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#### **Author**

Hamm, Patricia H.

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**CHICANOS, NAFTA, AND US-MEXICO RELATIONS:**  
**A 1988-1993 CHRONOLOGY**

Patricia H. Hamm

Center for Research on Latinos in a Global Society  
University of California, Irvine

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## ABOUT THE CENTER FOR RESEARCH ON LATINOS IN A GLOBAL SOCIETY

The goal of the Center for Research on Latinos in a Global Society is two-fold: to examine the emerging role of Latinos as actors in global events (economic, political, and cultural) and to promote Latino scholarship, enhance the quality of research in Latino studies, provide a forum for intellectual exchange, facilitate the exchange of scholars, disseminate research findings, and promote the participation of graduate students in research on Latino issues. In addition, we anticipate that the research conducted by the Center's affiliated researchers will help guide policy makers in their decisions concerning a society with a growing Latino presence. California has become ethnically and linguistically more diverse than many countries in the world – over a hundred languages are spoken in the public schools of Southern California alone. The research undertaken supported by the Center is expected to make a contribution towards the understanding of cultural, social, and political dimensions of demographic change such as that which has been occurring in California. Although this research will focus on the population of Latinos within California and the United States, it shall do so in the context of the U.S. in a global society.

I. SUMMARY ANALYSIS

II. 1988

**February 2:** "Views of Latino Leaders: A Roundtable Discussion on U.S. Policy in Nicaragua and the Central American Peace Plan" at the Roosevelt Center, Washington, D.C. Organized by the Southwest Voter Research Institute, Latin American Project (established in 1986 and headed by Antonio Gonzalez). Participants include Toney Anaya, Eddie Cavazos, Mario Obledo, Avelardo Valdez, Willie Velazquez, and Linda Yanez. Report issued and edited by Antonio Gonzalez and Richard Nuccio from the Roosevelt Center for American Policy Studies.

**March:** California Democratic Party's annual meeting in Palm Springs. The Chicano Caucus sponsors a resolution urging the U.S. government to help promote "human rights" in Mexico by pressuring the Mexican government to ensure that the July elections will be honest. The resolution is approved without discussion.

**March 4-5:** "Impacto '88 Conference" at Claremont McKenna College. Organized by Armando Navarro, Executive Director of the Institute for Social Justice in San Bernardino and Director of Impact '88. This is a gathering of about 200 Latino leaders (in politics, business, the professions, and academia) from throughout the Southwestern U.S. Issues discussed include a plan to organize Latino voters to pressure the U.S. government to improve relations with Mexico. Some speakers say Latinos could learn from the American Jewish community's lobbying efforts on behalf of Israel. Geronimo Martinez, Secretary General of the National Council on Population, is sent by the Mexican government to monitor the conference in hopes of boosting contacts between Mexico and Mexican-Americans. (A document entitled "Impacto-2000 and Mexico: El Plan de Acercamiento," prepared by Dr. Navarro develops from this initial conference. The paper details ways for Mexico and the United States to develop a better relationship, one in which Chicanos are an intrinsic factor and can enhance proceedings by acting as a bridge between both countries.) Participants include: Richard Santillan (political scientist, Professor of Ethnic and Women's studies at California Statute University, Pomona), Irma R. Munoz (speaker) (Administrative Assistant to Assemblyman Peter Chacon (D-San Diego) and Chair of the San Diego County Democratic Party), Congressman Esteban Torres (D-La Puente), Matthew G. Martinez (D-Monterey Park), State Senator Ruben S. Ayala (D-Chino), Manny Aragon (President pro tem of the New Mexico Senate), Jesus Chuy Higuera of Arizona, Bob Martinez of Colorado, Roberto Mondragón

(speaker) (former New Mexico Lieutenant Governor), Jose Angel Gutierrez (speaker) (founder and former National President of La Raza Unida Party), Julian Nava (speaker) (former U.S. Ambassador to Mexico), and Bea Molina (speaker) (National President of MAPA).

**Pre-July: Mexican presidential candidate Carlo. Salinas de Gort meets with Chicano leaders in Tijuana.** This meeting is acknowledgement of Chicanos by the Mexican government. Armando Navarro, Director of Impact '88 is present at the meeting, and says that Chicanos could play an important role "in the job explaining the Mexican reality to other North Americans."

**October: Porfino Munoz Ledo, Mexican opposition leader vis California.** He speaks at an Oxnard rally of Mexicans and Mexican-Americans protesting the allegedly stolen presidential elections Mexico.

**1988:** Genaro Borrego, Governor of the Mexican state of Zacate visits Los Angeles for the first time. He meets with the Zacate community.

### **III. 1989**

**1989: Manuel Clouthier, Mexican opposition leader of the Natia Action Party (PAN) visits Los Angeles.** (Clouthier dies on Octo 1 in an automobile accident in Mexico.)

**November: Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, Mexican opposition leader of Revolutionary Democratic Party (PRD) visits California.** Cardenas gives numerous speeches, raises \$31,000 and visits Jane Fonda, former Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. and other leading California liberals. He also meets with local editorial writers, holds radio interviews, is given a reception at City Hall, speaks at several colleges (including UCLA), and makes the keynote speech at the banquet of the Mexican-American Political Association (MAPA). this banquet, he appeals to Mexican workers in the U.S. by calling on the Mexican government to do more to protect them--to use whatever leverage is available to help them. He also calls on Mexican-Americans to form lobbying groups to influence Congress and President Bush on behalf of Mexico.

**1989:** President Salinas meets with Chicano leaders at Blair House Washington, D.C. From then on, there seems to be a qualitative change in Mexico-Chicano relations.<sup>1</sup>

After Salinas takes office, Mexico tries hard to raise its political profile in the United States. The new Mexican government begins to see the potential for using the Mexican-American community, especially from Los Angeles, to influence both Washington's stance toward Mexico and Mexican domestic policy. Mexican officials begin to work intensely and systematically to reverse the antagonism and mistrust that have long characterized the government's relations with Mexican immigrants to the United States and their descendants. The massive rallies in cities such as Los Angeles and Chicago in support of Cuauhtemoc Cardenas bring to the Mexican government's attention the relevance of the Mexican origin population in the United States for both Mexican and U.S. politics. Since then, representatives of Mexico's three main political parties and higher government officials make regular visits to the United States, especially Southern California. In this way, Mexican politics becomes part of the U.S. political landscape and ceases to be contained within Mexico borders.

**December 20?:** Mexico's new Foreign Minister attends a black-tie dinner held by MALDEF in Los Angeles. He says that the Mexican-American community is "an ideal vehicle" for better communication with the U.S.

