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"Mexico and Her Place in the World Tomorrow" is and extremely well researched and written essay. It provides focus on the population projections for Mexico as they relate to the North American continent and to the rest of the world. After establishing the fact that increases in Mexican population will be overwhelming by the year 2000, the author provides a perspective on the implications for the United States, in particular. These implications are broad ranging and cover the social, economic, and political areas. The

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final two chapters assess the responses made by the govenments of Mexico and the U.S. and detail possible future relationships.

Graphs, charts, and tables are used most effectively throughout and the writing style provides for interesting and easy reading. The essay is without wasted words. I recommend forwarding the document to the Defense Technical Information Center.

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US ARMY WAR COLLEGE

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH BASED ESSAY

MEXICO AND HER PLACE IN THE WORLD TOMORROW

BY

COLONEL JOSEPH W. HUTCHISON

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CHAPTER 1

PROJECTIONS

Introduction

The whole notion of the future relationship between the United States and Mexico is intriguing. There is a quiet, but steady progression in the evolution of the Mexican population that could have an impact of major proportions in the United States. Whether or not that impact will be favorable or unfavorable to both nations, as seen from their respective views, will be determined in the next decade. Fragments of an interview conducted by the Los Angeles Times in June of 1978, with the ex-Central Intelligence Agency director gives a clue to the explosive magnitude of the problem. William Colby tells us:

> Mexico is a bigger threat to the United States than is the Soviet Union . . . one of the most serious problems we face is the doubling of the population in Mexico by the end of the century . . . the net effect is that the United States can expect an estimated addition of 20 million aliens coming in illegally (14,39).

That statement in itself is frightening. If true, it will probably have paramount influence over the relationships between Mexico and the United States. To explore this problem it is necessary to examine the past, present, and future projections of the populations of both countries and highlight the major implications.

World

Perhaps the most logical place to begin is with an examination of the predicted population growth of the world. It is easier to understand the relative size of a geographical region or country when it can be based against a certain standard; in this case - the world.

Population Characteristics of Industrial Nations vs. Less Developed Countries (LDC). In 1975, the world's population was 4.1 billion people. By the year 2000, the world's population will increase an astonishing 55% to some 6.4 billion people. It is estimated that 92% of the population growth will be in LDC's and not in the industrialized nations (4,8). The figure below shows the projected age-sex composition of the world's population in 1975 and is projected to 2000.

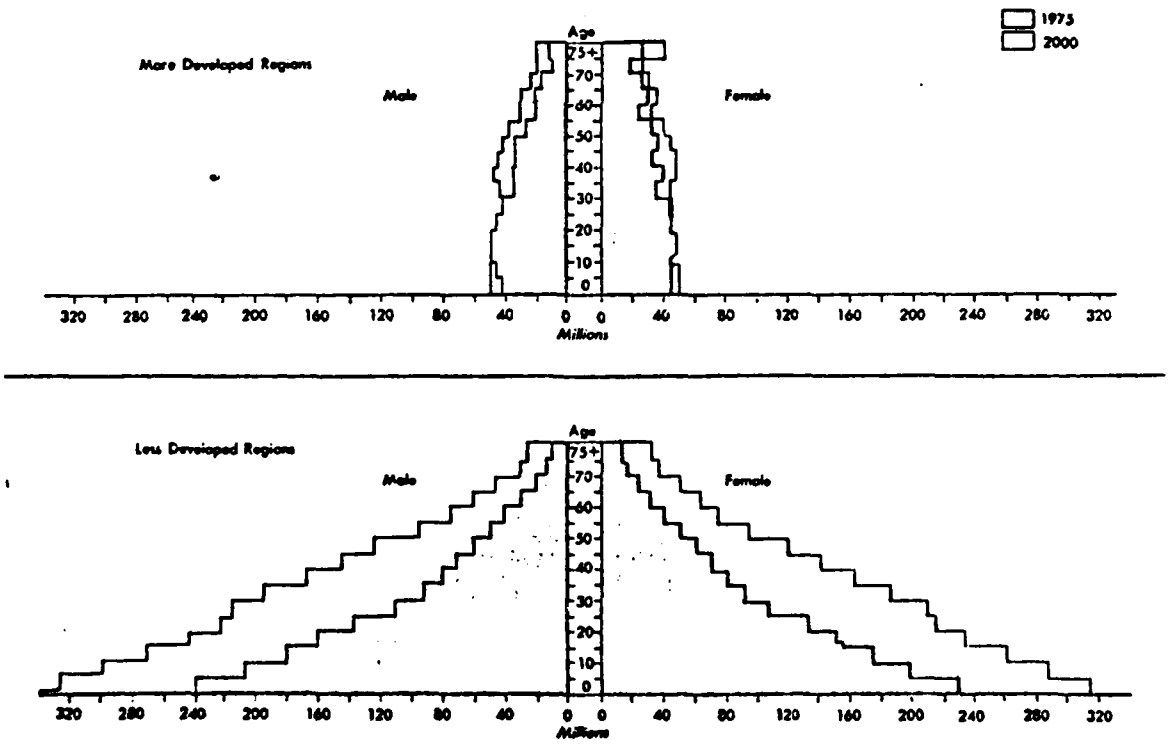

Figure 1
Age-Sex Composition of the World's Population
1975 and 2000 (4, 11)
Source: Global 2000 Report, The Executive Summary

This comparison of the age structure of the industrialized nations and the LDC's reveals that the LDC population will have an overwhelmingly young population of which a huge proportion will be in their childbearing years. Like it or not, the LDC's already have a built-in population progression factor that assures future population growth. (4,8)

A more detailed comparison of the projected population age group distribution of the industrialized nations and the LDC's can be seen in this table.

Year	Age Group	World	%	Industrialized	%	LDC's	%
1975	0-14 years	1,505	37	281	25	1,224	42
	15-64 years	2,368	58	731	65	1,637	55
	65+	217	5	119	10	98	3
2000	0-14 years	2,055	32	297	22	1,758	35
	15-64 years	3,906	62	859	65	3,047	61
	65+	390	6	167	13	223	4

Table 1 - Population in millions
Source: Global 2000 Technical Report, Table 2-7 (5, 16)

Projected by the year 2000, the industrialized nations will have a much larger percentage of their population in the 15-64 year age group as well as the 65+ group, but will be significantly lower in the 0-14 year group. (5,16)

World Distribution and Projected Change. The figures that follow show a graphical representation of the increase in the world's population growth by region. Of importance is a perspective of the relative population increases of the United States and Latin America (specifically Mexico) vis-a-vis the world as an entity. The first two figures show population trends for the past thirty years.

