

MEETINGS BETWEEN MEXICAN AND U.S. PRESIDENTS

Mexican President	U.S. President	Date and place
<i>Porfirio Díaz</i>	<i>William H. Taft</i>	<i>Oct. 16, 1909 Cd. Juárez, Chih. and El Paso, TX</i>

This was the first official meeting between U.S. and Mexican presidents, and it was also the first time an American president officially visited a foreign country.

<i>Plutarco Elías Calles President-elect</i>	<i>Calvin Coolidge President-elect</i>	<i>Oct. 31-Nov. 2, 1924 Washington, DC</i>
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This meeting tried to settle a contentious argument over oil and agrarian legislation that brought the two countries to the edge of war.

<i>Manuel Avila Camacho</i>	<i>Franklin D. Roosevelt</i>	<i>April 20, 1943 Monterrey, N. L. and Corpus Christi, TX</i>
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The two presidents talked about the Non-Intervention Principle and about the Good Neighbor Policy. As a result of this meeting an Economic Cooperation Commission was created and a former agreement on farm workers was modified, allowing 60 thousand Mexican workers going to the U.S. each year.

<i>Miguel Alemán Valdez</i>	<i>Harry S. Truman</i>	<i>March 3-5, 1947 Mexico City</i>
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This was the first time an American President officially visited the Mexican capital. This was a friendly visit and discussions were on U.S. loans to foreign countries and the aphthous fever problem.

<i>Miguel Alemán Valdez</i>	<i>Harry S. Truman</i>	<i>April 29-May 1, 1947 Washington, DC</i>
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This was the first time a Mexican President officially visited the U.S. capital.

<i>Adolfo Ruíz Cortinez</i>	<i>Dwight D. Eisenhower</i>	<i>Oct. 19, 1953 Presa Falcón, Tamps.</i>
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The occasion for this meeting was the inaugural celebration of the Falcon Dam built with shared investments, which included 58.6% from the U.S. and 41.4% from Mexico.

Adolfo Ruíz Cortinez

Dwight D. Eisenhower

March 26-28, 1956
White Sulphur Springs, MT

At President Eisenhower's invitation, President Ruíz Cortinez and Canadian Prime Minister Louis S. St. Laurent met to discuss a variety of tri-lateral issues which included migrant workers, illegal fishery, and civil aviation development.

Adolfo López Mateos

Dwight D. Eisenhower

Feb. 19-20, 1959
Acapulco, Gro.

The two leaders agreed to cooperate in building the 100 million dollar Diablo Dam on the Rio Grande, near Del Rio, TX. The dam was to be 250 feet high and 6.5 miles long and was to supplement the Falcon Dam. They also agreed to study ways to reach a multilateral solution to the lead and zinc problem, and to develop a coordinated plan to attack the screwworm problem.

Adolfo López Mateos

Dwight D. Eisenhower

Oct. 9-15, 1959
Washington, DC and Camp David

Shrimp fishery, Mexican cotton and zinc quotas were subjects discussed at this meeting.

Adolfo López Mateos

Dwight D. Eisenhower

Oct. 24, 1960
Cd. Acuña, Coah.

The two presidents announced that construction of the Amistad Dam across the Rio Grande would be started as soon as technical surveys were completed.

Adolfo López Mateos

John F. Kennedy

June 29-July 1, 1962
Mexico City

President López Mateos and President Kennedy announced a temporary agreement on the reduction of the salinity of the Colorado River waters used by Mexican farmers in the Mexicali Valley. The signed agreement included a \$20 million U.S. agricultural loan to Mexico.

Adolfo López Mateos

Lyndon B. Johnson

Feb. 21-22, 1964
Los Angeles, CA
Palm Springs, CA

Both Presidents spoke at the 96th Charter Day Anniversary celebration at the University of California-Los Angeles, where both received honorary law doctorates. Later in Palm Springs they tried again to seek a solution to the problem of salinity in the Colorado River waters flowing into Mexico and damaging crops. They also promised to reduce international trade barriers and to expand access to each other's markets.

Adolfo López Mateos

Lyndon B. Johnson

Sep. 25, 1964
El Chamizal, Mex.