**1989:** Mexican Senator Luis Donaldo Colosio leads a PRI commission on a visit to California. He discusses the possibility of establishing a PRI's presence in the United States, ostensibly at the suggestion of some members of the Mexican-American community. At a lunch meeting at the UCLA Faculty Center, he is met by Chicano demonstrators linked to the PRD, protesting the alleged fraudulent 1988 presidential elections.

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<sup>1</sup>During the '70's, there is a renewal of the Chicano-Mexico dialogue. In 1970, it appears that the members of the Chicano community—Jose Angel Gutierrez (head of the La Raza Unida Party) is one of the first Chicanos to make contact—and the Mexican government of Luis Echeverria Alvarez will establish a stronger and more permanent relationship. In 1976, the idea of a "Mexican lobby" similar to what American Jews do for Israel is born. In January 1978, nine Chicano leaders visit President Jose Lopez Portillo to offer the possibility of forming a "Mexican lobby" to influence U.S. immigration policy. President Lopez Portillo declines the opportunity to establish this type of political relationship and opts for a relationship involving the protection of immigrant rights and cultural aspects.

IV. 1990

**February:** "The Program for Mexican Communities overseas" is created. It is run from a special office at the Foreign Ministry in Mexico City and led by Roger Diaz de Cosio. Apparently, after several meetings with Hispanic leaders, President Salinas decided to create this program to reach out to Hispanics of Mexican origin, especially those in the United States. Prior to this program there were no specific mechanisms to link the U.S. population Mexican descent with Mexico on a more permanent or structured basis--only sporadic contacts between Mexican presidents and other government officials and leaders of Mexican-American and Hispanic organizations.

**April 23:** Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari visits Angeles. He comes to speak at the "Asociación de Directores Periódicos de los Estados" Annual Convention and strength relations with the Mexican community.

**April 23:** President Salinas and UYWA leader Cesar Chavez sign landmark pact between the Mexican Institute of Social Security (IMSS) and the United Farm Workers of America (UFWa) at the Century Plaza Hotel in Los Angeles. The pact extends medical benefits the families of about 100,000 Mexican nationals working in t United States. A group of protestors of Mexican/Latino origin demonstrates outside the hotel against the alleged electoral fraud during the 1988 presidential elections.

**April 23:** During President Salinas' visit to Los Angeles, the Council of Mexican-American organizations of California is officially created (at the urging of Romeo Plores Caballe, Mexican Consul General). The Council is formed by the U.S. Mexican Chamber of Commerce, the Mexican Chamber of Commerce of Los Angeles County, the Los Angeles Mexican Association of Tourism and Trade, the "Comit~ de Beneficencia Mexicana," the "Fundaci6n Pro-Herencia Cultural de Mexico," the Federation of United Zacatecan Clubs, the National Association of Journalists; the "Comite Civico Patriotico," the "Club Los Hambriados," and the Mexican Athletic Committee of Los Angeles.

**July 5-6:** Fernando Baeza Melendez, Governor of the Mexican state of Chihuahua visits Los Angeles.

**August 16-17:** Guillermo Cosio Vidaurri, Governor of the Mexic state of Jalisco, visits Los Angeles.

**Last Week of August: Board of Directors of the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce visits Mexico.** Members invited by the "Program for Mexican Communities Abroad"--Mexican Foreign Ministry. Ruben Flores leads a delegation of 12 more guests, among them Pete Martinez (former President of the Chamber), Adalberto Camarillo (businessman), and Tito Chavarria (President of the Texas Hispanic Engineers Association). The purpose of visit is to establish a first contact with the Board of Directors of CANACINTRA and sign a cooperation agreement.

**September 26:** President Bush announces that **the** United States viii seek a free trade agreement (**PTA**) with Mexico.

**September 29-30:** Genaro Borrero Bstrada, Governor of the Mexican state of Zacatecas, visits Los Angeles.

Once the prospect of FTA appears, more than anything else, Mexico's quest for a NAFTA begins to dictate its new, more vigorous approach to American politics, including its consular efforts to improve relations with local Mexican-Americans.

**November 12: Mexico honors 3 Mexican-Americans:** Cesar Chavez (union leader), Americo Paredes (university professor and literary) and Julian Samora (academic and pioneer in the area of Mexican-American studies) at a ceremony in the presidential residence in Mexico City. This is the first time the Mexican government has ever honored Mexican Americans with "La Orden Mexicana del Aguila Azteca, "the highest award given to foreign citizens. The awards signal the growing importance of Mexican-Americans and the Mexican strategy of increasing rapprochement to this community.

**November 14-17: Mexican-Americans from the Mexican American Opportunities Foundation (MAOF) visit Mexico,** along with Los Angeles Mayor Ton Bradley, businessmen and the Committee of Sister Cities Mexico-Los Angeles.<sup>2</sup> Dionisio Morales represents MAOF. They are given a dinner by President Salinas de Gortari and meet with high-ranking government officials.

**December 2-3: Francisco Labastida Ochoa, Governor of the Mexican state of Sinaba visits Los Angeles.**

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<sup>2</sup>Apparently MAOF representatives have been visiting Mexico City regularly since before President Salinas took office.



V. 1991

During 1990 and 1991, responding to their rising economic importance, the Governors of the Mexican states of Zacateca Chihuahua, Jalisco, Nayarit, Sinaba, and Baja California<sup>3</sup> vis Los Angeles to meet with their respective communities.

**January 22: The Council for the Promotion of Business with the Mexican Communities Abroad is created in Mexico.** Its purpose is to support the missions of Latino business in Mexico to bolster NAFTA.

**February 5: Mexican President Salinas, Canadian Prime Minister Muironey and U.S. President George Bush formally announce that they will seek to establish a North American Free Trade Agreement.**

**March 1: The first PRI-linked "Comite de Apoyo a Compatriotas" established in Sacramento, California.** It is formed by members the Mexican-American community and although supported by the PRI, is supposedly independent. Its stated purpose is to create dos ties between the PRI and Mexican communities abroad, promote the Mexican culture and help protect the rights of Mexicans in the United States. The PRI plans to form about 50 similar organizations in various states, e.g., Arizona, Texas, New York, Illinois, Connecticut, Florida, Colorado, and California.

**March 11: The PRI-linked "Comite de Apoyo a Compatriotas" created in Los Angeles.**

**March 13: The PRI-linked "Comite de Apoyo a Compatriotas" created in Dallas, Texas.**

**March 21: Mexican opposition leader Cuauhtemoc Cardenas (PRD) visits Los Angeles.** He is invited by Town Hall, a non-partis organization.

**March: Tomis Rivera Center sponsors NAFTA meeting in San Antonio, Texas.** Thirty-one Latino scholars, researchers, and business and

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<sup>3</sup>Ernesto Ruffo, Governor of Baja California, is the fir member of the opposition (PAN) ever to take office since Mexican Revolution.

community leaders gather to explore the ramifications of NAFTA for Mexican-Americans. Henry Cisneros moderates the discussions.