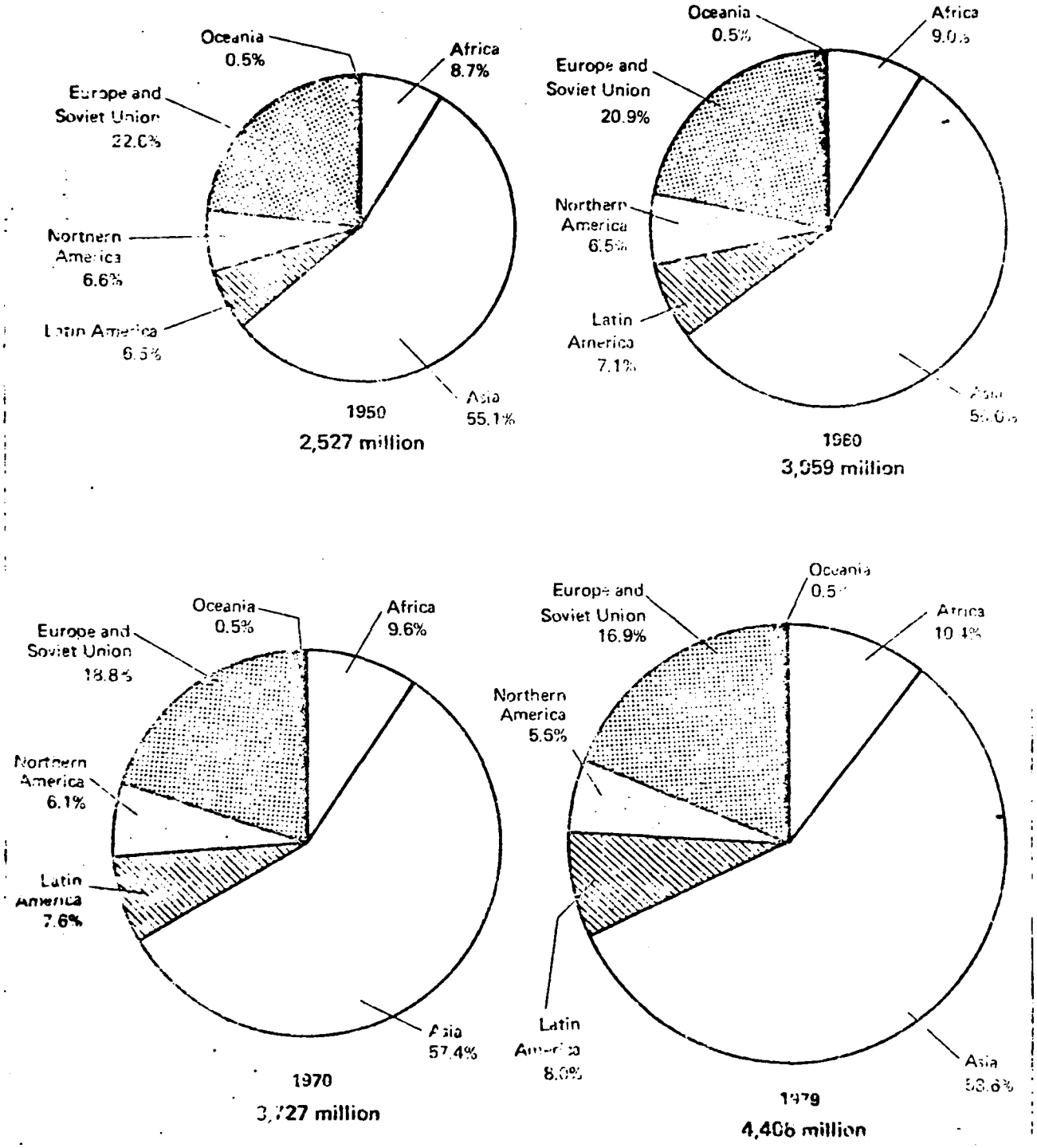

Figure 2
Population of the World and Regions: 1950-1979
(population in millions)
Source: (34,31)

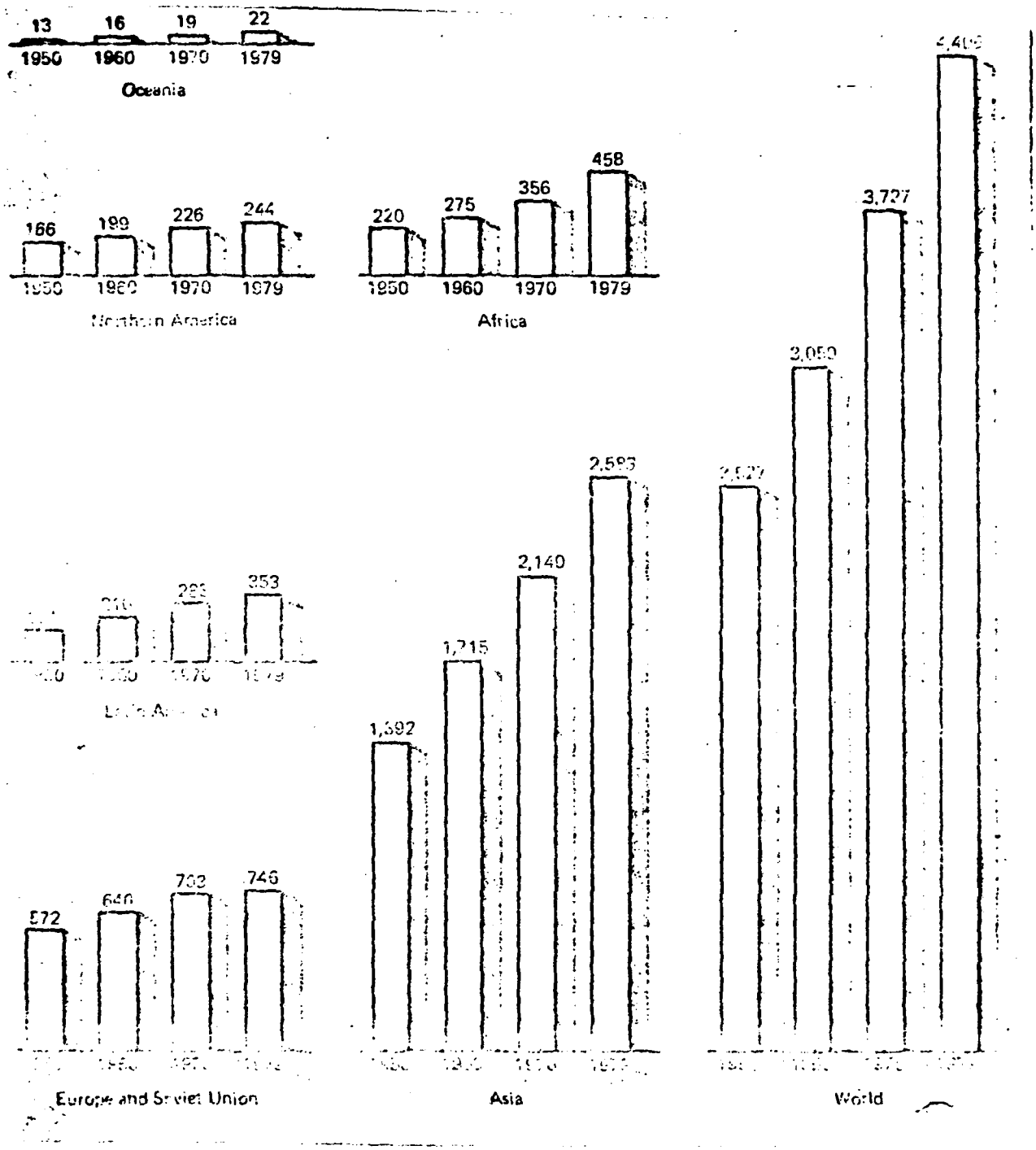

Figure 3
Distribution of World Population by Region: 1950-1979
Source: (34,32)

The next two figures give graphic visability of the projected growth from 1975 to 2000. Again, the comparison of US-Latin America is germane.

