**Transcription from Observational Walk notes**

Route in Santo Domingo: Tlalli to Cuicatl, market and school and back.

Duration: 75 minutes

Date and time: November 10, 2022 - from 10:20 am to 11:35 am

Additional notes (as well as field notes): walk in a different area of Santo Domingo, not so close to the site of the Water Defence Committee meetings but part of the geography of the neighbourhood.

Observer: A

I arrive at 10:20 am in Copilco, and start walking along Tlalli towards Santo Domingo. I'm in the northern part of the neighbourhood, which, separated by Tlalli, feels like a different part of the neighbourhood from Tetl street, where I've also walked. Tlalli has three lanes in each direction, and is a large avenue with a median in the middle. This avenue is transformed every Saturday, because from Mixtli to Cuicatl there is a very large street market (tianguis) selling everything from food to clothes and household items.

I walk along Tlalli and to my left there are closed streets that belong to Santo Domingo but are separated from an adjacent neighbourhood, called Romero de Terreros, by a wall. The wall was built on the initiative of the inhabitants of Romero de Terreros, which is a middle-class neighbourhood, a few years after the land invasion of Santo Domingo. The inhabitants of the neighbourhood know it as the "Berlin Wall", according to studies by authors such as Fernando Díaz Enciso and Mateo Gutmann. The wall separated the two neighbourhoods and was built by the inhabitants of Romero de Terreros to "protect themselves" from the people of Santo Domingo. It is a clear example of how one place has its meaning by relating to or opposing another, and how power leaves its mark on the territory. At the end of most of the closed streets, which also go from the height of Mixtli to Cuicatl, there is an altar with a Virgin Mary.

On Tlalli street there are many shops, and even a small square with shops, which is on the corner with Cuicatl street. This is the area of Santo Domingo with more franchises or businesses on a larger scale than those found, for example, on Tetl Street. On this street there are banks, pharmacies, inexpensive restaurants, fast food, and convenience stores. This is because many people pass through Tlalli every day, either by car or bus.

Six years ago, the government put a linear park with playgrounds, a skatepark, benches, and gardens on the Tlalli parkway. This park serves as a meeting point for many people. From this street I can see the park and the people sitting on benches or walking their dogs. I see that there is a building under construction and that there are also restaurants opening in a few hours. I reach Cuicatl street, where a neighbourhood next to Santo Domingo, called Pedregal de Coyoacán, begins. This neighbourhood consists of flat towers, and is a gated neighbourhood. It is a middle class area. The contrast with Santo Domingo is also noticeable in the way one enters the neighbourhood, as there are guards at the entrance. In the linear park above Tlalli, I see that there is a plaque from the Mexico City government indicating that the neighbourhood was given the park.

At 10:48 I enter through Cuicatl. There are also many shops on this street, although they are now closed. I also see several trees on this street, planted on the pavements. These trees, and others on the streets of the neighbourhood, make this space not completely grey. On this street I also see an event hall that looks abandoned. On the street there are some semi-new apartment buildings, but not as many as on the streets of Mixtli or Tlalli, where there are more new buildings offering new flats for sale or rent. Among these new buildings is one built by the government, by its Housing Institute, as part of a local initiative to produce social housing at a lower price than what is available on the market.

Walking down Cuicatl I arrive at a public library at 10:53. During my walk on this street a vendor offers me a jelly, asking me "Una gelatina güerito?", and I say no, thanking him. The public library is next to a community centre (where workshops and courses are offered). Today it is closed, but I see that they have organised activities in previous days, such as a reading of Coyoacán folklore stories. I continue walking and see that next to the library there is also a church. I see advertising on the church as well, calling the community to get involved in religious activities. The library has a church on one side, and a market on the other side. This market is open, and I can see from the outside that it has food for sale, as well as businesses such as hairdressers and household goods. In front of the market I see a sign attached to one of its walls, with an advertisement inviting to a "Biodiversity Activity", which is free of charge. This activity is organised by the public library. Next to the market there is a secondary school and a primary school, separated by Tochtli street.

I turn into this street and see that there are many food stalls, mainly selling tacos and tortas. There are people already eating at these stalls, or preparing food. This makes me think about the importance of eating in the street for the social interaction of the neighbourhood. I also see that there are some places on the street, especially in Cuicatl, that are restaurant-style. In one of these places people are eating and I can see that the attendant is calling a customer by name. At one of the taco stands on the street, I see a couple with a pram stop and talk to the taquero. Apparently they are introducing him to a baby they are carrying in the pram. It's a happy moment.

I return and enter the market at 11:03. Inside the market there are food stalls, herbs, accessories, hairdressers. These markets are important places for the local geography and the economy of the neighbourhood. I leave the market and enter the community centre and stop in front of the library. The library is closed, but I see that there are tables inside. It is very interesting to see that the market, the church, the school and the library are together.

I walk back down Cuicatl street, and I stop in front of a business selling purified water. People bring their jugs to be washed and filled up with clean water. These businesses are quite common because people do not drink water from the tap. As I look at this business, a worker comes out of the place, greets me, and explains the costs, opening hours, and the procedure to get water.

A person brings his or her jug, and at this place you can fill it with purified water, and also leave it to be cleaned before that. When you just go to fill a jug, you put it under a pipe from which water comes out. I take a photo of the place to take her details, and she offers me a card. I take the card and a man comes out of the side of the shop and explains to me again everything that the woman had already explained and tells me about the opening hours of the place. The tube that fills the jugs, which is self-service because one inserts the money, and this service is offered 24 hours a day. From Monday to Saturday there are also staff who take a jug, clean it, and refill it with clean water. This costs a little more. I myself use the service of a similar place near the space where I am living.

At 11:15 I'm on the pavement again and walking towards the metro. In this linear park I see birds, people walking their dogs, sitting on benches, or walking. In the background, behind the closed streets and the "Berlin Wall", I can see a luxury flat tower that is the tallest in the city. Although it is not very close to Santo Domingo, you can see this tower in the background, like a skyline, a distant future, and exclusionary city whose shadow lurks over the neighbourhoods of this city. At 11:35 I am back at Metro Copilco.