

REPORT OF THE U. S. DELEGATION

Committee III

The United States Delegation, like that of Mexico, attaches major significance to the improvement of understanding and friendship between our two peoples by means of a greatly expanded program of social, cultural and technical interchanges, an increasing flow of private tourism and the steady application of statesmanship to the solution of the remaining problems which beset our common border.

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In important respects, we feel that the other two principal topics of our Conference discussion depend upon this one. Cultural appreciation and intellectual understanding are the father and the mother of economic and political progress. Just as laws flow ultimately from public opinion, so improved economic relations and viable political institutions and agreements must be rooted in widespread public understanding between the people of our respective nations. It is human nature to fear and mistrust that which we do not understand, to embrace that which we do.

CULTURAL EXCHANGES

We are convinced that enormous benefits already have accrued to the enrichment of both of our societies through the growth over the past few years of the educational exchange programs.

It is our considered opinion that greater emphasis should be placed upon enlarging the number of undergraduate scholastics, students at the formative stage of the High School level, who visit and study in each of the host countries annually.

"Cultural Clusters"

In this connection, we think that, for the welfare of the student, it may be a mistake to encourage singular exchanges in which one student from either nation would find himself alone in an unfamiliar environment faced with making the necessary adjustments without the helpful association of at least a few others from his own country. For this reason, we favor sending or receiving a "cultural cluster" of at least four to six students in a group.

Selectivity

Additionally, we regard it of utmost importance that special attention be devoted in both nations to the selectivity of students, particularly the younger students, for these missions. First, we believe they should come from homes in which there exists an enthusiastic support of the program on the part of the parents. Secondly, we consider it highly desirable that young people chosen for these student interchanges first should have received at least rudimentary training in the language of the host country. Finally, the student himself should be possessed of a strong individual desire for the

opportunity and of the intellectual and personality traits which point to a probability of his successful participation in the program.

There is nothing worse, in our judgment, or more potentially unfair to the student himself -- whether he be a Mexican or a North American -- than to send him on an assignment of this type for which he lacks the necessary background to succeed.

A Cross Section

At the post-graduate level, the selectivity process already has asserted itself naturally in most cases. Nevertheless, we do feel that in too many instances an artificial barrier imposes itself against students of modest financial means. In order to gain the maximum advantage for our two societies and our common civilization, we regard it important that student exchanges in the future should not be confined to the relatively wealthy but should represent a cross-section of our cultures, with adequate financial assistance provided where necessary to alleviate the burdens imposed upon those promising students who otherwise would be unable to realize this ambition.

University of the Americas

We of the United States Delegation are intrigued over the possibilities offered by the University of the Americas, located in Mexico City, as a sort of pilot project in bi-national studies. We consider it a unique and exciting experiment, capable of serving both as a bridge of preparation in which Mexican students

desirous of pursuing advanced studies in the United States could perform a smooth preliminary transition in their own land, and also as a bridge of understanding in which students from our two countries could study side by side, in approximately equal numbers, and thus enjoy the many advantages of mutual learning. We would like to see more Mexican students enrolled there, and only when this happens can we legally increase the number of scholarships for North American students.

In all of the educational interchanges, we feel that both countries have only scratched the surface.

Parallel Visits

The same may be said for other bi-lateral exchange programs. We consider that they are only in their infancy. Many varied pursuits and professions afford rewarding potential for parallel visits in homes of counterparts from one another's country (hosts with whom the visitor would have a great deal in common) -- factory managers with factory managers, labor leaders with labor leaders, newsmen with newsmen, for example. Internships among civil servants, observing the activities of their opposite numbers, might improve both understanding and public administration in each of our countries.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Exchanges of a somewhat broader scope, carried out between political sub-divisions within our nations, have demonstrated marked results in many cases. Numerous cities in the United States have "adopted" sister cities in Mexico, with regular

official visitations carried out between them. We think this practice should be encouraged and expanded.

The State of Arizona and the State of Sonora have seen the flowering of great mutual technical benefits from a small seed planted by a close working relationship begun between the two State Universities. This relationship has grown to a point where joint committees have been appointed by the Governors of the two states, comprising leaders in the fields of agriculture, mining, hydrology, public health, etc. Tangible results flowing from this union of interests have included improvements in quarantine methods for cattle, the introduction of new agricultural techniques, and the construction with financial and technical help from the U. S. Department of Interior of an effective sea water conversion plant at Puerto Peñasco, to furnish all the water for the schools and the hospital of that Mexican city, water which otherwise would have required hauling by tank cars over long distances.

Hemispheric Health and the Disabled

One special area of needed technical assistance mentioned by the Mexican Delegation at the committee sessions has particular appeal to the U. S. Delegates. It was the consensus among us that both delegations should encourage our respective Departments of State and our representatives in the OAS to advocate and support a broadened hemispheric program through the Pan American Health Organization. Such a program should, in our opinion, encompass increased research into causes and

cures of the diseases which continue to plague the peoples of the Western Hemisphere. It also should include programs of treatment and training for disabled people, both the mentally retarded and the physically handicapped, to the end that even the humblest among us may realize his own individual potential and no person in this humane hemisphere may be condemned to the indignity of a life of uselessness.

DEMOGRAPHIC CONFERENCE

Deeply concerned with the present rate of world population growth, Committee III appointed a sub-committee composed of two members from ^{each of} our respective delegations, and this sub-committee drafted a Committee proposal that the Mexican and United States delegations

"recommend to their respective governments that they take immediately such steps as may be necessary to initiate, either through existing international organizations or independently if necessary, an international conference to study the problem of world demographic growth."

MIGRATORY WORKERS

Termination of the Bracero program undoubtedly is necessitating economic readjustments in both of our countries. It seems mutually agreed that two major, over-riding considerations should govern any and all future agreements and controls with respect to migratory workers from Mexico into the United States: (1) realistic guarantees that wage rates shall not be depressive or disruptive of prevailing rates or job opportunities among U. S. workers; and (2) enforceable protections against discrimination, mistreatment or unjust exploitation

of Mexican workers.

TOURISM AND BORDER PROBLEMS

The greatest good will ambassadors of any free nation are its citizens themselves, and we rejoice over the ever-increasing number of tourists who, once but a trickle and now a flow, have been crossing our border from both directions, to find for themselves the scenic beauties and the human hospitality of our two lands.

We fully anticipate that, as moderate affluence becomes the lot of the rank and file in both our societies, as communications improve and the few remaining barriers to free interchange are systematically eradicated, the plain people of our countries will forge between them the links of enduring peace and more perfect understanding.

When we contemplate other national borders throughout the world, bristling with bayonettes and burdened with brick, we are grateful that we share our border with good neighbors. We foresee a day when this border will unite more than it divides.

As Speaker Sam Rayburn often said, "The way to have a friend is to be a friend." We hope that we can be worthy of that admonition.