

University of Mexico Planning to Establish S.A. Branch

The National University of Mexico is planning to establish a permanent branch in San Antonio.

This was revealed here Thursday by Dr. Arturo Arnaiz y Freg, University of Mexico history professor and faculty member of the annual University of Mexico extension courses held here each January since 1944. The courses continue through next week at Trinity University.



DR. ARTURO ARNAIZ Y FREG

Dr. Arnaiz said university authorities hope to open the San Antonio branch next September and may use the vacant second floor of the Mexican Consulate in the former Federal Reserve Bank Bldg. at Navarro and Villa Sts.

He said the university will pay all initial expenses of starting the school. Eventually, he said, it is hoped that tuition fees will pay the entire cost of operation. The school would start with a staff of six or seven professors transferred from the university in Mexico City.

Arnaiz said the plan was patterned after the Mexican-American Institute for Cultural Relations, which now has 8,000 students in Mexico. Noting that some 500 Texas students attend summer sessions at the University of Mexico, Arnaiz said many of these could take up preliminary work, for credit, at the San Antonio branch.

He said the course offered at the new school would also appeal to San Antonio residents of all ages, such as those who have been attending the short extension courses held annually. A majority of these, he said, are of Anglo-American extraction.

"We consider San Antonio the entrance door of Mexico and it has held that strategic position for more than two centuries. As a result, San Antonio has a very clear Latin flavor and is a very fortunate synthesis of cultural influ-

ences," Arnaiz said.

"Each civilization is a system of secrets," said Dr. Arnaiz, and we would like to give people in San Antonio a window into ours. The city of San Antonio must re-

main as the most important bridge between our two languages and two cultures.

Arnaiz noted that "bilingual people are needed both in Mexico and the United States."