

**Letter From PROFMEX
President James W. Wilkie**

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It is my pleasure to introduce observers of the Mexican scene to the first issue of PROFMEX'S *MEXICO POLICY NEWS*. The purpose of this newsletter is to keep policymakers, government officials, scholars, and other observers abreast of the increasing number of issues in U.S.-Mexican relations as well as policy matters in Mexico as they impinge on the United States and vice versa.

PROFMEX (The Consortium of U.S. Research Programs for Mexico) was officially founded at a 1982 meeting in Cabo San Lucas, Baja California Sur, attended by **Michael C. Meyer, Stanley R. Ross, Albert E. Utton**, and myself. The respective universities of Arizona, Texas at Austin, New Mexico, and UCLA, represented at Cabo San Lucas soon were joined by Stanford University, the Overseas Development Council (Washington, D.C.) and the universities affiliated with the Border States Consortium on Latin American Studies, which dissolved and turned over its assets to PROFMEX. The masthead above carries the present directing membership, of which Tulane University is the newest member.

PROFMEX was organized to coordinate U.S. scholarly research on Mexico and to develop relations with Mexican universities. To these ends, Michael C. Meyer served as the first president, followed by Stanley R. Ross.

In 1984, PROFMEX was accorded status as a non-profit, scholarly organization by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service and the State of California. Contributions and dues are tax deductible under section 501 (c) (3) of the U.S. tax code.

PROFMEX's counterpart in Mexico is ANUIES (Asociación Nacional de Universidades e Institutos de Enseñanza Superior). Together, PROFMEX and ANUIES have hosted the following conferences, with the results published in Mexico, D.F., by ANUIES/PROFMEX.

- I. La Paz, Baja California Sur, February 28-29, 1980
Estudios Fronterizos, Mario Miranda. ed. 1981
- II. Austin, Texas, February 16-18, 1982
Ecology and Development of the Border Region, Stanley R. Ross, ed., 1983
- III. Tijuana, Baja California, October 23-25, 1983
Rules of the Game and Games Without Rules in Border Life, Mario Miranda and James W. Wilkie, eds. 1985

The IV Symposium, entitled *One Border, Two Nations*, will be held in Santa Fe, New Mexico, April 16-18, 1986. Attendance is unrestricted and reservations may be made by contacting **Theo Crevenna**, Latin American Institute, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131 USA (505) 277-2961.

To plan cultural and intellectual links between Mexico and the United States for the period 1984-1987, as PROFMEX president I was appointed to be the U.S. academic delegate to the U.S-Mexican Joint Cultural Commission. In opening the meeting held at Mexico's Secretariat of Foreign Relations, April 9-11, 1984, U.S. Commission Chair **Ronald L. Trowbridge** said. "the PROFMEX-ANUIES academic link between the two countries is a remarkable example of creative and dynamic aspirations come true.... The books they have published have been excellent and the conferences have made significant contributions to the concepts and understanding of policymakers on both sides of the border." The accord for 1981-1987 was signed in Mexico City by **Robert L. Chatten**, Counselor for Public Affairs in the U.S. Embassy, and **Luz del Amo**, Director General of Cultural Affairs for Mexico's Secretariat of Foreign Relations.

PROFMEX is very much concerned about public policy towards Mexico. PROFMEX has sponsored a "Window on Washington Policy Series," co-hosted with the Overseas Development Council and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Briefing sessions with congressional representatives and their staffs were held February, 1983 and 1985. Additional policy outreach efforts by directors and member institutions of PROFMEX are described in two articles in the issue of *Mexico Policy News*.

The PROFMEX Monograph Series, published by the University of Arizona Press, has the following titles:

Politics and Ethnicity on the Río Yaqui, by Thomas R. McGuire

The State of the Río Grande/Río Bravo: Water Resources along the Texas/Mexico Border, by Richard Eaton

The Problem of the Profession in Mexico, by Peter S. Cleaves

Prospective authors should send their manuscripts to Series Editor Michael C. Meyer. Latin America Area Center, University of Arizona. Tucson, AZ 88121, (602) 6211137.

Under a grant from the Hewlett Foundation, the PROFMEX Secretariat was located at Stanford University, hosted by the Project on United States Mexico Relations and its director **Clark W. Reynolds**. **Clint E. Smith** served as PROFMEX coordinator until January 1, 1986, when he resigned to move from academia to the foundation world.

In rotating the PROFMEX Secretariat to New Mexico State University, NMSU President **James Halligan**, Executive Vice President **William Conroy**, Associate Academic Vice President for Research **Harold Daw**, and Dean of Letters and Science **Thomas Gale** made available an operations budget and a half-time faculty position for PROFMEX to recruit a new executive secretary. It is our hope that this position will be filled and in operation by mid-1986. The Secretariat is housed in the NMSU Nason Home, which also houses the NMSU Center for Latin American Studies and the Joint Border Research Institute, both directed by **L. Ray Sadler**.

The PROFMEX Membership Office, located first at UCLA and then at the University of Arizona, has been consolidated with the Secretariat at NMSU. Members may join by writing to the PROFMEX Secretariat, Box 3JBR, New Mexico State University, Las cruces, N. M. 88003 USA (505) 646-3524.

For three years (1982-1984), PROFMEX cooperated with UC MEXUS University of California Consortium on Mexico and the United States) to co-publish *UC MEXUS NEWS* and the *International Inventory of Current Mexico Related Research*. After producing eleven issues of that newsletter and three issues of the inventory, the PROFMEX directors meeting in 1984 at Cozumel Island, Quintana Roo, determined that, with both those publications firmly established, PROFMEX could best use its resources by developing a newsletter devoted to policy matters, thus offering PROFMEX a new direction.

Fortuitously, **Paul Ganster**, the founding editor of *UC MEXUS NEWS*, was introduced to accept editorship of *MEXICO POLICY NEWS*, with financial assistance from San Diego State University, where he is now director of the Institute for Regional Studies of the Californias.

With publication of this first issue of *MEXICO POLICY NEWS*, we are pleased to inaugurate a guest column authored by leading observers involved in thinking about U.S.-Mexican relations. Our guest in this issue is **Joseph Nalven**, who gives us an important summary of current research that will influence the development of U.S. immigration policy.

Immigration reform proposals before Congress have the potential of seriously affecting the U.S.-Mexican relationship and are of great concern to PROFMEX.

MEXICO POLICY NEWS published reviews of pertinent books about Mexico and U.S.-Mexican relations. For review, the works should be sent to Editor Paul Ganster.

PROFMEX welcomes readers to subscribe to this newsletter, will be grateful for comments and suggestions on coverage, and invites submission of news items.

Please accept my personal invitation to join PROFMEX. I look forward to seeing readers in Santa Fe for the April meeting with ANUIES.

James W. Wilkie
PROFMEX President