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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

Office of Public Health and Science
Office of International and Refugee Health
Rockville, MD 20857

JUL 20 2000

DATE:

TO: HHS International Health Representatives
Operating Divisions and Staff Divisions
Design Team

FROM: Deputy Assistant Secretary for International and Refugee Health

SUBJECT: Health on the U.S.-Mexico Border – A Preparatory Report for the future,
U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission (BHC)

We are very pleased to send to you the newly published report ***Health on the U.S. – Mexico Border: Past, Present, and Future***. As you may be aware, this book represents a culmination of hard work of members of the U.S. Section of the U.S – Mexico Border Health Commission, the Department of Health and Human Services Design Team, which included the U.S. Border State Officers, and the Office of International and Refugee Health staff.

The first section outlines the potential role of the Commission to institutionalize a focus on border health that can transcend political boundaries and facilitate binational efforts on public health issues of concern to the region. The second section of the report provides an overview of the Border's current health environment and priority public health challenges. The third section offers a bibliographic listing on border-specific health issues, which will be updated periodically and made available electronically.

This report will serve as a useful tool in the process that lies ahead for the U.S – Mexico Border Health Commission. It presents a great synthesis of essential information and data on border health. We hope that it will serve your needs as a valuable resource for your work on the Border.

for Melinda Moore
for Thomas E. Novotny, M.D., M.P.H.

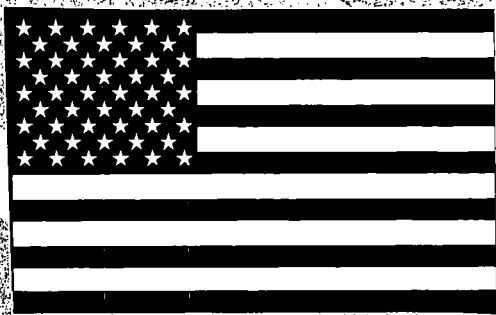
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Health on the U.S.-Mexico Border: Past, Present, & Future

**A Preparatory Report
to the Future**

**United States-Mexico
Border Health Commission**

