

# RichMUNd II

**Executive Cabinet of Mexico**

**Rajan Jani**

*Chair*

**Ashwin Chetty**

*Vice-Chair*

Dear Honorable Delegates,

Bienvenidos, my name is Rajan Jani, and I will be your chair for RichMUNd II! I am looking forward to this conference! This will be my second time chairing RichMUNd, as I co-chaired the World Bank Committee last year. Through my four years in Model UN, I have attended numerous conferences, including NAIMUN, VAMUN, and GSMUN. In addition, I have also been able to indulge myself into various other extra-curricular activities. In this committee session, I expect, and know will receive, the best Model UN work you have done thus far. I am excited for a weekend full of amazing debate, creative directives, and much more! Can't wait to see y'all then!

Welcome Secretaries of the Executive Cabinet of Mexico! I am your vice chair, Ashwin Chetty, a sophomore in the IB program. I have been to two conferences in my year in Model UN, and I plan to go to many more in the future. I am excited to see all of you in committee with well-thought-out ideas. This committee is capable of intense and controversial discussion and that is what I hope to see.

First and foremost, thank you for choosing this committee! We know this committee will include experienced and non-experienced members, so we will go over parliamentary procedure, in brief, at the start of the first committee session! We will follow standard specialized committee parliamentary procedure! Also, please email us your background guides at least one day in advance. You can send it to our committee chair, Rajan Jani, at [preprajan@gmail.com](mailto:preprajan@gmail.com)! We are open to providing a little feedback to background guides, time permitting, prior to the conference! We cannot wait to begin the extraordinary debate in December! Till then, adios amigos!

Sincerely,

Rajan Jani

Chair

Ashwin Chetty

Vice-Chair

## Committee Background

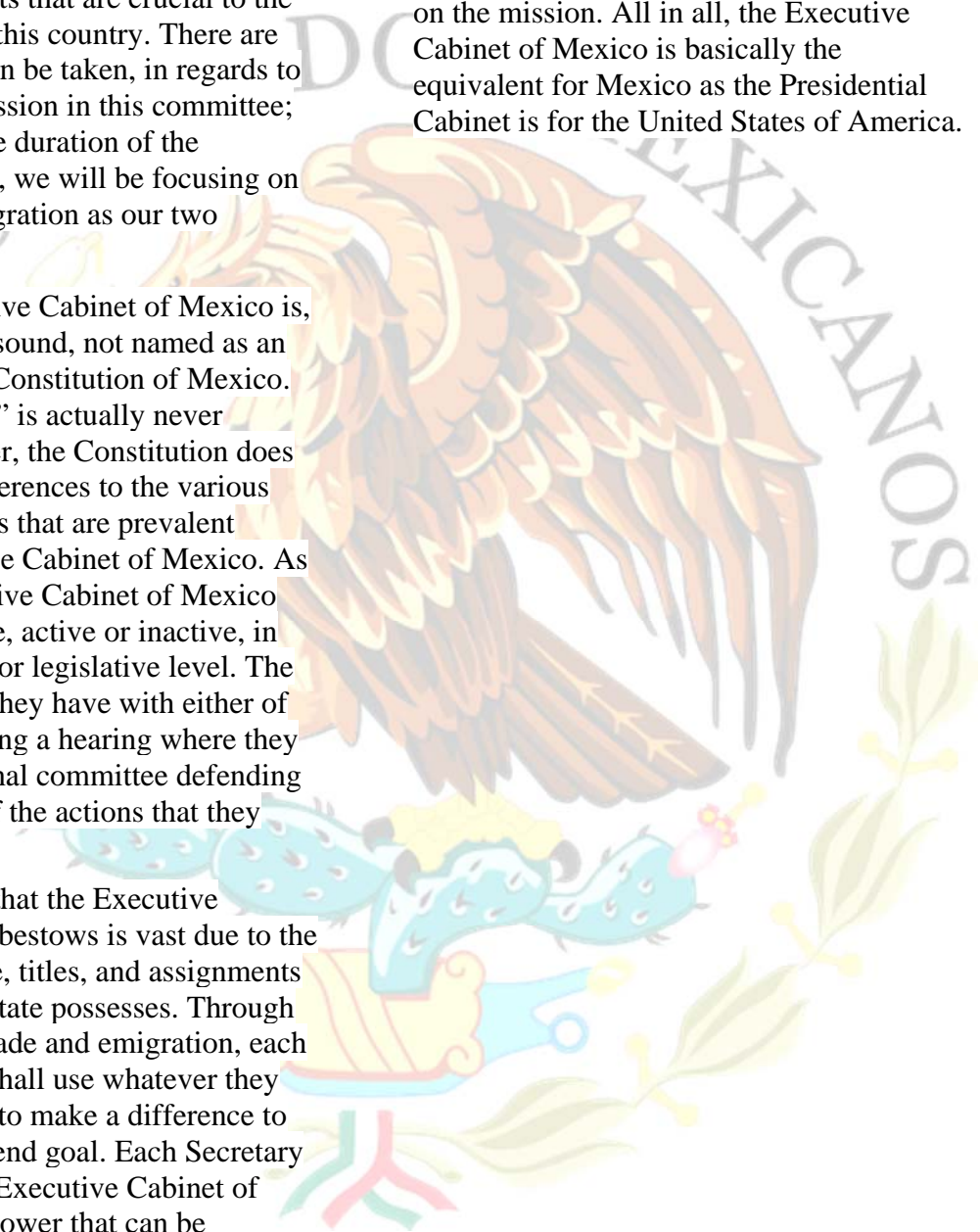
This committee, The Executive Cabinet of Mexico, is appointed by the President of Mexico, Enrique Peña Nieto. There are eighteen secretaries that each oversee various parts that are crucial to the smooth running of this country. There are many routes that can be taken, in regards to the topics for discussion in this committee; however, during the duration of the committee sessions, we will be focusing on drug trade and emigration as our two primary topics.