A flood in 1864 had altered the course of the Rio Grande and had put 176.92 hectares of the Mexican territory on the U.S. side. President Johnson visited El Paso, TX to meet President López Mateos for the dedication of a marker symbolizing the settlement of the Chamizal territorial dispute between the U.S. and Mexico, under terms of the 1963 Chamizal Convention, which changed to U.S.-Mexico borderline.

Gustavo Díaz Ordaz
President-elect

Lyndon B. Johnson

Nov. 12-13, 1964
L.B. Johnson's ranch, near
Johnson City, TX

President Johnson invited the president-elect to his ranch to discuss future relations between both countries.

Gustavo Díaz Ordaz

Lyndon B. Johnson

April 14-15, 1966
Mexico City

In this first visit to a foreign capital since he became President, Mr. Johnson visited Mexico City for the unveiling of a Statue of Abraham Lincoln, a gift, authorized by Congress in 1964, of the U.S. people to the Mexican people in commemoration of Mexico's Independence. President Johnson reaffirmed U.S. support for the Alliance for Progress. Both leaders issued a joint communique in which it was agreed that Foreign Policy Principles of Latin American Nations were "self determination, non intervention, and peaceful solution of controversies," and added "the need for maintaining constantly open doors to dialogue."

Gustavo Díaz Ordaz

Lyndon B. Johnson

Dec. 3, 1966
Presa La Amistad,
Cd. Acuña, Coah.

The two presidents spent four hours inspecting the \$78 million Amistad Dam being built across the Rio Grande with U.S.-Mexico shared funding. In a joint statement the leaders cited the dam as an outstanding example of how two neighbor countries can resolve their common boundary problems with benefit to both.

Gustavo Díaz Ordaz

Lyndon B. Johnson

Oct. 26-28, 1967
Washington, DC and
El Chamizal, Mex.

The settlement of a U.S.-Mexican fishing dispute was announced at this meeting and an agreement was signed to allow vessels of each country to fish in a zone 9 to 12 miles off the coast of the other country through 1972. Both Presidents flew to El Chamizal, on the U.S.-Mexico border, to participate in ceremonies marking the formal transfer between the two countries of the land known as El Chamizal.

Gustavo Díaz Ordaz

Lyndon B. Johnson

Dec. 13, 1968
El Chamizal, Mex. And
El Paso, TX

Under terms of the 1963 Chamizal Convention the U.S.-Mexico border was changed officially in a ceremony in El Paso, TX on December 13, 1968. Presidents Johnson and Díaz Ordaz, standing on a bridge between the two countries, set off an explosion shifting the Rio Grande into a new 4.5-mile concrete channel placing all the 176.92 hectares of the disputed El Chamizal area on the Mexican side of the river. The U.S. simultaneously received 193 acres of Mexican territory, the Northern half of Cordova Island.

Gustavo Díaz Ordaz

Richard M. Nixon

Sep. 8, 1969
Presa La Amistad
Cd. Acuña, Coah.

President Nixon joined President Díaz Ordaz in ceremonies dedicating the \$78 million dollar, six-mile long Amistad Dam on the Rio Grande River, between Del Rio, TX and Cd. Acuña, Coah. This was Mr. Nixon first visit to a Latin American country during his presidency.

Gustavo Díaz Ordaz

Richard M. Nixon

*Aug. 20-21, 1970
Puerto Vallarta, Jal.*

A border agreement, in the form of a proposed treaty to be submitted to the senates of both countries, was the result of this meeting. This agreement would settle boundary disputes and uncertainties stemming from the “meandering and erratic rivers” forming about 3/5 of the 2000-mile border between the U.S. and Mexico.

Gustavo Díaz Ordaz

Richard M. Nixon

*Sep. 3, 1970
Coronado, CA*

President Díaz Ordaz was invited to a State Dinner marking the California Bicentennial at which President Nixon lauded Mexican-Americans contributions to the U.S.

*Luis Echeverría Alvarez
President-elect*

Richard M. Nixon

*Nov. 13, 1970
Washington, DC*

The main purpose of the meeting was “to talk about hemisphere and world problems and to develop a personal relationship.” The presidents agreed to exchange state visits and to work to maintain and enhance good relations between Mexico and the U.S.

