

Terminated

No. 10014

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
and
MEXICO**

**Exchange of notes constituting an agreement relating to
mutual assistance in the event of natural disasters.
Washington, 3 May 1968**

Authentic texts : English and Spanish.

Registered by the United States of America on 1 November 1969.

**ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE
et
MEXIQUE**

**Échange de notes constituant un accord relatif à une
assistance mutuelle en cas de catastrophes naturelles.
Washington, 3 mai 1968**

Textes authentiques : anglais et espagnol.

Enregistré par les États-Unis d'Amérique le 1^{er} novembre 1969.

EXCHANGE OF NOTES CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT¹
BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND
MEXICO RELATING TO MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN THE
EVENT OF NATURAL DISASTERS

I

[SPANISH TEXT — TEXTE ESPAGNOL]

EMBAJADA DE MÉXICO
WASHINGTON, D.C.

2104

3 de mayo de 1968

Señor Secretario :

Tengo la honra de referirme a las pláticas recientemente celebradas entre Representantes de nuestros países, acerca de la planeación y ejecución de medidas de auxilio en casos de desastres que puedan ocurrir en el territorio de México o de los Estados Unidos de América.

Los Representantes han llegado a la conclusión de que sería provechoso establecer medios y procedimientos encaminados a proporcionar ayuda mutua entre ambos países en caso de desastres naturales, tales como huracanes, inundaciones, incendios, terremotos u otras catástrofes de ese carácter a fin de proteger la vida, la propiedad, la salud y la seguridad de los habitantes de las zonas fronterizas que resulten afectadas.

Asimismo, han determinado que sería útil promover la concertación de acuerdos sobre ayuda mutua para proveer auxilio en caso de desastre entre las poblaciones ubicadas en ambos lados a lo largo de la frontera internacional y la adopción de planes que tengan por objeto la coordinación de medidas de auxilio a nivel local.

Por lo tanto, he recibido instrucciones de mi Gobierno en el sentido de proponer un Acuerdo sobre medidas de auxilio en casos de desastres naturales, en los siguientes términos :

1. Se establece un Comité México-Estados Unidos de América de auxilio en casos de desastre, cuya función será la de proponer a ambos Gobiernos las medidas de colaboración y ayuda mutua que deban ser consideradas en los planes que estén en vigor en cada país, para ser puestas en ejecución en casos de desastres civiles tales como huracanes, inundaciones, incendios, terremotos u otras catástrofes de ese carácter, basándose en las experiencias obtenidas.

2. Dicho Comité se reunirá alternadamente en México y en los Estados Unidos de América en las fechas que aprueben ambos Gobiernos, presidiendo las reuniones el Jefe de la Sección del país en que se verifiquen.

¹ Came into force on 3 May 1968 by the exchange of the said notes.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

The Ambassador of Mexico to the Secretary of State

EMBASSY OF MEXICO
WASHINGTON, D.C.

2104

3 May, 1968

Excellency :

[See note II]

Hugo B. MARGAIN

His Excellency Dean Rusk
Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.

II

The Secretary of State to the Ambassador of Mexico

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

May 3, 1968

Excellency :

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's note No. 2104 of May 3, 1968, which reads in translation as follows :

"I have the honor of referring to the talks held recently between representatives of our countries on the planning and implementation of assistance measures in cases of disasters that may occur in the territory of Mexico or of the United States of America.

"The representatives concluded that it would be useful to establish means and procedures directed toward furnishing mutual assistance between the two countries in the event of natural disasters such as hurricanes, floods, fires, earthquakes, or other catastrophes of that nature, in order to protect the life, property, health, and safety of the inhabitants of the affected border areas.

"They also determined that it would be useful to promote the conclusion of arrangements on mutual assistance in order to provide help in case of disaster between the communities located along the two sides of the international border, and the adoption of plans for the purpose of coordinating assistance measures at the local level.

"Accordingly, I have received instructions from my Government to propose an agreement on assistance measures in cases of natural disasters in the following terms :

"1. A Mexico-United States Committee for assistance in cases of disasters is established, its function being to propose to the two Governments measures

of cooperation and mutual assistance that should be considered under the plans in force in each country, in order that they may be put into operation in cases of civil disasters such as hurricanes, floods, fires, earthquakes, or other catastrophes of that nature, such measures being based on experience in this respect.

"2. The Committee will meet alternately in Mexico and the United States on dates approved by the two Governments. The Chief of the host country's Section will act as Chairman at the meetings.

"3. The Committee will be composed of two Sections, each one headed by a national representative.

"4. The Mexican Section will consist of a representative of the Secretary of Government, the Chairman of the Mexican Section of the Mexico-United States Commission for Border Development and Friendship, and representatives of the Secretariats of Foreign Relations, National Defense, Navy, Finance and Public Credit, Communications and Transportation, and Health and Assistance, as well as any other representatives who may be subsequently appointed.

"5. The United States Section of the Committee will consist of the Director of the Office of Emergency Planning, the Chairman of the United States Section of the Mexico-United States Commission for Border Development and Friendship, and the Disaster Relief Coordinator of the Department of State, as well as any other representatives who may be subsequently appointed.

"6. The first meeting of the Committee will be held within 30 days of the date on which it is established.

"7. During its meetings the Committee may appoint from among its members such subcommittees or working groups as it deems necessary to study the measures that should be adopted in case of natural disasters.

"8. The results of the work of the aforesaid subcommittees or working groups will be studied by the full Committee and once they have been agreed upon, they will be recommended to the Governments. The Governments will give the Committee's recommendations priority attention.

"9. The Committee will prepare as promptly as possible a preliminary study of the measures that might be applied in emergency cases and that might serve as a guide to the authorities of the two countries at the national, state, and municipal levels.

"If the Government of the United States of America concurs in the terms set forth above, I have the honor to propose that this note and Your Excellency's note confirming such concurrence constitute a formal agreement between our two Governments, such agreement to be in force for two years from this date and subject to automatic renewal for additional two-year periods, unless either of our two Governments informs the other in writing of its intention to terminate it at least 30 days before the end of any of these periods.

"I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest and most distinguished consideration."

I have the honor to state that the foregoing proposal is acceptable to the Government of the United States of America and that Your Excellency's note and this reply shall be considered as constituting an agreement between the two Governments on this subject, the agreement to enter into force on the date of this note.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

Dean Rusk

His Excellency Hugo B. Margain
Ambassador of Mexico