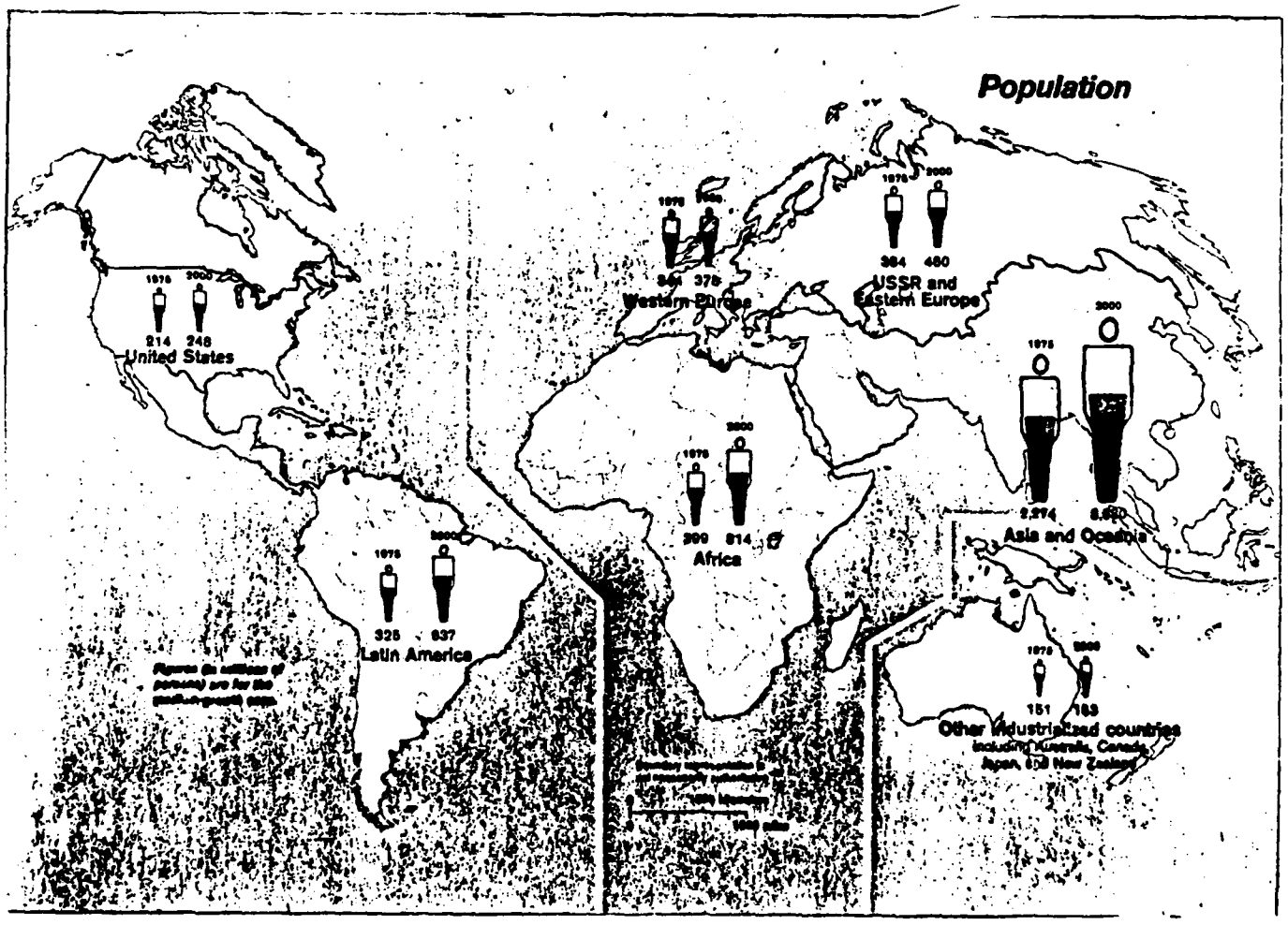

Figure 4
Distribution of the World's Population, 1975 and 2000
Source: (4,10)

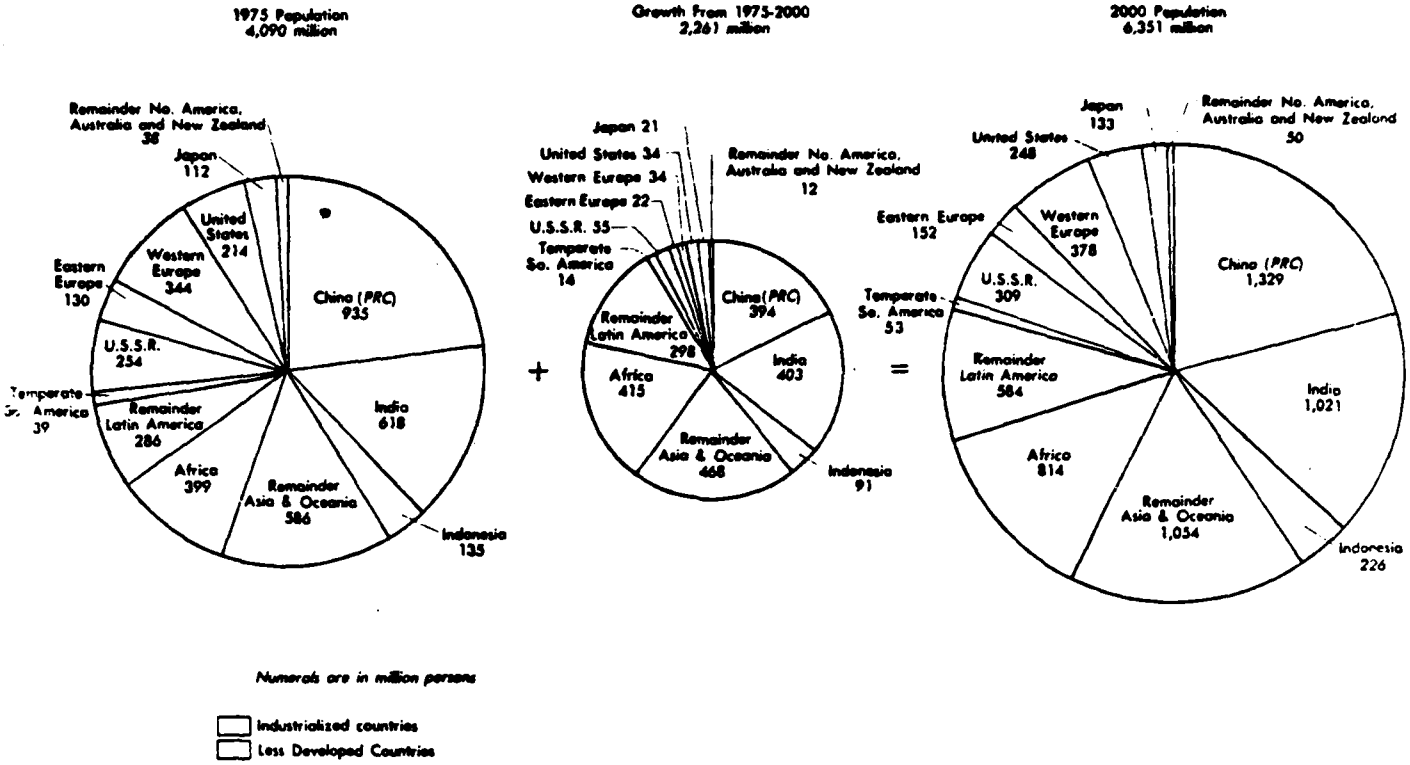

Figure 5
Twenty-five Years of World population Growth
Source: (4,11)

The previous figures show clearly that by 2000, Latin America will record the second largest increase in population of any other major region in the world. (5,14)

Mexico

This portion is designed to focus the view from the macro-world sense to a micro-Mexico view of her population.

Historical Population Trends. A brief overview of the population trends in Mexico's history is necessary to an understanding of their current population dilemma. Beginning in the 16th century, wars and religious customs took care of any overpopulation problems in Mexico

When the Spaniards conquered Mexico in the 17th Century, they managed to kill off over three quarters of the population just by bringing in new diseases such as smallpox and measles. These large population losses in the 16th and 17th centuries helped explain the manpower shortage that was needed to exploit Mexico's huge natural resources. (29,1)

The slow population growth of the 19th century can be attributed to three primary factors: high population mortality rates, extremely high infant mortality rates, and the turbulance resulting from a national revolution. (29,1)

Mexico completed her first official census in 1895 and recorded a population total of 12,632,427 people. During the period 1876-1910, her population increased at an annual rate of only one percent. But by 1910, with the onset of the great Mexican Revolution, Mexico lost over a million people. They were either killed in the civil war, died of influenza (which reached major proportions), or simply migrated out of the country. Of interest is Mexico's census of 1910 which showed a population of a little <u>over</u> 15 million and the 1921 census which showed a population just <u>under</u> 15 million. (29,1)

The 1920s saw Mexico's population grow slowly because of the post revolutionary reconstruction period; and slowly again in the 1930s because of the worldwide depression. (29,2)

The historical incursions into Mexican territory by the United States convinced Mexico's post revolutionary leaders that North American hegemony into Mexico could be discouraged by increasing the population in the north. In 1947, Mexico passed the General Law of Population which was designed to <u>increase</u> population. For example: the law promoted marriages, it provided for an increase in natality rates while

decreasing mortality rates, and it assisted in improving the health of Mexican children. (29,2)

Mexico's decision to increase her population as a means to stem imperialism from the North was perhaps a most unfortunate choice and is the genesis of her current and projected population explosion — an explosion of which will have a major impact upon the United States.

Population Density. 1974 data seem to show an uneven population density with some states having as few as five people per square kilometer and others, such as Mexico City in the Federal District, with over 4,500 per square kilometer. (29,1)

Rate of Population Growth. Annual population growth rates for Mexico increased for the years indicated.

Year	Population Growth Rate Increase (%)
1940-1950	2.72%
1950-1960	3.13%
1960-1970	3.43%

Table 2
Mexican Population Growth Rates
Source: (29,2)

It would also appear that Mexico's growth rate is not too much unlike that of her neighbors to her south.

Country	% Growth Rate
Mexico	2.8
Guatamala	2.9
Belize	2.4
El Salvador	3.0

Table 3
Average Annual Growth Rates 1975-1979
Source: (34,280/309/319/335)

Life Expectancy. Another interesting phenomenon of the Mexican population is the notable increase in her people's life expectancy.

During the period 1895-1910, the average Mexican could expect to live to only 30 years. By 1940, that increased 10 years for males and 12 for females. From 1940-1960, the rate increased by almost one year annually; so by 1950 the males could live to 48 and the females to 51 and by 1960, the males were up to 57 years and 60 years for the females. (29,2)

Population Estimates. Mexico's population projections seem awesome and frightening. This table shows population projections for Mexico from 1960 to 2000.

