

Hace días vino a mi casa un grupo de Senadores a pedir mi opinión sobre diversos asuntos políticos y sociales, y se las dí a conocer con toda franqueza y con toda claridad, cosa que acostumbro poner en todos mis actos. Esas declaraciones mías-que se hicieron públicas-no las dictó interés personal alguno y con ellas, solamente traté de orientar la acción de mi Partido hacia lo que me pareció el bien de mi país. Desgraciadamente, pudieron servir para creerse que aspiro a una intervención en la cosa pública, que no he tenido, ni deseo tener. Vine aquí atendiendo a un llamado que recibí, y para poner punto final a una situación que pudiera ser mal interpretada, me alejo dejando toda la responsabilidad de la cosa pública a quienes la tienen en sus manos.

México, D. F., Junio 16 de 1935.

P. Elias Calles

For
Gen. Calles

Goal of Gen. Calles' Policy toward
people of Mexico, in contrast with present
policies.

Also how he tried to win the respect of
other ~~the~~ nations. Also the goodwill of
other nations -

Cual es la politica general del Gral. Calles hacia el pueblo mexicano
en contraste con la politica del actual Gobierno.

~~Que hacia el Gral. Calles para~~ Tambien como hizo para ganarse el
respeto y la buena voluntad de otras naciones.

Is Mexico, under the rule of President Cardenas, a seething caldron of unrest? If so, why?

Bajo el regimen del Presidente Cardenas, es Mexico una caldera de inquietudes? Si asi es, por que?

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Is Mexico, in your opinion, verging on a revolt? If Mexico is verging on a revolution please explain in detail what has made the average Mexican feel that he wants a change from its present form of government.

En opinion de Ud. esta Mexico al borde de una revolucion? Si asi es, favor de explicar en detalle cual es el promedio de la poblacion del pais que desea un cambio en la forma de gobierno.

Please explain why President Cardenas is NOT popular with the Mexican masses. Has ~~been~~ he been an oppressor or has he taxed them so heavily that they are too weighted down with tax burdens?

Favor de explicar por que el Presidente Cardenas NO es popular entre las masas mexicanas. Ha sido el un opresor o es que ha decretado impuestos que se hacen insoportables.?

Please explain why you selected Gen. Cardenas to be Mexico's president and then how he was given the office.

Favor de explicar por que selecciono Ud. al Gral. Cardenas para que fuera el Presidente de Mexico y como llego al Poder.

When and in what way did Gen. Cardenas, after he was made president, first indicate that he was "breaking away" from the long-established Calles policies?

Despues de que fue hecho Presidente el Gral.Cardenas, cuando y en que forma se noto el primer indicio de ruptura con la politica del Gral.Calles por tanto tiempo establecida.?

Explain, please, what is the relationship between the Catholic church of Mexico and the Mexican government and what part, if any, the church has had in trying to conduct the affairs of state. (This would be an excellent place in which to explain the government's treatment of church officials.)

Favor de explicar cuales son las relaciones entre el Gobierno y el Clero mexicanos y en que proporcion, si acaso, el Clero ~~mexicano~~ ha tratado de dirigir los asuntos de Estado. (Esta es una excelente oportunidad para explicar el tratamiento que el Gobierno ha dado a los funcionarios clericales.

In your opinion, is President Cardenas a Communist? If, in your opinion, he is of Communistic leanings, please give details and instances of proof.

En opinion de Ud. el Presidente Cardenas es un Comunista?
Si en su opinion es de tendencias comunistas, favor de dar detalles y ejemplos de prueba.

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Does the average Mexican feel that under the Cardenas regime they are free to be themselves? By that is meant do they feel at liberty to enjoy themselves as thinking Mexicans should and have done in the past or now are they afraid to speak what is in their minds and hearts?

El promedio de poblacion mexicana ~~se~~ siente que bajo el regimen cardenista hay ambiente de libertad? Quiero decir, que si ~~efectivamente se disfrutaba de la libertad~~ como mexicanos conscientes disfrutaban de la libertad que deben disfrutar y han disfrutado en el pasado, o ahora se sienten temerosos de expresar lo que su cerebro y su corazon les dictan.

