INSTITUTO MEXICANO-NORTEAMERICANO DE RELACIONES CULTURALES

HAMBURGO 115 MEXICO, D. F.
PURPOSE

The Institute has only one purpose - to draw the people of Mexico and the United States into closer friendship, through increased mutual understanding, in a program of activities which reflect the social, cultural and intellectual life of both countries.

HISTORY AND ORGANIZATION

The Institute began its work in the Benjamin Franklin Library in 1942. In 1947, when the Library became an agency of the United States Department of State, a group of Mexicans and Americans incorporated the Institute independently as a non-profit Asociacion Civil, including in the new organization the English language classes which had been given at the Library.

Since 1947, the Institute has been governed entirely by its own statutes and by its Board of Directors, which is composed of five Mexicans and five Americans as regular members, with two alternates, all of them elected by the membership of the Institute. The Board maintains close relationships with both the Ministry of Education and the American Embassy, but it is not directed by nor dependent upon either of them.
ENGLISH AND SPANISH CLASSES - because we know of no better way to come to understand another nation than to speak with its people and read its books.

AMERICAN AND MEXICAN HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS
GROUP SINGING IN SPANISH AND ENGLISH
MEXICAN AND AMERICAN FOLK DANCES
ADMINISTRATION OF SCHOLARSHIPS
INFORMATION SERVICE
PHOTOGRAPHY CLASSES
RECORD COLLECTION
GUITAR CLASSES
ART EXHIBITS
ART CLASSES
EXCURSIONS
RECEPTIONS
LECTURES
CONCERTS
LIBRARY
MOVIES

For the following activities the Institute provides space and facilities, administrative help where wanted and possible, and help in planning. Among these are:

THE MEXICAN ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH
THE CHILD STUDY GROUP OF THE AMERICAN SCHOOL
THE EXPERIMENT IN INTERNATIONAL LIVING
THE MEXICAN COMPOSERS CENTER
THE ASSOCIATION OF EX-BECARIOS
PARENT TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
THE WRITING CENTER
THE FUTURE

There are a number of things which we think should be built up if our aims are to be accomplished: to make the Institute a cultural center of international scope. Among them are:

1. **General Information Center** to provide information about Mexico, assist the serious research student in finding the material he needs on Mexico, give practical and cultural information to the tourist, and provide information about opportunities for study in the United States and Mexico.

2. **A Writing Center** expanding the work of the present Center, to include seminars and courses in creative writing, stylistics, research and translation.

3. **A Dramatic Center** working in close collaboration with the Writing Center, to put on Mexican and American plays and do experimental work in the theater.

4. **An Art Center** to provide contacts between creative artists of the two nations, a place for them to work together, classes for beginners, and exhibits of Mexican and American art work in all fields.

5. **A Music Center** to further contacts between composers and practicing artists of both countries, offering an extensive program of concerts, lectures on music appreciation and Mexican and American music, a large library of scores and a record library.

6. **A Publications Center** which would publish a regular intercultural bulletin in collaboration with the Writing Center, the Art and Music Centers, and other groups cooperating with the Institute.

7. **Regular meeting places** for the Mexican Association of Teachers of English, for the Experiment in International Living, for the Ex-Becarios for seminar rooms for round table discussions and study groups, for social gatherings between Mexicans and Americans, and for many diverse groups which would use the Institute if room were available.

ALL OF THESE THINGS EXIST IN EMBRYO ALREADY. ALL OF THEM ARE READY TO DEVELOP. THERE IS A DEMAND FOR THEM. SOME CAN BE SELF-SUPPORTING: OTHERS HAVE ALREADY FOUND OUTSIDE SPONSORSHIP. THERE IS ONE CRYING NEED, HOWEVER: LACK OF SPACE.
The new Center is designed to provide a medium through which leaders of the two
sides, or those who would represent their interests for beginning and
middle-class American and European women, may affiliate.