Year	Known/Projected Population Size
1960	36,003,000
1970	50,420,500
1980	71,000,000 (est >)
1990	100,000,000
2000	135,000,000

Table 4
Mexico Population Projections, 1960 to 2000
Source: (29,1)

However, Mexican census data shows a decline in fertility data on Mexican women. It shows a large internal migration from rural areas into the urban areas, with urban women being less fertile than rural women. Statistics confirm that employed women have fewer children than unemployed women. The employment rate of Mexican women is growing and thus is increasing their economic levels. But while all these factors influencing the declination of the fertility rates of Mexican women, would tend to indicate a decrease in her population explosion, quite the opposite is occurring. Mexico's population is concentrated in the younger age groups and it is precisely those age groups that will be her population producers. It stands to reason that with these kind of push characteristics of her population, that Mexico should expect her population explosion to continue for at least another generation. (29,4) Mexican population watchers are predicting that her population increase

will be extremely steep the remainder of this century. (29,2)

Age Structure. An important factor in the Mexican population is age group distribution. Just in the period from 1950 to 1970, those people in the 1-4 year old group increased from 14.6% to 16.9% or roughly 5.3 million people. But, in the people under 15 years old category, they increased from an already high of 41.2% of the total population to 46.2% or about 14.3 million people. (29,4) The most recent demographic data available (1980) show the following distribution by age as a percentage of the total population.

Age Group	% of Population
0-4 years	17.95
5-14 years	27.43
15-64 years	51.09
65+	3.53

Table 5
1980 Population Distribution by Age Group
Source: (21,1217)

Dependency. Dependency can be related to those Mexicans who are under 15 years old and those over 65 years old. In 1940 there were 792 dependent persons per 1,000 workers. By 1970 that figure increased to 997. However, if consideration is given to only those individuals who contribute to the work force, then the number of dependents per thousand jumps to 1,859 in 1970. (29,4)

Earning Power. How does the population distribution affect the earning power of the nation? For Mexico in the 20 year time span from 1950 to 1970 (while the population was growing alarmingly), the population base with potential earning power or economic endeavor in the 15 to 65 age group actually declined from 55.8% to 50.1%. (29,4)

Income Distribution. In 1963 Mexican families who fell in the lowest 20% of the earning capacity category only received a little over

4% of the personal income while the top 11% got 49.9% and the top 5% got 38.3%. (29,4) In the 1970 Mexican census, of the 11 million plus people who declared income earnings, a staggering 72% of them earned less than $80 a month, 40% earned less than $40 a month, and one million people or 1/8 of those who reported, earned less than $8 a month! (29,4) In spite of the fact that since 1935 the Mexican economy has outgrown population increases by 2 1/2% annually, economic development has not been beneficial to a very large percentage of the population. It is true that the highest earning groups have invested large sums of capital, and that the population is seeing the emergence of a Mexican middle-class, but recent studies seem to indicate that the inadequacies of income distribution become more pronounced over time. (29,7) So unequal is the income spread in Mexico that, according to their 1970 census, of all those over one year old, in the lowest earning group, nine million people did not use shoes - six million used sandles and three million had none. One third of the Mexican population had only one room in their dwelling and about the same number had dirt floors. (29,8)

Urbanization of Mexico. Another important phenomenon taking place in Mexico is the migration of her people from the rural areas to the urban areas. This migratory process is having a profound affect on her social and industrial endeavors. Again, the 1950-1970 Mexican census data showed that the number of rural workers, (without land), doubled. It was predicted that by 1974 they would comprise one-half of the agriculture labor force. During the same interval, the number of annual workable days declined from 194 days to 75 days. One million peasants owned land so small that they could only work it from 75-150 days a year. Only 15% of them had more than ten hectares of land while in the privately owned sector, 77% owned 11% of the land. (29,5)

The following table shows the annual urbanization growth rates.

Year	Urban Growth
1930-1940	3.0%
1940-1950	5.9%
1950-1960	5.5%
1960-1970	5.4%

Table 6
Annual Urbanization Growth Rate
Source: (29,5)

The high point in urbanization growth appears to have been around 1950. (29,5) Mexico City, for example, in 1974 had a population of nine million and was one of the largest population centers in the world. At the same time, 36 Mexican cities had populations of over one million - in 1960, only 15 cities did. (30,4) Recent estimates project that by 2000, Mexico City will have a population of more than "30 million people, which is greater than three times the current metropolitan New York population." (4,12) This table shows just how large Mexico City will grow in relation to other developing nations' cities.

City	1960	1970	1975	2000
Calcuta	5.5	6.9	8.1	19.7
Mexico City	4.9	8.6	10.9	31.6
Greater Bombay	4.1	5.8	7.1	19.1
Greater Cairo	3.7	5.7	6.9	16.4
Jakarta	2.7	4.3	5.6	16.9
Seoul	2.4	5.4	7.3	18.7
Delhi	2.3	3.5	4.5	13.2
Manila	2.2	3.5	4.4	12.7
Tehran	1.9	3.4	4.4	13.8
Karachi	1.8	3.3	4.5	15.9

(millions of persons)

Table 7
Estimates of Selected Urban Agglomeration in Developing Countries
Source: Global 2000 Technical Report, Table 13-9. (4,12)

Seasonal migration is common within Mexico with preponderence of the migration flowing to the cities - primarily to Mexico City and the Federal District with government agencies and services; Guadalajara, an

important agriculture center; and Monterrey, Mexico's principal steel producer. (29,5/6) The migration that occurs within Mexico appears to be: from the rural to the urban, seasonal, to state capitals, to cities over 100,000, and to the US border. (29,6) All of the migration that goes on within Mexico, of course, carries with it the social and population changes and difficulties that accompany industrialization. (29,8)

Unemployment rates continue to plague this developing nation. The high rate of illiteracy naturally contributes to the problem, with 23.8 percent of the Mexican population seen as illiterate. (30,4) The Presidential Study Group for the Problem of Unemployment, conducted by the Mexican government, revealed that 45 percent of the economically active part of the population were underemployed. (29,8) Obviously, a combination of low wages, a lack of education, and insufficient jobs in a booming population helps to explain the illegal migration to the US. So dramatic is the underemployment problem in Mexico that the active economic populution consisted of some 21 million people. Of that number, the Mexican government would have to create an estimated 14 million new jobs in order to have any impact on those underemployed. Clearly the Mexican economic system is not able to absorb their available manpower. (29,8)

United States

The demographic factors of the US population that are similar in nature and relevant to the impact of Mexico's expanding population are examined here.

Effect of Baby Boom. The population of the US has changed dramatically in the past decade. Of major interest is the phenomenon that occurs in the population known as the baby boom age group (25-34 years old), as it thunders on with time. The younger age groups decreased by

about seven million people (11 1/2%), the 25-34 year olds increased by an overwhelming 12 million people (48.8%), and the 65+ group grew from 20 million to 25.5 million or 27.9% of the population. (30,5)

A closer look at the changes occurring in the population at the very young and young adult ages can be seen in this table.

	Population		% Distribution		% Population
Age Group Sexes	1980	1970	1980	1970	Change 1970-1980
Under 5 years	16,344,407	17,162,836	7.2	8.4	-4.8
5 to 9 years	16,697,134	19,969,056	7.4	9.8	-16.4
10 to 14 years	18,240,919	20,804,063	8.1	10.2	-12.3
15 to 19 years	21,161,667	19,083,971	9.3	9.4	+10.9
20 to 24 years	21,312,557	16,382,893	9.4	8.1	+30.1
25 to 34 years	37,075,629	24,922,511	16.4	12.3	+48.8

Table 8
Age and Sex Structure of the Resident US Population
Source: (30,5)

Clearly the changes in the population growth trends for the children and young adults demonstrate the differences in the high fertility years of the baby boom era and the low fertility years that followed. (30,5)

The figure on the following page shows the percentage distribution of the US population by age over the past decade.