President Cardenas has made claims that he is doing great things, such a colonizations, for the poor Mexican people. Is this true? If he has the good of the Mexican people at heart what has he done for them --- where are the colonization areas?

El Presidente Cardenas se atribuye haber hecho grandes cosas, ~~wwwcolonization~~ como una colonizacion para la gente pobre. Es verdad ~~xxx~~ esto? Si en su corazon tiene buenos sentimientos para los mexicanos, que ha hecho por ellos? En donde estan las extensiones colonizadas.?

When President Cardenas ordered you from Mexico he intimated that his action was taken after the bombing of a train while on a bridge near Mexico, D.F., on April 6, 1936, and that he blamed you for the tragedy. Please explain where was the bridge and the name of the general who was supposed to have been disliked by yourself. Also explain in minute detail why Gen. Cardenas' indirect accusation was the most vile and backhanded thing he could have done, especially since it was you who elevated him to the presidency.

Cuando el Presidente Cardenas ordeno la expulsion de Ud., explico que ella obedecia a haber bombardeado un tren en un puente cercano a Mexico, D.F. el 6 de abril ultimo y que Ud. era el culpable de esta tragedia. Favor de explicar en donde estaba el puente y el nombre del General que no gozaba de la simpatia de Ud. Favor de explicar tambien al detalle por que ~~esta acusacion~~ la acusacion indirecta del Gral. Cardenas fue la cosa mas vil y asquerosa que ha hecho, especialmente por haber sido usted quien lo elevo a la presidencia.

Give details of the time of night, where you were, what you were doing etc., when Mexican officers told you that on order of President Cardenas you would have to leave Mexico. This answer should embrace the name of the officer who called on you, who he was, and detailed conversation which was exchanged between you. Also please tell what were your detailed movements from that time until the airplane which brought you to the United States landed at Brownsville. As the plane flew toward the United States what thoughts went through your mind? What was your mental reaction toward President Cardenas and Mexico as a whole? Was there rancor and hatred in your heart?

Favor de dar detalles del lugar donde Ud. se encontraba, la hora y lo que estaba haciendo, cuando ~~en~~ los oficiales mexicanos le notificaron que por orden del Presidente Cardenas tendria Ud. que salir de Mexico. Este respuesta debe abarcar el nombre del Oficial que lo intimo, quien es y detallar la conversacion cambiada entre los dos. Favor de decir tambien cuales fueron detalladamente sus movimientos desde ese momento hasta que ~~avanzo~~ aterrizo en Brownsville el aeroplano que lo trajo a los Estados Unidos. Mientras venia Ud. volando hacia los Estados Unidos que pensamientos pasaron por su mente,? Cual fue su reaccion mental hacia el Presidente Cardenas y hacia todo Mexico? Hubo rencor y aborrecimiento en su corazon?

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How does it feel to be in the United States? Is it a real home for the free and the brave?

Como se siente estar en los Estados Unidos? Es realmente un hogar para los hombres libres y valientes?

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Do you think there is any possibility that President Cardenas will try to emulate Premier Mussolini, Adolph Hitler or Stalin and try to set himself up as a dictator? Would the Mexican people permit themselves to be ruled by a dictator?

Cree Ud. que haya alguna posibilidad de que el Presidente Cardenas tratara de imitar a Mussolini, a Hitler o a Stalin, y trate de constituirse como un dictador? El pueblo mexicano tolerara ser gobernado por un Dictador?

Does President Cardenas intend to banish liquor and gambling from Mexico? And does the average Mexican want prohibition of both liquor and gambling.⁷ This question is asked because of the closing sometime ago of the Agua Caliente Jockey club and hotel.

El Presidente Cardenas intenta abolir las bebidas embriagantes y las casas de juego en Mexico? Y el promedio de la poblacion mexicana desea la prohibicion de ambas cosas? Esta pregunta se hace a proposito de la clausura del casino y el Hotel de Agua Caliente el ano pasado.

