



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

7 July, 1982

Dear John,
Mexico

MJ

12/7

Prime Minister
You asked for a note
about him. A.S.C. 6/7

You asked for some details about the President-elect of Mexico, Miguel de la Madrid.

Senor de la Madrid is 47 - fifteen years younger than his predecessor, and one of a new generation of technocratic economic planners. He is by training a banker and civil servant and has never held an elected office. Senor de la Madrid received a Masters Degree from Havard University in 1965 and subsequently worked for the Ministry of Finance, where he worked under Senor Jose Lopez Portillo who was later to become President. President Lopez Portillo made him Secretary for Planning and the Budget in 1979, a post he held until his nomination as candidate for the Presidency, in September 1981.

Senor de la Madrid has a reputation as having fairly conservative economic views. It is difficult to predict how his Presidency will develop, as Mexico faces massive economic problems. However, he has stated that the attack on inflation will be the major target; Senor de la Madrid has also pledged himself to fighting corruption, endemic in Mexican public life. His election campaign has been cautious rather than inspiring.

The new President, who is due to take office on December 1, is likely to follow a similar line to his predecessor in foreign affairs. Good relations with Cuba as well as the United States, and some sort of mediatory role in Central America, will almost certainly remain priorities, although the new President may tone down his predecessor's support for revolutionary movements in Central America.

However, Senor de la Madrid's term of office is an unopposed six years, and Mexican Presidents in the past have not always developed according to a predictable pattern.

Yours ever

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