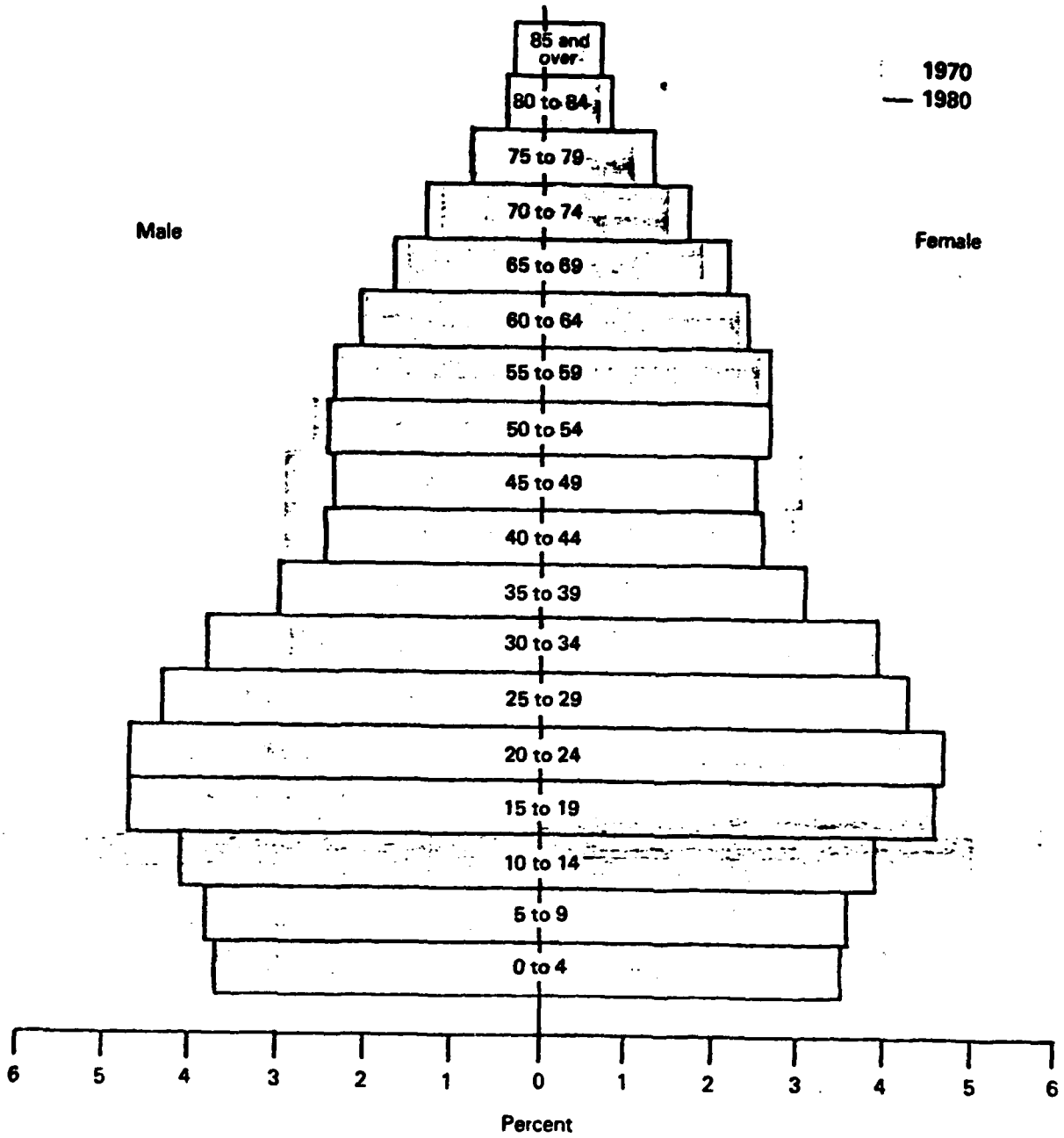

Figure 6
Percent Distribution of the Resident Population
by Age and Sex: April 1980 and April 1970
Source: (31,4)

Fertility. Changes in attitudes and values among US females of childbearing age is also having an impact on the composition of the future population. A comparison of fertility rates from 1920 to 1980 can be seen in this table.

Period	Rate	Period	Rate	Period	Rate
1980	1,875	1973	1,896	1950-54	3,337
1979	1,840	1972	2,022	1945-49	2,985
1978	1,800	1971	2,275	1940-44	2,523
1977	1,826	1970	2,480	1935-39	2,235
1976	1,768	1965-69	2,622	1930-34	2,376
1975	1,791	1960-64	3,449	1925-29	2,840
1974	1,857	1955-59	3,690	1920-24	3,248

Table 9
Total Fertility Rates: 1920-1980
Source: (30,14)

These numbers would indicate that the fertility rate among American women declined sharply at the beginning of the last decade (1970) and have been relatively stable the past few years. However, it is important to know that in 1980, the United States was significantly below the rate for natural replenishment of her population. The US replenishment rate is 2.1 children per woman, and in 1980 the US average was only 1.9 children per woman. (30,13) The figure on the following page shows the changes in the fertility components for the dates indicated.

The increases in the total number of births in the previous five years can be attributed to the large increases in the reproductive age group for females (15-44 years old) (30,13) Current census data indicate that in American women: fewer young married women have children, more young women choose to stay single, and the 18-24 year group has lifetime birth expectations that are short of the level of fertility replacement. (30,14)

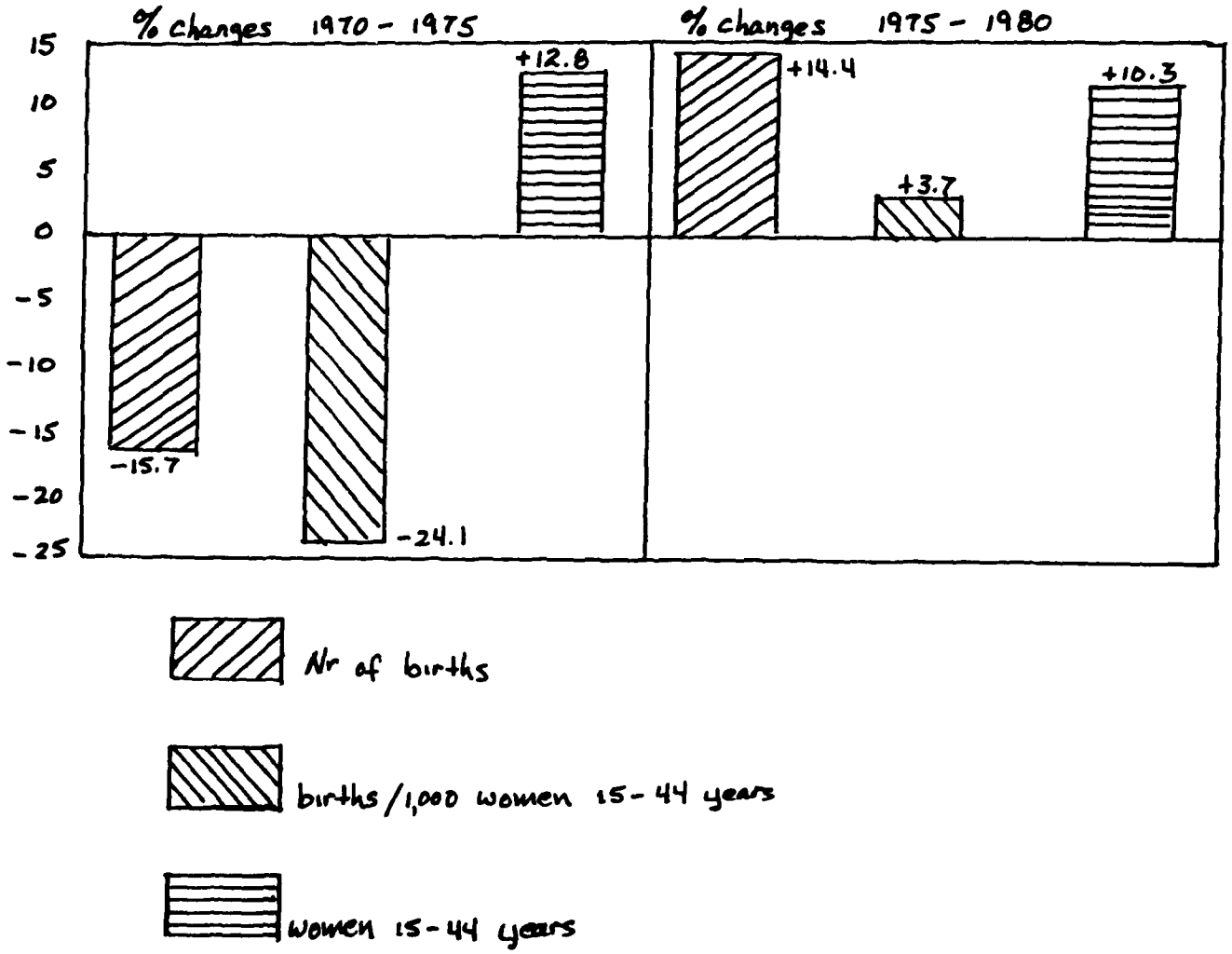

Figure 7
Changes in Fertility Components
Source: (30,13)

Population. The following three tables show population figures and projected population growth of the US to the year 2000.