What is your opinion of the future outlook for Mexico as a nation if conditions are to continue as they are now? What would you suggest as a solution or remedy and what would you do were you again president?

Qual es su opinion respecto al futuro que se bislumbra para Mexico como Nacion si sus condiciones van a continuar como son ahora? Que sugeriria Ud., como solucion o remedio y que ~~medidas impondria Ud. si fuera otra vez Presidente,?~~ medidas impondria Ud. si fuera otra vez Presidente,?

diminutos del regimen que esta
 por espirar, que han llenado de
 incertidumbre, inestabilidad y falta
 de confianza a todos los sectores que
 forman la estructura economica de
 la nacion, con las consecuencias fata
 les que todos conocen. Que si el
 Gnl. Avila Camacho, al tomar posesion
 del Gobierno inicia con prudencia, sin
 ostentacion, sin tratar de hacer a nadie las
 rectificaciones mas necesarias que el pais
 reclama, puede tener la seguridad que
 yo y mis amigos y aun sus depositores
 estaremos con su Gobierno, y de nuestra
 parte recibirá apoyo decidido, sincero
 y desinteresado. Que tenga presente
 que una de las mayores alarmas y, muy
 justificadas que existen en el pais es
 la indisciplina social reinante, que ha
 desencadenado el espiritu de ambicion

y el afán de disputar del bien ajeno en campesinos, obreros y otros sectores, y esa marea ascendente de multitudes que adulan el poder por temor, estarán listas y lo intentarán en el momento que lo crean oportuno, a imperar sin tener en cuenta consideraciones de ningún género, y como resultado final la anarquía y la ruina. Esto no quiere decir que la revolución debe dar pasos atrás en su obra de justicia social, no; pero debe obrarse con orden, con justicia, sin desbordamientos y sin querer traspasar los límites de las posibilidades. Es necesario ~~con~~ convenir que los revolucionarios, por distintas causas, que no hay que analizar, hemos cometido errores; pero es honrado reconocerlos, y el corregirlos demuestra sinceridad y valor. Puede tenerse la seguridad que el primer acto

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del Gral. Avila Camacho, que signifique una Tendencia sana rectificadora de la politica del régimen actual, me servirá para hacer las declaraciones a que se refiere el Sr. Sic. Vasconcelos; pero ⁺/₊ más que las palabras serán los hechos los que justifiquen mi conducta."

Hasta aquí lo expuesto por el Sr. Gral. Calles en lo que se refiere al contenido de la carta de Ud. - Después el General, en tono de confianza amistosa, me expuso sus inquietudes sobre noticias que ha recibido de fuentes privadas y de prensa, con relación al hecho de que los E. U. tratan de obtener en concesión o en alguna otra forma bases aereas y navales en nuestro territorio, y a este respecto hizo extensas consideraciones de carácter constitucional y de otras índoles. Considera el General este asunto sumamente delicado y peligroso, y dice que no hay que olvidar que los Gobs. son transitorios y que nadie puede asegurar lo que venga después de Roosevelt a quien puede considerarse bien intencionado. Que él espera

que el regimen actual, al que pocos días
le faltan para terminar su actuación
legal, no se atreverá a contraer un com-
promiso semejante, y que espera ^{también} que el
Gral. Avila Camacho tendrá la sabiduría
suficiente para, sin dejar de cooperar ~~en~~
la obra de solidaridad Continental, ~~que~~
^{encontrar} ~~encuentra~~ caminos que dejen a salvo
la integridad y soberanía del País.

General Calles makes the following statement:

"I have kept silent on the affairs of my country because I thought any opinion from me might be interpreted as affected by an insane political passion or by displeasure on my part."

"Regarding the present situation of Mexico in connection with the new government preceded by President-elect, General Manuel Avila Camacho, I feel optimistic. I consider that the future of my country is becoming brighter, as everything seems to indicate that the President will form a good government: one of order, seriousness, sensibleness and honesty, thereby correcting many of the mistakes which placed the country in a complete bankruptcy and disorganization. This opinion is based on the transcendent acts which President Avila Camacho's government has already executed during his first month in office, namely:

First.- The energetic decision to withdraw the army from politics that it may comply with its important mission of guarding the institutions.

