

No. 20171

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**MEXICO**  
and  
**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**Agreement on co-operation in cases of natural disasters.  
Signed at Mexico City on 15 January 1980**

**Exchange of notes constituting an agreement modifying  
article I of the above-mentioned Agreement. Tlatelolco,  
29 September 1980, and Mexico City, 25 November  
1980**

**Exchange of notes constituting an agreement modifying  
article I of the above-mentioned Agreement of 15 Janu-  
ary 1980, as modified. Mexico City, 21 April 1981,  
and Tlatelolco, 14 May 1981**

*Authentic texts: Spanish and English.*

*Registered by Mexico on 22 July 1981.*

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**MEXIQUE**

et

**ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE**

**Accord de coopération pour les cas de catastrophes natu-  
relles. Signé à Mexico le 15 janvier 1980**

**Échange de notes constituant un accord modifiant l'arti-  
cle I<sup>er</sup> de l'Accord susmentionné. Tlatelolco, 29 sep-  
tembre 1980, et Mexico, 25 novembre 1980**

**Échange de notes constituant un accord modifiant l'arti-  
cle I<sup>er</sup> de l'Accord susmentionné du 15 janvier 1980,  
tel que modifié. Mexico, 21 avril 1981, et Tlatelolco,  
14 mai 1981**

*Textes authentiques : espagnol et anglais.*

*Enregistrés par le Mexique le 22 juillet 1981.*

## AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON COOPERATION IN CASES OF NATURAL DISASTERS

The Government of the United Mexican States and the Government of the United States of America,

Concerned over the potential threat of natural disasters in common border areas which could result in the loss of life and property, and

Desiring to strengthen cooperation between their countries to be able to respond more effectively to such emergencies,

Have agreed as follows:

*Article I.* A U.S.-Mexico Consultative Committee on Natural Disasters shall be established and shall have the following membership:

For Mexico: Representatives of the Secretariat of Interior, the Secretariat of Foreign Relations, the Secretariat of National Defense, the Secretariat of the Navy, the Secretariat of Treasury and Public Credit, the Secretariat of Communications and Transport, the Secretariat of Human Settlements and Public Works, and the Secretariat of Health and Welfare.

For the United States: The Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Director of the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, Department of State, and the Federal Co-chairman of the Southwest Border Regional Commission.

The Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the representative of the Secretariat of Government and/or the dependency of the Mexican Government which is designated according to the circumstances shall serve as Co-chairmen.

*Article II.* The Committee shall consider means of cooperation in planning for cases of natural disaster such as hurricanes, floods, fires, earthquakes, tornados, landslides, snowfalls, volcanic eruptions, or other catastrophes of that nature which are strictly characterized as such by both parties, in order to protect the life, property, health, and safety of the inhabitants of the affected common border areas. The Committee shall also recommend to the parties, specific programs for cooperation in the areas of pre-disaster planning, support to national programs, and post-disaster assistance; it being understood that post-disaster assistance would be limited, unless otherwise agreed, to common border areas, as defined by the parties. The mandate of the Committee will include:

- A. Exchange of information and personnel as mutually agreed;
- B. Analysis of the probable effects and potential risks of particular kinds of disaster in geographic areas having a high potential for disaster;

<sup>1</sup> Came into force provisionally on 15 January 1980 by signature, and definitively on 18 March 1981, upon receipt of the last diplomatic note by which the Parties informed each other of the completion of the required legal procedures, in accordance with article X.

- C. Exchange of information on techniques for evacuation and relocation of persons under emergency conditions;
- D. Study of damage assessment techniques;
- E. Exchange of information on techniques to ensure an adequate supply of resources necessary to meet emergency situations;
- F. Study of the role of communications in emergency planning;
- G. Promoting symposia, conferences, and training programs.

*Article III.* The Committee may serve as a forum for the exchange of information relative to prevention, assistance and rehabilitation in cases of natural disasters outside of the common border area if the affected party expresses its agreement.

*Article IV.* 1. The Committee may establish joint working groups to carry out specific tasks.

2. The Committee may also invite other federal, state or local authorities and representatives of private organizations to the meetings of the working groups with the prior express agreement of both parties and as long as the role of such additional participants has been specifically defined beforehand.

*Article V.* Each party shall use its best efforts to facilitate prompt entry into and exit from its territory of personnel involved in and materials and equipment for use in cooperative programs under this agreement subject to applicable laws of each country.

