. Better cuts of meat are expensive here also. A freezer is useful, especially for large families.

Strained and junior baby foods, canned by U.S.-affiliated firms in Mexico, now sell at nearly twice U.S. prices.

Clothing

Generally, clothing worn in spring, summer, and fall in Washington, D.C., is worn in Monterrey. Clothing may be purchased here and on trips to U.S. border towns.

Men. The consul general (and perhaps others to a lesser extent) may occasionally need a dinner jacket (tux, black or white). If you own these, bring them to post. Hats are seldom worn by men in the city except with informal outdoor wear for protection against sun and rain. In summer men often wear guayaberas (white cotton shirts with handsewn tucks). Local readymade men's suits are inferior to equally priced U.S. products. The style differs from that worn by Americans. Shirts and other accessories are sold locally. A trenchcoat or light overcoat is appropriate for the short winter.

Women. A variety of women's clothing is worn—pantsuits, woolen suits, cocktail dresses, full-length informal dresses or skirts, knits, cottons, and linens. Lightweight dresses are the most practical for the mild climate. Bring a winter coat, spring coat, raincoat, and umbrella. Although Mexican shoes are stylish and reasonably priced, narrow feet and heels are difficult to fit. Attractive sandals for summer are available.

Religious Activities

English-language services are held in the Chapel of the Franciscan Convent (Roman Catholic) and the Union Church (nondenominational Protestant). A synagogue and an Episcopal Church (Holy Family) are also available.

Education

Dependent Education

Most children attend the American School of Monterrey, a private coeducational school offering classes from nursery through grade 12. Instruction is in English with intensive Spanish courses for Americans and intensive English courses available to Mexican children. The school is a fully accredited member of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and of the Texas State Department

of Education. Course material is based on Texas educational standards.

The school year runs from mid-August to mid-June. Current enrollment is about 1,400, including 228 U.S. students, 1,125 Mexicans, and 42 children of other nationalities. Elementary (kindergarten through grade 6) enrollment was about 948 and secondary (grades 7-12) enrollment is 447. Most Mexican high school students leave after grade 9 to attend the local preparatory schools, and others transfer to the Bachillerato system, leaving grades 10-12 with a total current enrollment of 42 students.

Recreation and Social Life

Sports

A tennis club at the military camp on the north side of town (about 15 minutes from the Consulate General) offers 11 clay courts. Two public courts are on the edge of downtown Monterrey (V. Carranza and Aramberri) and two are in the suburb of Fuentes del Valle. They are cement and free. Public soccer fields, tennis courts, and basketball courts are located in a several mile-long section of a dry riverbed. Also, on a par course you can jog and follow a marked pattern of suggested exercise.

Several stables in the area offer horseback riding.

The Circulo Mercantil, an organization of office workers and professionals, run somewhat along the lines of the YMCA, has bowling alleys; billiards and Ping-pong; two gyms; basketball, volleyball, and handball courts; swimming pool; steam baths; etc. Dues are minimal. Two members must sponsor your application.

Bass fishing is available in a few public lakes and many ponds. In order to fish in most ponds you must know someone whose club has fishing rights. You can fish from banks or in a boat, but rental boats are scarce. Fishing and hunting licenses may be obtained gratis through the Embassy.

Nearby attractions include: Chipinque Falls (picnic area, small zoo, hotel, swimming pool, scenic view); Horse Tail Falls (picnics, waterfall, hotel, pool); Presa de la Boca (picnics, fishing, boating, water skiing); Garcia Cave (cave tour); the city of Saltillo (higher elevation, cooler climate, cleaner air, nine-hole golf course); Huasteca Canyon (hiking, camping, picnics); and Bustamante Canyon (hiking,

camping, and spelunking nearby). Additional pools are found at Balneario el Allamo, a restaurant with three pools which is about 25 miles away on the old road to Mexico, and at the Restaurant Rodriguez, some 12 miles from the city on the road to the airport.

Horse shows and rodeos (charreadas), presented by Mexican cowboys (charros), are announced in advance in the newspaper. Bullfighting is one of Mexico's favorite spectator sports. The Plaza Monterrey features big name "toreros" as well as "novilleros." During the season (October-May), bullfights are held on Sunday afternoons and holidays. Monterrey has a Mexican Baseball League team, similar to the AA class in the U.S. Games are played at night and on Sundays.

Monterrey has several bowling alleys and roller skating rinks. The Consulate General has a men's softball team and a women's volleyball team, both of which compete in leagues.

Educational and artistic activities include live music and dance concerts. Several modern movie theaters (many showing year-old U.S. films with subtitles) exist, as do good restaurants.

Local tourist attractions include the Cathedral, Obispado (Bishop's Palace), several museums, and tours of the brewery and crystal factory. There are some art galleries.

Monterrey has five TV stations and U.S. TV is available by cable in several neighborhoods. One of the local stations televises U.S. college football games and professional football games each Saturday and Sunday during the season.

Six Rotary Clubs in the Monterrey metropolitan area meet on different days of the week. An American Society, a square dance group, and a choral group are also active.

The Monterrey consular corps (officers of the U.S. Consulate General being the only resident career consular officers in the city) was organized in 1946. Its social program has been limited to monthly dinners and annual conventions.

The consul general often attends these functions personally and sometimes sends a representative.

Much of the social life of the junior officers revolves around informal dinners, barbeques, etc.

A few official calls must be made. A supply of 150 official calling cards is adequate.

Special Information

Mail Facilities

Letters and periodicals may be received through international mail, which is often the fastest, or through the Consulate General's post office box in Laredo, Texas:

Full name
American Consulate General
Monterrey
P.O. Box 3098
Laredo, Texas 78041

Pouch facilities are also available for letters and parcels:

Full name
Monterrey
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520 (for letters)
and 20521 (for parcels)

Shipping Effects

Shipments from the U.S. are usually crated and forwarded to Monterrey via Laredo, Texas. Shipments originating in Europe or Africa generally enter through Tampico, sometimes through Veracruz. Shipments originating in the Orient generally enter through Acapulco. If shipped from a previous post, autos should be consigned to the Villasana y Cia. at the port of entry. Most cars are personally driven from the U.S. to Monterrey via Laredo, which is 150 miles away.

Consign and mark all overland shipments to Monterrey as follows:

U.S. Embassy Warehouse
620 Logan Street
Laredo, Texas 78040

For
Full name
American Consulate General
Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico

For shipments entering through Veracruz, Tampico, or Acapulco, the following marks are used:

Tampico
Villasana y Cia.
Edificio Luz, 2o. Piso, Desps.
204-207
Tampico, Tamaulipas

For
Full name
American Consulate General
Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico

Veracruz
Villasana y Cia.
Landro y Coss 31
Veracruz, Veracruz.

For
Full name
American Consulate General
Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico

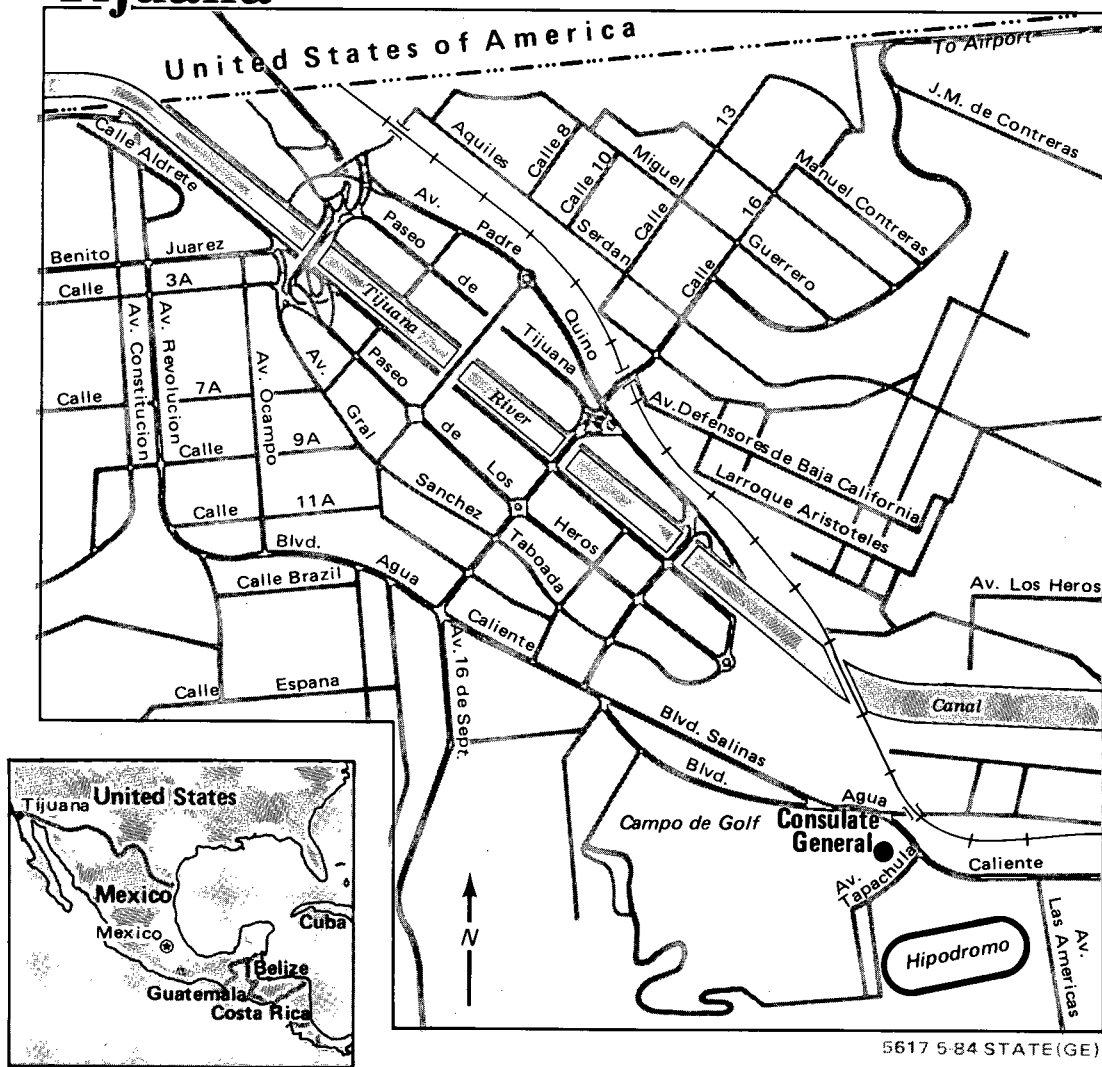
Acapulco
Villasana y Cia.
Edificio Avarez, 1er. Piso

For
Full name
American Consulate General
Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico

Upon shipment of effects, send all shipping documents and bills of lading to either the American Consulate General for Laredo, Texas, entry or to Villasana y Cia. for entry at Tampico, Veracruz, or Acapulco so that they may begin the clearance. Submit a detailed packing list and inventory to the Consulate General and to the Embassy. If you desire early entry of unaccompanied baggage or household effects, give the following information to the administrative officer at this post: your full name and title; type, date of issue, and number of passport and visa; your estimated time of arrival and port of entry; contents' value; the port of entry of the shipment (for Monterrey this is usually Nuevo Laredo); and means of shipment.