Second.- The serious rectifications made to the agrarian policy, doing away with the unhealthy communistic tendency of collective farming which had been founded, by dividing up the "ejidos" into parcels and issuing title to them for the security and stimulus of the peasant, guaranteeing respect for the small property which under no circumstances is to be affected. This will bring order to agriculture, and the legitimate rights of all will be defined and respected in a way that the farmer may enjoy effective security and guarantees.

Third.- The issuance of the law placing the administration of the National Rail Roads of Mexico back in the hands of the government as a means to conjure the total disaster in which this important enterprise of national interest finds itself.

Fourth.- The disposition which re-establishes the immovability of the Judicial Power and the appointment of the new magistrates to the nation's highest court, all of them prominent attorneys of proven wisdom and high moral standards. This will constitute an absolute guarantee to all the social interests and to the rights of the citizens which had been so weakened in previous years.

Fifth.- The President's promises of no intervention on the part of the state in the field corresponding to private initiative, and the guarantees and assurances offered to all honest, national and foreign, investments made for the development and well-being of the country.

Sixth.- The President's expressed desire to re-establish the social discipline by subjecting everyone alike to the mandates of the law.

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All these measures by the government are unequivocal signs of a serious, constructive and orderly program which tends to re-establish the confidence lost by a people who had become skeptic and pessimist after long enduring the anarchical agitation, the stupid social experiments, the administrative disorder and the lack of justice under which it previously lived.

For all these reasons I feel optimistic about the future of my country and I believe that all Mexicans should give their frank support to the new government, laying aside all political differences, if any exist, in order to save the country in these hours of world unrest.

San Diego, Calif., Dec. 30, 1940.

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Redraft of Gen. Calles statement:

"I HAVE kept silent on the affairs of my country BECAUSE I thought any opinion from me might be interpreted as affected by an insane political passion or by displeasure on my part."

Regarding the present situation of Mexico and the new government headed by General Manuel Avila Camacho, I feel optimistic. I consider that the future of my country is becoming brighter, as everything seems to indicate that the President will form a good government: one of order, seriousness, sensibility and honesty, thereby correcting many of the mistakes which placed the country in a complete bankruptcy and disorganization.

This opinion is based on the transcendental acts which President Avila Camacho's government has already executed during his first month in office, namely:

1. The energetic decision to withdraw the army from politics that it may fulfill its rightful mission of guarding the institutions.
2. The serious rectifications made to the agrarian policy, namely, doing away with the unhealthy communistic tendency of collective farming which had been instigated, and in its place dividing up the "Ejidos" into parcels and issuing title to them for the security and stimulation of the peasant, ~~guaranteeing respect for the small property owner which under no circumstances is to be taken away.~~ This will bring order to agriculture, and the legitimate rights of all will be defined and respected in a way that the farmer may enjoy effective security and freedom.
3. The issuance of the law placing the administration of the National Railroads of Mexico back into the hands of the government as a means of correcting the disastrous situation in which this important enterprise of national interest finds itself.
4. The disposition which re-establishes the term of the judiciary for life, and the appointment of the new magistrates to the nation's highest court, all of them prominent attorneys of proven wisdom and high moral standards. This will constitute an absolute guarantee to all the social interests and to the rights of the citizens which had been so weakened in previous years.
5. The President's promises of no intervention on the part of the state in the field corresponding to private initiative, and the guarantees and assurances offered to all honest national and foreign investments made for the development and wellbeing of the country.

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6. The President's expressed desire to re-establish the social discipline by subjecting everyone alike to the mandates of the law.

7. All these measures by the government are unequivocal signs of a serious, constructive and orderly program which tends to re-establish the confidence lost by a people who had become skeptic and pessimistic after long enduring anarchical agitation, stupid social experiments, administrative disorder and the lack of justice.

For all these reasons I feel optimistic about the future of my country and I believe that all Mexicans should give their frank support to the new government, laying aside all political differences, if any exist, in order to save the country in these hours of world unrest.

Dec. 30, 1940