**April 1:** Activists of Mexican origin protest the construction of a hydroelectric dam in the Mexican state of Guerrero. One of the leaders of the demonstration in front of the Mexican Consulate in Los Angeles is Maria Garcia (native of Guerrero) of the EDP. The Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) is also mounting efforts in Washington, D.C.

**April 5:** **President Bush meets with Latino Businessmen in Los Angeles.** They express their support for NAFTA. Participants include business organizations and human rights groups.

**April 6:** **Jose Velez (President of U.S. LULAC) tells the Los Angeles Times during an interview in Santa Ana, California, that, "For the first time in a decade, LULAC has a full-time office in Washington.** As a result, it is playing a heightened role in national legislation affecting the Latino community, especially regarding education, drugs and housing." Velez says that LULAC will also play a key role in helping to negotiate an anticipated free-trade agreement. Moreover, Velez says he is scheduled to meet with President Salinas later this Spring to discuss NAFTA. Velez supports NAFTA.

**April 7:** **President Salina de Gortari meets briefly with President Bush in Houston, Texas.** Salinas is on his way to Canada. Both President Bush and Salinas are expected to meet with Mexican-Americans in Texas to talk about NAFTA.

**April 10:** **President Salinas visits Washington D.C.**

**April 10:** **Salinas attends the 11<sup>th</sup> annual banquet of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) in Chicago.** Salinas promotes Hispanic support for NAFTA in his speech: "I invite you to be the most fervent promoters in the American Union of this trilateral trade agreement." Among the Mexican-Americans invited are Chicago City Treasurer Miriam Santos (22<sup>nd</sup> Ward Ald.), Jesus Garcia, Reuben Castillo (Chief Legal Counsel of MALDEF), and Henry Cisneros (former Mayor of San Antonio.)

**April 11:** **President Salinas attends a breakfast meeting sponsored by the Mexican-American Chamber of Commerce of Illinois in Chicago.** Apparently the Latino business leaders "lobby" Salinas to make sure they are players in the treaty negotiations. They ask him to

incorporate a minority set-aside program in the agreement as proposed by Alejandro Silva, President of Evans Food Products Co.

**April 12: President Salinas de Gortari addresses the Texas State Legislature at Austin.** Mexican-American and Latino state officials and legislators, such as Eddie Cavazos, President of the Senate's Mexican-American Caucus, complain about the lack of diplomatic tact of Mexican officials who refused to allow them to (a) honor the President with a gift, (b) have a lengthy private meeting with him and (c) let 20 of them escort him during his entrance to the legislature. President Salinas meets with them for only ten minutes and only five of them are allowed to accompany him into the legislature. During his speech, President Salinas praises Mexican-Americans and invites them to strengthen ties with Mexico.

**April 12: President Salinas de Gortari visits the Guadalupe Cultural Center in Austin, Texas.**

**April 12: A PRI-linked "Comite de Apoyo a Compatriotas" is created in Tucson, Arizona.**

**April 13: President Salinas de Gortari meets with Mexican-American leaders in Texas.**

**April 13: A PRI-linked "Comite de Apoyo a Compatriotas" is created in Phoenix, Arizona.**

**April 15: National Council of La Raza (NCLR) sends letter about NAFTA to President Bush.** Letter expresses concern about some aspects of NAFTA that could be harmful for the Hispanic community.

**April 16: A PRI-linked "Comite de Apoyo a Compatriotas" is created in Coronado, San Diego County, California.**

**April 19: Announcement of the formation of a coalition of Latino organizations to exert pressure upon the U.S. Congress to approve FTA fast track authority.** Ray Hernandez (Latino Business Association) is Director of the Committee. The coalition involves 10 regional businessmen, professionals and community leaders. Each member promises to send at least 10,000 letters to members of the House of Representatives and the Senate in Washington. Julian Nava, Raul Ayala (Mexican American Bar Association (MABA)) and Ricardo Montalban support this position.

**April 20: MALDEF Annual Meeting in Mexico City.** MALDEF elects its new Board of Directors and meets with high-ranking Mexican officials, including President Salinas. Antonia Hernandez states, "it is a coincidence" that the MALDEF meeting happened at a time when the Mexican government is engaged in an intense campaign to gather support for NAFTA.

**April: Mexican coalition of civil, union and educational organizations visits Los Angeles.** The "Red Mexicana de Acción Frente al TLC" seeks to establish contacts with U.S.-based organizations and form a joint front to achieve a NAFTA that addresses their concerns.

**April: Jaine Serra Puche, Secretary of Commerce and Industrial Promotion (SECOFI), visits California.** During one of Serra Puche's meetings, Congressman Jim Kolbe (R-Arizona), member of the Trade, State and Judicial Sub-committees and the Special Group for Urgent Fiscal Matters, circulates a letter urging the support of Hispanic business leaders for NAFTA. Serra Puche meets with Governor Wilson in Sacramento.

**May 1: NCLR announces conditional support for PTA Past Track.** Support is announced only after the Bush Administration assures it would incorporate plans that benefit Hispanics (border impact assistance, worker adjustment and training programs and a pledge against "guestworker programs") into the FTA agenda.

**May 3: PRI-linked "Comite de Apoyo a Compatriotas" is created in Los Angeles.** The President of the Committee is Carlos Loaiza. Among other things, it will offer advice on how to participate in the IMSS-UFW exchange of medical services for workers of Mexican origin. Recently, a committee was introduced to the Mexican Consulate in Los Angeles by four federal deputies and one local deputy of the Mexican opposition party (PRD) for the purpose of channeling cases of Mexicans in need of help through the Consulate.

(PRI plans to create similar committees shortly in Canada, mainly in Ottawa, Toronto, Montreal, Quebec, and Vancouver.)

**May 8: Joaquin Otero, President of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA), testifies before a House Committee against Bush's "fast track" initiative.**

**May 10: Pressured by protesters of Mexican origin in Los Angeles, the Mexican government suspends application of a new series of fees and regulations aimed at motorists driving from the U.S.-Mexico border into the interior of Mexico, just four days after they were imposed. Angry protesters from California to Texas demonstrated in several Mexican border cities, as well as in front of the Mexican Consulate to Texas demonstrated in several Mexican**

border cities, as well as in front of the Mexican Consulate in Los Angeles on May 9, to complain about the fee. This case illustrates the growing influence of the millions of Mexican citizens living in the U.S. President Salinas orders a 30-day suspension while the issue is further examined.