Year	Population Totals (millions)
1981	228,811
1970	203,849

Table 10
Current US Population
Source: (30,8)

Year	US Population (millions)
1930	122,487
1979	219,699
1980-1985	224,066
1985-1990	238,879
1990-1995	254,715
1995-2000	269,384

Table 11
US Population: 1930-2000
Source: (32,7)

In addition to the population totals, this table shows the US median age through the year 2000.

	1982	1984	1986	1988	1990	1992	1994	1996	1998	2000
Total US	226.3	230.7	235.1	239.4	243.5	247.4	251.1	254.4	257.5	260.4
Median Age	30.7	31.2	31.7	32.3	32.8	33.3	33.9	34.5	35.0	35.5

Table 12
US Population Projections: 1982-2000 (in millions)
Source:(13,785)

Ethnic. Changes in the ethnic orientation of the population appear to be influencing the minority composition of the population. The Hispanic population experienced an above average increase the past decade. In 1980 people of Spanish desent (60% are of Mexican origin) accounted for one out of every 16 people. The median age of people of Spanish origin was 23.2 years, while the US population median age was 30 years (up two years from 1970). The total increase of persons of Spanish origin went from 9.1 million in 1970 to 14.6 million in 1980, for an

astonishing 61% increase! (30,2/3) This table shows a partial breakout by ethnic category of the US population.

Race	1980	1970	% Distribution of Population 1980	1970
White	188,340,790	177,748,975	83.2	87.5
Black	26,488,218	22,580,289	11.7	11.1
Spanish Origin	14,605,883	9,072,602	6.4	4.5

Table 13
Resident Population, by Race and Spanish Origin
Source: (30,9)

In simplistic terms, the United States is seeing the number of her children decline while her young adult and elderly population grow quickly. Her people of Spanish origin are young and growing rapidly in numbers. Her women do not currently maintain a high enough fertility rate to replenish her population.

CHAPTER 2

IMPLICATIONS

Given the population data, trends, estimates, and projections for Mexico and the United States, there are issues that appear to have serious implications for both countries.

Illegal Immigrants

The magnitude of the past and projected movements of illegal immigrants from Mexico to the US and from other Latin American countries to the north is important to the future relationships of both countries. There is no real attempt at this point to pass judgement on the goodness or badness of illegal immigration, but rather to give the reader a grasp for what the possible and likely implications will be as the Mexican population explosion marches on.

Mexican Immigration to the US. It is not easy to quantify, with any reasonable degree of accuracy, the numbers of legal immigrants in the US, yet alone the number of illegal immigrants. This table shows the numbers of legal immigrants to the US from Mexico for the periods indicated.

Year	Numbers of People
1820-1920	296,649
1921-1930	459,287
1931-1940	22,319
1941-1950	60,589
1951-1960	299,811
1961-1970	453,937
Total 1820-1978	2,123,412
1978	92,367

Table 14
Immigration to US from Mexico: 1820-1978
Source: (13,799)

Compare with immigration from other countries in thousands:

Country	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	% 1820-1978	% 1961-70	% 1971-78
Europe	80.4	72.8	73.0	74.0	76.2	74.4	33.8	19.0
Asia	127.1	129.2	146.7	150.8	243.6	5.9	12.9	33.4
America	178.8	174.7	169.2	223.2	266.5	18.6	51.7	45.1
Mexico	71.9	62.6	58.4	44.6	92.7	4.4	13.7	15.2

Table 15
Immigrants, by Country of Last Permanent Residence: 1820-1978
Source: (32,91)

As for illegal immigration from Mexico to the US in 1973, an estimated 600,000 were caught trying to illegally enter the US and some estimates put the number of illegal immigrants living in the US as high as one and a half million people! (29,7) The US Immigration and Naturalization Service statistics from 1978 reveal the following estimates of Mexican immigrants to the US:

Category	Number of People
Legal immigration	100,000
Caught trying to enter illegally	900,000
Total successful illegal immigrants	1,000,000

Table 16
Mexican Immigrants to US
Source: US Immigration and Naturalization Service

Why They Go North. There are many pull factors that influence Mexican migration to the north. To begin with, Mexico is experiencing an unemployment rate in excess of 25% coupled with an inability to create jobs in the quantity, 600,000 to 800,000, needed to satisfy her

blossoming population. The 1974 average annual earnings in Mexico of $1,357 and the $15,834 average annual earnings in the US, leads to a northern migration in search of jobs. (24,680)

The lure of job opportunities in the United States has been coupled with rapid industrialization and the need of immigrants. The rapid growth of the Sun Belt States can be attributed to the availability of Mexican labor. (24,681) Most of the Mexicans are employed in low-paying and mostly unskilled jobs such as busboys, farm workers, and dishwashers. Mexicans can even get paid for their blood. One woman gets $10 for her blood and she has made 84 illegal trips to the US so far. (27,61) Others gain legal entry to the US on legal tourist visas and then just stay. One woman did that because she could earn $15 a week as a maid, but more importantly she met another illegal immigrant, married and now has three children. The significance of that is that since all three of her children were born in the United States, they are US Citizens. (6,60)

Mr. Roger Conner, Executive Director of the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR), says that Mexico's explosive population growth will continue to bring unbelievable pressures on the Mexican people to emigrate.

An estimated migration comparison between Mexico and the United States can be seen as follows:

United States	Global 2000 Study Est w/o Migration	Other Est w/ Migration *	% Change (Migration Incl)
1975	213,540	213,540	———
1980	220,497	222,159	+0.75
1985	228,912	232,880	+1.73
1990	237,028	243,513	+2.74
1995	243,581	252,750	+3.76
2000	248,372	260,378	+4.83

Mexico	Global 2000 Study Est w/o Migration	Other Est w/ Migration *	% Change (Migration Incl)
1975	59,913	59,562	-0.59
1980	71,136	70,314	-1.16
1985	84,016	82,626	-1.65
1990	98,555	96,520	-2.06
1995	114,450	111,706	-2.40
2000	131,320	127,801	-2.68

* Projected migration assumes trends in legally registered immigrants and emigrants.

Table 17
Projected Population US/Mexico: 1975-2000
Source: Global 2000 Technical Report, Table 2-22. (5,36)

Clearly, the population projections indicate that the movement of people will go from Mexico to the United States.

Not All Migration is from Mexico to US. Contrary to popular belief, all of the illegal immigration in this hemisphere is not just from Mexico to the United States. Recent political events in Central America are having a profound impact on Mexico as she herself must now contend with illegal immigration from the south of her borders. The Mexican Army, which is perhaps the largest in the area with some 95,000 troops, held a 40,000 man size maneuver in Mexico's southern state of Chiapas in December 1980. While the maneuver was touted as a routine event, it got unusually wide publicity. Press reports speculated that the maneuvers were a demonstration to Guatamala that southern Mexico was not going to be used as a hide-out for Guatamalan guerrillas. (27,53)

Despite El Salvador's attempts to lower their mortality rate, her population growth is still high, which gives her the distinction of being the most densely populated nation in Latin America. (34,269) That fact alone has an impact on both Mexico and the US.

It is estimated that there are 30,000 Salvadoran refugees in Honduras. The May 1981 El Salvadoran figures on displaced persons show that as many as 160,000 are living in El Salvador — but Catholic

sources contend that another 185,000 have fled throughout Central America and Mexico. That is greater than 8% of the total population of El Salvador. (25,22) Who are all these displaced persons? Of course, they are those people who come from the least populated areas, they come from the poorest economic zones in the country where 90% have no electricity and 60% are illiterate. They are from what might be called the "bedrock of guerrilla support." (25,22)

A great debate errupted in Mexico last June over Mexico's refugee policies when some 3,500 peasants fled from seven communities along the border between Mexico and Guatamala's Peten region into Mexico. Previously, Mexico has always had a tolerent policy toward political refugees; but this has not been the case with the Guatamalan refugees. By mid-July, Mexico deported all by 45 of the Guatamalan peasants. Even the 400 peasants who traveled for two weeks through the jungles (50 died along the way) were deported. While the official Mexican immigration version is that the Guatamalans want work and land in Mexico, it is fairly obvious to the "Mexico-watcher" that she is not going to tolerate refugee camps on her southern border than can not only be used to house guerrillas, but also can have a very destabilizing effect on her own Indian villages. (15,167)

It is a fact that the political instability in the Central American countries is another causative factor in the northern push. Tulio Mendoza was a teacher in El Salvador. Upon word of his immenent capture, he and his family fled north by bus to Mexico. He had to leave his family in Guadalajara when his money ran out and he was eventually apprehended crossing the US border at San Ysidro, California. Human rights workers in San Diego claim that 400 Salvadoran refugees have been coming

in per month. (11,30) Illegal aliens from El Salvador are even dying in the US desert. (17,21) So the migration trend seems to reach as far north as the United States. A rather significant implication for Mexico is that she, who has complained of poor US treatment of Mexicans in the United States will herself have to review her own traditional immigration policies.

