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## Closing Plenary Session

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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REMARKS OF SENATOR MANSFIELD  
CLOSING PLENARY SESSION, MAY 26, 1973

MR. CHAIRMAN, FIRST OF ALL, LET ME EXPRESS THE THANKS OF ALL THE UNITED STATES DELEGATES TO THE ENTIRE MEXICAN DELEGATION FOR THE SPLENDID ARRANGEMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE FOR THIS CONFERENCE. FOR SEVERAL OF US, IT HAS BEEN A PERSONAL PLEASURE TO RETURN TO THE LOVELY, HOSPITABLE CITY OF GUANAJUATO AFTER TEN YEARS.

FOR THE DELEGATION, IT HAS BEEN AN EQUAL PLEASURE TO PARTICIPATE IN THESE STIMULATING DISCUSSIONS. AS ALWAYS, OUR TALKS HAVE BEEN HELD IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF CORDIALITY AND MUTUAL RESPECT AND WITH SCRUPULOUS REGARD FOR THE PRINCIPLES OF NONINTERVENTION AND SELF-DETERMINATION. WE MEET TO LEARN, NOT TO PREVAIL OR TO MAKE NEWS. THIS IS AS IT SHOULD BE, NOT ONLY BECAUSE IT IS RIGHT, BUT ALSO BECAUSE IT IS THE ONLY WAY IN WHICH THIS CONFERENCE CAN FUNCTION IF IT HOPES TO ACHIEVE ENDURING RESULTS.



I VENTURE TO SAY THAT, IN THIS THIRTEENTH MEXICO-UNITED STATES INTERPARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE, WE HAVE ACHIEVED SUCH RESULTS. WE HAVE IMPROVED OUR MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND THAT NEW LIGHT WILL BE CARRIED BACK TO OUR RESPECTIVE LEGISLATIVE CHAMBERS. SOME WILL FILTER FROM US TO OUR RESPECTIVE COLLEAGUES AND TO OUR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS AS A WHOLE.

WE MIGHT AS WELL ACCEPT THE FACT THAT, INEVITABLY, THERE ARE GOING TO BE PROBLEMS OF ONE KIND OR ANOTHER IN OUR RELATIONS. MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES HAVE TOO MANY POINTS OF CONTACT TO AVOID THIS. ALONG A COMMON BORDER AS LONG AND AS HEAVILY TRAVELLED AS OURS, THERE ARE GOING TO BE SOURCES OF FRICTION. BETWEEN TWO NATIONS WHOSE TRADE IS AS LARGE AS OURS, THERE ARE GOING TO BE POINTS OF DIFFERENCE. DIPLOMACY CAN DULL THE SHARPNESS OF THESE POINTS, TO KEEP THE PROBLEMS SMALL ENOUGH SO THAT THEY ARE

MANAGEABLE IF NOT SOLUBLE. THE DIPLOMATS OF OUR COUNTRIES HAVE PERFORMED THIS TASK WITH A GRATIFYING MEASURE OF SUCCESS FOR MANY YEARS. IN THE END, HOWEVER, IT IS FROM POLITICS IN BOTH COUNTRIES THAT DURABLE SOLUTIONS MUST EMERGE. IT IS IN THAT SENSE THAT I WOULD SUGGEST THAT WE LOOK FOR THE PRINCIPAL CONTRIBUTION OF THIS THIRTEENTH INTERPARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE AND ITS PREDECESSORS.

IN SPECIFICS, THIS CONFERENCE, I HOPE AND BELIEVE, HAS CARRIED FORWARD ONE MORE STEP THE PROPOSAL WHICH ORIGINATED IN THE FIFTH INTERPARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE IN LA PAZ IN 1965 TO USE THE TECHNIQUES OF MODERN SCIENCE FOR THE NUCLEAR DESALINIZATION OF SEA WATER, SOMETHING WHICH WOULD BE OF IMMENSE BENEFIT BOTH TO NORTHWESTERN MEXICO AND THE SOUTHWESTERN UNITED STATES.

