



MEXICO

The United Nations Conference on Human Settlements provides a splendid opportunity for exchanging experiences and solutions, comparing ideas, and arriving at conclusions that will facilitate the formulation by the governments of regional and urban development policies, or their enrichment, for meeting the problems of habitat.

President Echeverría

MEXICO



Area: 1 967 183 Km². (1 222 350 sq. m.)
Population: 60 million inhabitants
Per capita gross domestic product: US \$ 1 270
National Currency: Mexican peso
Exchange Rate: MEX \$ 12.50 = US \$ 1.00

The climate of Mexico is extremely diversified. Its landscapes vary from those with the lushest of vegetation to outstandingly beautiful stretches of desert in contrast to its great plains and mountain ranges that stretch from the Rockies in the United States as far as Guatemala.

Mexico has been a federal republic since the time it won its independence. It is made up today of 31 internally free and sovereign states and a Federal District where the seat of the federal government is located.

The Republic of Mexico has undergone prodigious transformations in the course of its history. In 1821 it became an independent nation. Nearly one hundred years later, the social revolution brought forth a firm institutional structure that made it possible to create a modern state and definitely overcome diverse obstacles to its development.

This process of change is best exemplified in the Constitution of 1917, a document that fuses personal and social guarantees and brought into being a complex but integrated social composition in which different groups and trends may conciliate ideas and interests.

The growth of the national product and the social advances made in the recent past are impressive. Mexico has been able to cope successfully with the worldwide monetary, economic and political problems that have been characteristic of our time in this decade.

One of the most clear-cut aspects of these results has been this administration's policy, particularly in the conciliation of growth in production with a more equitable redistribution of income. Industrialization accompanied by decentralization of investment and of decision-making; political freedom-without restrictions-with social concern, the militancy in the Third World with the contribution of solutions, which, like the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States offer feasible and cogent possibilities for international coexistence.



NEW HEADQUARTERS. . .

Since it was founded in 1945, the needs of the United Nations made it advisable that its permanent headquarters be located in New York with a collateral European office in Geneva, seat of organizations in existence in some cases, since the beginning of the century.

The institutional structure of the United Nations was broadened over the years and the need for new headquarters for its various organs became evident. Consequently, when in 1972 the United Nations Conference on The Environment recommended that the General Assembly establish a coordinating organ for world environmental activities, the Third World unanimously took the position that the headquarters of such an organ should be located in one of its countries.

The Group of 77 agreed at the Twenty-Seventh General Assembly of the United Nations to propose Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, as the headquarters of the United Nations Program for the Environment (UNPE), pursuant to Resolution 2997 (XXVII). The General Assembly, stating that being convinced that in order to employ an international mechanism to promote the economic and social progress of all nations, in accordance with the Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations, the location of the activities and headquarters or secretariats of the organs or organizations of the United Nations should be determined in consideration, among other things, of the equitable geographic distribution of such activities, headquarters or secretariats", it agreed to locate the Secretariat of the Environment in Kenya, thereby granting recognition to a great political and demographic region whose states have been swelling the ranks of the World Organization.

The Latin American Group, consisting of 25 countries, including the English-speaking nations of the Caribbean, supported the African aspiration and applauded the General Assembly's decision in the hope that if the international community should subsequently decide to establish a new organ within its structure in the area of human settlements, it would have its permanent headquarters in the region.

As one of the founding countries of the United Nations, and an original signatory of the San Francisco Charter, Mexico has contributed its utmost over thirty years to the work of the Organization as proof of its will to cooperate with all peace-loving nations in a multilateral international context.

The country's socioeconomic and political development offers all the advantages for the establishment of a headquarters within the UN's institutional structure. The city of Guadalajara is prepared to welcome and cooperate fully with an organ that is fighting to improve the living conditions of all nations and to solve a problem like that of Human Settlements which concerns all of humanity.

The Mexican government is ready to provide all the necessary facilities for the optimum operation of a United Nations office as well as for the servicing of the largest international meetings at the highest levels.

