

My Lords, ladies and gentlemen, distinguished diplomats and officials from the British government gathered here today.

Friends of Mexico and friends from Mexico

Welcome all to the Residence of Mexico.

In this day, two hundred and one years ago, Mexico's fight for independence ignited.

Too frequently in celebrations as well as in turbulent circumstances, it is easy to be tempted by the nostalgic yet sterile thought that all past times were better times.

We are all aware that the world we live in is facing a set of particularly complex challenges. Economic crisis, financial instability, social disquiet and security threats, combine to create a toxic environment of uncertainty.

Denial does not make the problems go away. However, acknowledging what is wrong should not degenerate into myopic pessimism.

Octavio Paz, the universal Mexican writer once said that “the past is always present”. If two hundred and one years ago, the heroes of our independence would have seen the past as an end in itself, instead of being instrumental for the future, I am quite certain that this occasion would have never come to pass.

Allow me to give you another, more recent example. Only, sixteen years ago, Mexico’s macro economic troubles seemed overwhelming and impossible to deal with. Today, however, our national balance sheet is much stronger than most of the countries in the world, our economy, employment, competitiveness and investment, are growing amid a balanced budget and low inflation rates. If we had focused only in our adversities and not in our strengths, we would not be the growing sophisticated middle class country we are becoming today.

It is our belief that the outcome of these trying times depends on whether we give face to them as an unsurpassable river or as a bridge of opportunity into the future.

*Mensaje del Embajador de México en Reino Unido, Eduardo Medina Mora,  
con motivo de la recepción oficial para conmemorar el 201 aniversario de la Independencia mexicana.  
Londres. 15 de septiembre de 2011.*

Mexico and the United Kingdom have chosen to cross that bridge, understanding that enhanced capacity comes with enhanced partnership, and as paradoxical as it may sound, in the twenty first century, independence is spelled cooperation.

I invite you to think of this, not only as an event to commemorate with great pride our independence day, but also as the first year of a promising third centennial.

Viva Mexico!