**May 13: Hispanic Link Weekly Report on Hispanic support for NAFTA.**

The article says that WLAC, the NCLR, the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Ray Hernandez (Chairman of Latin Business Association), Ricardo Romo (Director of the Tomas Rivera Center in San Antonio, Texas), and U.S. Representatives E. Kika de la Garza, Albert Bustamante, Bill Richardson, Solomon Ortiz, and Henry Cisneros, are among the supporters of FTA Fast Track. The largest Hispanic pro-FTA lobby group is the Hispanic Alliance for Free Trade (HAFT), a non-profit, non-partisan collection of Hispanic organizations and leaders (ostensibly encouraged by President Bush), whose Director is Elaine Coronado. Another fervent NAFTA supporter who traveled to Washington in support is Lucia de Garcia, a Colombian director of an international business consulting firm in Newport Beach and Chairwoman of the International Business Affairs Council of the Latin Business Association.

At this point, the opposition is led by Otero (LCLAA) and includes Segundo Mercado Llorens (Director of Government Affairs for the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union, which represents 1.3 million workers) and Primitivo Rodriguez (Director of the Mexico-U.S. Border Program for the American Friends Service Committee). Of the nine voting members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, only Matthew Martinez (D-CA) openly opposes FTA Fast Track. Four are undecided. Esteban Torres (D-CA) supports FTA but without "fast track" authority (source: Teresa Puente, "Hispanic Support Builds for FTA Fast Track").

**May 14: Univision and La opinión release the results of an opinion poll among Hispanics in the U.S.** The telephone poll sampled 506 people of Hispanic origin in the states of Texas, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and California. Of those sampled, 62% support NAFTA, 24% oppose it and 14% are undecided. Moreover, 59% support a U.S.-Mexico political integration as the next step after NAFTA, 25% oppose it and 16% are undecided.

**May 16: KALDEF announces conditional support for the PTA fast track process.** Its main concern is to secure the rights of Hispanics living in the United States. Frank Herrera (Vice President of MALDEF) says that, for the first time, MALDEF will lobby in Washington to convince policy-makers to address their concerns.

**May 21: News conference to show Hispanic support for fast track NAFTA at the Rouse Rayburn Office Building in Washington, D.C.**

Bill Richardson moderates the meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to "demonstrate the widespread Hispanic support for fast track, for the free trade agreement with Mexico."

Participants making statements include: Rep. Kika de la Garza (D-TX), Rep. Solomon Ortiz (D-TX), Rep. Albert Bustamante (D-TX), Rep. Rafael Hernandez Colón (Puerto Rico), Catalina Vazquez Villalpando (U.S. Treasurer), Jorge Mas Canosa (President of the Cuban American National Foundation (CANF)), Tirso del Junco (Chairman of the U.S. Postal Service and Vice Chairman of the Republican Party of California), Frank Herrera (Chairman of MALDEF-Texas), Tony Salazar (Chairman of the Board of NCLR-Missouri), Jose Nino (President of U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce), Gov. Toney Anaya (former Governor of New Mexico and Vice Chairman of the Rainbow Coalition), Jane Delgado (President of the National Coalition of Hispanic Health and Human Services (COSSHMO)), Judy Canales (President of the Mexican-American Women's National Association), Baltazar Vaca (General Council, National Image, and member of the Hispanic National Bar Association), Jorge Sanchez, Amb. Abelardo Valdez (former Assistant Administrator for AID for Latin America and former Chief of Protocol under the Carter Administration), Edward Peña (LULAC), Elaine Coronado (President of Hispanic Alliance for Free Trade-RAFT), Ignacio Urrabazo (a banker from Laredo, Texas), and Hernando Caicedo (a Colombian from the Institute for Languages and Cultures of the Americas).

**May 24: Rouse Okays "Fast-Track" to NAFTA talks.** (Deadline ended on March 31). Democrats Bill Richardson, Royball, de la Garza, and Cuban-American Congresswoman vote in support of Fast-Track; Martinez, Torres and Rangel vote against it. The Hispanic vote is 6 in favor and 4 against.

**May 28: Rep. Esteban Torres (D-CA) Writes about NAFTA to Carla Hills, U.S. Trade Representative negotiating NAFTA.** He questions the role of Hispanics in the negotiations--no Hispanics were present at any level of importance.

**June 5-7: Ray Hernandez, President of the international area of the Latin Business Association (LBA) visits Mexico City.** His visit -is to express strong support for NAFTA and prepare the next visit to Mexico City of more than 40 businessmen members of LBA.

**June 23-27: Toney Hernandez: leads delegation of members of Los Angeles-based Hispanic Bankers Association on visit to Mexico City, Guadalajara and Monterrey.** They meet with their Mexican counterparts and other businessmen.

**July 14-16: David Lizarraga, President of TELACU Industries, visits Mexico City to promote his services.**

**July 14-18: Annual NCLR Conference is held in Mexico City. A cultural cooperation agreement is signed on July 16 by the NCLR, the Program for Mexican Communities Abroad and the Mexican National Council for Culture and the Arts. A roundtable called "Building Bridges with Mexico" discusses NAFTA.**

**July 28-August 2: Jesus Chavarria, General Director and Editor of Hispanic Business visits Mexico City. His purpose is to promote business opportunities with the Hispanic community.**

**August 12: Seminar on "The United States Hispanic Market: A Source of Potential and Support for Mexico in the Free-Trade Agreement" held in Mexico City. The event was sponsored by the Program of Mexican Communities Abroad, the ITAM, DHL's World Trade Information Center, the General Direction of Industrial and Mining Promotion of the State of Mexico, and Banco Internacional. Representing the Mexican-American community are Jose F. Nino (President of the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce), George Munoz (President of George Munoz and Associates and active defender of NAFTA), David Lizarraga (TELACU), Robert Sosa (President of Sosa Southwest Hispanic Marketing Consultants), Jess Haro (representing NCLR), and Jesus Arguelles (President of Arguelles and Co.).**

**August 26: Jaime P. Martinez (Secretary/Treasurer, International Union of Electronic, Electrical, Salaried, Machine and Furniture Workers, AFL-CIO) renders testimony on the U.S.-Mexico Free Trade in Houston, Texas. He strongly opposes FTA Fast Track as well as FTA. Only two or three Hispanic small business representatives testified at the U.S. Trade Representative's public hearing on August 25 and 26.**

**August: A high-ranking U.S. official promises to boost the Hispanic role in negotiating NAFTA. He promises that "several Hispanics will be designated to serve in some of the consultant committees advising the U.S. trade representative on NAFTA."**

**September: Los Angeles Times Poll NAFTA survey conducted in the U.S. The poll shows that among U.S. Latinos, 38% favor NAFTA, 12% oppose it and 50% are undecided.**

**September 18-22: U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC) convention in Chicago, Illinois. This is the first time that**

Mexican businessmen and government officials have attended. Jaime Serra Puche, Secretary of Commerce and Industrial Promotion (SECOFI) and the highest ranking Mexican official, speaks about NAFTA. President George Bush also attends.