The Executive Cabinet of Mexico is, as odd as this may sound, not named as an official part of the Constitution of Mexico. The word “Cabinet” is actually never mentioned; however, the Constitution does make numerous references to the various Secretaries of States that are prevalent within the Executive Cabinet of Mexico. As a result, the Executive Cabinet of Mexico does not have a role, active or inactive, in the executive level or legislative level. The closest interaction they have with either of those levels, is during a hearing where they see the Congressional committee defending and justifying all of the actions that they have taken.

The power that the Executive Cabinet of Mexico bestows is vast due to the varied tasks, people, titles, and assignments each Secretary of State possesses. Through both topics, drug trade and emigration, each Secretary of State shall use whatever they can, in their power to make a difference to come closer to the end goal. Each Secretary of State within the Executive Cabinet of Mexico has equal power that can be orchestrated through any capacity within their respective branches and assignments.

The committee will formatted to include the Secretaries of State as well as the Attorney General. The Attorney General

will just be overlooking and assisting in the continuation of the committee, while all of the Secretaries of States will plan out all that is necessary to accomplish within the committee, including carrying out with any plans that are needed to successfully carry on the mission. All in all, the Executive Cabinet of Mexico is basically the equivalent for Mexico as the Presidential Cabinet is for the United States of America.



## Topic 1

### *Mexican Drug Trafficking*

#### **Background**

Mexico has long been involved in the trading of narcotics and contraband between the U.S. and Latin America due to its ideal geographic location. Mexican drug trafficking on a large scale has existed since the 1960s. After the downfall in the 1990s of the two major Colombian cartels, Colombian Cali and Medellín, Mexican drug trafficking organizations began to dominate a large majority of drug trade entering the United States. It is estimated that Mexican drug cartels control 70% of foreign narcotics entering the U.S. and transport 90% of cocaine entering the U.S.

As drug cartel activity increased so did the violence to control trafficking routes into the US. There have been reports that some cartels use “enforcer gangs” to create violence and intimidate citizens and public officials. In addition, bloodshed occurs when cartel leaders are arrested or killed as people fight to move into power. An example of this is when significant violence between drug cartels began in 1989 after the arrest of Miguel Gallardo, drug lord of the Guadalajara Cartel. Drug related violence has been increasing since 2000.