See Notes For Travelers, Customs and Duties, for further shipping information.

Tijuana



Consulate General

Tijuana

The city of Tijuana, whose principal economic activity is tourism, lies just south of San Diego, California, and the natural vegetation and physical environment is virtually identical to that of southern California. The city is 5 miles from the Pacific Ocean at about 75 feet above sea level. It is built in and around a group of rather large hills which are part of the Pacific Coast Range of mountains.

Tijuana's estimated 1 million people live in a modern city. Recently, however, a tremendous influx of new residents from other parts of Mexico has severely taxed its municipal services.

The climate is identical to that of San Diego, with no temperature extremes. Winter temperatures can drop to 40°F at night and remain in the 50's during the daytime in winter months; temperatures seldom reach freezing. Summer temperatures rarely go above 80°F. Sunny days and the lack of perceptible humidity help maintain comfortable conditions year round. Rainfall, which normally occurs only between October and March (the main rainy months are December and January), averages 11 inches yearly. Unfortunately, vegetation is sparse on the slopes surrounding the city, resulting in year-round dusty conditions in the city. This lack of vegetation also leads to problems during periods of heavy rain with minor mud slides, sudden appearance of deep ruts and potholes in streets, and clogged gutters.

The population of the Tijuana consular district is mainly Spanish-Indian, and Spanish is the common language. However, English is widely spoken and understood. More than 25,000 Americans reside in the consular district, apart from the many thousands of tourists who cross the border every day (some 14 million a year). No other large foreign colony exists.

Although Baja California seems to be a geographical extension of the U.S., the

border definitely exists. There can be long lines of cars waiting to enter the U.S. at rush hour (many Mexicans live in Tijuana and commute to work in the U.S.) and during weekends and holidays, when many tourists return from various sporting events and outdoor activities.

The Post and Its Administration

The Consulate General is located at Tapachula 96 and is a modern, two-story building. Consulate General office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 am to 4:30 pm. The telephone number is 86-10-01 (from the U.S. dial direct 706-686-1001). The Department of Agriculture (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service), maintains offices in the Consulate General.

The Consulate General's postal addresses are:

Apartado Postal 68
Tijuana, B.C.
Mexico

and

P.O. Box 1358
San Ysidro, California 92073

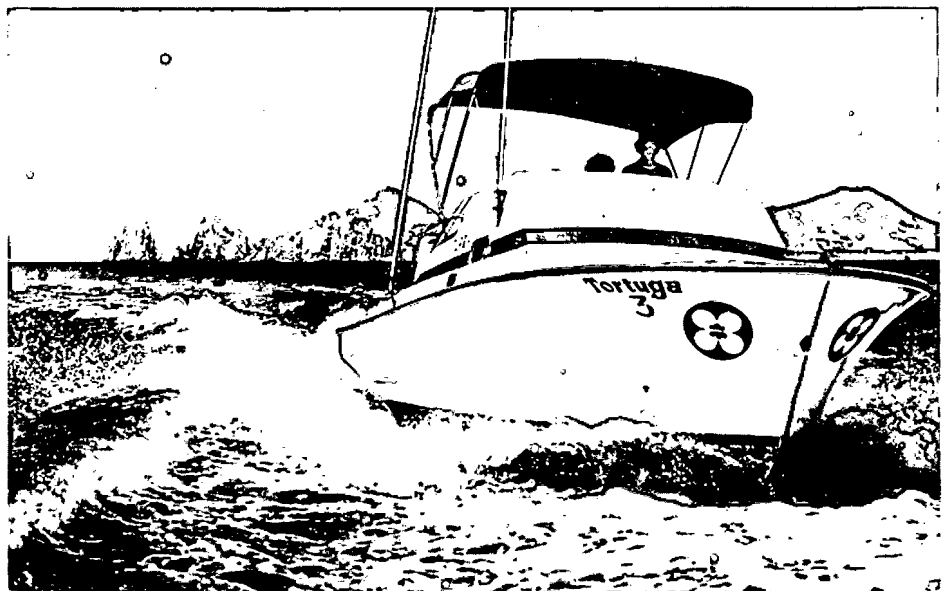
U.S. employees receive their mail through the San Ysidro box number. New employees may safely send regular sized packages in advance of their arrival and mark them "hold for arrival." However, please note that the post office forwards packages shipped by UPS to a UPS storage facility in San Ysidro. Therefore, incoming personnel should be prepared to pay for storage of their packages or to reimburse the administrative officer for any storage fees paid by the Consulate General in advance of their arrival.

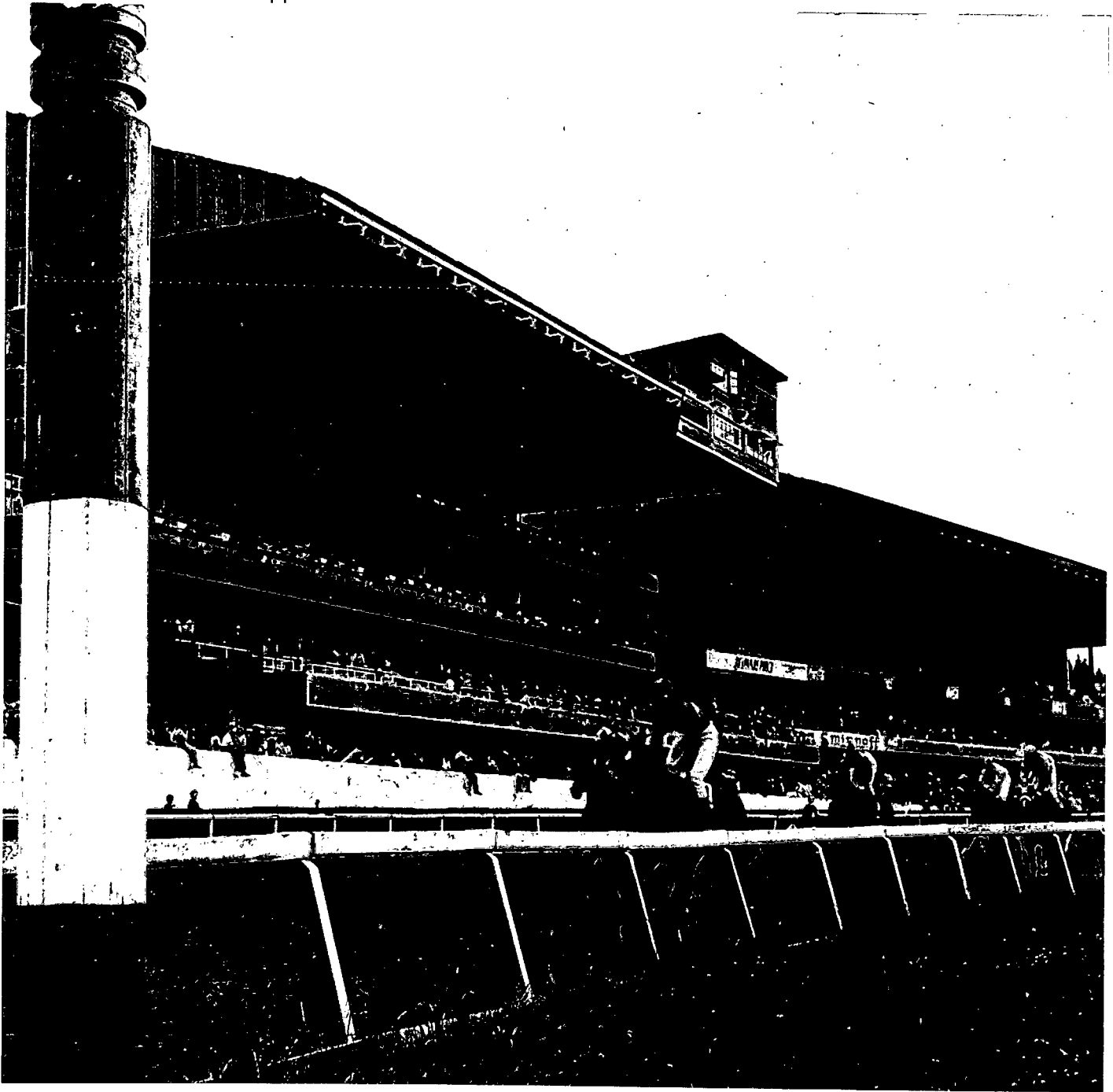
Housing

Temporary Quarters

Temporary quarters are available on both sides of the border. Many motels and hotels on the U.S. side have kitchenettes and connecting rooms. Some will permit pets. Temporary lodging in Tijuana is most convenient at the Country Club Hotel, which is a block from the Consulate General. The hotel does not have cooking facilities, but it has a restaurant on the premises. Pets are not permitted.

Pleasure boating is a popular pastime in Mexico. Cabo San Lucas is a favorite spot for boating.





Horsereading is enjoyed at the Hipodromo de las Americas racetrack.

Permanent Housing

The principal officer is provided a short-term, government-leased furnished home. The administrative officer provides details on request.

The post also has other unfurnished houses on short-term government lease which are assigned by the post according to family size and availability.

The Consulate General's goal is to provide short-term government-leased housing to each officer on arrival to avoid possible lengthy periods in hotels while searching for permanent quarters. Houses will be supplied with refrigerators, washers, and dryers. If necessary, household furniture, including stoves, may be purchased in California and imported duty free into Tijuana. Security can be a housing-related problem in the city. Many houses have high fences and window grills. Burglar alarms can be installed to forestall would-be thieves, but the Consulate General currently does not supply them.

Food

Most foods available in California are also sold in Tijuana, but most personnel shop in California supermarkets. Milk spoils quickly, and you are advised to carefully wash most produce and any leafy, green vegetables purchased here. Tijuana is developing new and attractive shopping centers, such as the Rio de Tijuana shopping center, which offer a wide variety of shops and services.

Clothing

Because it is chilly in winter, persons unfamiliar with the area are advised that warm sweaters and other layered clothing are necessary, particularly because houses are frequently colder than outdoors and not all houses have heating. Light- to medium-weight overcoats are also advised. Raincoat-weight overcoats are ideal, especially for children.