**September 28: President Salinas de Gortari visits San Diego.** This is the beginning of a three-day visit to California and his second visit since assuming the presidency in 1988.

**September 30: President Salinas de Gortari meets briefly with Mexican-American political and community leaders in Los Angeles.** Later he attends a dinner celebrating the opening of a Mexican art exhibit at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Among the guests are Gloria Molina, Art Torres, Antonia Hernandez, Richard Alatorre, Julian Nava, David Ayon (USC California-Mexico Project), Antonio Gonzalez (SVRI), Raul Hinojosa (UCLA Graduate School of Architecture and Urban Planning), and Patricia Hamm.

**September 30. President Salinas de Gortari Meets with Chicano intellectuals and Mexican students at Stanford university in Palo Alto.**

**October 3: Andrew Hernandez, president of the Southwest Voter Research Institute, announces a series of conferences for Latino leaders to debate NAFTA.**

**October 5: First SVRI and LCLAA-sponsored NAFTA conference in San Antonio, Texas.** A main speaker is Herminio Blanco, Chief Negotiator for the Mexican government. He states that Mexico has appointed three Hispanic advisers, including a San Antonian to its negotiating team: Abelardo Valdez, Ed Hidalgo (former Navy Secretary) and Toney Anaya Upaid lobbyists?]. Mexicans Roberta Lajous (Director of International Affairs for PRI) and Luis Alvarez (National President of the opposition party PAN) attend the conference. The meeting gathers nearly 200 Latino leaders.

**October 12: "Latino Leaders Conference on the Implications of NAFTA" at Rio Hondo Community College, California.** Sponsored by the Southwest Voter Research Institute, represented by Antonio Gonzalez, and co-sponsored by the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement and the Mexican American Grocers Association in cooperation with the National Association for Chicano Studies, the Coalition for Fair Trade and Economic Justice, the Latin Business Association, the Los Angeles Times, and Pacific Bell. Jaime Serra Puche speaks at the conference. The conference is designed to foster a debate on NAFTA among Latinos and is the first gathering to bring together a spectrum of Latino leaders. (It is the sixth conference organized by SVRI related to aspects of NAFTA.)



Albert M. Rojas (President of Americans for Democracy in Mexico) announces that more than 60 observers (including African-Americans, Anglos, political scientists, and California congressmen) will observe the Michoacan elections on July 12, 1992.

Among the conference participants are representatives of the Mexican government Jose General, Roberta Lajous (PRI Director of International Relations), Federal Deputy Orihuela (Michoacan) and Mexican opposition members Felipe Calderón Hinojosa (Deputy for the PAN) and Jesus Zambrano (Deputy for the PRD), as well as Mexican academics Jorge Castaneda and Mariclaire Acosta of an independent human rights entity. Also, Raul Hinojosa, Congressman Esteban Torres, Toney Anaya, Juan Jose Gutierrez, Jaime Martinez (Director, Western Region, International Union of Electric Workers), Caesar Sereseres (political science professor), Victor Munoz (Director, AFL-CIO Maquila Project), Steve Soto (President, Mexican American Grocers Association), Marcelo Saucedo (leader of United Food and Commercial Workers), Joel Mendoza, David Ayon, Rudy Acuna, and Patricia Hamm.

**October 26: National Journal reports that Former New Mexico Governor Toney Anaya has been hired by the Mexican government to lobby for NAFTA.** The report says Anaya (who practices law in Santa Fe and is a member of the Rainbow Coalition) will be paid \$12,500 plus expenses to "develop and implement a plan of action to obtain the input of ethnic and racial minority groups, workers, environmentalists, and other interest groups" on NAFTA. His assignment includes acting as liaison between the Mexican government and the Hispanic community, lobbying Congress, making speeches, and cooperating with the renowned public relations firm Burson-Martseller, Inc., which also represents Mexico (and charges \$1 million to polish Mexico's image on drugs).

[Mexico's lobbying team also includes Charles Walker (a Washington power broker leading the pro-fast-track U.S. lobby, earning \$20,000 a month from the Mexican government), Joseph P. O'Neill (President of Public Strategies Washington Inc. and a former aide to Sen. Lloyd Bentsen (D-Tx), Chairman of the Finance committee that oversees fast-track in the Senate), top public relations firm Fleishman-Hillard, Inc., and Edelman Public Relations. As of November 1992, eight (out of a total of 17) Latino firms or individuals, including Anaya and Valdez, had been hired by the Mexican government to lobby in favor of NAFTA. Apparently these hirings resulted from Hispanic complaints that only non-Latinos (nine) had been hired).

**December 4: Representatives of Mexican organisations in Los Angeles visit Mexico City.** They are invited by Mexican President Salinas de Gortari to present him with a document expressing the needs of their community. They express their support for NAFTA.

The organizations include: the Comite Atletico Mexicano, Comite de Beneficencia Mexicana, the Comite Mexicano Civico Patriotico, the National Association of Journalists, the National Association of Nayaritas, the Federaci~n de Club Zacatecanos, the Jalisco State Club Federations, the United. States Charro Federation, the Colima Social Cultural Club, the Social Humanitano Cojumatlan, the Fraternidad Sinaloense, la Fundaci6n Pro-Herencia Cultural Mexicana, la Organizaci6n de Baja Californianos, the Consejo de organizaciones Mexicanas de California, the Los Angeles Mexican Chamber of Commerce, and the Los Angeles Mexican Association of Tourism and Trade.

**December 11: Mexico honors another three Mexican-Americans at a ceremony in the presidential residence in Mexico City.** The "Aguila Azteca" is awarded to Antonia Hernandez (MALDEF), Blandina Cardenas (educator) and Luis Leal (literary critic). This is the second time ever (the first was in 1990) that the Mexican government has honored Mexican-Americans with such an award.

## **VI. 1992**

**January: A 13-member delegation of the Hispanic National Bar Association visits Mexico City at the invitation of the Mexican government.** Their purpose is to discuss, among other things, business and professional opportunities for Hispanics in Mexico. Among the delegates is Cruz Reynoso, Chairman of Latino Issues Forum.

**February 16-19: A 16-member delegation representing Minnesota's Hispanic-American community visits Mexico City.** The Mexican government finances the trip to discuss NAFTA. Scheduled meetings include government officials in the Departments of External Relations, Urban Development and Ecology, the Institute of Technology, the Bank of Mexico, and the Mexico City Chamber of Commerce. It is the first in a series of planned activities resulting from Governor Arne H. Carlson's visit to Mexico in November 1991.