#### **Corruption**

Corruption among public officials and activity in Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs) go alongside each other. The corruption of public officials supporting criminal activity is a key issue in the Mexican government that needs to be addressed. Cartels often bribe or provide information to Mexican officials in order for officials to take action against a rival. In the past, many public officials either have turned a blind eye to the cartels’ activity or worked with the cartels for financial gain.

Poorly paid police officers is a

significant factor of corruption. By working with DTOs, police officers can earn three times their normal salary. However, studies have suggested several other causes to corruption such as but not limited to: likelihood of being caught, severity of punishment, moral cost, and the probability of suffering physical harm in the case of refusing to work with the criminals.

#### **Actions So Far**

In 2006, Mexican President Felipe Calderón’s government attempted to address police corruption and combatted cartels by deploying military personnel to replace the local police and to lead law enforcement agencies. Many high-profile arrests were made through this effort, but the cartels’ were still prominent. The main effect of Calderón’s militarization strategy was increased violence. The arrests of cartel leaders created 60-80 new DTOs which resulted in increased succession battles and territorial rivalries. In addition, the Mexican military committed human rights offenses in the process to combat DTOs; none of these violations were adequately investigated due to lack of impartiality of military courts.

In 2012, President Peña Nieto focused priorities by reducing drug violence affecting Mexican civilians. Nieto’s government centralized Mexico’s security operations which successfully worked to address better coordination between intelligence and operations agencies. This effort was followed by a decrease in violence but not a sufficient decrease.

Self-defense groups known as *autodefensas* began to appear throughout Mexico toward the end of Calderón’s term. These militias attempt to do what the local police have not, fight drug traffickers and create order within their towns.

*Autodefensas* have proven to be a relatively effective short-term approach to combating cartels. They are cheaper and faster to assemble. However, there are a few issues



with these local anti-violence groups. First, vigilante groups like the *autodefensas* are illegal, and they undermine the security forces set forth by the government. Second, these groups may turn into criminal organizations themselves; for example, La Familia Michoacana claimed that it wanted to fight the Zetas and other cartels, but it too became a drug cartel.

Very recently in 2014, President Nieto issued an elite national police force called The Gendarmerie Division. This force of 36,000 officers are considered a civil force, not a military one, and it consists of educated young recruits and veteran police commanders. The Gendarmerie will be sent to areas where criminals have created economic distress, threatened commerce, and threatened tourism. This is President Nieto's way of reducing violence in order to promote business and investment. Ernesto Portillo, director of a security think tank in Mexico, criticized this approach, "It could temporarily lower some kinds of crime, but it is not going to resolve the problem at the national level as long as there is no focus on reconstructing local and state institutions."

Cooperation between the U.S. and Mexico in the area of security has increased since 2007 due to the Mérida Initiative which gave about \$1.2 billion to Mexico to essentially reduce organized crime and demand for drugs. In the renewal of this initiative, Beyond Mérida, a larger emphasis was placed on addressing socioeconomic factors contributing to the violence. President Nieto's security strategy consists of five broad categories of focus. The details of Nieto's security strategy are not yet defined, and there is little information on how the Mexican and U.S. governments are going to evaluate the impact of the Mérida Initiative. It seems that the Mexican military will continue to be used as local law enforcement; nothing has been clarified on

how the military's role will be different from when Calderón's government tried to combat DTOs and violence.