Formal wear is seldom needed and can be rented, if required, inexpensively in San Diego. On rare occasions a dinner jacket or other formal attire may be worn. Suits and sports jackets and ties are worn in the evenings.

The women of Tijuana are very fashion conscious and closely and tastefully follow latest styles. Mexican women wear dresses for official daytime events and all evening affairs. Occasionally, official functions, such as those hosted by the U.S. Navy in California, may require cocktail dresses. Formal evening gowns are seldom required. Children wear casual clothing such as jeans and slacks, casual skirts, and blouses. Everyone needs at least two heavy outdoor sweaters for cooler months.

Religious Activities

Although Mexico is predominantly Catholic, Tijuana has several Christian denomination churches and a Jewish synagogue. No English-language services are held in Tijuana. Timely access to churches in the U.S. is uncertain due to crowded weekend conditions at the border crossing in San Ysidro, California, after 10 am.

Education

Dependent Education

All American children are normally enrolled in U.S. schools in Chula Vista, California. The Consulate General does not provide transportation beyond the daily busing service. As a result, parents normally spend many hours shuttling their children to and from afterschool activities.

Recreation and Social Life

Because of Tijuana's nearness to California, most consular officers spend much of their leisure time enjoying the myriad recreational activities on the U.S. side of



An hour's drive from Mexico City are the ancient Toltec ruins with Alantes de Tula (above).

the border. Consequently, home entertaining (for other than recreational purposes) is infrequent, compared with other Foreign Service posts.

The Tijuana Country Club, with an 18-hole golf course, swimming pool, tennis courts, restaurant, sauna, racquetball, etc., offers courtesy memberships to U.S. employees of the Consulate General and their families. Nonmembers may use the golf course for a reasonable greens fee.

Camping, fishing, hunting, ocean bathing, and sailing opportunities exist on both sides of the border. San Diego also has many public tennis courts. Tijuana offers such spectator sports as horse and dog-racing, jai alai, and bullfights. San Diego has professional football, basketball, baseball, tennis, and soccer teams.

A new cultural center, currently under construction in Tijuana, will offer the full range of theater arts, art galleries, exhibits, and musical events. The new Rio de Tijuana Plaza is a vast complex of department stores, boutiques, restaurants,

bakeries, and specialty shops located near downtown. Both Americans and Mexicans shop there.

Other recreational facilities include the San Diego Zoo, possibly the world's finest, Wild Animal Park, and Sea World, not to mention Disneyland, which is an easy 2-hour drive from Tijuana. Numerous movie theaters and fine restaurants are in Tijuana, San Diego, and vicinity. Radio and TV reception in Tijuana is good and includes San Diego channels. Cable TV is also available for a small fee, making Los Angeles channels available as well. Nearby Chula Vista boasts an excellent library.

Senior Consulate General officers, particularly the consul general, hold official meetings on both sides of the border with government officials, business and professional people, and military command officers. The principal officer will need about 700 calling cards during a 2-year tour. Engraved cards are available in San Diego with prices comparable to those in Washington, D.C. Section chiefs and protection officers require business cards, printed locally at reasonable prices. Other officers rarely need them. Calling cards are rarely used by junior officers.

Special Information

Pets

There is no difficulty in bringing pets into Tijuana. Proof of shots is required. Veterinary care is available on both sides of the border. Many families have large dogs to discourage burglars.

Shipping Effects

No special packing, marking, wrapping, or limits on liftvan sizes are necessary for the shipment of household effects. Since you must live in Mexico to receive the housing allowance, the ultimate destination will be Tijuana. Consign your airfreight and household effects shipments to either of the following addresses:

Consulate General
Tijuana
c/o Sullivans Van and Transfer
Company
(United Van Lines)
4660 Alvarado Canyon Road
San Diego, California

Consulate General
Tijuana
c/o Hutchinson Brokers
330 Calle Primero, Suite L
West San Ysidro, California 92073

U.S. storage and transfer companies are not licensed to haul into or unpack shipments in Mexico. The Consulate General will arrange with a Mexican firm to pick up from the storage company and haul effects to Tijuana. Residence-to-residence shipping should not be used for shipping effects to Tijuana. The Administrative Section will arrange for customs clearance into the Tijuana free zone after you arrive.

Because of Tijuana's unique free-zone status, free-entry clearances from AmEmbassy Mexico City for personal effects destined for Tijuana are unnecessary. Therefore, contrary to Notes For Travelers in this post report, you do not need to provide the detailed information on your household effects and airfreight shipments.

Automobile Shipment. Special information concerning importing privately owned vehicles to Tijuana, which differs substantially from the Notes For Travelers section, is forwarded to incoming personnel immediately on receipt of the assignment notice.

See Notes For Travelers, Customs and Duties, for further shipping information.

Consulate

Hermosillo

Hermosillo is a "pretty little place," as its name implies, and a modern city with a population of about 350,000. It is located in the middle of a semidesert, nearly 800 feet above sea level. It is 180 miles south of Nogales, Arizona, and 60 miles from the Gulf of California.

Hermosillo is the hub of a small transportation network which provides the city with excellent bus, rail, and air transportation north to the U.S. and south to Central Mexico. Air traffic, served at an international airport 7 miles west of town, offers daily flights to Mexico City, Guadalajara, and the U.S. Thousands of Americans pass through the city en route to and from points farther south. The small American colony is so integrated into the local community that it is not recognizable as a group.

Hermosillo is the capital city of Sonora, the second largest state of Mexico, which is part of the great southwest desert of the North American Continent. Geographically, it has the same soil group and climate as southern Arizona, New Mexico, western Texas, and the desert regions of California. The climate is hot and dry, yet healthful. Summer, from May

to October, brings daily temperatures of 100°F or more; rainfall averages 8 inches a year with a rainy season in July and August and some rain in December and January. Winter months, from November to April, are cool and spring-like.

The consular district has grown rapidly with respect to both population and output. The economy is farm based in the large irrigated lowlands of western and southern Sonora. Cotton and wheat are the most important crops. The region is also a major producer of copper, cattle, shrimp, poultry, and winter vegetables. The district has traditionally had close economic ties with Arizona.

The Post and Its Administration

The Consulate is on the third floor of the ISSSTESON Building on Boulevard Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla No. 15. Telephone 2-20-36, 2-20-97, or 2-21-95. Office hours are Monday-Friday, 8 am to 4:30 pm. Representatives of the Drug Enforcement Administration are located in the Consulate. The Department of Agriculture is represented by a district supervisor in charge of Screwworm

Eradication activities. The post office address is:

Apartado Postal 972
Hermosillo, Sonora,
Mexico

Housing

Temporary Quarters

The northern approaches to Hermosillo have several motels suitable for temporary quarters. Among these are the motels Valle Grande, El Encanto, Gandara, and Bugambilia. If you prefer a more central location, the Hotel Internacional and the Hotel San Alberto are only 2 or 3 blocks from the Consulate.

Permanent Housing

Most houses for rent are single-family type dwellings with three bedrooms. Furnished houses and furnished or unfurnished apartments are not available. All employees are currently in government-leased housing.

The Embassy GSO provides housing details upon request. Employees are notified of housing availability through Personnel (State), or parent agency channels when the post receives assignment notice.