Delegates are selected on behalf of the Mexican government by the Spanish Speaking Affairs Council, one of four state-funded minority councils. The delegates represent various segments of the community, including the legal profession, the media, state

government, corporate and small businesses, and labor and cultural organizations. Selection is based on the individual's active involvement with and influence on issues in the Hispanic community and his/her leadership role in the community and the states.

Participants include: Fermin Aragón (President of IMPACT), Mona Capiz (President of Capiz World Travel), Judge Manuel Cervantez (Minnesota Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals), Mario Duarte (publisher and editor of Manuel Guerrero (attorney at law), Linda Lares (Chairperson of the Spanish Speaking Affairs Council, State of Minnesota), Carlos Mariani Rosa (State Representative, Minnesota House of Representatives), Antonio Martinez (President and Chief Executive Officer of Martinez Corporation), Aida Mori (Vice President of Administration and Public Relations of the Metropolitan Economic Development Association, Minneapolis), Rafael Ortega (Executive Director of Chicanos Latinos Unidos in Service (CWES)), Carmen Robles (Special Assistant to the Commissioner of Labor and Industry, State of Minnesota), Jos~ Romero (President and publisher of Minnesota Today, American Today and Las Americas Magazines), Jose H. Trejo (President of Mexim International and leader of the delegation), Eduardo Wolle (Executive Director of the Spanish Speaking Affairs Council, State of Minnesota and leader of the delegation), and Frank Zaragoza (Educator of Family Health and Nutrition for Blue Earth County Government, Makata, Minnesota).

**February 21:** **The Hispanic National Bar Association announces its endorsement of NAFTA.** The announcement follows a January meeting Mexico City with Mexican President Salinas de Gortari. (The association boasts more than 16,000 members and is the sole national Hispanic organization of its kind.)

**February 27:** **Opposition leader Cuauhtemoc Cardenas visits Los Angeles.** He is on a 10-day tour of the U.S. that began on February 19. He holds a news conference at his party's (PRD) office in Los Angeles. The purpose of his tour is to gather support against the NAFTA negotiated by President Salinas, as well as to establish contacts and publicize his political project.

**Last Week of February:** **A delegation of Mexican-American leaders meet with President Salinas de Gortari in Mexico City.** Participants include Juan Jose Gutierrez, Director of One Stop Immigration and spokesman for a project seeking to attain dual nationality for people of Mexican origin in the U.S. This is the first time the issue is discussed with a Mexican President, although the matter has been previously discussed with officials of the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The delegation attends a series of conferences on free trade at the National University of Mexico (UNAM).

**February 28: Carlos de la Madrid Virgen, Governor of the Mexican state of Colima, visits Los Angeles.** He meets with members of the Colimense community and with Mexican-American businessmen. His trip comes a few weeks after his taking office.

Between January and March, nine Hispanic delegations separately visit Mexico City as guests of the Mexican Government (SECOFI). President Salinas de Gortari receives each delegation at the presidential residence. These delegations include the NCLR, the Hispanic National Bar Association, the Mexican American Women's National Association, Hispanic legislators from Texas, a delegation from the state of Arizona, a Hispanic group from Minnesota, a Hispanic group of mayors and elected officials, a large delegation from the state of New Mexico led by Governor Bruce King and Rep. Bill Richardson, and the Hispanic Alliance for Free Trade (HAFT).

**Early June: The Mexican government establishes the Consulting Council to Help the Mexicans Affected by the Los Angeles riots of April 1992.** It establishes a fund to help Mexicans overcome their most immediate economic, health, housing, job, and/or business needs. The Council members include Gloria Molina, Antonia Hernandez, the Mexican Consul General, and Raul Granados (President of the Mexican American Bar Association (MABA)), as well as representatives of the Mexican Foreign Ministry and SEDUE. The initial fund is \$100,000 and additional funds are expected to be raised through community activities.

**June 2: "California and Mexico: Business opportunities" seminars are held in San Francisco and Sacramento.** Organized by the Program for Mexican Communities Abroad to discuss the benefits of NAFTA, the seminars are part of a series to be held in various cities.

**June 22: In an article appearing in La Opinion, Daniel Cavazos complains of the lack of attention paid by the Bush Administration to the importance of the Latino community.** He notes that the Salinas Administration has already met twice within the past year with the Texas Latino political leadership (Texas Senate Hispanic Caucus and Mexican-American legislators). Texas Senator Gonzalo Barriento (D-Austin), President of the Texas Senate Hispanic Caucus, says that, "Ironically [the U.S.] government that has so much at play . . ., has yet to meet with the Latino state legislatures to deal with their concerns." Cavazos suggests that President Bush should take greater advantage of the potential of Hispanic support for NAFTA.

**June 24: The first "Business Opportunities with the Mexican Community" seminar is held at the Foreign Ministry in Tlatelolco, Mexico.** This event is part of Mexico's presence at the United

States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce XIII Annual Convention and Exhibition (to be held in Dallas, Texas, Sept. 30-Oct. 3). Hispanic speakers include Delia Reyes, Carlos Venegas and Victor Munoz. Mexican participants include representatives of the Council for the Promotion of Business with the Hispanic Community and Roger Diaz de Cossio (Program of Mexican Communities Abroad).

June 25: PRI Deputy Jos6 Orihuela Barcenas (Michoacan) and Roberta Lajous, PRI's International Relations **Secretary, visit** California. Both grant several interviews to popular Spanish-speaking radio stations. Orihuela lectures at the Center for Mexico-U.S. Studies at the University of California at San Diego. He seeks to undermine the PRD's legitimacy while boosting the PRI's, specifically concerning the accusations that the PRI will engage in fraud during the coming July 12 elections for governor in Michoacan. He states that the reason to visit Mexican communities in the U.S. is that, "La colonia puede influir sobre sus parientes en Michoacan."

June 30: **A permanent working group involving the Program for Mexican Communities Abroad and several Mexican states is created at a meeting at the Foreign Ministry in Mexico City.** Its purpose is to coordinate cooperative projects in the areas of protection of immigrant rights, as well as to promote business, culture, sports, and education. The states involved have a significant portion of their population living in the United States: Baja California, Chihuahua, Coahuila, Durango, Guanajuato, Guerrero, Jalisco, Estado de Mexico, Michoacan, Nuevo León, Oaxaca, Puebla, San Luis Potosi, Sonora, Tamaulipas, and Zacatecas. (With 12% of its population--the highest among Mexican states--living permanently in the U.S., Zacatecas receives an approximate annual remittance of \$189,000,000.) One-fifth of the population of Mexican origin lives in the United States.