Luis Echeverría Alvarez

Richard M. Nixon

*June 15-16, 1972
Washington, DC*

In a joint communique, the two countries pledged to study the problems of Mexican migrant workers who entered the U.S. for seasonal employment and to continue efforts to halt the international narcotics traffic. President Nixon also agreed to take steps to improve the quality of water flowing from the Colorado River into Mexico.

Luis Echeverría Alvarez

Gerald Ford

*Oct. 21, 1974
Nogales, Son., Magdalena de
Kino, Son. and Tubac, AZ*

President Ford affirmed support for Mexico’s proposal for a United Nations Economic Charter to protect developing countries, and promised more equipment and personnel to help Mexico stem the flow of illegal workers to the U.S.

*José López Portillo
President-elect*

Gerald Ford

*Sep. 24, 1976
Washington, DC*

This meeting was an important step in the rebuilding of U.S.-Mexican amity after some years of friction under President Echeverría.

José López Portillo

James Carter

*Feb. 14-17, 1977
Washington, DC*

A joint communique was issued in Washington, where the two presidents pledged close examination of mutual problems and regular consultation “on the search for worldwide peace, economic betterment and respect for the rights of man.” President López Portillo offered his “good offices” in helping normalize relations between U.S. and Cuba.

José López Portillo

James Carter

*Feb. 14-16, 1979
Mexico City*

Both leaders agreed to begin governmental negotiations on the US purchase of Mexican natural gas, and signed agreements on scientific and technological cooperation, the development of arid and semi-arid lands, and housing.

José López Portillo

James Carter

*Sep. 28-29, 1979
Washington, DC*

President López Portillo made an official state visit to the U.S. to attend the United Nations General Assembly and held three meetings with President Carter. They agreed to begin negotiations on compensation by Mexico for the damage done to the U.S. as a result of the runaway Ixtoc oil well in the Gulf of Mexico.

José López Portillo

*Ronald Reagan
President-elect*

*Jan. 5, 1981
Bridge between Cd. Juárez, Chih.
and El Paso, TX*

This meeting was intended to symbolize the two leaders commitment to build better relations between the U.S. and Mexico. The two presidents pledged to establish a “personal relationship” as a basis for easing tensions and renewing friendship between the neighboring nations.

José López Portillo

Ronald Reagan

*June 7-9, 1981
Washington, DC and
Camp David*

This meeting centered on economic, military and international political issues. At the end of the talks, President Reagan announced that he had accepted the Mexican President’s invitation to attend a 22 nations summit meeting on North-South issues in Cancún, Mex. Officials of the two countries signed an agreement under which the U.S. would provide six to eight million tons of grains, food stuffs and oil seeds to Mexico in 1982.

José López Portillo

Ronald Reagan

*Sep. 17-18, 1981
Grand Rapids, MI*

While in Grand Rapids, Michigan – attending the dedication of the Gerald Ford Presidential Museum, U.S. President Ronald Reagan, Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau, and Mexican President José López Portillo conferred twice.

José López Portillo

Ronald Reagan

*Oct. 22-23, 1981
Cancún, Q. Roo*

Leaders of 22 nations met in Cancún, Mexico to discuss economic cooperation between the industrialized countries of the North and the developing countries of the South. They did not issue a formal communique, but said they agreed to move toward “global negotiations” to assist the poorer nations.

*Miguel De la Madrid
President-elect*

Ronald Reagan

*Oct. 8, 1982
Tijuana, BCN and
Coronado, CA*

President Ronald Reagan and Mexican President-elect Miguel De la Madrid pledged mutual friendship and respect and said they would work together to help Mexico overcome the economic crisis that had repercussions on both sides of the border.

Miguel De la Madrid

Ronald Reagan

*Aug. 14, 1983
La Paz, BCS*

The two leaders met to discuss U.S.-Central American policy and Mexico’s economic crisis, among other issues. After their talks, President Reagan and President De la Madrid signed an agreement on finding solutions to environmental pollution on the common border.