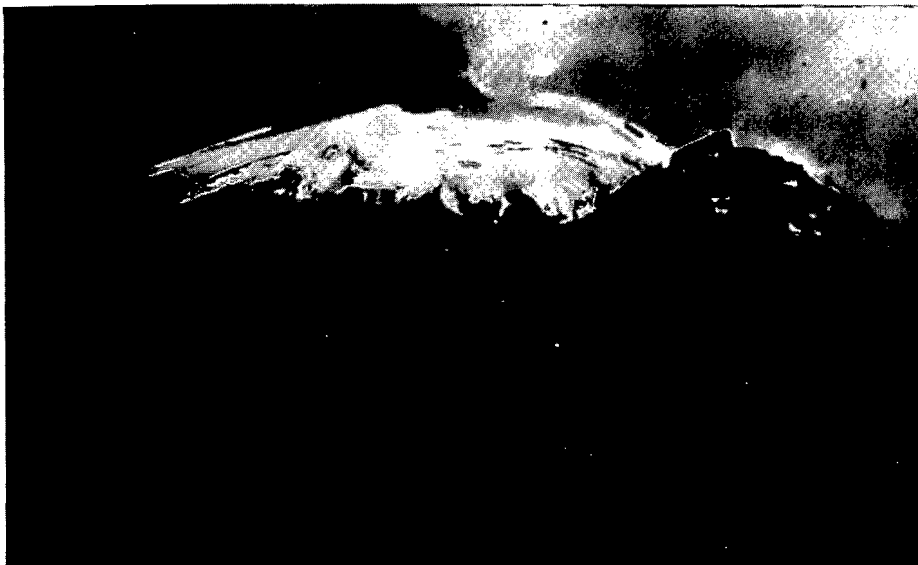
Furnishings

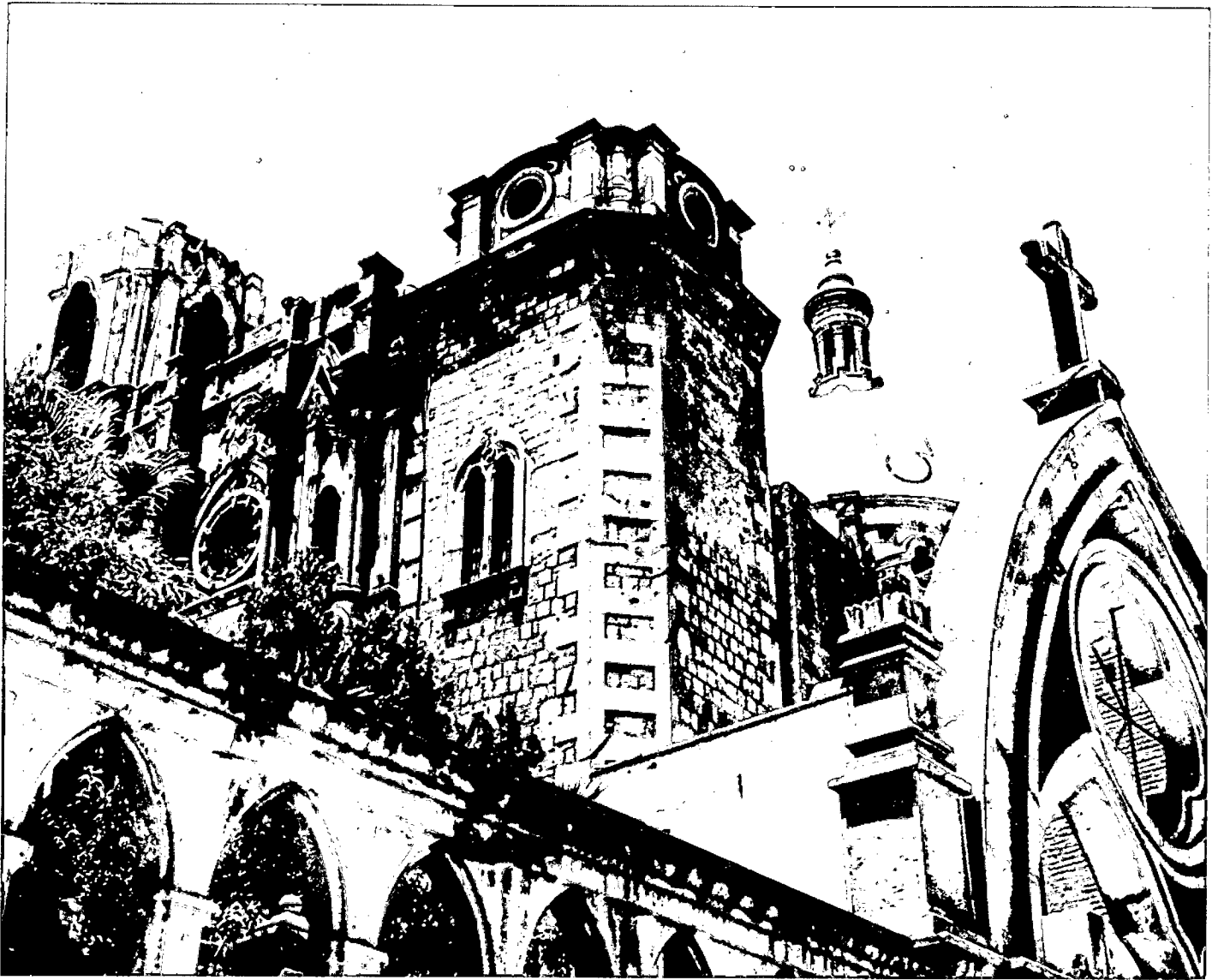
All State employees are furnished a refrigerator, washer, dryer, and some window air-conditioners. Most houses for rent do not come equipped with water heaters and stoves, but lessors will usually provide them after negotiation. Space heaters are useful during winter months.

The electrical current is the same as in the U.S., 110v, 60-cycle, AC. Electricity is expensive here, especially during summer.

Other furnishings and appliances may be purchased easily in Arizona after you arrive at post.

"Popocatepetl," the "Warrior," as seen from Mexico City on a clear day.





Food

Foods of all types are available in Hermosillo. Meat products are good, and fresh vegetables are safe to eat. Fresh milk and baby foods are also plentiful. Several supermarkets in Hermosillo are similar to those in the U.S. In addition, you may shop in Nogales, Tucson, and Phoenix.

Clothing

Summer clothing is worn most of the year with fall suits, sweaters, shawls, and coats needed only in evenings in December through February. Dress is generally informal.

Men rarely wear jackets during hot months. Dress at social functions is business suits and simple cocktail dresses. A tuxedo or formal dress is needed for the annual Black-and-White Ball. Wash-and-wear materials are recommended.

Religious Activities

Several Catholic churches have Spanish services and several small Protestant churches are available. There is no synagogue.

Education

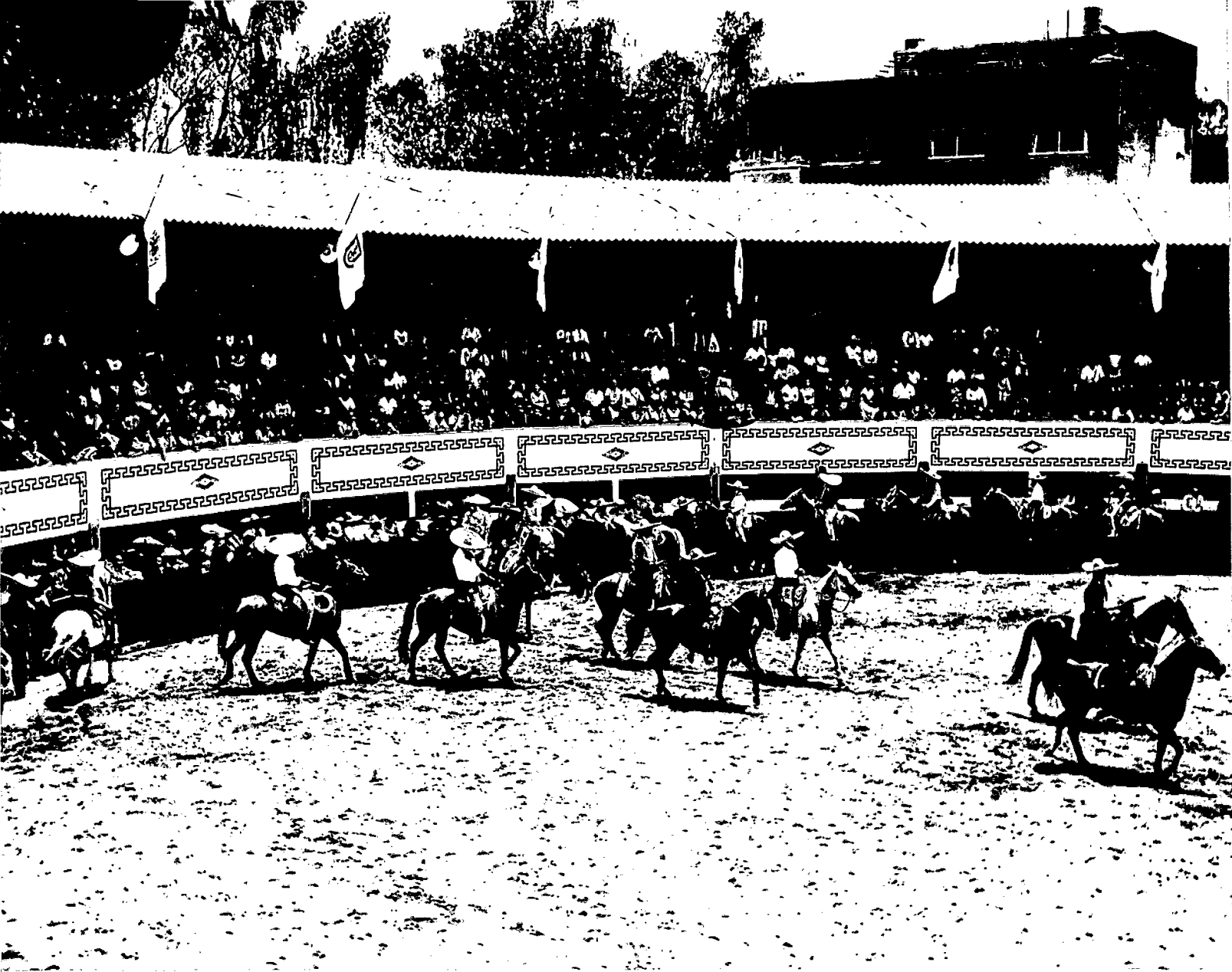
Hermosillo has one school for kindergarten to grade 6. All classes are given in English and Spanish. After grade 6 students must attend school away from post or study through Calvert correspondence courses.

The educational allowance almost covers costs of away from post schools in U.S. border states, Guadalajara, and Mexico City.

Recreation and Social Life

Swimming, water skiing, skindiving, and scuba diving are among the water sports available at beaches at Kino Bay and San Carlos and Guaymas near Hermosillo.

Hunting and fishing are popular, with excellent game fishing in the Gulf of California and freshwater fishing in Sonora's mountain lakes. A free public sports complex in Hermosillo offers ten-



Opposite—Mexico's beautiful architecture is represented by this cathedral in Zacatecas. Above—Mexicans and tourists enjoy "charreadas" (rodeos) and bullfighting.

nis, volleyball, and an Olympic-size swimming pool. Country club members can play the nine-hole golf course. To become a member, you must purchase a share. An athletic club also offers swimming, tennis, racquetball, jogging, track, sauna and steam room, Jacuzzi, etc. Memberships, available from 1 to 30 years, expensive.

Special Information

Shipping Effects

All unaccompanied surface shipments of effects originating in the U.S. or routed through the U.S. should be addressed as follows:

Agencia Joffroy,
For American Consulate,
Hermosillo
158 Bankard Avenue
Nogales, Arizona 85621
Employee's full name

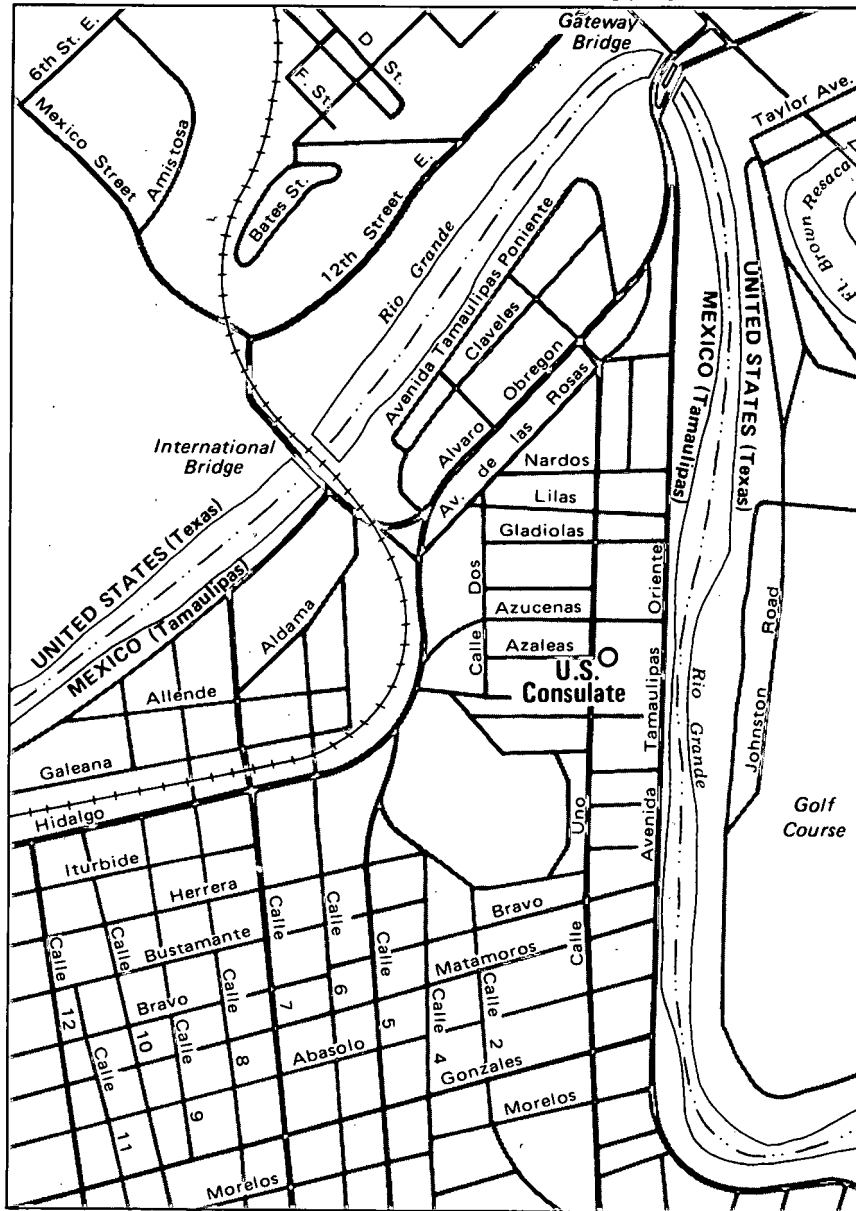
Sea shipments are handled by the Embassy in Mexico City. See Notes For Travelers, Customs and Duties, for further information.

