

III PROFMEX-ANUIES Conference in Tijuana

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The III Conference of Mexican and U.S. Universities on Border Studies met October 23-25 at the facilities of the Centro de Estudios Fronterizos del Norte de México (CEF NOMEX) in Tijuana Hosted by CEF NOMEX, representing the Asociación Nacional de Universidades e Institutos de Enseñanza Superior (ANUIES), and by UCLA and UC MEXUS, representing PROFMEX, the theme of the conference was "Rules of the Game in Border Life."

The well-attended sessions were opened by **Héctor Gallego García**, Rector of the Universidad Autónoma de Baja California, who spoke on the crucial role of Mexican and U.S. universities in identifying and solving problems of the border region. PROFMEX President **James W. Wilkie**, in his response, noted that the present conference would discuss a number of border problems with the goal of suggesting solutions. Also taking part in the opening ceremonies was **Alberto Szekely**, official representative of Mexico's Secretary of Foreign Relations, **Bernardo Sepúlveda Amor**.



James W. Wilkie
and
Rafael Velasco Fernández

The topics of the conference panels included "Juridical Norms," "Defacto Rules," "Cultural Interactions," and "Games Without Rules." Each panel featured papers and commentators from both the United States and Mexico.

The meetings also included working luncheon and dinner sessions **Guy Bensusan** (Northern Arizona University) enlightened the conference participants about the eclectic nature of border cuisine with a spirited reading of his epic poem "Past and Repast." At one evening session **Stanley Robe** (UCLA) and **Carlos Monsiváis** offered their individual perspectives on aspects of the culture of the region. Also featured at an evening session were **Steve Loza** (UCLA) and the Lobos del Este de Los Angeles who teamed up to provide commentary on, and examples of, evolving Hispanic music forms on the border and in Los Angeles.

Mario Ojeda Gómez, professor of international relations at El Colegio de México, was honored at the conference for his contributions to Mexico-United States relations and to the advancement of border studies. **Rafael Velasco Fernández**,

Secretario General of ANUIES, presented Ojeda with a plaque from ANUIES and PROFMEX.

On behalf of PROFMEX, President Wilkie presented a certificate of appreciation to ANUIES and noted in his remarks that the efforts of Rafael Velasco Fernández and **Ermilo Marroquín** had been particularly significant in the organization of the joint meetings and in the publication of the conference proceedings. At the same time, Velasco Fernández presented a plaque to PROFMEX, in acknowledgment of the close working relations that had been developed between the two organizations over the years.

The PROFMEX-ANUIES organizing committee met to discuss plans for the IV Conference of Mexican and U.S. Universities. Joining the committee for the first time were **Samuel Schmidt**, representing UNAM, and **Jesús Tamayo**, representing CIDE. It was decided that Santa Fe, New Mexico, would be the site of the IV Conference and that the University of New Mexico would serve as host. The meetings will be held in 1985, with the exact dates to be announced later. The committee noted that Stanley Ross and ANUIES had done a superb job with the proceedings of the II Conference, copies of which were available in Tijuana. The Committee also initiated the process to assure the timely publication of the Tijuana papers.

Many of the conference participants took advantage of the opportunity to explore the new, modern Tijuana that has undergone so many dramatic changes over the past decade. The consensus was that Tijuana was an ideal site for the meetings on border studies, both in terms of the facilities available and in terms of the chance to study first hand a case of dynamic growth and change in a major border city.

One group of the conference participants met with **Gene Wood**, Chief Border Patrol Officer at the Chula Vista Sector. After a lengthy briefing, Border Patrol officers then took the group for a tour along the U.S. side of the border, noting the immense problems of enforcement.

Closing remarks for the III Conference were made by **Robert Chatten**, U.S. Public Affairs Office and Counselor of the Embassy in Mexico City. In his comments, Chatten lauded the efforts of ANUIES and PROFMEX and indicated that he would recommend to the U.S. government that the President of PROFMEX serve as the Academic Delegate to the Mexico-United States Bilateral Commission scheduled to meet in 1984.