Miguel De la Madrid

Ronald Reagan

*May 14-16, 1984
Washington, DC*

The main theme at this meeting was the U.S. and Mexican differences over Central America. President Reagan wanted the Mexican support for U.S. policies in Central America, and President De la Madrid called for the application of “principles and rules of international law established by the countries of the American continent”.

Miguel De la Madrid

Ronald Reagan

*Jan. 3, 1986
Mexicali, BCN*

The main topic at this meeting was the Mexican debt. Mexico was seeking U.S. support in obtaining loans from commercial banks and international lending agencies. President Reagan told President De la Madrid that the U.S. would back Mexico in seeking those funds.

Miguel De la Madrid

Ronald Reagan

*Aug. 13-14, 1986
Washington, DC*

In this meeting President Reagan agreed to increase cooperation in resolving Mexico’s economic problems and fighting narcotics trafficking. After the meeting, the Mexican President told reporters that the “cancer” of Mexican official involvement in the drug trade would be eliminated. President Reagan announced an end to a six-year U.S. embargo on Mexican tuna imports and said expanded trade and investment would be negotiated.

Miguel De la Madrid

Ronald Reagan

*Feb. 13, 1988
Mazatlán, Sin.*

In this, their sixth summit the two leaders signed an agreement allowing greater access to American markets for Mexican-made textiles and negotiated two other pacts: one on telecommunications and the other on civil aviation. They agreed to combat drug trafficking with more energy.

*Carlos Salinas de Gortari
President-elect*

*George Bush
President-elect*

*Nov. 22, 1988
Houston, TX*

The two incoming presidents discussed the future of relations between their countries in a three-hour session at the Johnson Space Center.

Carlos Salinas de Gortari

George Bush

*July 14, 1989
Paris, France*

The two leaders attended the Bicentennial celebration of the French Revolution in Paris, where they held a private meeting and talked about the Mexican debt.

Carlos Salinas de Gortari

George Bush

*Oct. 1-5, 1989
Washington, DC*

In this five day state visit by the Mexican President to the U.S., agreements on trade, investment, environment, steel shipments, and textiles were signed. The presidents also talked about the protection of patents and copyrights in Mexico.

Carlos Salinas de Gortari

George Bush

*June 10-12, 1990
Washington, DC*

President Bush and President Salinas issued a joint statement in which they hailed the possibility of a U.S.-Mexico free trade agreement. They said such an agreement could be a “powerful engine for economic development, creating new jobs and opening new markets” in both countries.

Carlos Salinas de Gortari

George Bush

*Sep. 30, 1990
New York, NY*

The two leaders attended the U.N. World Summit for Children in New York, where they held a private meeting.

Carlos Salinas de Gortari

George Bush

*Nov. 26-27, 1990
Monterrey and
Aguaeguas, N. L.*

The presidents conferred on issues including a U.S.-Mexico free trade agreement (President Bush Sep. 26, had formally notified the U.S. Congress that he intended to open trade discussions with Mexico) and the use of force to put Iraq out of Kuwait.

Carlos Salinas de Gortari *George Bush* *April 7, 1991*
Houston, TX

President Bush assured President Salinas that he was committed to the proposed free trade agreement between U.S. and Mexico. After his meeting, President Salinas began a tour of the U.S. and Canada to promote trilateral trade.

Carlos Salinas de Gortari *George Bush* *Dec. 14, 1991*
Washington, DC

President Bush told President Salinas that he wanted a free-trade agreement as soon as possible, and that he would try to get the support of the Congress even in an election year.

Carlos Salinas de Gortari *George Bush* *Feb. 27-28, 1992*
San Antonio, TX

During a regional antinarcotics summit President Bush directed the U.S. Defense Department to provide Mexico with 12UH-1H Huey helicopters and helicopter spare parts. The equipment was used for tracking drug traffickers.

Carlos Salinas de Gortari *George Bush* *July 14, 1992*
San Diego, CA

President Bush invited President Salinas to the Major League Baseball's annual All-Star game at San Diego's Jack Murphy Stadium.