Small packages and magazines may be addressed:

P.O. Box 1090
Nogales, Arizona 85621

Mail for the Consulate is picked up at that address every 2 weeks.

Matamoros



5642 5-84 STATE (GE)

Consulate

Matamoros

Matamoros is located on the south bank of the Rio Grande River about 20 miles inland from the Gulf of Mexico. With Brownsville, its sister city in Texas, Matamoros forms a metropolitan area with almost 425,000 inhabitants. Matamoros, the larger of the two cities, has over 350,000 residents.

The climate is tropical but tempered by gulf sea breezes. Temperatures at mid-day in summer can range well over 90°F with high humidity. Spring and autumn days are mild and brilliant. Winter is sunny and warm except for an occasional "norther" when temperatures can drop suddenly to near freezing.

Matamoros developed principally as an agricultural processing center, and "agribusiness" is still the area's largest employer and income earner. Recently, some 50 "border industries" have been established here, ranging from electronics, chemicals, and plastics operations to textiles and garment plants. Large-scale heavy industry is still lacking, but further development of the city's potential as a processor, distribution center, and communications hub for the region is expected.

Matamoros also has a thriving tourist industry, providing facilities to American winter visitors and retirees coming in ever-increasing numbers to the Texas Rio Grande Valley. Several high-quality restaurants are among Matamoros chief attractions.

The Post and Its Administration

The Consulate, one of the oldest, continuously active U.S. Foreign Service posts, occupies its own modern building at Avenida Primera #232, Colonia Jardin, a residential/commercial area near the International Bridge. The Consulate is open



A typical winding cobblestone street in quaint San Angel with Spanish colonial houses.

to the public from 8 am to noon and from 1 pm to 5 pm. When the office is closed during lunch, personnel are available to handle emergencies. Consulate telephone numbers are 25250 (answering machine), 25251, and 25252 (direct line). The post has two post office boxes: P.O. Box 633, Brownsville, Texas 78520, and Apartado Postal 451, Matamoros, Tamaulipas. The Brownsville address is used for all mail originating in the U.S.

Housing

Temporary Quarters

Hotels, motels, and apartments are available in both Matamoros and Brownsville, but rooms become scarce during the winter tourist season. In Matamoros, the El Presidente, near the Consulate, is usually preferred. Brownsville offers many

motels of similar quality. Brownsville has some rooms with kitchenettes. The temporary living quarters allowance applies to either side of the border.

Permanent Housing

Both the principal officer and the vice consul are provided air-conditioned, government-leased housing with major appliances. The principal officer occupies a four-bedroom, three-bath house with some entertaining space. The vice consul has a three-bedroom, two-bath apartment. Both are within easy walking distance of the Consulate. The Embassy GSO provides housing details on request. All other employees receive notice of housing availability through parent agency channels.

Furnishings

Climate conditions do not require special furniture, but special care must be taken of any goods stored, as the climate produces rapid deterioration due to rust, mildew, etc. Only air-conditioned facilities should be used for storage. American furniture is available in the Rio Grande Valley, but selection is somewhat limited and prices are above average. Corpus Christi, 3 hours from Brownsville, and San Antonio, 6 hours from Brownsville, offer a wider selection of furniture.

Food

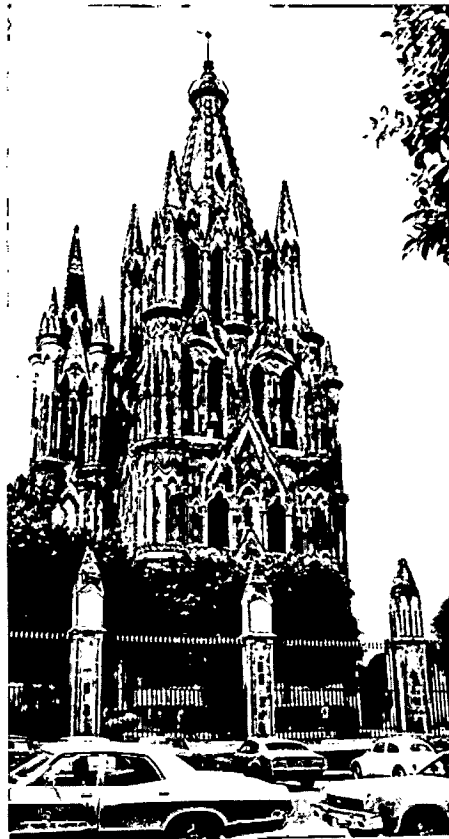
All food needs can be met at modern supermarkets in Brownsville, and some goods are available in Matamoros. Local produce is of excellent quality, but usual precautions for the tropics should be taken. U.S. produce is abundant in Brownsville and virtually all vegetables are available fresh, year round. Seafood, especially Gulf shrimp, is also of high quality. Matamoros city water is not potable, but sterilized drinking water is inexpensive and available.

Clothing

Usual business dress is informal; sportswear is acceptable year round. During summer the "guayabera," an open-necked shirt/jacket, is popular. Light spring- and fall-weight clothing is worn during the short winter season, although occasional cold spells make heavier clothing practical. Few social events will require black tie or formal; black tie dress can be rented in Brownsville.

Religious Activities

Most faiths are worshipped in Brownsville, which has many churches and a synagogue. Although Roman Catholic churches predominate in Matamoros, small congregations of Evangelical and Protestant denominations are also available.



A gothic church, San Miguel de Allende.

Education

Except for some special language classes, all instruction in Matamoros schools is in Spanish. Consular children usually attend public or private schools in Brownsville. A full range of classes and subjects is available to more advanced students at junior and 4-year colleges in Brownsville. Brownsville has a modern, medium-sized library with an excellent selection of periodicals and journals.

Recreation and Social Life

Social life at post is international in character and includes events on both sides of the border. Official functions are fairly frequent and most ceremonies are brief and pleasant. Most other social activities revolve around civic organizations, business luncheons, Rotary, Lions, etc.

Although the State of Tamaulipas has little to offer in tourist facilities, it is extremely popular with those who enjoy its excellent hunting and fishing, especially in the Lake Guerrero region, about 200 miles south of Matamoros.

The Texas Rio Grande Valley is becoming famous as a recreational area for winter and summer tourists. South Padre Island, about 25 miles from Brownsville, offers excellent swimming, surfing, sailing, and deep-sea fishing. Golf is popular here, and it can be played year round at the numerous public and private courses. The Rio Grande Valley also offers restaurants and first-run movies. The Confederate Air Force, an impressive collection of World War II aircraft in flying condition, is a favorite tourist attraction in nearby Harlingen.

Matamoros and Brownsville are served by five TV channels, including all three U.S. networks and two Spanish-language stations. The Public Broadcasting System also now broadcasts in Brownsville.

Special Information

Travel

Frequent service by several airlines is available from three airports in the Rio Grande Valley to Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio. National and international connections are good from these points. Matamoros to Mexico City flights are available twice a day.

Shipping Effects

Competent packing and shipping services are available in Brownsville, where several large American moving companies are represented. Shipments to Matamoros from the U.S. are usually sent by truck for entry to Mexico at Matamoros. Shipments from overseas should be sent to a major U.S. port, such as Houston, for transshipment through the U.S. by truck to Brownsville and Matamoros. This is safer and quicker than sending shipments through Mexican seaports.

See Notes For Travelers, Customs and Duties, for further information.

Consulate

Mazatlan

Mazatlan is an old, Mediterranean-style port city on Mexico's west coast. Located 780 miles south of Nogales, Arizona, it is situated on a peninsula surrounded by water. At the harbor's entrance, the highest recorded lighthouse in the Western Hemisphere rests atop one of Mazatlan's few hills. The city's history goes back to the beginning of the 19th century, but its growth is recent. The population numbers around 350,000 full-time residents, increased by large numbers of Americans and other visitors who come throughout the year. The weather is excellent, particularly during winter, November through March. In these months the temperatures range from 85°F in the daytime to 65°F at night. The tropical summer, lasting from April to October, is hot and humid with frequent thundershowers.

Mazatlan's economy is influenced most directly by the commercial fishing dock, which makes it a shrimp capital of the world, and by the Pacifico Brewery. Agriculture is also an important industry; the northern part of Sinaloa has become the chief supplier of winter vegetables for the U.S. Since Mazatlan is the biggest and busiest seaport between San Diego and Panama, U.S. Navy ships call every year.

The Post and Its Administration

The Consulate is located at Circunvalacion #6. Office hours are from 8 am to 1 pm and 2 pm to 5 pm, Monday through Friday. Telephone numbers are 1-26-85, 1-26-87, and 1-29-05. A recording device connected to 1-26-85 and 1-26-87 gives the telephone numbers of the consul and the vice consuls when the office is closed. Three means of sending mail to post are used. The Department of State pouch is the slowest. Using the Laredo address averages 10 days transit time. Inter-

national airmail arrives in a week or less. The Laredo address is:

AmConsul Mazatlan
P.O. Box 3087
Laredo, Texas 78041

The international mail address is:

U.S. Consulate
Apartado Postal 321
82000 Mazatlan
Sinaloa, Mexico

Drug Enforcement Administration representatives are located at Calle Rio Baluarte and Arroyo Jabalines. Postal addresses are the same as for the Consulate. The Department of Agriculture is represented in Mazatlan by a group from the Screwworm Commission. The Screwworm Commission's offices are located at Rafael Buena Airport. The postal address is:

Apartado Postal 265
82000 Mazatlan
Sinaloa, Mexico

U.S. personnel may also use the Consulate's address.

Housing

Temporary Quarters

Several hotels and motels along the beach front are adequate for temporary stays during your search for permanent housing. Costs are covered by temporary quarters allowance. Some excellent beach-front hotels are good for vacation visits but they are more expensive. A few one-bedroom furnished apartments with maid service are available. During the heavy tourist season (mid-November to mid-April), make reservations as far in advance as possible.

