

PRESENTATION

The Legal Research Institute, faithful to its tradition of being an institution of excellence which links its scientific activities with Mexico's economic and social developments, is pleased to present to the regional academic world this volume which addresses some of the most important legal problems presented by the creation of the North American Free Trade Area.

To the natural economic issues which surface from the asymmetrical relationship between the countries of the area, we must add the complex legal subject-matters which as a basic regulatory framework, are indispensable to promote advances in service and trade exchanges.

In order to initiate a qualified legal dialogue, the Institute which I am honored to direct, summoned, in February of the current year, a group of distinguished jurists from Canada, the United States and Mexico to reflect upon the legal aspects of the future Free Trade Agreement.

Representing Canada, were professors Murray G. Smith, Debra Steger and Louis Perret, from the Law School of the University of Ottawa, who discoursed on subjects related with their country's experience in the Free Trade Agreement with the United States, signed on January 1st, 1989, after many years of negotiations.

On behalf of the United States, professors James Smith and Dale B. Furnish, presented enticing ideas regarding the legal system of their country in relation to international treaties and the influence of the GATT in internal American law. Dr. Clark Crook Castan, First Secretary of the Economic Section of the American Embassy, presented a chronological overview of the state of FTA negotiations at the time.

The national jurists, were represented by professors Guillermo Aguilar Álvarez, from the SECOFI; Víctor Carlos García Moreno from the Law School of our University; René Cacheaux, expert from a prestiged law firm in Chihuahua; Ruperto Patiño Manffer, Manuel Becerra and Jorge Witker, researchers from our Institute.

The collection of essays presented in said pioneering event in Mexico, make-up this volume, which we hope serves to pave the road to the necessary legal harmonization which the Trilateral Treaty calls for from the three countries involved. This presentation, is the best evidence that we are entering a state of reciprocal information and knowledge which will increase in the near future.

This initial academic effort in the long road of academic achievement embarked upon by the Institute, was made possible through the enthusiastic participation of Dr. Jorge Witker Velásquez, who coordinated the aforesaid seminar and this volume, and of Mtro. Francisco José de Andrea Sánchez, who translated said volume.

Dr. José Luis SOBERANES

Director