Carlos Salinas de Gortari *George Bush* *Oct. 7, 1992*
San Antonio, TX

Trade representatives from the U.S., Canada and Mexico initialed the proposed NAFTA at a ceremony in San Antonio, Texas, thereby granting preliminary approval to the trade pact. Present at the ceremony were President Bush, Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and President Salinas.

Carlos Salinas de Gortari *William J. Clinton* *Jan. 8, 1993*
Austin, TX

U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton joined with president Salinas in the governors' mansion in Austin, Texas. Clinton in his first meeting with a foreign leader as president-elect, promised Salinas that one of his first acts as U.S. president would be the appointment of a senior aide to oversee further talks with Mexico.

Carlos Salinas de Gortari *William J. Clinton* *Sep. 26, 1994*
New York, NY

Both leaders met during the 49th United Nations General Assembly. In his address President Salinas said, "The use and threat of force, when world peace is not in danger, are no longer valid frames of reference for achieving the ends sought today by sovereign nations."

*Ernesto Zedillo
Ponce de León
President-elect*

William J. Clinton

*Nov. 23, 1994
Washington, DC*

U.S. President Bill Clinton and Mexico's next leader Ernesto Zedillo met at the White House hoping to further expand trade and other ties despite a controversy brewing over immigration. The meeting took place amid tensions sparked by a California move to deny basic services to illegal immigrants. Another priority topic was the NAFTA.

*Ernesto Zedillo
Ponce de León*

William J. Clinton

*Dec. 10, 1994
Miami, FL*

Leaders from 34 Western Hemisphere nations attended the Summit of the Americas, and agreed to take steps to establish a comprehensive free-trade body by the year 2005, to be known as the Free Trade Area of the Americas, that would be the world's largest purchasing power. On the last day of the summit, the U.S., Canada and Mexico invited Chile to join NAFTA.

*Ernesto Zedillo
Ponce de León*

William J. Clinton

*Oct. 10, 1995
Washington, DC*

Both leaders stressed the importance of \$12.5 billion in loans to Mexico from the U.S. earlier in the year that had helped Mexico avert an economic collapse. Clinton announced that the U.S. would help finance new technology for Mexico's war on drug trafficking, and Zedillo unveiled a new program to curb illegal immigration to southern California from Mexico.

*Ernesto Zedillo
Ponce de León*

William J. Clinton

*May 5-7, 1997
Mexico City*

Both Presidents signed an accord calling for broader mutual cooperation in fighting drug trafficking. Along with that accord, announced May 6, cabinet ministers had brokered minor accords on issues such as the environment, trade and border enforcement. U.S. officials agreed to work to stem the flow of illegal weapons from the U.S. into Mexico. Also, a plan to build a bridge across the Rio Grande river between the border cities of Brownsville, Texas and Matamoros, Mexico was announced. Clinton met with leaders of the conservative National Action Party (PAN) and the left-wing Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), Mexico's two main opposition parties.

*Ernesto Zedillo
Ponce de León*

William J. Clinton

*Nov. 13-14, 1997
Washington, DC*

Both Presidents signed a number of agreements that moved toward resolving some recent disputes between the two nations. Those agreements included a pledge to better cooperate in fighting drug trafficking; a new agreement on the extradition of criminals; and a pledge of cooperation in environmental and economic projects along the countries' shared border. Zedillo and Clinton, along with representatives of 26 other member nations of the Organization of American States (OAS), signed an accord to fight trafficking in illegal weapons.

Ernesto Zedillo
Ponce de León

William J. Clinton

June 9, 1998
New York, NY

At the Drug Summit of the U.N. General Assembly, President Clinton met privately with President Zedillo, and the two agreed to improve cooperation and communication and to strengthen ways to deal with drugs trafficking and money laundering.

Ernesto Zedillo
Ponce de León

William J. Clinton

Feb. 14-15, 1999
Mérida, Yuc.

The two presidents discussed policies on immigration and combating drugs, among other issues, and signed several accords. The two governments also agreed to step up efforts to control violence along the U.S.-Mexico border and to train border patrol officers to respond to violent situations without injuring civilians. The U.S. also offered Mexico \$4 billion in loans from the Export-Import Bank of the U.S. to strengthen U.S. exports to the country.