Permanent Housing

The principal officer is provided government-leased housing with major appliances (stove, refrigerator, upright freezer, and washer and dryer). The Embassy GSO will provide housing availability details through Personnel (State) or parent agency channels when the post receives notice of assignment.

The Consulate also provides government-leased quarters for the post's two vice consuls. One is a two-bedroom apartment, about 1 mile from the Consulate. The other is a three-bedroom, two-story house with some yard space appropriate for a family with small children. The post provides a gas stove, refrigerator, freezer, washer and dryer, and air-conditioners in each bedroom.

Food

Most foods are available, and prices are less than or compare favorably with U.S. prices. Very few diet foods are available locally, so bring what you need. Fish and seafood are abundant. Drugstore items are, generally, not expensive, but some items cost more than U.S. equivalents and some cost less. Bring any special brands from the U.S.

Clothing

Light-weight clothing is worn year round. Coat and tie or formal dress are not usually worn at the office, but are needed for periodic trips to Mexico City. Casual wear is popular.

Religious Activities

Five Catholic churches and several Protestant churches hold services. The Christian Church has services in English from December through April.

Education

Mazatlan has no American schools, but one school, Instituto Anglo-Americano (grades 1-12), teaches in both English and Spanish. Enrollment is small, and American students are often the children of American citizens who are part-time residents during winter. Before planning to enroll children in a school in Mazatlan,

In Acapulco, 7 hours by car from Mexico City, you can enjoy sun, sea, sailing, and other water sports.



write to the Consulate for current information on the particular school or schools. Most American children in Mazatlan attend U.S. boarding schools. The four schools which American children have attended in Mazatlan are ICO (Instituto Cultural de Occidente), a private coeducational school run by Italian Catholic priests for grades 1-12; Colegio Remington (girls only) run by nuns for grades 1-9; Colegio El Pacifico, a nonsectarian school for grades 1-12; and Instituto Anglo-Americano.

Recreation and Social Life

Mazatlan's beaches are beautiful, and ocean temperatures seldom dip below 65°F. The surf is well suited for swimming and surfing. Fishing for marlin, sailfish, and other large fighters is popular. Hunters may march through the nearby foothills in

search of duck, dove, goose, and quail. Mazatlan means "place of the deer" in Nahuatl, and deer still abound near here.

The Club Campestre and El Cid both have beautiful golf courses, and paid memberships are available. El Cid also has a swimming pool and tennis courts. The city itself is more than 300 years old, but it was not incorporated until 1837. A few remnants still remain of the old colonial section which you may find on a walking tour of the town's streets and alleys.

Mazatlan has several air-conditioned theaters, a large baseball stadium, and a bullring. Three TV channels and seven radio stations provide news and entertainment in Spanish. Social activities are informal, but both the American and the Mexican official communities are active. Mazatlan has several Beta-format videotape clubs.

Formal calling cards are not used at post, but bring about 200 business cards for courtesy calls and exchange with callers of professional standing.

Special Information

Shipping Effects

Personal effects are shipped to post overland from the U.S., via the U.S. Embassy Warehouse in Laredo, Texas. Free-entry permits can be solicited from post before the officer arrives to expedite the 6-week process. Once the free-entry permit has been approved by the Mexican Government and received in Laredo, shipment of effects to post takes 2-3 weeks.

Have your car rustproofed or undercoated to prevent corrosion by the sea air and mist. Do not bring brass, chrome, and metallic furnishings as these are also affected.

See Notes For Travelers, Customs and Duties, for further information.

Merida



Consulate

Merida

The Yucatan Peninsula is noted for the friendliness of its inhabitants and its impressive archeological zones. Home of the ancient Mayans, it is strewn with ruins and relics of their culture. Merida itself is built on the site of the old Mayan ceremonial center of T'Hoo. The city has a long tradition of separatism which is reflected even today. The Yucatan habits, culture, and outlook differ widely from those of the rest of Mexico.

Merida's population of 500,000 is mostly of mixed Mayan and Spanish descent. Foreign colonies are small. English is widely understood. Several thousand American tourists visit the district annually. New resorts on the peninsula's east side have become very popular with U.S. tourists.

Merida is about 19 miles from the sea and 25 feet above sea level. The climate is tropical with three seasons: rainy season, early June through September or later; cool or winter season, through the end of February; and the dry season, March, April, and May.

The Post and Its Administration

The Consulate is at Calle 56-A No. 453. Taxi drivers recognize the address as Paseo Montejo No. 453. Phone numbers are 5-54-09 and 5-50-11. Office hours are 8:30 am to 1 pm and 2 pm to 5:30 pm. Postal address is Apartado 130, Merida, Yucatan, Mexico.

Housing

Temporary Quarters

Merida has several modern hotels suitable for a temporary stay.

Permanent Housing

The principal officer and deputy are provided government housing in the same compound as the office building.

The principal officer's house is ample with basic furniture, stove, refrigerator,

freezer, and washer and dryer provided. Dishes, glassware, and kitchenware are adequate. The deputy's home also has basic furniture, stove, refrigerator, freezer, and washer and dryer. The compound has a small swimming pool.

Electricity is 110v, 60-cycle, AC. Use voltage regulators with expensive electronic equipment.

Food

Food is adequate but below U.S. standards. Fish, pork, chicken, and turkey are of good quality and are readily available. Fresh beef is sometimes scarce, and lamb is unavailable. Excellent fruits and vegetables are available locally in season. Supermarkets carry a complete line of foods and staples. Specialty foods sold in U.S. supermarkets are expensive. Fresh milk is unsafe, though reconstituted substitutes are good and readily obtainable. Baby foods are expensive. You can get

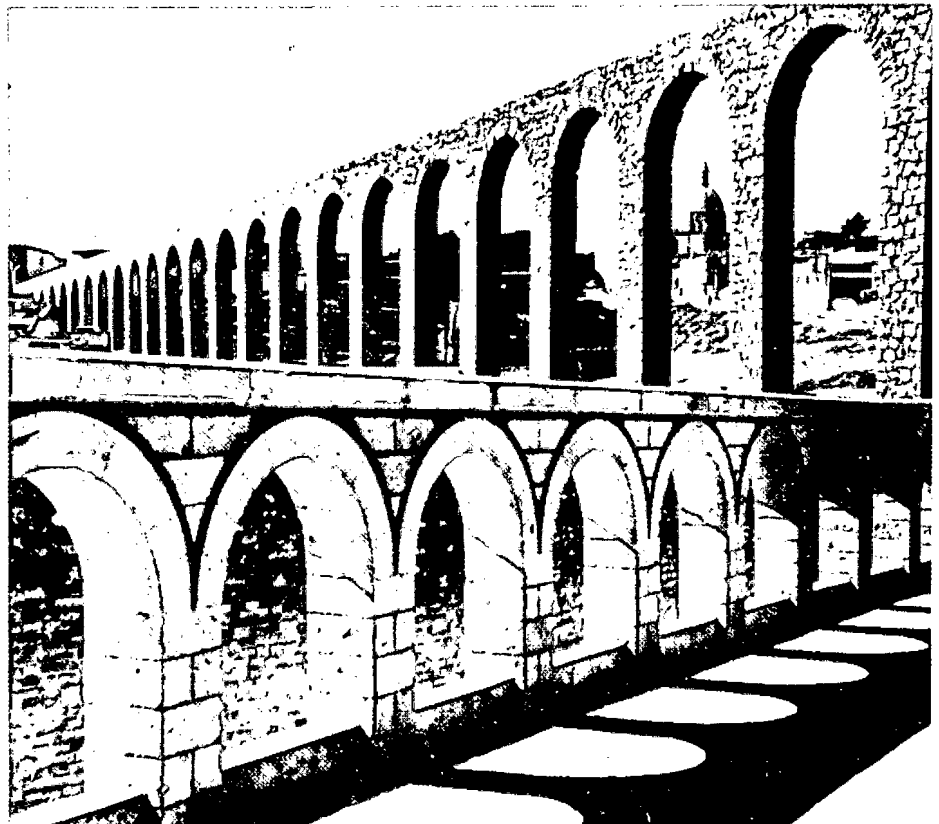
limited food orders from the Embassy commissary, but orders generally take 2-3 weeks to transit from Mexico City. Most food is expensive by U.S. standards.

Clothing

Coat and tie or formal dress are rarely worn at the office but are needed for periodic trips to Mexico City. Men wear slacks and a guayabera, a casual shirt/jacket common to the region. Although formal wear is rarely used, a summer-weight tuxedo or formal may be brought. Women wear cotton or light-weight dresses and pantsuits like those worn in the U.S.

Bring all clothing and shoe needs for the entire tour, except shirts. Guayaberas, which are worn to work and most social occasions, are manufactured locally. Extra care protects winter wear and leather goods against damage by vermin and mildew.

This century-old aqueduct still carries water to Zacatecas, 1½ miles above sea level.





In Las Monjas, Uxmal, the Yucatan (facing page)—an artisan working with clay molds.



Religious Activities

Many Catholic churches and several Protestant churches are in Merida. Some have services in English.

Education

Merida has no American schools. Most private primary and secondary schools are run by Catholic religious orders. All instruction is in Spanish.

Although the level of instruction is considered excellent, note that class size ranges from 30 to 50 students. Teaching methods vary from U.S. schools in that more emphasis is placed on memorization, tests, etc. Although students may need private Spanish tutoring initially, parents and students are satisfied with progress when language fluency is achieved.

The major difficulty encountered is finding a school with space available. Almost all private schools in Merida have waiting lists. If possible, register children in March or April for the September term. Personnel assigned to Merida should quickly contact the post for assistance in enrolling their dependents.

Recreation and Social Life

Bring tennis racquets, fishing tackle, shotguns, rifles, golf clubs, and other sports equipment. Boating, fishing, and hunting are quite good. The Club Campestre has tennis courts and a swimming pool. La Ceiba Country Club has an 18-hole golf course. The beach at Progreso, where cottages may be rented, is about a 30-minute drive. The archeological ruins are the principal points of interest for sightseers. Scuba diving and snorkeling are popular at Isla Mujeres, Cancun, and Cozumel.

Merida has many air-conditioned theaters, a large baseball stadium, a bullring, and a small museum. Four channels of color TV and two FM stations also operate.

Social life is informal and not strenuous. You may belong to the Club Campestre, the Golf Club, the Rotary Club, and the Lions Club. New Year's Eve dances and dances at carnival time in February call for black tie.

A hundred calling cards are enough for a tour here. Business cards can be printed locally.