*Article VI.* All activities undertaken pursuant to this agreement shall be subject to the availability of funds. Costs of participation shall be borne by the participants, unless otherwise agreed.

*Article VII.* The present agreement does not affect any other international commitments entered into by either party in the field of cooperation in cases of natural disasters.

*Article VIII.* The parties will examine the present agreement every three years in the light of its implementation, in order to decide if it should be modified. Notwithstanding, at the annual meeting of the Committee the parties may examine this question at the prior request of either party.

*Article IX.* The Committee will meet at least annually alternatively in the United States of America and Mexico on dates approved by both parties.

*Article X.* The agreement will be applied provisionally from its date of signature. Each Party shall inform the other by way of diplomatic note of the completion of the necessary legal requirements in its country for entry into force, and the agreement shall enter into force upon receipt of such notification by the second party. It will remain in force for three years and will be automatically extended for additional periods of three years unless one of the parties informs the other in writing of its intention to terminate it at least thirty days before the end of any of these periods. This Agreement supersedes the Agreement on Assistance in the Case of Disasters, effected by exchange of notes on May 3, 1968.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 698, p. 219.

DONE in Mexico City on the 15th of January 1980, in duplicate, in the English and Spanish languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the United Mexican States:

*[Signed]*

ALFONSO DE ROSENZWEIG-DIAZ

For the United States of America:

*[Signed]*

MATTHEW NIMETZ

EXCHANGE OF NOTES CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup>  
 BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED MEXICAN  
 STATES AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES  
 OF AMERICA MODIFYING ARTICLE I OF THE AGREEMENT  
 OF 15 JANUARY 1980 ON COOPERATION IN CASES OF  
 NATURAL DISASTERS<sup>2</sup>

I

[SPANISH TEXT — TEXTE ESPAGNOL]

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

313537

La Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores saluda atentamente a la Embajada de los Estados Unidos de América y se permite expresarle el deseo del Gobierno de México de incorporar a la Secretaría de Agricultura y Recursos Hidráulicos como integrante de la representación mexicana ante el Comité Consultivo México-Estados Unidos de América en Materia de Desastres Naturales.

Los funcionarios de la Secretaría de Agricultura y Recursos Hidráulicos acreditados ante el Comité de referencia serían el ingeniero Ramón Grijalva Ruíz, Director General de Control de Ríos e Ingeniería de Seguridad Hidráulica, y el Capitán Silvino Aguilar Anguiano, Director General del Servicio Meteorológico Nacional.

La Secretaría se permite proponer a la Embajada que, de no existir inconveniente por parte del Gobierno de los Estados Unidos de América, esta Nota y la respuesta de la Embajada constituyan un acuerdo entre los dos Gobiernos para adicionar el Artículo I del Acuerdo sobre Cooperación en Casos de Desastres Naturales, firmado el 15 de enero de 1980 en esta ciudad, agregando a la Secretaría de Agricultura y Recursos Hidráulicos, en la representación por parte de México.

313537

The Secretariat of Foreign Relations presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United States of America and has the honour to state that the Government of Mexico would like to include representatives of the Secretariat of Agriculture and Hydraulic Resources in the membership of the Mexican-United States Consultative Committee on Natural Disasters.

The officials of the Secretariat of Agriculture and Hydraulic Resources accredited to the Committee would be Ing. Ramón Grijalva Ruíz, Director-General of River Control and Hydraulic Safety, Engineer and Captain Silvino Aguilar Anguiano, Director-General of the National Meteorological Service.

The Secretariat has the honour to propose to the Embassy that, if there is no objection on the part of the Government of the United States of America, this note and the Embassy's reply should constitute an agreement between the two Governments supplementing article I of the Agreement on Co-operation in Cases of Natural Disasters, signed on 15 January 1980, at Mexico City, to provide for the inclusion of the Secretariat of Agriculture and Hydraulic Resources as part of the Mexican representation.

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 25 November 1980 by the exchange of the said notes.

<sup>2</sup> See p. 211 of this volume.

La Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores aprovecha la oportunidad para reiterar a la Embajada de los Estados Unidos de América las seguridades de su más alta y distinguida consideración.

Tlatelolco, D.F., a 29 de septiembre de 1980

A la Embajada de los  
Estados Unidos  
de América  
Ciudad

The Secretariat of Foreign Relations avails itself of this opportunity to reiterate to the Embassy of the United States of America the assurances of its highest consideration.