### **Contributing Factors for Involvement**

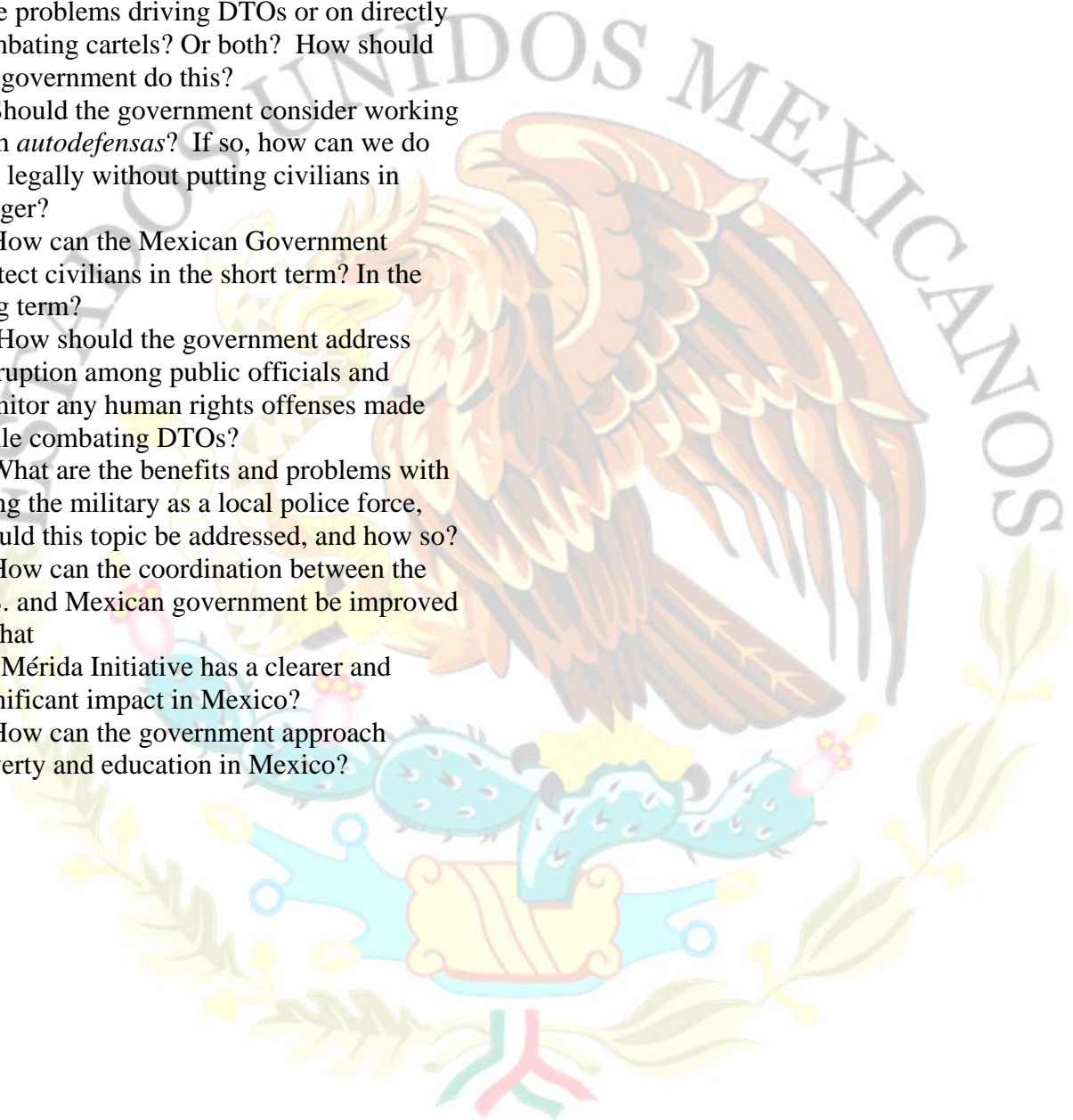
There are numerous contributing factors for involvement in DTOs in Mexico. Illiteracy and the lack of education in Mexico has been a topic for decades. Mexico has been investing more in its education, but the nation's education system hasn't significantly improved. The World Economic Forum states, "...the problem is not how much but rather how resources are invested". Resulting from a poor education system is a large number of dropouts in the lower-class who usually end up working for DTOs. Based on recent studies, those who get involved in DTOs after dropping out of school are too impatient to finish school, and majority of criminals don't like being employed, rather they would like to create their own businesses. Drug traffickers don't take the self-employment route for various reasons. One of those reasons is the lack of capital to start a business. Quality jobs and the strengthening of micro-businesses hasn't been a priority by the Mexican government in their approach to reducing violence and the operations of DTOs.

Poverty is also a contributing factor when it comes to involvement in DTOs. There is a willingness of people, especially those of a lower socio-economic class, to earn easy money by joining DTOs. In 2011, out of the countries involved in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, (OECD) Mexico had one of the greatest degrees of economic disparity, the difference of wealth between the extremely poor and the extremely rich. Also, Mexico's expenses for poverty alleviation and social development were far below the average of other countries in the OECD. So far, a successful long-term

approach to reducing poverty has not been identified.