It offers buildings with administrative installations for the purpose as well as premises adequate for an international organization. The halls that have been provided for various meetings up to now are being improved with the latest technological advances so as to provide quality at least similar to that of the premises of the permanent headquarters.

Beyond any doubt, the facilities and services required by an international organization are available

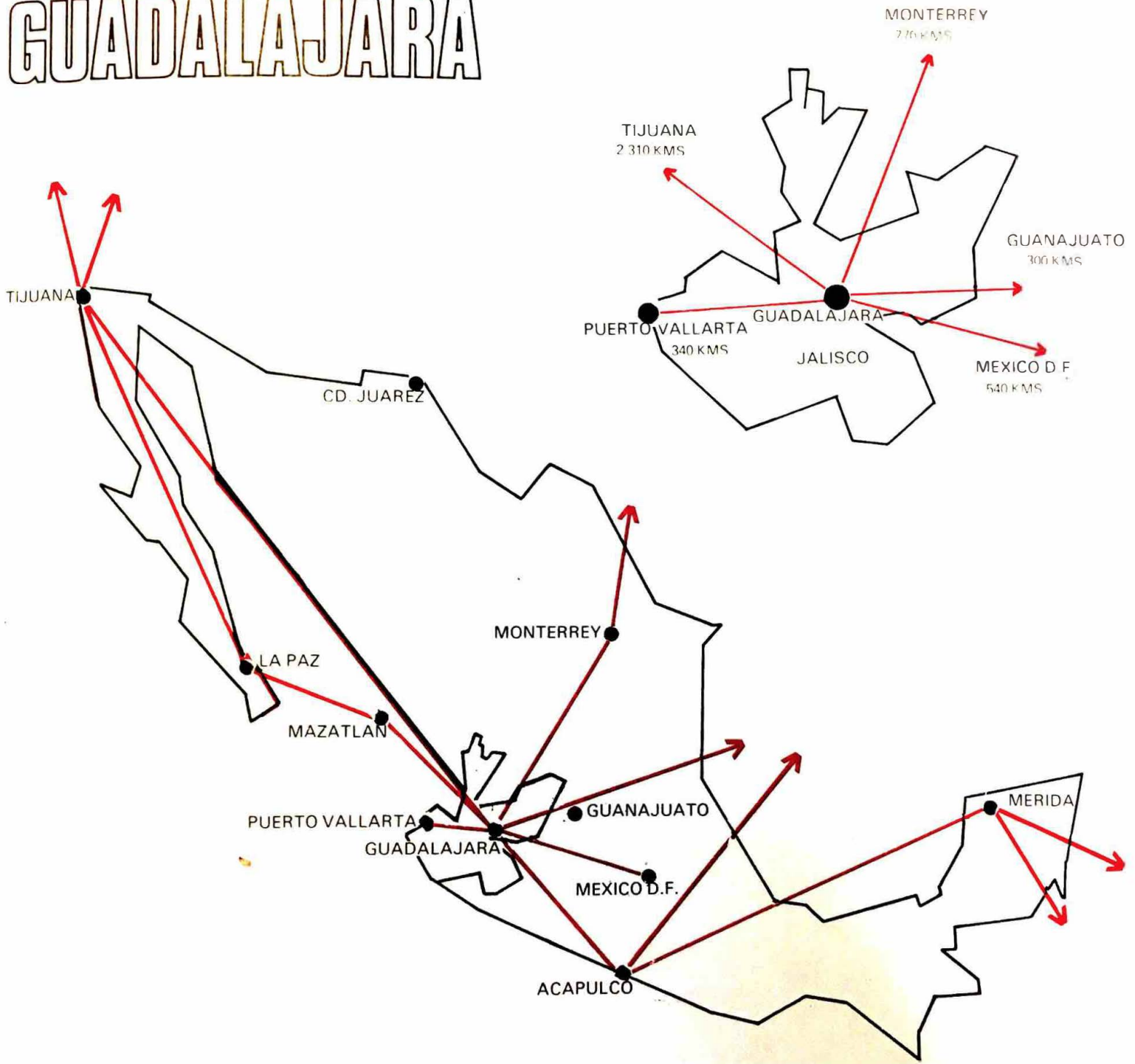
in Mexico. The country has the specialized conference staffs possessing the qualifications demanded by the United Nations system. This personnel has already worked from time to time as temporary General Assembly staff at specialized conferences held in the region, as well, of course, as those that have taken place in the country itself.