June-July: **NLLEO organizes a meeting between Texan Hispanic leaders and the Program for the Mexican communities Abroad in Austin.** Dan Morales, Attorney General for the State of Texas, presides over the meeting. He praises the successful efforts of the "Program" in building bridges between Mexico and the Hispanic population. Roger Diaz de Cosio (Program) speaks about the benefits of NAFTA. He also says that: "This is a world of alliances . . . And in this world of alliances, none is more strategic for us than our link with the Hispanic community in the United States, not only for historical and sentimental reasons: we share the same values, culture and language."

Participants include about 50 leaders, mostly of Mexican origin, state and federal officials, members of congress, judges, businessmen, academicians, and the media, including Gonzalo

Barrientos (Texas Hispanic Senate leader), Barbara Aguirre (President, Texas NALEO), and Isaias Torres, Federal Court Justice.

**July 14:** Cesar Chavez' (UTW) position on PTA fast track said **coupromised by his ties with the Mexican government.** Arturo Santamaria Gomez' article, "Los mexico-americanos y el TLC," appearing in La Jornada, points out that although most unions oppose fast track on NAFTA, Cesar Chavez was "neutralized by the Mexican government when it signed the IMSS agreement and awarded him the "Aztec Eagle." Similarly, Sergio Munoz, in a May 30, 1991 article in the Los Angeles Times, says that Chavez is "obligated to President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, who, following Chavez' initiative, made medical services available to members of the UFW and their dependents in Mexico."

**July 19-22:** Annual NCLR Conference in Los Angeles. The agenda includes a workshop entitled, "Free Trade with Mexico." At this meeting, representatives of **Nacional Financiera (NAPIN8A) announce the establishment of a \$20 Rillion initial fund called the KLFIN-Mexican Investment Council (CMI) Cooperation Agreement.**<sup>4</sup> A cooperation agreement is signed between NAFINSA, the Mexican Council of Investments and the Program for the Mexican Communities Abroad on the one hand and Raul Yzaguirre (NCLR), Jose Nino (USHCC), Ernesto Chavarria (Texas Association of Mexican-American Chambers of Commerce-TAMACC), and Manuel Rosales (California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce) on the other.

Attendees include Manuel Lujan (Secretary of the Interior during the Bush Administration), Gloria Molina, Henry Cisneros, and Antonia Hernandez. Mexican entities attending include the Program for the Mexican Communities Abroad, the Mexican Cultural Institute in Los Angeles and the Department of the Federal District.

**August 3-4:** A delegation of California Kispanic legislators visits **Mexico City.** The group is led by Art Torres and includes Andres E. Jimenez (Director of the California Policy Seminar). It is invited by the Mexican government, through Toney Anaya, who also attends the meetings. According to Jimenez, basically anyone willing to attend

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<sup>4</sup>The purpose of the fund is to promote joint ventures between Mexican and U.S. Hispanic businesses (small and medium-sized). This action had been promoted by Mexican-American George Munoz (former President of the Chicago Board of Education and currently an international lawyer doing business in Mexico) and Alejandro Silva (President of Evans Food Products Co.), among others.

was invited. President Salinas cancels his scheduled meeting with the California visitors.

**August 4: Letter to President Salinas de Gortari from Assemblyman Richard G. Polanco.** Polanco thanks Salinas for his invitation to lead a delegation of California Hispanic legislators to meet with Mexican officials and businessmen in Mexico City. He expresses support for NAFTA, but suggests some improvements. Polanco sends his letter with members of the delegation led by Art Torres visiting Mexico City.

**August 12-15: The Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA) adopts a resolution rejecting NAFTA as currently negotiated.** During its annual conference in Miami, LCLAA demands that Congress reject its ratification, unless certain conditions are met first (help build infrastructure in Mexican border cities and eradicate of repressive Mexican labor practices). LCLAA's Executive Director is Alfredo Montoya.

**September 9: Raul Yzaguirre and Roger Dia. de Cossio Reet with U.S. Latino investors at the Los Angeles office of the NCLR.** They announce the creation of the \$20 million fund to promote Latino investment in Mexico.

**September 15: Panel Discussion on BAPTA by the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.** Rep. Solomon Ortiz (D-Tx) is Chairman of the panel. Participants include Rep. Esteban Torres (D-Ca.), Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Oh), Amb. Julius Katz (Deputy U.S. Trade Representative), Thomas Donahue (Secretary/Treasurer of the AFL-CIO), Jorge Haynes (Sr. Vice President of the International Bank of Commerce and ex-Director of the Association of South Texas Communities), and Michael McCloskey (Chairman of the Sierra Club).

**September 26/27: Mexican General Director of N-PIN8A, Oscar Espinosa Villareal, visits Washington, D.C. Before representatives of the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of California, he speaks about the creation of the \$20 million fund.**

**October: A study of the potential impact of BAPTA on the California economy is made public.** It is co-authored by Raul Hinojosa (UCLA Graduate School of Architecture and Urban Planning). This study concludes that California's Latino workers will suffer more of the negative impacts of NAFTA and receive less of the benefits.

**October 1: Assemblyman Richard G. Polanco, Chair, Selected Committee on California-Mexico Affairs, gives NAPTA press conference in Sacramento** (in the Governor's press conference room). He states his position of conditional support for NAFTA.

**October 7: President Salinas, Canadian Prize Minister Brian Mulroney and U.S. President George Bush initial the North American Free Trade Agreement in San Antonio, Texas.** Rep. Bill Richardson (D-NM) refuses to attend and tries to convince other Democrats to do the same. He characterizes the event as too political. It was Henry Cisneros' suggestion to hold the ceremony here, because Texas is a key state in next month's presidential election.

**November 7: The Governor of the Mexican state of Zacatecas visits Los Angeles.** He meets with members of the "Zacatecan" community and with businessmen from the Latino community.

**November 19: Puerto Rican National Coalition (CNP) holds meeting to define its position on BAPTA.**

**November 24: The Mexican-American Coalition demands that Clinton not sign NAPTA.** Coalition members demonstrate in front of the federal building in downtown Los Angeles. Activists include Raul Ruiz (professor of Chicano Studies at California State University Northridge and linked to PRD), Virginia Reade (Democratic Party), Joe Sanchez (founder of Mexican American Grocers (MAGA)), Al Belmontez (former Director of the Mexican American Political Association (MAPA)), Juana Gutierrez (Mothers of East L.A.), and Robert Benson (professor of law at Loyola Law School, Los Angeles).

**November 25: The SVRZ, MALDEP and NCLR convene a NAFTA strategy session in El Paso, Texas.** They conclude that Latinos are united in a position of conditional support for NAFTA. Participants include CNP and NALFO.

