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## AAAS Meeting in Mexico City

In 1973 the AAAS will celebrate its 125th anniversary as a scientific organization which, since its inception, has been concerned with the implications of science for human welfare. In recent years, sharper emphasis has been given to this aspect of Association activity, and in 1973 a new international dimension will be added. The board of directors has approved plans for holding the annual meeting in Mexico City. The meeting will be the first of its kind in the history of the AAAS, extending its concerns substantially beyond the United States and Canada. It will be jointly planned and financed with the Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnologia of Mexico. It will be the first general inter-American meeting on science and technology.

The joint meeting will concern itself with an inquiry into "Science and Man in the Americas." Its objectives, as stated in a preliminary proposal, will be to present to a professional and a lay audience aspects of science that profoundly influence the development and well-being of all people in the Americas.

The dates of the meeting will be 18 to 22 June, but two other major related activities will span a broader period of time. First, all AAAS-affiliated societies are encouraged to develop with their Mexican colleagues specialized meetings either preceding or following the main meeting. Second, a major exhibition of science and technology, which will take place over a period of approximately 3 weeks, has been proposed.

To plan the details of the meeting, a U.S. executive committee,\* which will work closely with the Mexican Consejo, has been appointed.

The Consejo is an official body of the Mexican government, with broad responsibilities in scientific and technological affairs. The Consejo was created in December 1970 upon the initiative of President Luis Echeverria of Mexico. Its objective is to collaborate as adviser to the Mexican government in all activities related to science and technology.

The director-general of the Consejo is Eugenio Mendez, who is secretary of transportation and communications in President Echeverria's cabinet. Its board of directors includes several other cabinet officers, as well as other top scientific officials of Mexico.

The program will comprise areas of particular importance to the Americas. Among these are the sea and its resources; ecological changes produced by progress; energy and the future; technology for the use of deserts and arid zones; new foods, food technology, and nutrition; seismology and earthquake engineering; new techniques in automation and information processing; astronomy in the Southern Hemisphere; and others, including anthropology, pharmacology, population, and public health.

The major activities will take place in the well-equipped auditoriums of the Medical Center of Mexico City. All sessions will be in both Spanish and English.

The board of directors of the AAAS feels strongly that the Mexican meeting, emphasizing those activities which further the public understanding of science throughout the hemisphere, is consonant with the fundamental aims of the Association. It is to be hoped that the knowledge exchanged, when applied to human affairs, can play an important part in the future of the whole American continent. —ATHELSTAN SPILHAUS, *Chairman of the Board of Directors, AAAS, Smithsonian Institution Building, Washington, D.C. 20560.*

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