Tlatelolco, D.F., 29 September 1980

Embassy of the  
United States  
of America  
Mexico City

## II

### EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 2221

The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Secretariat of Foreign Relations and has the honor to refer to the Secretariat's Note No. 313537 of September 29, 1980, proposing that the Secretariat of Agriculture and Hydraulic Resources be added to the composition of the U.S.-Mexican Consultative Committee on Natural Disasters.

The Department of State has received the Secretariat's note cited above and accepts the addition to Article I of the Agreement on Cooperation in Cases of Natural Disasters, signed January 15, 1980, of the Secretariat of Agriculture and Hydraulic Resources as part of the Mexican representation.

The Embassy of the United States of America avails itself of this opportunity to reiterate to the Secretariat of Foreign Relations assurances of its highest consideration.

The Embassy of the United States of America  
Mexico, D.F., November 25, 1980

EXCHANGE OF NOTES CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup>  
 BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED MEXICAN  
 STATES AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES  
 OF AMERICA MODIFYING ARTICLE I OF THE AGREEMENT  
 OF 15 JANUARY 1980 ON COOPERATION IN CASES OF NATU-  
 RAL DISASTERS,<sup>2</sup> AS MODIFIED<sup>3</sup>

I

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 812

The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Secretariat of Foreign Relations and has the honor to refer to the U.S.-Mexico Agreement on Cooperation in Cases of Natural Disasters, signed at Mexico City January 15, 1980, and brought into force definitively March 18, 1981, by an exchange of Notes between the Embassy and the Secretariat.

The Department of State has requested that the following change be made in the English text of the Agreement: under Article I, third paragraph, in the first line the phrase "Secretariat of Interior" be changed to "Secretariat of Government" to be consistent with the phrase "Secretariat of Government" in the fourth paragraph under the same Article. The Department of State requires confirmation of this modification before the Agreement can be officially printed and released in the *Treaties and Other International Agreements Series* of publications.

The Embassy of the United States of America avails itself of this opportunity to reiterate to the Secretariat the assurances of its highest consideration.

Embassy of the United States of America

Mexico, D.F., April 21, 1981

II

[SPANISH TEXT — TEXTE ESPAGNOL]

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

TR. 316398  
 III/365(72:73)/38641-1

TR. 316398  
 III/365(72:73)/38641-1

La Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores saluda atentamente a la Embajada de los Estados Unidos de América y tiene el honor de acusar recibo de su nota 812 del 21 de abril de 1981, con la cual le solicita que la frase "Secretariat of Interior" del tercer párrafo del Ar-

The Secretariat of Foreign Relations presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United States of America and has the honour to acknowledge receipt of its note No. 812 of 21 April 1981 requesting that the phrase "Secretariat of the Interior" in the third para-

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 14 May 1981 by the exchange of the said notes.

<sup>2</sup> See p. 211 of this volume.

<sup>3</sup> See p. 214 of this volume.

título I del texto en inglés del Acuerdo entre el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos y el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos de América sobre Cooperación en Casos de Desastres Naturales, firmado en México, D.F., el 15 de enero de 1980, se cambie para que diga "Secretariat of Government", a fin de que concuerde con lo especificado en el párrafo 4 del mismo Artículo.

Sobre el particular, la Secretaría manifiesta a la Embajada, en relación con el penúltimo párrafo de la nota antes mencionada que está de acuerdo con el cambio propuesto, por lo que el texto en inglés del Acuerdo de referencia queda modificado en la forma antes descrita.

La Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores aprovecha la oportunidad para renovar a la Embajada de los Estados Unidos de América el testimonio de su más alta consideración.

Tlatelolco, D.F., 14 de mayo de 1981

A la Embajada de los  
Estados Unidos  
de América  
México, D.F.

graph of article I in the English text of the Agreement between the Government of the United Mexican States and the Government of the United States of America on Co-operation in Cases of Natural Disasters, signed at Mexico City on 15 January 1980, be changed to "Secretariat of Government" to be consistent with the wording of the fourth paragraph of the same article.

The Secretariat wishes to inform the Embassy, in connection with the penultimate paragraph of the above-mentioned note, that it agrees to the proposed change whereby the English text of the Agreement would be amended in the aforesaid manner.

The Secretariat of Foreign Relations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of the United States of America the assurances of its highest consideration.

Tlatelolco, D.F., 14 May 1981

Embassy of the United States  
of America  
Mexico, D.F.