**Questions to Consider:**

1. Should the government focus on solving core problems driving DTOs or on directly combating cartels? Or both? How should the government do this?
2. Should the government consider working with *autodefensas*? If so, how can we do this legally without putting civilians in danger?
3. How can the Mexican Government protect civilians in the short term? In the long term?
4. How should the government address corruption among public officials and monitor any human rights offenses made while combating DTOs?
5. What are the benefits and problems with using the military as a local police force, should this topic be addressed, and how so?
6. How can the coordination between the U.S. and Mexican government be improved so that the Mérida Initiative has a clearer and significant impact in Mexico?
7. How can the government approach poverty and education in Mexico?





## **Topic Two**

### *Emigration*

#### **History**

For more years than many people take into account, individuals of the Mexican descent have immigrated to other countries, usually surrounding countries. The main feeder to these immigrants is the United States of America. This is a problem that constantly surfaces Mexico as many individuals that cross the border into other countries are not always legal immigrants into those countries. Throughout the years this has turned into an even bigger problem, and it continues to grow as the years continue. There are rumors to why this has been occurring, but no solid evidence has been presented, yet. This problem of emigration has lasted long enough, and now it is our turn to put a halt to it. As a result of all the problems with the immigration, the Mexico government, including the Executive Cabinet of Mexico must take a proactive stand on this issue to further benefit the safety and security of the country as a whole.

#### **Actions Taken So Far**

So far, there have been various parts of the border that have been strengthened with increased security to prevent “border hopping.” This term is frequently used in regards to Mexican citizens illegally crossing the border into other countries, most notably the United States of America. This has resulted on a lot of havoc being ignited within the United States of America, and now, it is our turn to find a continuing solution for it.

In addition, the Mexican officials have created more and better jobs to offer to the public to entice them to stay within their country. Some of these jobs include oil drilling and other jobs near the Gulf of

Mexico, according to the United States of America Senator, Rick Perry. The Mexican government has taken some preliminary steps in this developing case; however, other steps still need to be taken in order to create a stronger population within our country as a whole.

#### **Contributing Factors for Involvement**

This scenario has numerous factors that can be adjusted for the betterment of the entire country of Mexico. There are numerous factors that are causing this entire epidemic as a whole, as well. If there was enough space and time, this list could go on and on; however, it is crucial to emphasize the main and important ones in this case.

The first factor is employment. Due to the fact that the number of good, safe, and secure jobs is scarce, many individuals want to emigrate from Mexico for a search of better opportunities. This deterrent is extremely important as one’s first priority is to provide for their family, and if they are unable to do so due to the fact that their job is not a well-paying job, or their working conditions are not safe, the amount of people that will willingly and happily work for them will be a very low number. It should also be noted that employment is one of the most well-known reasons why individuals risk their lives to escape. The development of jobs may aid the process of bringing and attracting more individuals back to Mexico to grow the country back into a more positive and higher standpoint, when all is said and done.

Next, safety is also a huge deterrent amongst the citizens of Mexico due to the fact that if one does not possess a safe place to sleep every night or a safe place to raise their family, they will be more likely to flee that place instead of embrace it. A lot of places in Mexico are currently not the safest places to be, nor the safest places to live; however, there are many ways to fix up

broken neighborhoods and cities and bring them back to life. There are many ways that the Mexican Government can intervene as well to provide more security, possibly without corruption. There are ways for the Executive Cabinet of Mexico to make this difference, but they must take the initiative to instill these changes within the country first.

Another issue that is a prominent deterrent for the citizens of Mexico includes the appeal of the country as a whole. For example, there are many tourist sites all throughout Mexico, such as Mexico City and Cancun, just to name a few. However, beyond these main attractions, there are not the prettiest of locations, as many of the local neighborhoods are impoverished and many of the buildings and scenery that is present within in these cities are not fully developed. As a result, they do not propose a underneath their branch. It is also our responsibility to make sure that we do whatever task necessary, also in any capacity, to assure that we fulfill all our duties. Lastly, it is the duty of each and every Secretary of State in the Executive Cabinet of Mexico to use their power to their fullest in order to increase the entire country of Mexico from north to south, east to west, and also anywhere in between.