**November 30: Louis Nuñez, President of the Puerto Rican National Coalition (CNP) demands changes to NAFTA as currently proposed.**

**December 4: A group of protesters of Mexican origin from the state of Oaxaca demonstrate in front of the Mexican Consulate General in Los Angeles.** They demand that the Governor of Oaxaca pay more attention to their needs in their hometowns and in California. (75,000 Zapotecos live in the urban areas of Southern California and around 100,000 mixtecos farm workers work in the fields of San Joaquin, San Diego, Guaymas, and Santa Cruz.)



**December 9:** A cooperation agreement is signed in Los Angeles by Arturo Romo Gutierrez, Governor of the Mexican state of Zacatecas, and Andres Rozenthal, Mexican Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs.

Its purpose is to help develop better links between the Zacatecanos in the U.S. and their place of origin. At the same time, a liaison committee is set up by the government of Zacatecas, the Federation of Clubes Zacatecanos in California, the General Consulate of Mexico in Los Angeles, and the Programa para las Comunidades Mexicanas en el Extranjero.

**December 12-14:** The Governor of the Mexican state of Jalisco visits Los Angeles. He meets for the first time with the Mexican "Jaliciense" community in Los Angeles. Together, they plan joint ventures to improve their hometowns with funds provided by the Jalicienses in California and the government of Jalisco. Also, the Governor meets with Latino businessmen from Orange County and Los Angeles.

**December 14:** Mexican President Salinas de Gortari and President George Bush meet at Camp David, Maryland. They re-affirm their commitment to NAFTA, still under negotiation.

During the same trip, President Salinas visits New York City and Washington, D.C. In New York City he meets with representatives of Hispanic organizations.

**December 17:** Simultaneously, but separately, the Presidents of Canada, Mexico and the United States sign the NAFTA: Presidents Bush at the OEA in Washington, D.C., Salinas in Mexico City and Mulroney in Ottawa.

**December 17:** President-elect Bill Clinton names Henry Cisneros Secretary for Housing and Urban Development.

## VII. 1993

**January 8:** President-elect Bill Clinton meets with President Salinas in Austin, Texas. According to Ernesto M. Chavarria, Jr. (leader of the Texas Association of Mexican American Chambers of Commerce (TAMACC)), the fact that the meeting is held in Austin underscores the special significance of NAFTA to Texas and its growing Latino community.

**February 23:** President Salinas holds third award ceremony (since he took office) honoring Mexican-Americans at the presidential residence in Mexico City. Gloria Molina, Henry Cisneros (absent) and Raul Yzaguirre receive the "Aztec Eagle" award. (The decision was made in September 1992.) The Mexican government has honored nine Mexican-Americans since 1990 (the first time ever): In 1990: Chavez, Paredes and Samora; in 1991: Cardenas, Hernandez and Leal. During his stay in Mexico, Yzaguirre talks about the special relationship between the United States and Israel. He says, "We, as Latinos, have been too slow in using our influence and make an impact in the formulation of American foreign policy, particularly concerning Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean."

**February 23:** Seminar on "The Future of Relations Between Mexico and the Latino Community in the United States," hosted by the Mexican government at the auditorium of the Foreign Ministry in Mexico City. Participants include Gloria Molina, Raul Izaguirre, Blandina Cardenas, Jorge Bustamante, Andres Rozenhal, and Roger Diaz de Cosio. (Videotape available.)

**March 6:** "Latino Vote '93: A Gathering of Latino Leaders from California & Arizona" at the Burbank Airport Hilton Convention Center, California. Sponsored by Southwest Voter Registration Institute, represented by Antonio Gonzalez, Andrew Hernandez (President of SVREP and SVRI) and Richard Martinez (Executive Director SVREP). Brief statements are made by Xavier Becerra, Lucille Royball, Mike Hernandez, Harry Pachon, and Raul Hinojosa. David Ayon and Clarissa Martinez (USC California-Mexico Project) act as moderators at various meetings. Other participants include Carlos Gonzalez Gutierrez (Mexican Consulate General in Los Angeles), Andres E. Jimenez (Director, California Policy Seminar) and Patricia Hamm.

**March 11:** U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and more than a dozen other Latino organizations in the U.S. announce unconditional support for NAFTA. Apparently at some point the USHCC had contemplated the possibility of joining the coalition led by the SVRI, which calls for conditional support for NAFTA.

**March 12-13:** SVRI, MALDEF and NCLR meeting on NAFTA at the Crystal Gateway Marriott, Crystal City, Virginia (Washington D.C.). Raul Izaguirre, Antonia Hernandez, Antonio Gonzalez, Andrew Hernandez, and Richard Martinez are present. Michael Kantor, U.S. Trade Representative, makes opening remarks.

After more than two years of research and public debate, the SVRI, MALDEF and the NCLR endorse a joint document entitled, "Latino Consensus Position on NAFTA." Fifteen to twenty organizations are

organizations are present, including SVRI, NCLR and MALDEF. Many of the organizations participating do not endorse the document at the meeting, but pledge to return to their boards and conventions to seek its endorsement. The document contains eight primary concerns or conditions regarding NAFTA, related implementing legislation, and the 'side agreements' still to be negotiated.

**March 17:** Negotiations of parallel agreements on NAFTA begin.

**April:** California Democrats in Sacramento unanimously approve a resolution calling for a condemnation of human rights abuses in Mexico. The resolution particularly condemns the alleged fraud in the elections for governor of the Mexican state of Guerrero. The resolution is sponsored by Chicana Virginia Reade Belmontez (involved in Chicano coalition opposing NAFTA and delegate of L.A. District 50) and backed by Richard Polanco, the Latino/Chicano Caucus and the Afroamerican Caucus.

**June 24:** The Afroamerican Caucus announces its opposition to NAFTA. Kweisi Mfume (D-Md), Caucus President, makes the announcement.

**June 24-26:** Annual N~EO Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. Topics on the agenda include U.S. Latin American policy.

Mexican officials visiting Los Angeles during 1993 include Fernando Solana (Foreign Minister), Manuel Camacho Solis (Regente D.F.) and Luis Donaldo Colosio (Secretary of SEDUE). Camacho Solis and Colosio are high on the list to become 1994 PRI presidential candidates.

**June 29:** Rep. Bill Richardson is Commencement Speaker at the Universidad de las Americas graduation ceremony in Mexico City. During an interview to 24 HORAS in Mexico City, he says that the fate of NAFTA is quite precarious: about 60% of Republicans and 30% of Democrats support it, and unless President Clinton throws all his support behind NAFTA and it is presented for ratification within 30 days, it will have to wait until 1994. By then, Richardson thinks, the chances of its being approved would be even slimmer, partly because the political climate in Mexico will not be appropriate for dealing with NAFTA.

**July:** Negotiations of the NAFTA side agreements are expected to be completed by July. The Ross Perot campaign against NAFTA has increased its attacks and created uncertainties about NAFTA's future.