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A Fellowship with Essence

Mexico City is an exciting city—the heart of a great nation, geographically, economically, politically, and spiritually. Built on the site of the ancient Aztec city of Tenochtitlan, its anthropological and archeological treasures are magnificent. Future-bound, its art and architecture are truly spectacular. Vital, bustling, doubling in size—from 4.8 to nearly 9 million—in the last decade, it has all the problems of the modern city; noise, air pollution, *ciudades perdidas*—its "lost cities." But it also has a vigorous program of urban redevelopment that has produced truly impressive results (for example, the Presidente Adolfo Lopez Mateos complex provides clean, modern, landscaped housing for nearly 70,000 persons downtown) and a new mass transit system that is the envy of the hemisphere (the metro covers some 26 miles and moves a million persons a day in quiet comfort in its sparkling, rubber-tired cars). It is an ideal setting for what we anticipate will be the most exciting event in the recent history of AAAS.

"Science and Man in the Americas" is a 2-week program of lectures, symposia, and informal discussions of topics central to the future development and well-being of the Western Hemisphere: questions of nutrition and food supply, development of arid lands, meeting future energy requirements, preserving the environment, coping with population change, protecting against earthquakes, developing the resources of the sea, and opening up new opportunities in education. Hosted and managed by CONACYT (National Council of Science and Technology of Mexico) and cosponsored by AAAS, it is a truly international affair. Planned by an international editorial committee, its costs are being covered by CONACYT and AAAS, as well as by gifts and grants from both public and private sources. Speakers will come from more than 30 nations—virtually every country in the hemisphere plus those other countries of the world where previous experience has provided useful insights into the problems around which the program is built. Already the meeting has stimulated interesting developments in the host country. A program of university scholarships has emerged from program planning. A special competition among young people, similar to the Science Fairs long popular in the United States, is now under way throughout Mexico. Radio and television programs, keyed to the content of the program, are attracting wide public interest. A competition for Mexican film-makers, established in connection with the International Science Film Festival, has attracted 70 entries, far exceeding expectation.

In May of last year, CACTAL (Conference on the Application of Science and Technology to the Development of Latin America) was held in Brazilia under the sponsorship of the Organization of American States. Its agenda focused on regional and national needs as they translate into scientific and technological requirements for effective, ameliorative action. The Mexico City meeting, 20 June through 4 July 1973, is a logical sequel to CACTAL, with an important difference. CACTAL was a government-to-government conference. "Science and Man in the Americas" will be a people-to-people sharing, a chance to join the interests and talents of individual scientists, engineers, and laymen in the context of some of the crucial issues confronting our special part of the world. It is an opportunity to become acquainted, to exchange views, and to create an important new international colleagueship. We hope that every member of AAAS who can, will come with us to "hear a little song and . . . speak a few reasonable words" and to become part of a "fellowship with essence."—WILLIAM BEVAN