African ceremonies and dancing
The Institute has always maintained itself in a state of solvency. Basic operating expenses are paid out of earned income, derived largely from the teaching of English and Spanish, together with a smaller amount from membership dues. The only regular help the Institute receives is in the form of a grant from the United States government covering the salaries of three members of the administration.

The following figures show the complete financial statistics for 1953:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash balance, January 1st, 1953</td>
<td>$122,865.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserves for move to new bldg.</td>
<td>50,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student fees</td>
<td>860,582.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership dues</td>
<td>7,335.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other earnings</td>
<td>4,861.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL AVAILABLE</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,045,643.26</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditures</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent</td>
<td>92,820.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upkeep</td>
<td>21,556.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Move to new bldg.</td>
<td>50,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furnishings - equipment</td>
<td>15,744.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries</td>
<td>553,039.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (utilities, office expenses, books for re-sale, activities, etc.)</td>
<td>188,486.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</strong></td>
<td><strong>$921,646.79</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash balance December 31</td>
<td>$123,996.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(No reserve)</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*All amounts in pesos.*
THE NEED

If the Institute is to develop to the full its potential as a factor for international understanding, it must have more space. If it is to operate economically and be the solid, lasting organization which all who work with it hope that it will be, it must own its own building. (The rent paid over the past seven years would have bought the Institute a building in 1947. At the present rate we shall continue to "buy" a building every few years through rent payments, but we shall not own it.)

The property the Institute now occupies is ideal for its purposes. It is:

- Located in a quiet, dignified sector
- Central and accessible from all parts of the City
- Close (two blocks) to three main arteries of public transportation
- Gracious and attractive, with a well-constructed building already renovated and fitted to our needs
- Large enough to permit additional construction without spoiling the garden
- A full block in depth, with frontage on two streets, so that there may be two entrances

The Institute holds an option - which expires in December of this year. For the Institute it would be most unfortunate to lose this opportunity.

The cost of the property, however, is $1,725,000 pesos - $138,000 dollars. The Institute is obviously in no position to pay such an amount. It can afford to pay $100,000 pesos in annual interest - since it would be relieved of that amount of rent - plus perhaps an additional $50,000 from earnings.

Can anything be done?
"WHY SHOULD ANY OF US HELP TO SUPPORT THE INSTITUTE?"

The answer to that depends on one's answers to the following questions:

Are good relations between Mexico and the United States, between Mexicans and Americans, worth working for?

If they are, is the Institute, as it now stands, and considering its potential, an effective agent for bettering those relations?

For thinking people, we believe that there can be but one answer to the first question.

The second question can perhaps be better answered if we look at the record.

The Institute is giving bi-lingual training to over 4,200 at present. Over the years some 18,000 Mexicans and Americans have studied English and Spanish there.

The Institute has presented a varied program reflecting Mexican and American culture to audiences totaling over 60,000 during the past year - since it was founded, the total is well over a quarter of a million.

The Institute serves as a center to which hundreds of American visitors turn for information about Mexico, and to which hundreds of Mexicans come to ask about opportunities for study in the United States.

It is our belief that the Institute is helping Mexican and American industry and business in that it is doing valuable public relations work for them - for Mexico among American tourists and visitors, for American business among Mexicans.

If we are right in thinking that good relations are vital -

if we are justified in believing that the Institute is helping to achieve better relations -

if we are correct in our certainty that international public relations matter vitally to us all as individuals, as businessmen, and as citizens -

then the question of why we should help the Institute has answered itself.
Asistencia a las actividades culturales y sociales del Instituto (sin contar clases de Inglés y Español).

Attendance at Institute cultural and social activities, not counting English or Spanish classes.

Promedio de estudiantes de español y de inglés inscritos en el Instituto.

Average Number of Students of English and Spanish registered in the Institute.

CONSEJO DIRECTIVO

Lic. Julio Jiménez Rueda

Dra. María de la Luz Grovas
Arq. Carlos Contreras
Mr. Robert Gwynn
Mr. William E. Hendrix
Lic. Ignacio Bernal

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Executive Director

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