

USAID/Quito  
c/o American Embassy  
Quito, Ecuador

Dear Hector:

I am enclosing a letter written to Arch Napier, Tim<sup>e</sup>-Life correspondent. As you can see there is a possibility of getting a story in Time-Life magazine and I will of course keep you informed of the situation. I do not want to bring the matter up before the GI Forum because the "operation amiggo" project is going along real well. Procopio sent me the news clippings of your trip to Albuquerque. I would like to get other organizations such as the Medical Association to help out in the project for the San Juan de Dios Hospital.

I am enclosing some pictures of the hospital to have them shown to the Association. If you think this project will interfere with the "operation amigo" project in Corpus Christi then do not mention it to anyone as I believe I can get some aid from San Antonio.

Please give my regards to veryone there. I certainly miss you and all the members of the Forum.

Tu amigo,  
*Chente*  
Chente

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Mr. Arch Napier  
Time-Life Correspondent  
P. O. Box 1162  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Dear Arch:

The Mexico City office of Life magazine have finally come through with the first copy of your complimentary subscription. They evidently could not understand why a letter addressed to Albuquerque should be answered by a person in Quito, Ecuador. It took them three months and two pieces of correspondence before they figured the puzzle.

I have run across a story worthy of interest to the editors of Life. There is a hospital, San Juan De Dios, which will celebrate the 400th anniversary in 1965. Since it's founding on March 9, 1565, the hospital has never closed for a single day. It was the only hospital in Quito until 1919 when a military hospital was added. I have not been able to verify if the hospital is the oldest in the western hemisphere. It would seem that it is, but Mexico might have one older than the San Juan De Dios Hospital.

The King of Spain was named as the founder of the hospital, and the official act states that no one will be denied admittance because of race (Indians, Mestizos, Spaniards) or poverty. The hospital was to be a charitable institution for all and those who could not pay were to be treated in the same manner as those who contributed. The act further states that no religious person would be allowed to interfere in the administration of the hospital. I believe the prohibition against religious persons applied to archbishops and church officials, because today the hospital is run by the Catholic sisters of Charity. There is a discriminatory clause in the act which states that "separate but equal" quarters are to be furnished the Indians. Today the hospital does not have separate wards for the Indians.

I visited the 200 bed hospital a couple of days ago and was amazed that it functions as well as it does in spite of the lack of medical equipment and facilities. I took some pictures which are enclosed. Would you be so kind as to investigate the possibility of a story by Life. I am interested in getting publicity which will result in aid to the hospital. Dr. Luna, an Ecuadorean physician is drawing up a list of some items such as microscopes, weight scales, and other things that can be easily sent from the U.S. Dr. Hector Garcia of Corpus Christi and my brother, Dr. Eduardo Ximenes of San Antonio will be asked to bring the matter up before their respective ~~xxxxxx~~ local Medical Association. I believe transportation can be furnished by military plane or ~~xxx~~ ship. Let me know what you think of the idea.

Tu amigo  
Vicente

AFTER 5 DAYS RETURN TO

Vicente T. Ximenes

USAID/Quito

c/o American Embassy

Quito, Ecuador



Dr. Hector P. Garcia  
GI Forum Founder  
3024 Morgan Ave.  
Corpus Christi, Texas

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