The United States of [fill in the blank]47

By Mike Fascetta

As I look out the window this morning, everything looks the same. As far as I know this is still the United States of America… or is it? Stop and think for a second at what’s going on around us, and maybe you’ll start to feel like the one who’s in the foreign country.

What happened? When did we give up our sovereignty? Since when do we allow other countries to dictate our policies, interpret our Constitution, and insist that we correct the problems of their countries, as if it was our fault they have them? The perfect example – more than any other – is Mexico, and their drug and gun problem.

The fact that Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano and Attorney General Eric Holder crawled with their tails tucked between their legs over to Mexico to beg President Felipe Calderon’s forgiveness, is testimony to this. Since we are “responsible” for all this crime and mayhem, they promised to fix Mexico’s problems, even if it means going against our laws and Constitution.

It’s funny though, that the Obama administration has praised Calderon for being tough and courageous for taking on the powerful drug cartels that have been terrorizing Northern Mexico and threaten to cross over into the United States.

But, what is Mexico doing that makes them so tough and courageous? Let’s see: 1.) Ciudad Juarez’s Police Chief resigned because gangs said if he didn’t, they would kill more officials. So he resigned. 2.) The entire Mexican military can’t defeat a group of thugs who appear to be better trained and have more knowledge of warfare than the Taliban. I think it’s time for boot-camp revision. 3.) How about corruption? For example, the prosecutor in charge of the Mexican federal organized crime unit was charged with taking $450,000 per month in bribes to sneak information to one of the drug cartels. Now, that’s the way to kick some butt!

Mexico still says this is our fault, because – you see – we have a Second Amendment in our Constitution that is responsible for the deaths of about 800 police officers, because all of the weapons used in those murders are coming from the United States. (While you ponder this, go back and think about what the “tough and courageous” Mexican government has been doing about the problem.)

Mexican President Calderon says if anything is to change, the United States needs to tighten rules on the sale – not just the cross-border transport – of weapons. To him that means, “It is necessary to reduce the sale of weapons, particularly of high powered weapons, in the United States.”

And then there’s all the money we owe them! Not only do we need to ban guns and change our laws, but we have to pay for it, too! And, apparently, we’re not doing it fast enough, according to Mexico’s Attorney General Eduardo Medina-Mora. He claims that the United States promised hundreds of millions of dollars worth of training and surveillance equipment. Medina-Mora said the U.S. Congress seems reluctant to fund and aid in Mexico’s fight, and that reinstating the Clinton Administration’s 1994 Assault Weapons Ban should be a priority.

In describing “assault weapons,” Medina-Mora said, “Though not machine guns and not necessarily more powerful than other types of rifles or pistols, they have an enormous intimidation effect, and the overwhelming majority come from the USA.”

The fact is, while the “overwhelming majority” of traceable firearms may indeed come from the USA (i.e. sold by U.S. companies to the Mexican army and stolen by deserting soldiers), most of the weapons seized in Mexico (including hand grenades, rocket-propelled grenades and automatic weapons) come from South America, China and Russia.

No assistance, money or firearms bans are asked from these countries. Recently, a Mexican citizen shopping for a hunting rifle at the Directorate for Arms and Munitions Sales was quoted as saying, “If the United States had a system like ours, we wouldn’t have so many problems here in Mexico.”

You see, in Mexico, there is only one gun store, and the Mexican army runs it! Want to know what it takes to get that hunting rifle? 1.) Owners must get a permit. They must show they need a gun and demonstrate that they make “an honest living.” The simplest permits take about eight days to process. 2.) Permission to carry a weapon requires a medical and psychological exam, as well as an exhaustive background check. Processing time is four to eight months and the permit must be renewed annually. 3.) Guns can be bought at only one place: the National Defense Secretariat in Mexico City. Customers can own a total of 10 guns but only two handguns. 4.) Guns are registered by the military. Handguns sold under a “home defense” permit must not leave the owners home. If the owner moves, he or she must update the gun registry. If the gun is sold, the sale must be approved by the military and the gun must change hands at the army headquarters in Mexico City. 5.) Gun owners can buy ammunition only for guns that they own. They are limited to a certain amount of cartridges: 200 rounds every six months for a high-powered weapon, 500 rounds a month for a .22 caliber pistol.

So, is this our future? It would appear that the Homeland Security Secretary, the Attorney General and the President think so.

You tell me, where do we live – The United States of Northern Mexico? The Union of North America? or, The United States of America? What are YOU going to do about it?