



NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY

BOX 307, LAS CRUCES, NEW MEXICO 88001

AREA 505 646-2035

Office of the President

January 4, 1971

Señor Profesor Daniel Cosío Villegas
Segunda Cerrada de Frontera N°6
San Angel
México 20, D. F., México

Dear Señor Villegas:

It is my pleasure to inform you, on behalf of the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University, that you have been selected to receive an Honorary Doctoral Degree. This Honorary Degree is in recognition of your outstanding contribution to society, as a leading historian.

It is our proposal that the degree be conferred at the time of the Spring Commencement, May 15, 1971. The conferring of this degree will not only recognize your outstanding services, but will reflect favorably on New Mexico State University.

Mr. David Amato, of the American Embassy staff in Mexico City, has informed me that he would be pleased to accompany you to Las Cruces.

Please let me know whether you can accept this distinguished honor.

Sincerely yours,

Gerald W. Thomas
President

GWT/jp

cc: Lic. Luis Echeverría Alvarez
Presidente de la República de México

Señor Embajador Robert A. McBride
American Embassy

Señor David Amato
Mission Director - AID
American Embassy

México, D.F., January 12, 1971.

Mr. Gerald W. Thomas
President
New Mexico State University
Box 307
Las Cruces, Nuevo Mexico, 88001
U.S.A.

Dear Mr. President:

Your extremely kind letter of January 4th. reached me just two days ago.

You may imagine how flattering has been to be informed that the Board of Regents of your University selected me to receive an Honorary Doctoral Degree, to be conferred at the time of the Spring Commencement, next May 15th.

To my great misfortune, I cannot be with you at that date. To give the final touch to the last volume of my Modern History of Mexico, a work I started twenty-two years ago, I have to do some research in France and Spain during April-June of this year. Long before I had your letter I applied to the official and private institutions for the necessary authorization to see their manuscripts. The exact dates to work in each place have been agreed upon several months in advance, so as to make impossible any change in my schedule.

I have gone to a certain detail to be sure that you understand and appreciate the reason for my being unable to be at your University at the time you have in mind.

With deep regrets,

Sincerely yours

Daniel Cosío Villegas
Apartado Postal M-2123
México 1, D.F.



NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY

BOX 3307, LAS CRUCES, NEW MEXICO 88001
AREA 505 646-2035

Office of the President

February 16, 1971

Señor Daniel Cosío Villegas
Apartado Postal M-2123
México 1, D. F.

Dear Señor Villegas:

Thank you for your letter of January 12 apprising us of your busy travel schedule this spring.

Under these conditions we think it would be preferable if we postpone the awarding of the honorary degree until May 1972.

We hope you have a productive research experience in France and Spain. We will be in contact with you next Fall.

Sincerely yours,

Gerald W. Thomas
President

GWT/jp

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Box 3Z/Las Cruces, New Mexico 88001
Telephone (505) 646-2035



December 8, 1971

Señor Profesor Daniel Cosío Villegas
Segunda Cerrada de Frontera N°6
San Angel
México 20, D. F., México

Dear Señor Villegas:

It is my pleasure to inform you that the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University have again selected you to receive the Honorary Doctoral Degree in recognition of your outstanding contributions to society, as a leading historian. As you know, we extended this invitation to you last year, but you were unable to attend our Commencement ceremony and receive the Degree.

It is our proposal that the Degree now be conferred at the time of our Spring Commencement, May 13, 1972. The conferring of this Degree will not only recognize your outstanding services, but will reflect favorably on New Mexico State University.

I am again informing Mr. David Amato of the American Embassy staff in Mexico City, of this decision of our Board of Regents and asking that he get in direct contact with you. Perhaps he can accompany you to Las Cruces at the time of this presentation.

Please let me know whether you can accept this distinguished honor, and my hearty congratulations to you.

Sincerely yours,

Gerald W. Thomas
President

GWT/jp

cc: Señor David Amato
Mission Director - AID
American Embassy

Dr. Gerald W. Thomas
New Mexico State University
Las Cruces, New Mexico.
E. U. A.

Dear Mr. President:

I received on time
your ^{good} ~~kind~~ letter of December 8th,
^{but} ~~but~~ I delayed answering it because
I felt how difficult would ~~x~~ be
for me ~~x~~ to find the proper words
to express my deepest regret for being
but unable ~~to be~~ once again to be
with you next May 13 to receive ^{the} an
Honorary Doctoral Degree granted by
your Board of Regents.

The fact is, however, that I
have no idea that ~~as~~ I could be invited
for ^{the} ~~the~~ second time to receive such a

degree, perhaps because I am somewhere
a fatalist in the sense that ~~when a good~~
~~thing~~ of considering but for ever any
good thing ~~you~~ ^{you surely} miss. Then, as ~~finished~~ ^{I finished},
after twenty-three years of work the last
~~of~~ of the ten volumes of the Modern His-
tory of Mexico, I felt ~~entitled~~ ^{well deserved} entitled to
~~take~~ a good thing vacation traveling in
Europe. So, Mrs. Davis and I made plans
to spend April, May and June abroad.
With this additional circumstance: as
you may know, ~~some~~ ^{some} airlines are offering
a substantial discount on the regular
rates if you order your tickets well
in advance of the date you ^{actually} start
~~to~~ your trip.

Allow me to say that for these
very reasons I had to decline a most
attractive ~~attractive~~ invitation of the University

of ideas to give a permanent need
spring ~~from~~ term. (2)

understand at least
hoping that you ~~understand~~ the

human side of my position, allow me to
express ^{again} my gratitude for ~~your most~~
~~valuable~~ contribution.

