

## ROTARY SEMINAR TEAMS

The Rotary Seminar Team district committee sent its fifth team to share information from one Rotary district to another, this time to Mexico City. This team was known as Project Amigo. Four previous seminar teams from Houston to Eastern Europe were known as Project Free Enterprise. The idea for this new form of Rotary service was spawned when the Berlin wall came down. The team of eight Houston business people gave five seminars in one week at various locations in Mexico City. Three were all-day seminars on the basics of operating a business. One half-day seminar was for individuals thinking of starting a business. And another all-day seminar was for advanced topics of interest to certain established businesses.

The host Rotary clubs provided meeting facilities, publicity to attract the audience, and host homes for the team members. They organized the seminars in cooperation with the city government and universities there. The topics include the formal business plan, management, marketing, financial records and analysis, quality, sales techniques and philosophy, computers, import/export and international trade, and ISO 9000 standards.

The team members include two Rotarians, and six non-Rotarians. The team leader was Wanda Ellis of the Baytown Club, accompanied by the district director, Dr. David Taylor of Space Center Rotary. Also on the team were Gonzalo Montoya, a senior manager at McDonnell Douglas; George Hernandez, owner of a chemical company; Mario Garza, Certified Public Accountant; Neil Gimenes, a quality systems consultant; Rachel San Miguel, owner of an import/export company; and Rene Sanchez, a computer specialist at Rockwell. All of the presentations were in Spanish.

Houston has pioneered this seminar approach to Rotary's sharing of information between cultures. The topic can be on anything two districts want to share information on — whether its public health, agriculture, or business principles, etc. The district committee is presently working on another visit to Eastern Europe, and is open to invitations from other areas, perhaps South America. This was an on-going seminar team project which both Rotarians and interested business people can get involved in. They need only to contact the district director, Dr. David Taylor of Space Center Rotary at 332-6513.

Dr. Taylor extends his appreciation for the financial support which was received from the international budget of several clubs in the district, without which this project would not be possible. Dr. Taylor indicated that the topic of business principles was very much in keeping with Rotary's goals of world peace through understanding and service. Success in business creates jobs, personal wealth, consumer goods, a higher standard of living and welfare for the population. Free enterprise expands the middle class of a country, which is the engine which drives wealthy nations to succeed and achieve their broader goals of providing for their citizens. Successful nations foster world peace.