

**"Mexico and the World
at the Dawn of 2007"
Report of a Listening Post
held on 10th January**



Encouraging The Reflective Citizen

Part 1. THE SHARING OF PREOCCUPATIONS AND EXPERIENCES

In this part of the Listening Post participants were invited to identify, contribute, and explore their experience in their various social roles. This part was concerned with what might be called 'the stuff of people's everyday lives' that related to the 'socio' or 'external' world of participants'.

Part 2. IDENTIFICATION OF MAJOR THEMES

In Part 2 the aim was to collectively identify the major themes emerging from Part 1. We concluded that the major themes are the ones that follow:

(a) Actually not only in Mexico, but also in the whole world, we have experienced the phenomenon of the aggression. The aggression behavior in people is defined like an intentional behavior that affects the integrity of an organism, other people or himself. Of the factors that can be identified as contributing to this situation it seems that the daily stress,

(b) Actually, our country is facing a lot of political changes. These changes mean that in the next years our country will face one of its hardest periods. One of these important changes is the actual type of government.

Part 3. ANALYSIS AND HYPOTHESIS FORMATION

In this part of the Listening Post the members were working with the information resulting from Parts 1 & 2, with a view to collectively identifying the underlying dynamics both conscious and unconscious that may be predominant at the time; and, developing hypotheses as to why they might be occurring at that moment. Here the members were working more with what might be called their 'psycho' or 'internal' world. Their collective ideas and ways of thinking that both determine how they perceive the external realities and shape their actions towards them. Again, there was a lack of clear, easily identifiable issues but there was, nonetheless, a lively and vigorous struggle to make sense of the Listening Post experience. This analysis has been distilled into the following two interrelated hypotheses:

Analysis and Hypothesis 1

Analysis:

The Mexican Society is considered by many people like conservative because of the great level of aggression that their habitants have. Daily we see aggression everywhere, in the streets, in mass media, and even in some of our homes. The aggression already is part of our lives, but this does not mean that it's something positive in our culture. This is a very important subject because it doesn't only affect the aggressive population; it also affects the ones which are not like that. We can blame the education, the videogames, the television and many other things, but now it's less important to know the origin this, than to look for the most favourable solution to avoid the constant growth of the problem.

Hypothesis:

The aggression is a theme of which we really speak a little in our country, in spite of being something very important with which we must face daily. In the streets, in our jobs, in the schools of our children, and even at home, often most of the conflicts are solved by means of the aggression. The aggression not only affects physically, but also psychologically. On the other hand, the aggression could be classified like "contagious". This, without speaking about medical terms, means that often when we act aggressively with others, always we obtain the same answer of them. Actually our population suffers much this type of situations, specially women, who most of the times are victims of aggressive men. Aggression can be handled and even eradicate, nevertheless, this will depend much on the conscience that people would acquire throughout these next years. Otherwise, probably in a very near future, the aggression in our country won't be a subject of discussion, and it will become a national problem, that will generate a lot of insecurity and violence in our population. Probably, in this year, the aggression will diminish a little because of all the events that are taking place in our country and by all the expectations that the population has in the present government. Nevertheless, it is important not to take lightly this subject and to give it a good solution that allows its eradication

Analysis and Hypothesis 2

Analysis:

Actually in our country, the presidential figure is completely devaluated, due to the way in which the previous president handled the country, allowing offences from all the people and the omission of his authority. At the moment, with the new president the situation is changing, since he has been like a figure with more authority. Nevertheless, a very thin line exists between authority and authoritarianism. Many consider that the authority that the president shows at the moment is appropriate, but mainly necessary so that the Mexicans will be pruned to give direction to their country. Nevertheless, others consider that this authority in the long run will become authoritarianism, generating many negative effects in the Mexican population.

Hypothesis:

As it was analyzed in the discussion, at the moment, the country is facing a very critical situation in which, a good leader can generate very positive changes and a lot of progress for all the population. At this moment, an authority figure is very important to stabilize the country, bringing stability and development. Nevertheless, also it's important to be prepared for what could happen if Mexicans are not ready for this type

of government. With the actual president two things can happen. First it would be that the interest that he shows by the country is certain, and that the authority that he is showing it's the appropriate one for helping all the Mexicans to become a stabilized country and to centralize them in all the remedial actions that will be able to solve the strongest problems in the country. The small manifestations that at the moment invade our country could be eradicated without violence, but simply arriving at the origin of the problem and eradicating all the accumulated inconformity in the town. The poverty could diminish generating new jobs from the town, motivating them to work in a more effective way, and offering them the security and the guide they need. On the other hand, the other scene is very different, since it would imply that this authority can become authoritarianism. This would be something very negative for the country, since instead of eradicating the problems, these would worsen, and would even generate more problems. The inconformity would increase, as well as the poverty and the delinquency. When turning the government into authoritarianism, the country would be divided in two, and we could arrive to small internal wars between the government and the population, showing a remarkable incapacity to engage in a dialog. Both scenes are very different, and the one the country takes, will depend much on the president, and in the way in which the town reacts to his leadership. This theme is very delicate, and it's something that will appear in this government. Therefore, it its very important to be alert to the small situations that can be considered like indicators of which would happen in this new period in our country.

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