

*courage, for staying calm in the face of adversity, for firmness in carrying out decisions, and for steadfast perseverance in the efforts to be made.*

*I have always spoken truthfully during my administration. I have told the people what can be done and what cannot. I have governed realistically and in accordance with our principles. Now more than ever, I am governing for all Mexicans, for those of today and those of tomorrow.*

*My commitment is indestructible: it is to the campesinos, to the workers, to the middle classes, to businessmen, to intellectuals, to members of the professions —to the men and women of Mexico, and to its youth.*

*To aid us in confronting the harsh adversity of our times we have the strength that stems from what we have achieved and, above all, the great nation that we Mexicans have built in the course of our history. Every memory of the great undertakings of our past gives strength to our unity and guarantees our progress.*

*I have pointed out that I will not change the domestic policies under way, though I will be capable of adapting tactics to the new circumstances. Given the dimensions of the problem that we are facing, its solution within our borders lies in pursuing the strategy of structural change that we have set up for ourselves and that was defined in the 1983-86 National Development Plan.*

*It is now up to our creditors to make an effort at least commensurable to the great task and sacrifices undertaken by the Mexican people.*

*I will not deal with the enormous challenge now threatening us from abroad by such means as lowering the living standards of Mexican campesinos or cutting the real wages of my country's workers.*

*The priority today, more than ever, is to defend the vital interests of the Mexican people.*

*I repeat that I will not make any economic concessions that undermine our national sovereignty.*

*We Mexicans have been imaginative and firm in devising formulas for dealing with our domestic problems; laying aside any spirit of confrontation, the international community will now have to share the responsibilities and join us in seeking solutions that are viable both from the point of view of Mexico's vital interests and from that of the harmonious relations that should exist among the diverse economies of the world.*

*The initial strategy for 1986, prior to the collapse of petroleum prices, already implied an unprecedented effort on the part of the Mexican nation. To attempt to accommodate the drop in oil income solely by increasing domestic austerity measures could have an unacceptable effect on the working of the Mexican economy and the living standards of its inhabitants. No one is obliged to do the impossible.*

*As President of the Republic, I undertook a commitment to the nation to govern in such a way as to preserve and strengthen national independence and to respect and enforce respect for the system of laws emanating from the Mexican Revolution; to safeguard and add to individual and collective freedoms; to enrich the political, economic and cultural aspects of democratic life; to seek the brotherly and harmonious coexistence of all Mexicans, and to maintain and reinforce the peace of the Republic. That is my obligation; I have carried it out during these three years, and I shall do so throughout my administration.*

*In view of this unprecedented effort the Republic requires of its citizens, I pledge that I shall follow as my only guide and purpose the defense of our national integrity, respect for the law, the safeguarding of our freedoms and the protection of our social rights. I shall defend the national economy up to the limit of the traditional ability for negotiation and political clarity of the Mexican people while trying to avoid confrontations which would harm us all.*

*We must enhance our national renewal —these are times for decisive action. Let's set aside our quarrels and let us concentrate our efforts on the solution of this major problem facing us. I call on the nation to participate united and to join*

*together to defend the basic principles which we Mexicans have upheld throughout our history. Nobody can stand aside from this great struggle in which we are engaged. Every sector of society has a commitment in the face of this challenge: they must take their place in the battle for the nation. For my part, I reconfirm my personal, moral and political commitment to serve the nation to the utmost limit of my capacity, bearing no other interest in mind than that of our homeland, which we must all love more now than ever before. Long live Mexico! ★*

## MEXICO'S POSITION ON THE LIBYAN CRISIS

*Shortly after the U.S. bombing of Libya, Mexico's Ministry of Foreign Affairs published a communique stating the country's official position on the issue. Because of its importance, VOICES OF MEXICO reproduces the full text:*

Mexico City, Mexico  
April 16, 1986

PRESS RELEASE  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The Mexican government continues to observe with great concern the situation of violence in the Mediterranean, which threatens international peace and security.

This unfortunate situation has caused anxiety and consternation in the international community as the efforts to find a political solution, that could prevent an escalation of the violence, have not prospered.

Mexico has persevered in its position that force must not be used to replace peaceful means to resolve the kinds of controversies which are covered by international law, or instead of taking a case to the appropriate level of the United Nations. The function of the United Nations is to prevent violations of said international law, and when necessary, to determine what measures must be taken to sanction illegal actions, such as terrorism.

On numerous occasions, the Mexican government has energetically condemned terrorist acts. Today it insists that the international community must adopt effective measures to combat this odious crime.

The Mexican government deplores acts of war or of terrorism since, in addition to violating the obligations assumed by member nations of the UN as stated in the San Francisco Charter, they represent a grave danger to international peace. By resorting to force to settle controversies, individual rights, as well as the possibilities for diplomatic negotiation are thus, affected.

At the same time, the Mexican government calls on those involved in the conflict to put an end to retaliatory acts of force, which can only worsen the situation and cause more loss of life. ★