As far as communications are concerned, Mexico's main cities are linked by rapid and efficient air-line service to all parts of the world. Telephone, telex, cable, and mail services provide immediate communication with all cities everywhere that have these facilities.

Furthermore, as a member of INTELSAT and a party to various bilateral and regional agreements, the city of Guadalajara is able to receive and transmit televised images of events to the furthest corners of the globe. An example of this was the uninterrupted transmission via satellite of the XIX Olympic Games and the World Conference of the International Women's Year, among other international events.

In view of the foregoing, the Mexican Government proposes the City of Guadalajara as the headquarters of the institutional entity created within the United Nations system in the field of Human Settlements without precluding that in deference to the wishes of the member countries it may be replaced by Mexico City or by another city from among the many in Mexico capable of providing all the facilities needed for optimum operation of such a headquarters.

GUADALAJARA





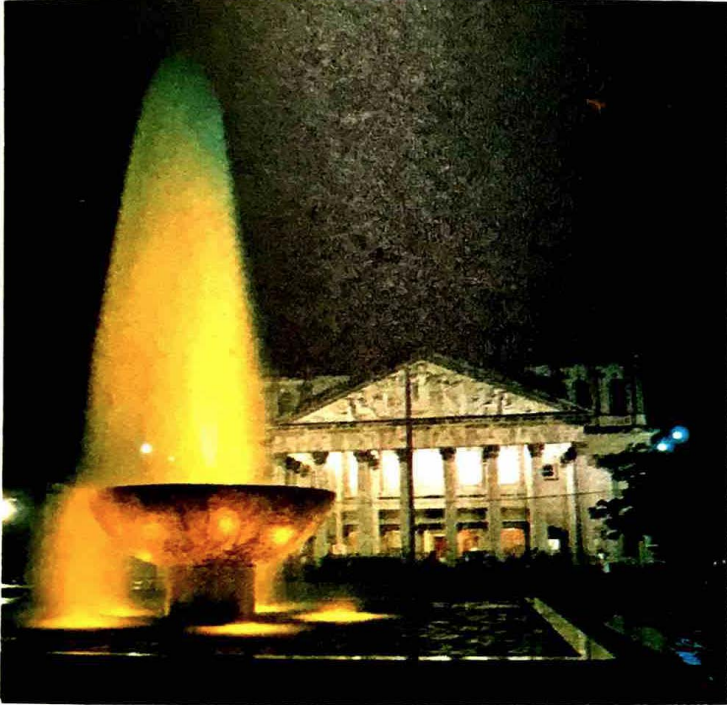
Guadalajara was founded in February, 1543 by the Conqueror Nuño de Guzmán who gave it the name of his native city in Spain.

Located in the western part of Mexico in Jalisco, it is the state capital and the nation's second most important city, after Mexico City.