Sincerely yours



México, D.F., January 7, 1972.

Dr. Gerald W. Thomas
New Mexico State University
Las Cruces, New Mexico.
E.U.A.

Dear Mr. President:

I received on time your good letter of December 8th, but I delayed answering it because I felt how difficult would be for me to find the proper words to express my deepest regret for being unable once again to be with you next May 13 to receive the Honorary Doctoral Degree granted by your Board of Regents.

The fact is, however, that I have no idea that I could be invited for the second time to receive such a degree, perhaps because I am somewhat a fatalist in the sense of considering lost for ever any good thing you simply miss. Then, as I finished after twenty-three years of work the last of the ten volumes of the Modern History of Mexico, I felt entitled to a well deserved, long vacation traveling in Europe. So, Mrs. Cosío and I made plans to spend April, May and June abroad, With this additional circumstance: as you may know, some airlines are offering substantial discounts on the regular rates if you order your tickets well in advance of the date you actually start your trip.

Allow me to say that for these very reason I had to decline a most attractive invitation of the University of Texas to give a seminar next Spring term.

Hoping that you understand at least the human side of my position, allow me to express again my gratitud for your most benevolent invitation.

Sincerely yours

Daniel Cosío Villegas
Apartado Postal M-2123
México 1, D.F.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Box 3Z/Las Cruces, New Mexico 88001
Telephone (505) 646-2035



January 10, 1972

The Honorable Daniel Cosío Villegas
Apartado Postal M-2123
México 1, D. F., México

Dear Mr. Cosío Villegas:

I was very sorry to learn from your recent letter that you will again be out of the Country during the time of our Commencement ceremony and our proposed conveyance of the Honorary Degree. May I propose that we again postpone this Degree for one year and hope that you will be available about the same time next year to receive the Degree in person. I believe it would be much more effective to delay the presentation of the Degree than to do it in your absence.

My wish for you is a pleasant and well-deserved vacation. We will be back in touch with you early in 1973.

My very best regards.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gerald W. Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gerald W. Thomas
President

GWT/jp

México, D.F., January 18, 1971.

Mr. Gerald W. Thomas
President
New Mexico State University
Box 32
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88001
U.S.A.

Dear Mr. President:

I think that your suggestion is the best possibly.
It seems to me, however, that we can make some progress if you
tell me what I am supposed to do in the ceremony.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours

Daniel Cosío Villegas
Apartado Postal M-2123
México 1, D.F.

DCV/meh.-

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Box 3Z/Las Cruces, New Mexico 88001
Telephone (505) 646-2035



October 24, 1972

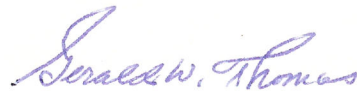
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Señor Profesor Daniel Cosío Villegas
Segunda Cerrada de Frontera N°6
San Angel
México 20, D. F., México

Dear Señor Villegas:

This letter will again confirm the offer of the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University to present an Honorary Doctoral Degree to you in recognition of your outstanding contribution to society as a leading historian. This presentation will be made, providing you can participate, at the Commencement ceremony on May 12, 1973.

Please let us know if you can attend at this time and accept this honor. My congratulations again for being selected for this award. The conferring of this degree will not only recognize your outstanding services but will reflect favorably on New Mexico State University.

Sincerely yours,



Gerald W. Thomas
President

GWT/jm

cc: Vice Pres. Carl Hall
Honorary Degree Committee

México, D.F., November 27, 1972.

Mr. Gerald W. Thomas
Box 37
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88001
U.S.A.

Dear Mr. President:

I am answering rather late your good letter of October 24 because it is so difficult for me to do so. After all, this is the third time you invite me to attend your Commencement ceremony to receive an Honorary Doctoral Degree. Then, I have to make you a long and sad story.

Due to the fact of have appearing (without my knowledge) among a good number of Mexican intellectuals in a protest against the American government's participation in the fall of Guatemala's president Arbens, the U. S. Attorney General Office put my name in the list of undesirable foreign citizens to whom American visas were to be denied. As I learned late, even when I was during more than ten years ambassador of Mexico to the U. N., the American Consul in Mexico City tried to condition the granting of my visa to my filling out what it is called the C.I.A.'s questionnaire. This situation, quite naturally, got worse when I resigned my ambassadorship and became just an ordinary Mexican citizen. I appealed to my government to redress such a situation, and my case was dealt with the highest level, with President Johnson and Secretary of State Dean Rusk. As a result, I was given a most generous "mike", authorizing me to visit the U.S. any time-I wished. But since my name was not deleted from the fat book of undesirable people every migration officer has at all ports of enhance in the U.S., there was a clear and unavoidable conflict.

At the beginning the migration officer was annoyed to find out such contradiction, but rather quickly he gave the go ahead, so I could go to pick up my baggage and proceed to my hotel. But more recently, and for reasons I cannot even imagine, the situation has changed. When I was coming back through New York from England, I was detained at Kennedy Airport for more than forty-five minutes, because the first migration officer went for advise to some other and so on. The whole affair was so exasperating that my wife and I decided right there no to step on American territory for the rest of our lifes.

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I told recently the same story to two American historians I am working with to have a meeting at Los Angeles next year with Mexican historians, and they assured me that they will make the necessary arrangements with the proper American authorities so as to avoid any unpleasantness at my arrival. I told them I was extremely sorry but I was not prepared to received as a special favor my visiting the United States.

You have, then, the whole story of declining once more your kind offer.

Yours friendly,

Daniel Cosío Villegas
Apartado Postal M-2123
México 1, D.F.

DCV/meh.-

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