

Our voice

Mexico's electoral process ended on August 21, with positive results in terms of the number of voters. The majority of people registered to vote went to the polls in unprecedented numbers. The elections were carried out in complete peace throughout the country. Now there will be a period of waiting for the fulfillment of what has been promised: the separation of the PRI and the government, separation of powers within the republic, respect for federalism and municipal autonomy. All of the parties proclaimed, or included in their programs, the importance of education and a redistribution of wealth. The future must put an end to illiteracy and the poverty in which the majority of Mexicans live.

We celebrate the National University of Mexico's first fifty years in San Antonio, Texas. Intellectual exchange between neighboring countries is more important than ever before. UNAM's campus in the U.S. has carried out praiseworthy work: thousands of bilingual students got a head start on the movement of globalization that is currently in fashion worldwide. Getting to know each other better makes it easier to resolve problems between countries in the framework of mutual respect. The magnificent example of what has been accomplished in Texas has encouraged the rector to extend this effort to Canada.

Among the Mexican museums publicized in *Voices of Mexico*, the one we feature in this issue, dedicated to children, is outstanding. Children attend this museum to spend unforgettable hours playing, studying and admiring the exhibits. Knowledge is a very beautiful thing if it is supported by the innate joy of childhood. Papalote has been a great success

since it opened, and children keep asking to go back for more of this museum.

Always attentive to ecology, we report on the work of a distinguished Argentine visiting researcher at CISAN who specializes in the universal problem of garbage. She offers us a study proposing forms for adequately administering waste.

Whales are threatened with extinction due to the excessive hunting to which they are exposed. Mexico participates in international efforts devoted to preserving these mammals. If a species disappears, it is lost forever and the planet's ecological equilibrium deteriorates. Baja California's Magdalena Bay has therefore been declared a sanctuary, and in this issue we report on the whale sanctuary in the South Antarctic. Respecting the world's species is an obligation for humanity. Unfortunately some countries allow excessive hunting, for merely economic reasons.

Jorge Montaña, Mexico's ambassador to the United States, writes on the world order in relation to the United Nations. No other world organization exists with the UN's ability to guarantee harmonious development, above all if there is insistence on the urgency of supporting the redistribution of wealth among all the planet's peoples.

The director of Puebla's Amparo Museum, one of the most important in the country, writes on philanthropy in Mexico. In this museum, Angeles Espinosa Yglesias—by vocation and with private resources—has devoted herself to maintaining highly select works of art from our splendid past. Her museum has enjoyed enormous and well-deserved success. Mexico

needs the support of all in order to preserve our history.

The National Palace has been the seat of government from pre-Columbian times up to the present. This site has lived through fateful and happy moments of our past, and houses great riches of our historical heritage. For example, the bell Miguel Hidalgo rang in Dolores,

Hidalgo, on September 15, 1810, to proclaim Mexico's Independence can be seen on the palace's central balcony.

The distinguished painter Angel Zárraga and the notable architect José Luis Ezquerro are examples of the force of

all kinds of art in our country. We include an article on the arrival of wheat in Mexico, with which the grains of three continents are complete: the rice of Asia, the corn of the Americas and the wheat of Europe. We consume all three daily.

Also presented in this issue is a summary of the economic program of the presidential candidate elected on August 21. When he publicizes his political and social program as well, we will cover them. We stress that there must be a better distribution of cultural and economic goods among the people. Internationally, the recent elections made a positive impression; and Mexico is on the threshold of great progress, which must extend to all ❧

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