All in all, the Executive Cabinet of Mexico has the same amount of potential as the amount of work that is put in by each and every Secretary of State.

positive angle to the city, nor does it keep their happiness at its pinnacle either. As a result of this horrible scenario, the Secretaries of State must step up to make Mexico a more appealing option for all citizens.

### **Conclusion**

It is evident that there are numerous possibilities to further develop Mexico as a whole in order to promote its all-around beauty, in and out. Now, it is our turn, the turn of the entire Executive Cabinet of Mexico to enlighten and further develop the nation we call home, Mexico. It is our time to make along lasting difference that will last for centuries. It is the time of the Executive Cabinet of Mexico's Secretaries of States to make initiatives in their own respective areas to further enhance the well-being of all of the citizens that fall

2. What can I do to ensure that I am assisting the rest of the Cabinet in the best of my ability?
3. How can the country be beautified to promote individuals to remain in Mexico?
4. What is aspects are needed to change to keep more citizens?
5. How can I make an impact on the emigration debacle?
6. Are there any side effects that may be present within your solutions? If so, how can they be limited?

### **Questions to Consider**

1. What is steps need to be taken to conquer the problems that are prevalent?



### **Topic 3**

#### *Tourism*

#### **Background**

Only recently has the significance of tourism been recognized as a path for economic growth, development, and increased employment opportunities. Mexico has always had many tourism sites. Of course, its major cities and beaches are the most common attractions, but there are numerous other destinations that could attract tourists and help Mexico capitalize on this industry. According to the United Nations World Tourism Organization, there has been an increase in tourism in Mexico for the past two years.

However, there have been negative sides to Mexican tourism. A former CEO of the Center for Advanced Studies in Tourism for the Mexico Ministry of Tourism stated, "Yes we are growing, but not at the speed we need." This is due partly to the negative image created by the international media. In addition, governments, especially the U.S. government, have issued warnings about traveling to Mexico due to crime and drug related violence. Cruises from the U.S. to Mexico have greatly reduced due to a negative image. However, the major tourist spots do not encounter nearly the same levels of violence as the rest of the country, but the media doesn't emphasize this. Nevertheless, violence is a major factor that holds tourists back from visiting Mexico. When compared to the global tourist market, Mexico is falling behind in its ranking for revenue generated by international tourism. The problems affecting Mexican tourism must be addressed, and tourism can then be used to increase economic growth, development, and employment in Mexico.

#### **Security**

There are many deterrents that potential tourists face when planning to

travel our country. A few major ones that seem to be well known concerns includes transportation, lodging, and all around well-being. This will be expanded upon in greater detail later on in this section.

Transportation security is crucial to ensure the well-being and safety of all those that decide to come to our wonderful country. If they are not positively protected, then they will not recommend this destination to their friends and family. Transportation is the first step to ensuring a positive experience for the family in the grand scheme.

Next, lodging. Lodging is a vital part of one's stay due to the fact that they and their belongings must feel secure while they go to sleep. It is an essential part of one's vacation because if there are glitches within the security of their place of lodging, then their experience can essentially be ruined. Though there are many more aspects to one's vacation, these two seemed the most vital.

General well-being is also an important part because they must feel secure and at home during their entire stay within our country. We must assure that we can provide them with a safe and pleasurable experience when it is all said and done.

#### **Conclusion**

All in all, security has a huge space for improvement, but we know it is possible. The expansion of security within our country will lead to increased population which will translate to more employment opportunities. This has inevitable possible side effects that cannot be neglected. When all is said and done, this will be highly beneficial for our country as a whole, if we can pull it off!

#### **Questions to Consider:**

1. How can the government create more efficient international media relations?

2. How can U.S. and Mexican relations be used to improve Mexico's image and increase tourism?
3. How can tourism be used to increase employment and economic growth?
4. How can improved unbiased security improve travel, lodging, and the

overall experience for all potential tourists at hand?

5. How can we, the Secretaries of State help increase tourism?
6. In which ways will tourism have a positive impact in other facets of the Mexican government?



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