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Pan American Day

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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April 14, 1960

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STATEMENT OF SENATOR MIKE MANSFIELD (D., MONTANA)

PAN AMERICAN DAY

Mr. President:

Today marks the 70th Anniversary of the founding of the Pan-American Union which we now know as the Organization of the American States. This is the principal organization through which the American Republics give institutional form to their common desire for close and continuing cooperation in all matters affecting the Western Hemisphere.

This past year in hemispheric history, Mr. President, has not been without its grave difficulties. One has only to note, in this connection, the unfortunate state of tensions which exist between this nation and our close neighbor, Cuba. On the other hand there have been encouraging developments during the past year. The frank exchanges which occurred between Mr. Eisenhower and Latin American leaders during the course of the President's recent visit and the straight-talking of President Frondizi of Argentina and President Lleras and others on their visits to the United States have helped to clear the air.

The stage is set to go forward to a new era of hemispheric cooperation and I hope that we shall see that era begin in the near future. I express particularly the hope that the passions will cool

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in our difficulties with Cuba and that the present antagonism and estrangement will be replaced by a determined effort on both sides to reach an understanding of one another's complaints, attitudes and aspirations and that in that fashion we shall begin to close the present unfortunate breach.

Hemispheric cooperation is something every American republic--ourselves no less than any other--needs in its own national interests. It is a foundation of the peace and the economic and social progress of the Americas. I can think of no better occasion to reaffirm our determination to face frankly and to deal patiently but persistently with the problems which beset that cooperation than on this anniversary, this Pan-American Day.

Mr. President, I introduce at this time a resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.