Special Information

Shipping Effects

Sea shipments of household effects to Merida enter Mexico through Veracruz. Overland shipments from the U.S. enter through Nuevo Laredo, where an Embassy agent is in charge of clearances. Mark shipments as follows:

Nuevo Laredo

American Embassy Warehouse
620 Logan Street
Laredo, Texas 78040

For
Full name
AmConsul
Merida

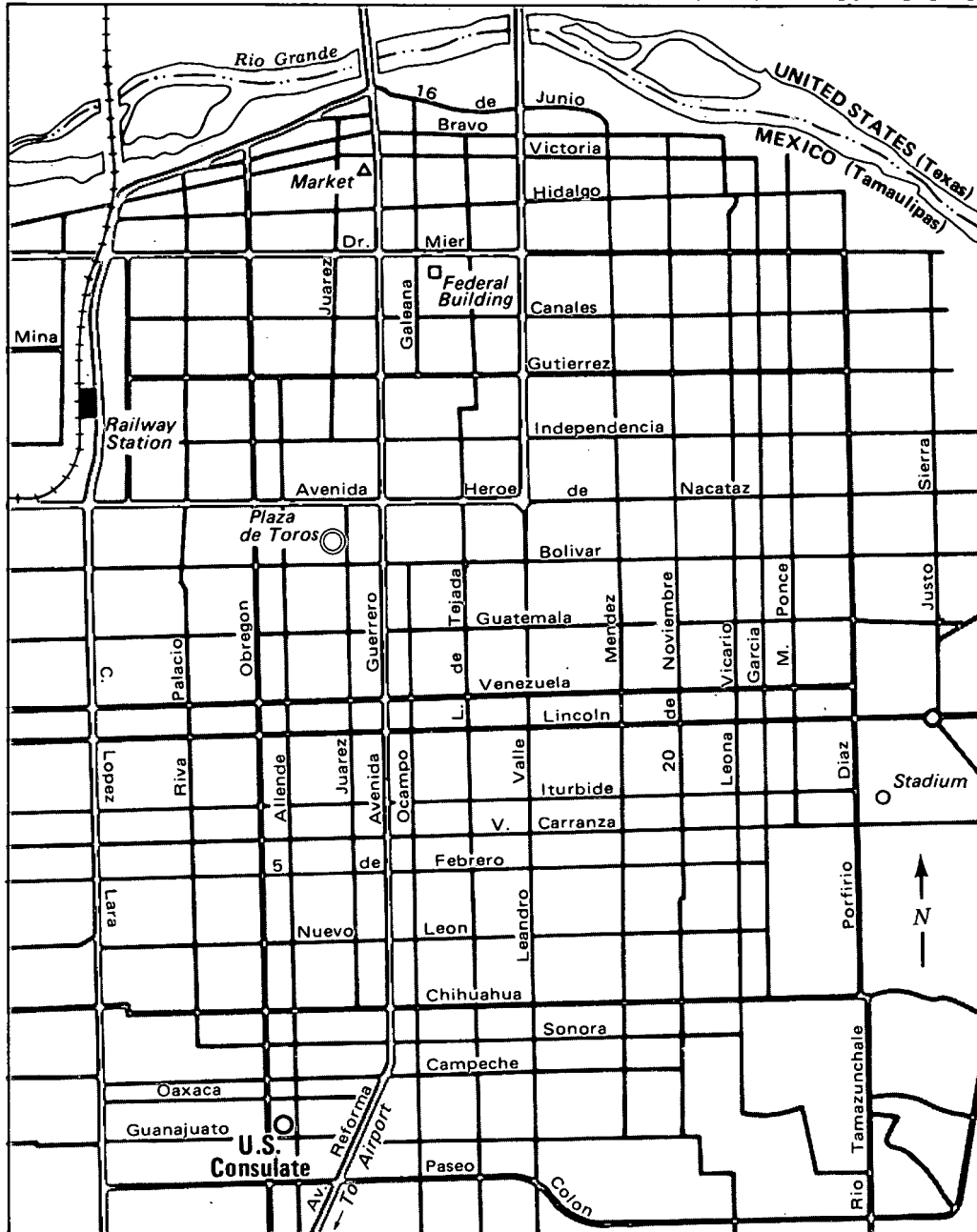
Veracruz

Villasana, S.A.
Landeroy Cosa 31
Veracruz, Veracruz, Mexico

For
Full name
AmConsul
Merida, Yucatan, Mexico

See Notes For Travelers, Customs and Duties, for further shipping information.

Nuevo Laredo



5640 5-84 STATE (GE)

Consulate

Nuevo Laredo

Because of its border location, Nuevo Laredo offers a challenge not normally found in the Foreign Service. Americans at this post are in the unusual position of serving abroad and yet being part of the official and social community of Laredo, Texas. Nuevo Laredo combines the conveniences of shopping in the U.S. with the attractions of living abroad.

Nuevo Laredo is the most important port of entry on the U.S.-Mexican border for shipping and travelers to the interior of Mexico. Of its estimated 240,000 inhabitants, 10% speak English; the rest speak Spanish. It is located on a gently rolling plain with mountains skirting the southwestern boundary of the consular district. Brush, cactus, and scrub desert vegetation abound. The city itself is 342 feet above sea level, and the climate is hot, sunny, and semiarid. It is hotter than Washington, D.C., but much less humid. High temperatures are usual from March through October, although occasional high temperatures in winter are not uncommon.

The rainy season is not well defined, but May, June, and September usually have the greatest precipitation.

The Post and Its Administration

The Consulate occupies its own office-residence compound located at Avenida Allende 3330, Col. Jardin, near the southern end of the city, one block west of the main highway into Nuevo Laredo (Ave. Reforma). Official Consulate hours are Monday-Friday as follows:

- Regular—8 am to 5 pm with lunch from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm.
- Summer (April-October)—7:30 am to 4:30 pm with lunch as above.

A Mexican Christmas tradition, the children's pinata party.



Telephone is 40512 or 40618. The U.S. postal system is used for most mail. The address is:

American Consulate
Nuevo Laredo
P.O. Box 3089
Laredo, Texas 78041

Housing

Nuevo Laredo has two modern, air-conditioned motels which are comfortable for a temporary stay. Laredo, Texas, also has numerous motels and hotels which newcomers may use. Temporary allowances apply only in Mexico.

The principal officer's official home is supplied with all major appliances, furniture, furnishings, and tableware. The vice consul's home, an integral part of the office complex, is equipped with major appliances (stove, refrigerator, freezer, washer and dryer, and central air-conditioning) and basic furniture.

All furnishings are available in Laredo, Texas. Electrical current is 110v, 60-cycle, single-phase, AC. Natural gas is used for cooking and central heating systems.

Food

Adequate food supplies are available locally and at chain grocery stores in Laredo.

Clothing

During the hot season, light-weight clothing is a must. In the office men usually wear the traditional Mexican guayabera or light summer suits. The guayabera doubles as informal evening wear for men. Women wear cotton dresses. At parties

men often wear sport shirts and slacks, and women favor airy cottons. For more formal occasions, men wear white or black dinner jackets and women wear cocktail dresses in washable fabrics. During winter, custom occasionally requires formal attire—dinner jackets for men and gowns or very dressy cocktail dresses for women. Fall- and spring-weight suits, dresses, overcoats, and rainboots are used during winter when temperatures can drop into the 30's. All wearing apparel needed for this climate is available in Laredo, Texas.

Religious Activities

Roman Catholicism is the predominant religion in both Laredos. Most Christian denominations are represented in Laredo, Texas, and services in English are available.

Education

Schools in Nuevo Laredo are overcrowded and instruction is in Spanish. For these reasons most persons prefer to enroll their children in public and private schools in Laredo, Texas. Laredo Junior College and Laredo State University in Laredo, Texas, offer full curriculums for undergraduate and some graduate-level degrees.

Recreation and Social Life

Swimming pools; public tennis courts; bowling alleys; golf courses; and rifle, pistol, skeet, and trapshooting clubs are available in Nuevo Laredo and Laredo. Laredo has excellent hunting and fishing for dove, gamebirds, deer, and a variety of freshwater fish. Entertainment in the two Laredos is similar to that in any small American town with occasional cultural

programs, fairs, Little Theater programs, etc. The usual form of entertainment is a cocktail party with buffet supper to which both Americans and Mexicans are invited. Calling cards are useful. The principal officer should have 200, which can be printed locally.

Special Information

Shipping Effects

Shipments entering Mexico from other countries via the U.S. should be addressed as follows:

Full Name, American Consul
c/o U.S. Despatch Agent
(U.S. Despatch Agency address)

For forwarding to
American Embassy Warehouse
620 Logan Street
Laredo, Texas 78040

Shipments originating in the U.S. should not be loosepacked and should be consigned as follows:

Full name, American Consul
American Embassy Warehouse
620 Logan Street
Laredo, Texas 78040

Bills of lading should show Laredo, Texas, as destination. Mail regarding shipments, including copies of government bills of lading, should be sent to:

American Consulate
P.O. Box 3089
Laredo, Texas 78041

Inform the Embassy immediately of shipments scheduled to enter Mexico overland from Central America or by sea at Mexican ports. Additional instructions will be issued for such shipments.

See Notes For Travelers, Customs and Duties, for further shipping information.

Notes For Travelers

Getting to the Post

Normally employees travel to posts in Mexico via commercial airlines or personal automobile (See The Post and Its Administration: Upon Arrival at Post).

Notify your post of your travel plans, including date and means of arrival, so that temporary housing may be arranged and, if appropriate, you can be met. See Special Information for each post for specific shipping information.

Customs, Duties, and Passage

Customs and Duties

Most American personnel, excluding resident employees, are entitled to duty-free entry of personal belongings, household effects, and automobiles for their personal use. These privileges are designed to enable employees to furnish their homes adequately; under no circumstances should personal property be imported for sale.

Effective June 1, 1978, the Government of Mexico instituted a new requirement for detailed information regarding the contents of shipments before it will authorize free entry. You are now required to attach a detailed list of the contents of shipments to the request for free entry before it can be processed. Therefore, those assigned to any post in Mexico should send a detailed, legible packing list as soon as possible to Embassy Mexico, Attention: GSO. This information is required for both airfreight and household effects.

Clothing, books, records, kitchen utensils, etc., may be listed as one box of books, two boxes of records, etc.

Since the Embassy must translate lists and since free-entry permits take 4-6 weeks to process after being submitted, supply this information as soon as possible to prevent unnecessary delays in importation of personal and household effects.

Make sure no discrepancy exists between the address on the vans or cases

shipped, the bills of lading covering the shipment, and the information given the Embassy to effect free entry. Any discrepancy means that free entry will have to be requested again from the Mexican Government. Shipments must be addressed in English.