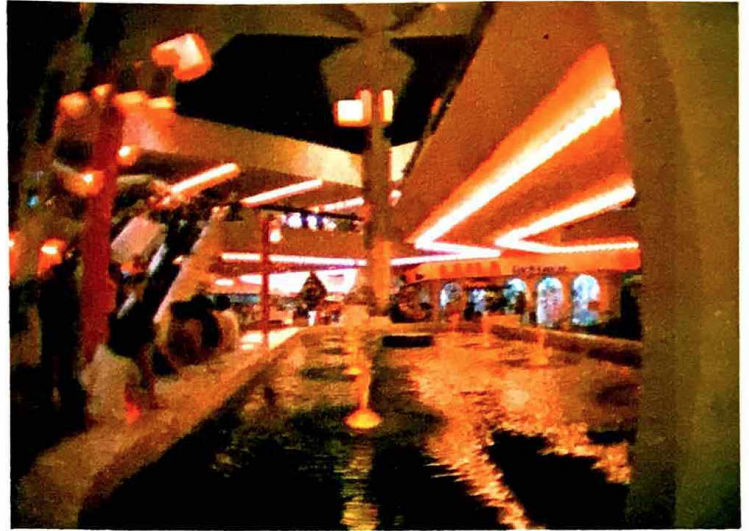
Guadalajara has two million inhabitants and is located 300 kilometers from the Pacific at an altitude of 1,540 meters (a little over 5,000 feet) above sea level.

The climate is temperate with extremely stable temperature (20°C - 70° Fahrenheit on the average) throughout the year providing an extremely pleasant environment for the visitor.



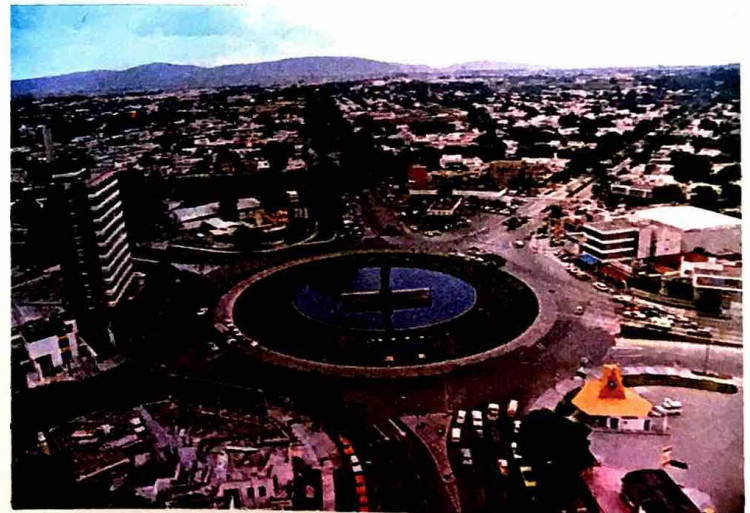
The present-day city combines a modern urban layout with buildings, squares, parks, churches and structures surviving from colonial times.

There is an international airport in the city where connections are available not only with the rest of Mexico but with South America, the United States, Canada, and Europe. Flying time to Mexico City is 45 minutes. National and international airlines provide these services.



The railway between Guadalajara and Mexico is the best in the country. There is also a highway network connecting Guadalajara and the main cities of the republic.

Guadalajara has all the modern means of communication: telegraph, telex, international long distance, microwave and other services.



Hotel infrastructure is ample and efficient. There are many hotels with sufficient capacity to accommodate a large influx of visitors and to provide the necessary comforts. There are shopping centers, restaurants with diversified cuisine, attractive night spots, etc. Three convention centers equipped with the necessary installations for international events and additional facilities in the main hotels are available.



bañas, and countless churches of all architectural styles, the baroque being outstanding. Not far from the city are the small towns of Tlaquepaque and Tonala, famous for the beauty of their pottery; less than half an hour away by car is Lake Chapala, an inviting restful vacationing place, and, close by, Puerto Vallarta, where direct national and international flights are available. Vallarta comes after Acapulco as Mexico's most important vacation resort.

In addition to the communications, infrastructure, and public utilities required for international conventions, there are also many tourist attractions in both the city and its environs. These consist of spectacular folklore, handcrafts, music (*mariachis*), and customs. Among its places of interest are the City Hall with murals by José Clemente Orozco, the Cathedral, the Teatro Degollado, a neoclassical-style building where ballet, opera, and concerts are presented regularly every week, the State Museum, the Hospicio Ca-





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