Hispanic Culture

The second major implication of the expanding Mexican population on the United States is the tremendous growth of Spanish speaking people in the US.

Spanish-Speaking Americans. The United States is the fourth largest Spanish-speaking nation in the hemisphere and is projected to be the third largest by 1990. The 1978 census identified 12 million Hispanics in the US (not including Puerto Rico). To include the census data plus the Puerto Rico population, and the estimate for the undocumented workers, the Hispanic population reaches 23 million (interestingly, 1970 figures have only 5.8 million people of Mexican ethnic background in the whole US). (29,6) Hispanics are the second largest and fastest growing minority in the United States with approximately 60% consisting of Mexican-Americans. Spanish is the second most frequently used language in the United States. The largest grouping of Hispanics is in the American Southwest with a little over one half of the population in the five states of Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas. The second largest single group of Hispanics in the entire world is located in Los Angeles, California. Future projections show that by 1990 as much as one half of the population in California and one third of the population in Texas could be Spanish speaking; and that by the

year 2000, the majority population in three or four states could be Hispanic!

In 1976, the Hispanic enrollment in the public schools in the southwest ranged from a low of 20% in California and Arizona to a high of 42% in New Mexico. Hispanics in the US are found to be among the lowest paid, the least educated of all ethnic groups, and the most poorly housed. They suffer from more health problems than is the rest of the population, and have a lower life expectancy. While they comprise about 6.3% of the total population, they only make up three and a half percent of the federal work force. One third of all US Catholics are Hispanic and that percentage will probably reach 50% by the end of the decade. (3,25/27) There are eight Hispanic bishops for the Catholic church in the southwest. (24,681) A very interesting correlation of the demographic data on US Hispanics is that the Spanish origin portion of the population has a very large number of young people — 41% are under 18 years old, compared with the US population as a whole where only 28% are under 18 years old. (30,54) This would seem to correspond very nearly with the Mexican population which also has a high percentage under 15 years old. (3,25/27)

Another important aspect of the numbers of young Hispanics in the US is that eventually they will reach voting age. The following table shows a selected ethnic data on voters in November of 1978 in the 18-24 year old group.

Race and Hispanic Origins	Pop (000's)	Reported Voting	% Reported Voting
White	23,669	5,736	24.2
Black	3,462	696	20.1
Hispanic Origin	1,606	184	11.4

Table 18
Population 18-24 Who Reported Voting: Nov 1978
Source: (33,XXII)

The implications of the expanding Mexican population, coupled with the push factors associated with the Mexican environment will surely have a tremendous impact on the swelling Hispanic population in the United States.

The Border Business

The 2,000 mile long commonly shared border between Mexico and the United States is an interesting phenomenon. It is perhaps the only such border in the world that is shared by an industrialized nation and a developing nation. The border is relatively open, and the ethnic and economic ties that bind the inhabitants on both sides are not only unique but are inexorably impacting both sides.

Business. Mexico exports about 70% of her wares to the United States and her imports account for about 60% from the US. American banks hold some $11.5 billion dollars in loans and credits. (24,681) There are over two thousand American businesses, which combined, have invested over $3.2 billion dollars in Mexican affiliates.

Commonality. As the Mexican population continues to increase, the population continues to move north. The population on the Mexican side of the twin cities is much larger than on the US side.

United States		Mexico	
El Paso	400,000	Juarez	1,200,000
Calexico	10,625	Mexicali	440,000

Table 19
Twin City Population
Source: (24,680)

The border societies are interdependent on each other, and what happens on one side can have a profound effect on the other. A devaluation in the value of the peso has an adverse effect all along the border on the US side. A decrease in Mexican employment, such as is

currently happening with the increasing Mexican population, boosts Mexican migration to the US. (23,233) Both sides of the border share common problems: urban crowding, unemployment, pollution, crime, smuggling, poor social services, etc. Americans continue to build factories on the Mexican side to take advantage of the tax benefits and cheap labor, and this provides jobs for the Mexicans. In a General Motors plant in Juarez, Mexico, a 19 year old girl can work there six days a week and earn $64 a week. She, because many of the people who work in the factories are women, works in an air conditioned factory, eats in nice cafeterias, and can take advantage of the on plant site day care center. On the one side, US companies get cheap labor and on the other side, Mexico gets badly needed jobs for her dense population. (2,96)

Perhaps the most visible portion of the US-Mexican border that exemplifies the great prosperity than can be fostered by both nations is in the California-Mexico region. Both citizens can go back and forth across the border just as free and easy as Americans can cross state lines. Americans take advantage of the lower priced homes and buy in Baja, California. (7,39) This table shows the estimated number of US citizens living in Mexico. While the numbers are increasing slightly, and are not particularly significant, they do indicate the cross-fertilization between the two countries.

	1968	1970	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979
Mexico	79	90	99	105	106	129	131	163	213	208

Table 20
US Population Living Abroad: 1968-1979 (000's)
Source: (32,15)

The only real customs duty between the two countries is in the form of a value added tax. It is estimated that one half of the money earned by the Mexicans in the border area ends up on the US side; and that

currently adds up to an annual expenditure of one billion dollars for California business establishments. Bilingual clerks are the rule rather than the exception. In 1983, there will be a thirty four lane crossing at Tijuana. (7,39) Annually, American tourists spend some $120 million in Tijuana alone. (24,681) The Mexican government changed their tax laws from taking 95% of Tijuana money to the federal government to divey up, to one system that allows Tijuana to keep most of their property taxes and license fees. Southern California electric companies are buying geothermal power that is produced south of Tijuana. (7,39)

The Mexican population boom is expected to affect Arizona. The state of Arizona believes that by the year 2000, Mexican oil and gas will be delivered to their state by pipeline. Arizona currently gets $400 million a year from Mexican tourists and believes that figure will jump to over five billion by 2000. They anticipate that Arizona will be an economic attraction for illegal Mexican immigrants for at least the next 25 years. (9,36)

Mexican Crude et. al. Mexico is on the way to becoming a major oil producer. Some estimates put Mexican potential oil reserves at about 120 billion barrels which compares very favorably to the one trillion held in the entire Persia Gulf region. (14,43) Currently observations predict that Mexico will increase her oil production to three to four million barrels per day (MBD) by the end of 1982. (1,36) Others project that even with conservative reserve to production ratios, Mexico might be able to produce 10 MBD by 1985 or 1990. (14,39) Since the United States is the largest industrialized nation in the world, it is not surprising that she dominates the world oil market. The US uses a third of all the oil used in the world every day and her cars and trucks use a seventh of all the oil in the world. (14,43)

Continuing economic cooperation between the two nations continues to flourish as demonstrated by the US purchase of 200,000 BD of Mexican oil to help fill the US strategic oil reserves. A very positive assist to Mexico. (19,62)

In spite of Mexico's great oil finds, she still cannot feed her own people by herself. The ever expanding population moves to the urban centers at the expense of the agriculture industry. Mexico has suffered severe crop failures. Last year alone she lost one third of her bean crop and one tenth of the corn crop. In one state (Oaxaea) some 100,000 peasant families lost their entire harvest. (10,23) The United States is a large food exporter to Mexico. For the first time in 20 years, the US government participated in a direct government to government commodity deal where Mexico can buy rice from the US Department of Agriculture. Again the US has demonstrated good faith in a good neighbor who has a large need for food. (35,67) In return Mexican purchases of American goods has risen some 30% of which US grain sales to Mexico increased 43% to about ten million metric tons in 1980. (7,46)

The most powerful political party in Mexico has a very strong grip on the country. (16,22) But even they must become aware of the potential of the danger of penetration of her population by leftest groups. The Mexican Communist Party (PCM) has people trained in Cuba and even some by the Soviets. They are reported to be building an infrastructure among the poor along the Rio Grande river. (28,56) Four political parties which were previously unregistered have recently (and legally) joined the PCM. (22,57) The obvious political implication is that as Mexico's population expands, and as the government fails to create jobs in sufficient number to meet the demands of her population, the suscept-

ability of her population to intrusion from without, becomes a very unwanted likelihood.

CHAPTER 3

ASSESSMENT

The individual population projection for the world, Mexico, and the United States were examined in Chapter 1. Chapter 2 analyzed the implication of those projections on US/Mexico relationships. This chapter will deal with a brief assessment of selected responses both governments have taken to alleviate the major problems.