The correct mailing address for documentation is different from consignment address shown for surface and sea shipments. All documentation, i.e., waybills, including airway bills, packing lists, personal letters, etc., should be pouched to the Embassy, Mexico City.

Automobile Shipment. Employees coming from a tour of duty in the U.S. are reminded that Foreign Service regulations require personally owned vehicles be driven rather than shipped, since a connecting all-weather, hard-surface highway is available. However, the Department of State will usually amend orders to authorize shipment of the vehicle when a hardship would result (e.g., a person driving alone, a family with small children traveling in the heat of summer, etc.).

For cars to be shipped, send the GSO in advance full details of routing a complete description of the vehicle (make, model, year, type, serial number, and motor number) and a list of all extra equipment (radio, heater, etc.).

The Embassy has no storage facilities for vehicles that arrive before you do. Any storage expenses incurred are your responsibility.

Household and Personal Effects. Shipments arrive by truck via Nuevo Laredo or by sea via Veracruz, Tampico, Acapulco, Manzanillo, and Mazatlan. All shipments must be in liftvans. Itemize and insure everything on the packing lists since loss from breakage or pilferage may occur.

The Consulate warehouse in Laredo is not a long-term storage facility, nor can it accept "loose-pack" shipments. It is neither pest nor moisture controlled, and goods are shipped to their final destination as soon as possible.

For the Embassy GSO to obtain free-entry permits for household and personal effects, the following must be airtailed or air pouched to the GSO:

- Name, title, and address of shipper(s).
- Mexican port of entry and means of shipment to that point.
- Specific number of trunks, suitcases, liftvans, cases, cartons, barrels, crates, or packages. If information is not known, overestimate.

Passage

You and your family should have valid official or diplomatic passports with current official or diplomatic Mexican visas.

Tourists may enter with a tourist card instead of a visa. If you or your family members cannot obtain Mexican visas before leaving the U.S., you can enter Mexico as tourists and be issued proper papers later, but this is time consuming. If a child is born in Mexico, contact the Consular Section and State Department concerning special documentation problems which may arise.

Pets

Your pet will need a veterinarian's certificate of good health and evidence of antirabies shots within the past 6 months. These papers must be certified, for a fee, by a Mexican consul.

Bring your pet with you by car or as "excess baggage" if you are traveling by air, to avoid duty fees, excessive customs brokerage fees, and the need to leave it in customs overnight or longer. Even for a big dog, it is cheaper to pay excess baggage than customs fees. If you must ship the pet, notify the post of its arrival date at least 3 weeks in advance so free entry may be secured.

Firearms and Ammunition

Firearms must be included with household effects, and ammunition is limited in quantity as noted below. A special permit from the Mexican Government is required for use of firearms in Mexico.



The giant stone warrior of Tula.

Procedures to follow when applying for the permit are available from the regional security officer.

The following quantities and types of nonautomatic firearms and ammunition may be imported by each person over 18 years of age:

Item	Maximum Quantity	Caliber Limitations
Pistols and revolvers	2	Not to exceed 38 caliber special (.357 magnum not authorized)
Rifles	1	Not to exceed 30 caliber (30 cal. M-1 and M-2 carbines and 30 cal. Garands not authorized)
Shotguns	2	Not to exceed 12 gage (barrel length must be at least 635 mm—25")
Ammunition:		
Pistols & revolvers		100 rounds
Rifles		100 rounds
Shotguns		1,000 rounds

Currency, Banking, and Weights and Measures

The monetary unit in Mexico is the peso, and at this writing, the value of the peso has been fluctuating between 140 and 150 per US\$1. Each peso contains 100 centavos. The mark used to designate pesos is the same as the dollar symbol, except that it has only one upright line. Banking facilities compare with those in the U.S., except that canceled checks are not returned with monthly statements. The First National City Bank of New York is the only American bank with a branch in Mexico City, and it has an office in the Embassy.

The First National City Bank office in the Embassy performs all banking accommodation exchange. A U.S. checking account is recommended. Some employees also have local checking accounts. Cashing checks locally is more complicated than cashing them in the U.S., so cash them at the Embassy branch. Travelers checks are almost universally acceptable, and they are sold at the Embassy bank branch.

Most American credit cards (e.g., Sears, Diners Club, American Express, Visa) are accepted in Mexico. Gasoline credit cards are not accepted.

If you are driving, buy enough pesos at the border to get you to post. Dollars and travelers checks are accepted at motels and hotels, but a service charge is often levied for the exchange.

The metric system of weights and measures is used and distances are figured in kilometers. One kilo (kilogram) is equal to 2.2 pounds; one kilometer is .62 miles.

Taxes, Exchange, and Sale of Property

In late 1982, the Mexican Government increased the Value Added Tax (IVA or VAT) to 15% on most goods and services, and the Embassy's efforts to obtain an exemption for Mission personnel have not been successful.

All employees can obtain an exemption from the tax on long-distance telephone calls by applying through the Communications Programs Office once permanent quarters have been rented and telephone number is known.

The sale of reasonable amounts of personal property, such as old items you are replacing or items you want to sell when transferring, is permitted.

Recommended Reading

These titles are provided as a general indication of the material published on this country. The Department of State does not endorse unofficial publications.

Economics

Bancroft, H.H. *Resources and Development of Mexico*. Golden Press: New York, 1976.

Camp, Roderic A. *The Role of Economists in Policy Making*. Univ. of Arizona Press: Tucson, 1977. A comparative case study of Mexico and the United States.

Glade, William P. *The Political Economy of Mexico*. Univ. of Wisconsin Press: Madison, 1963.

Greene, Graham, *Another Mexico*. Viking Press: New York, 1981.

Looney, Robert E. *Mexico's Economy: A Policy Analysis With Forecast to 1990*. Westview: Boulder, 1978.

Mancke, Richard B. *Mexican Oil and Natural Gas: Political, Strategic and Economic Implications*. Praeger: New York, 1979.

Meyer, Lorenzo. *Mexico and the United States in the Oil Controversy*,

1917-1942. Univ. of Texas Press: Austin, 1972.

Mosk, Sanford A. *Industrial Revolution in Mexico*. Berkeley, 1950. Reprint 1975.

Ross, John B. *The Economic System of Mexico*. Calif. Inst. of International Studies: Stanford, 1971.

Thompson, John K. *Financial Policy, Inflation and Economic Development: The Mexican Experience*. Vol. 16 Edward I and Walter Ingo, eds. Jai Press: 1979.

Vernon, Raymond. *The Dilemma of Mexico's Development: The Roles of the Private and Public Sectors*. Harvard Univ. Press: Cambridge, 1963.

William, Edward J. *The Rebirth of the Mexican Petroleum Industry: Developmental Directions and Policy Implications*. Lexington Books: Lexington, 1979.

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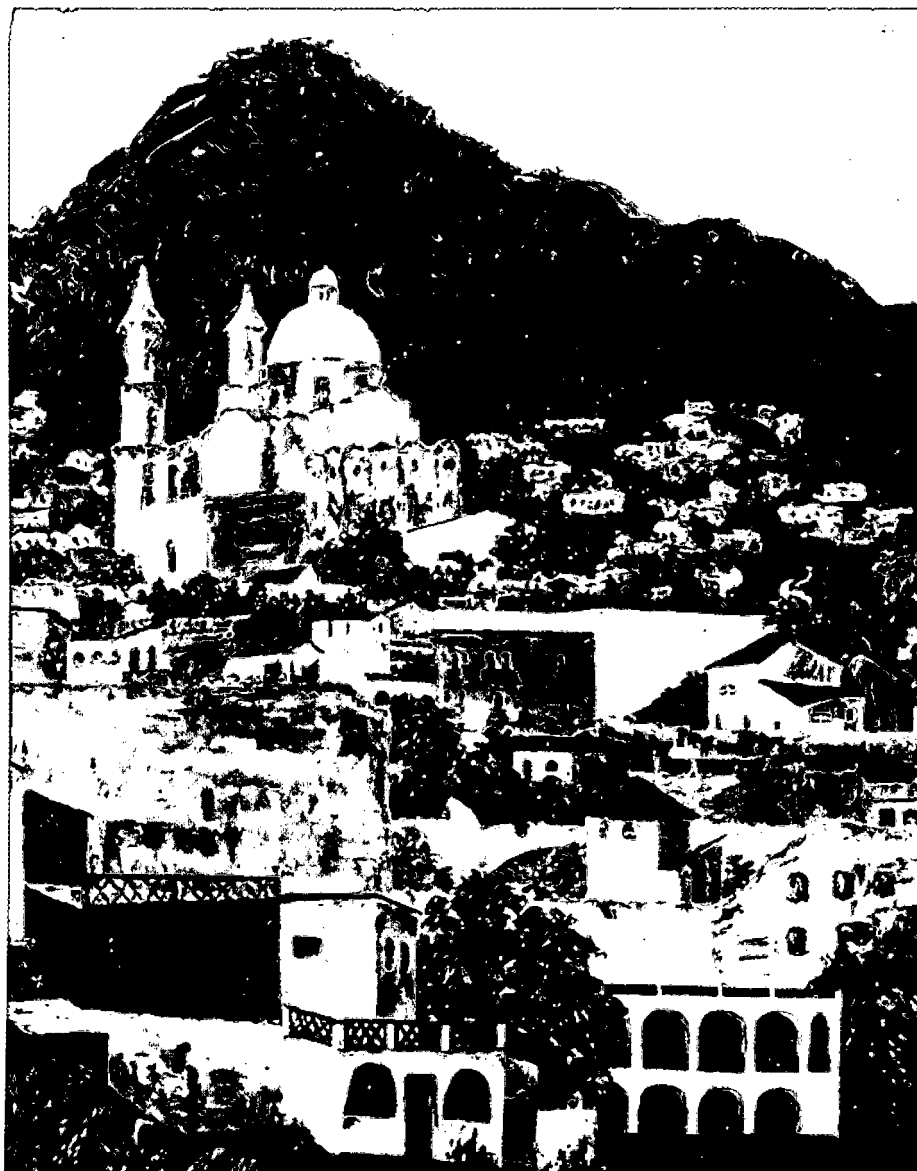
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Taxco, 3 hours by car from Mexico City, is a colorful old mining town. ("Taxco" an oil painting by Colleen Sussman, Bureau of Public Affairs.)

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Local Holidays

The following Mexican holidays are observed by the Embassy and consular posts:

Anniversary of Mexican Constitution	Feb. 5
Juarez's Birthday	Mar. 21
Good Friday	Friday before Easter
Mexican Labor Day	May 1
Anniversary of the Battle of Puebla	May 5
Anniversary of the Proclamation of Mexican Independence	Sept. 16
All Soul's Day	Nov. 2
Revolution Day	Nov. 20