

Interpreting Mexican government letters from the twentieth century

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Beginning of a letter

Me es grato acusar a usted recibo de I am pleased to acknowledge receipt of...

General terms and phrases

Atento/a a flattering term (attentive) that does not change the substance of the sentence

Oficio official letter

Esta Secretaría se ha dirigido a the government official refers to his actions in the third person as the actions of his government agency, saying, “This Secretariat has reached out to...”

...rogándole tener informada a esta Dependencia del Ejecutivo again, using the third person in asking the reader to “keep this office in the Executive branch informed.”

End of a letter

Atentamente a formal way to sign a letter

Sufragio Efectivo. No Reeleccion This signoff appears on most Mexican government official correspondence in the decades following the Mexican Revolution. The signoff reaffirmed the new government’s commitment to single-term presidencies and rejection of its predecessor regime. Before the revolution, Porfirio Díaz had ruled Mexico for 30 straight years.