Population Projection Comparisons

It is necessary in this portion to view projected populations in comparison with Mexico and the US. This table shows the projected population increases for Latin America, Mexico and the US by the year 2000.

Major Region Selected country	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000
Latin America	325,085	377,073	438,796	509,969	589,698	677,904
Mexico	60,188	72,214	86,468	103,006	121,618	142,022
USA	213,540	222,395	234,841	248,034	259,823	270,174

Table 21
Census Bureau Projected Total World Population
Source: Global 2000 Technical Report, Table 2-10 (5,20/21)

These figures indicate that Mexico's population will increase more in total numbers than will the US. The next table shows that Mexico will also surpass the US in percentage of total world population by 2000.

Major Regions Selected Countries	1975	2000	% increase by 2000	Avg Annual % M	% of World Pop 2000
Latin America	325	637	96	2.7	10
Mexico	60	131	119	3.1	2
USA	214	248	16	0.6	4

Table 22
Projection of World Population (millions)
Source: Global 2000 Technical Report, Table 2-10 (4,9)

Of primary significance is the huge difference in functional age groups by 2000 between the populations in Mexico and the US.

Major Region Selected Coun.	School Age Pop 5-14		Working Age Pop 15-64		Females of Repro. Age 15-49		Old Age 65+		Tot. Pop All Ages	
	m	%	m	%	m	%	m	%	m	%
Latin America	69	82	196	112	83	111	15	124	312	96
Mexico	17	95	44	150	19	146	2	108	71	119
USA	-1	-2	26	19	9	17	9	40	35	16

Table 23
Changes in Functional Age Groups 1975-2000
Source: Global 2000 Technical Report, Table 2-9 (5,19)

There is a tremendous difference in Mexico's and the US' population. Of greater importance is the decline in the US school age population, but even of greater significance is the 150% increase in Mexico's working age group and 146% increase in their females of reproductive age.

This table shows the comparison of age group distribution as a percentage of the population by 2000.

Major Region Selected Country	By 1975			By 2000		
	0-14	15-64	65+	0-14	15-64	65+
Latin America	42	54	4	38	58	4
Mexico	48	49	3	41	56	3
USA	26	64	10	21	66	13

Table 24
Percent Population Distribution by Age Group
Source: Global 2000 Technical Report, Table 2-8 (5,18)

The 15-64 year age group equates to the working class or those people who are more prone to contribute to the nation's prosperity. For the LDC's the projected 86% increase in this age group will be greater

than the 70% projected for the total population. Of all countries, Mexico is estimated to have one of the largest increases. While this projected increase in the working class could be an asset, it will also mean a huge demand for training and employment ie. jobs. In contrast, the industrialized nations will only increase by an estimated 18%.

The projected increases in the number of females in the reproductive ages in the LDC's will increase about 85% by 2000 vis-a-vis the 13% for the industrialized nations. Simply stated, the rapid growth of women in the fertile years in the LDC's will assure their continued population increase.

Mexico Population Control Plans.

Mexico realizes that her annual population growth rate is one of the highest in the world and is one of the foremost problems confronting her government today. She has backed away from her historically pro-natalist policy and in 1974, established a National Population Council designed to provide family planning services, sex education, and so forth. Her goal is to lower her growth to 2.5% by 1982 and eventually level out around 1%. (21,1217) Mexican leaders do recognize the problems caused by unplanned population increases and because of their efforts to do something about it, as with their 1974 National Population Council, Mexico is referred to as a model in Latin America on their new approach to planned population. (29,10) Mexico does indeed rightfully deserve credit for recognizing her population problem and her efforts to stem her population in terms of total numbers is indeed commendable. Whether or not she can achieve her growth rate goals over the next two decades is doubtful at best. The population distribution with very large numbers of females in their early childbearing years would tend to

push the population totals upward, not downward. Total numbers of her population do not tell the whole story. Sex education is obviously a place to start but there is a lot more to stemming a population growth than total numbers alone. Mexico will have to give top priority to many other social programs such as education, jobs, and equitable distribution of wealth etc., if she has any hope at all in curbing her population growth.

The Socialist Mexican workers' Party Candidate Herberto Castello believes that a prosperous Mexican middle class is growing and that population control and job creation programs are working. But not all in Mexico agree with that assessment. When the private bus companies in Mexico City raised their fares from 3 to 5 pesos, the population became so enraged that they burned twenty busses where "three million Mexicans live in the world's largest slum." (19,62)

Immigration and Border Problems. President Reagan's new immigration plan for "guest workers" will mean big problems for business and higher prices for consumers. His plan calls for amnesty for all who have been in the United States illegally since 1 January 1980. Estimates put the total number around five million. The guest worker program initially would allow 50,000 Mexicans to come into the country to work temporarily. (20,42) Some feel President Reagan's plan will result in economic devastation to some parts of the country. 50,000 is not enough to meet the demands of labor in the US and will have absolutely no impact on Mexico's unemployment problems. Besides a large majority of the 500,000 to one million who enter illegally each year normally hold temporary jobs and leave. (18,85) Who wants to take the time to train an alien and then watch him leave because his work permit expired?

Do we really believe that he will leave anyway? Who is going to pick olives in the remote areas of California, or the apples in Virginia? Will the Americans on welfare in the United States do it? Will they take the labor intensive jobs on farms, hotels, restaurants, clothing factories? (18, 26) Will they give up their rights to social security and overtime and accept subminimum wages as the Mexican workers do now? (20,42) And perhaps the most crucial question of all is how in the world can the United States hope to enforce such a policy even if she wanted to?

CHAPTER 4

CONCLUSION

A Pot Pourri of Views

Not surprisingly there are a variety of views of where Mexico is headed and of her future relationship with the United States. Here are some to expose but a few:

Common Market. One view visualizes a common market for the three North American countries of Mexico, the United States, and Canada. This position maintains a freedom of movement for goods, energy, and people. It would merely "recognize what is already done in reality." (24,681)

Bankers. Many US bankers are becoming increasingly concerned of the demographic problems in Mexico. Some describe Mexico as the "prime candidate for future shock." They are worried about how large the population is growing, that the majority of their young people cannot move into the labor force, and that Mexico does not have the agriculture base to support her population. The bankers are so concerned about Mexico's social problems, that as one banker put it, "the rich are getting richer and the poor poorer . . . oil covers an awful lot of sins." (12,94)

Cultural Rematch of the War of 1845. One author even draws a conclusion of the earlier migration of America into Mexico which led to the war of 1845. The author believes a possibility of a "cultural rematch"

with the Mexican immigration in Southern Texas. (17,21) The author is, however, an advocate of the freedom of northern migration and economic integration and believes the future relationship will probably be one of a status-quo. (16,22)

Change in Relationship. One optimistic view of ten years hence is that the relationship between the US and Mexico will "change drastically." This view says that they will mean more to each other and that there is a better life in the future for both sides of the border. (23,233)

President Portillo. In his fourth annual State of the Nation report, the Mexican President announced a stunning 20.3% increase in Mexico's proven oil and gas reserves. He talked of a new leadership role in Central America and that "isolation is no longer a valid formula for self-determination." He talked of their newest foreign policy and that they want stability. (26,62) But he did not say much about his country's social ills and how they were going to be resolved.

Pressure. There is another school of thought that worries that "by taking the pressure off the Mexican government and allowing the Mexicans to come to the United States, we may be helping Mexico avoid the fundamental agriculture and industrial reforms she needs." (18,86)

Question. The real questions to be asked are can Mexico really avoid a disaster by exporting her surplus population to the US and can the US absorb the many millions of Mexicans over the next 20 years to even make a difference? That means some 30 million or about 1 1/2 million Mexicans a year or more? (10,23)

Conclusion

The largest portion of Mexico's population is under 20 years of

age, and a high porportion of females (44.7%) are in the fertile age group (15-49 years). Their dependency rates are very high (957 to 1,000) and about 67% of the population is urban. The total population is quite young with a median age of 17 years old and the majority of the population is illiterate. (21,1217)

Mexico must curb her population growth if she is to be a viably and economically healthy nation in Latin America. Until she does something positive about her population growth, she is destined to remain a "less developed country," and all the oil in the world will not change it.

As Mexico's population expands, its overflow is projected to move into the United States. The heritage of the majority of the US population is inexorably tied to Europe, but her ethnic ties to Mexico are rapidly expanding. Mexico is becoming an important trump card in the security of the USA. A politically stable Latin American will require a politically stable Mexico. It would seem that it would be in the best interest of the United States to give Mexico the visibility, assistance, and jobs she needs to industrialize — there is a growing feeling in the US that in the very near future the largest minority group will demand it.

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