WE HAVE ALSO, I HOPE AND BELIEVE, BROUGHT MUCH CLOSER THE DAY WHEN THERE WILL BE A PERMANENT, DEFINITIVE,



AND JUST SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM OF THE SALINITY OF THE COLORADO RIVER -- A SOLUTION WHICH IS INSEPARABLE FROM POLITICS. THIS IS A PROBLEM WHICH HAS VEXED OUR RELATIONS FOR MUCH TOO LONG. IT IS ONE WHICH WE HAVE THOUGHT WAS ON THE VERGE OF SETTLEMENT MANY TIMES ONLY TO SEE OUR HOPES DISAPPOINTED. NEVERTHELESS, I DARE TO THINK THAT WE ARE NOW ON A MORE SOLID FOUNDATION. MUCH OF THE CREDIT GOES TO PRESIDENTS NIXON AND ECHEVERRIA, AND TO A FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES, MR. HERBERT BROWNELL. IF THIS TIME A SETTLEMENT IS INDEED ACHIEVED, THE IMPLEMENTATION WILL REQUIRE CONGRESSIONAL ACTION AND THAT ACTION WILL BE MORE READILY FORTHCOMING BECAUSE OF THE DISCUSSIONS WE HAVE HAD AT THIS INTERPARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE, AND AT PRECEDING CONFERENCES.

THAT IS THE PATTERN OF THE CHAMIZAL SETTLEMENT. A LONG-STANDING IRRITANT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WAS REMOVED

BY PRESIDENTS KENNEDY AND LOPEZ MATEOS, BUT ONLY AFTER THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY MEETINGS HAD TAKEN THE EMOTIONAL HEAT FROM THE ISSUE AND REPLACED IT WITH A SOBER APPRECIATION OF THE FACTS. THEREAFTER, WHEN THE TREATY OF SETTLEMENT ON THE CHAMIZAL WAS NEGOTIATED, LEGISLATIVE ACCEPTANCE -- POLITICAL ACCEPTANCE -- WAS ALREADY ASSURED.

WE HAVE SPENT A GOOD DEAL OF TIME AT THIS CONFERENCE, AND AT ITS PREDECESSORS, IN DISCUSSING WAYS AND MEANS TO IMPROVE COOPERATION BETWEEN MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES WITH RESPECT TO OUR BILATERAL PROBLEMS. BESIDES THE TWO SPECIFIC MATTERS I HAVE MENTIONED, THESE HAVE INCLUDED SUCH THINGS AS BILATERAL TRADE POLICIES, CONTROL OF THE TRAFFIC IN DRUGS, INCREASED CULTURAL, TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE, AND THE PROMOTION OF TOURISM BOTH WAYS.

MORE THAN ANY OF ITS PREDECESSORS, HOWEVER, THIS CONFERENCE HAS ALSO DEVOTED ATTENTION TO LARGER ISSUES,



TO ISSUES WHICH CONCERN BOTH MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES,  
TO BE SURE, BUT WHOSE MANIFESTATIONS AND IMPLICATIONS  
ARE WORLDWIDE. WE HAVE, FOR EXAMPLE, TALKED ABOUT THE LAW  
OF THE SEA, ABOUT THE CONTROL OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, AND ABOUT  
PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S PROPOSED CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS  
AND DUTIES. THIS TREND REFLECTS, IN LARGE DEGREE, THE  
CHANGING INTERNATIONAL POSITION OF THE NATION IN WHICH  
THIS THIRTEENTH INTERPARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE HAS BEEN HELD.  
MEXICO IS LOOKING BEYOND THE HORIZONS OF THIS HEMISPHERE,  
AS, INDEED, THIS NATION MUST IF THE NEEDS OF ITS PEOPLES  
ARE TO BE MET. CONVERSELY, THE WORLD OF "IN-BETWEEN  
COUNTRIES," IF I MAY USE THAT PHRASE, LOOKS IN THIS  
DIRECTION FOR A CONTINUING AND GROWING CONTRIBUTION OF  
LEADERSHIP, A CONTRIBUTION WHICH MEXICO IS EMINENTLY  
QUALIFIED TO MAKE ON THE BASIS OF ITS PROFOUND AND  
NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS, ESPECIALLY IN THE LAST HALF CENTURY.

-7-

SO, MR. CHAIRMAN, THESE ARE SOME OF THE OLD  
UNDERSTANDINGS RENEWED AS WELL AS NEW PERCEPTIONS WITH  
WHICH THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION WILL RETURN HOME.  
MOST OF ALL WE WILL TAKE WITH US A DEEPER SENSE OF WHAT  
WE SHARE AND WHAT WE MUST YET LEARN TO SHARE IN THE  
COMMON INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE OF BOTH MEXICO AND THE  
UNITED STATES AND, IN A LARGER SENSE, IN OUR COMMON  
INTERESTS WITH OTHER NATIONS IN THIS HEMISPHERE AND IN  
THE REST OF THE WORLD.

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