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D R A F T

The delegation of the United States is honored by the election of its chairman as the presiding officer of the Third Meeting of the Inter-American Cultural Council. Through him it extends a cordial welcome to the delegations of member states and to observers and distinguished guests. It anticipates a productive session, vital in its significance for the ~~cultural~~ development of ^{Inter-American cultural programs,} the Western Hemisphere.

The cordial hospitality of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico has made possible this meeting of the Inter-American Council. The site was still unselected when the Government of Puerto Rico indicated to the Federal Government its desire to have the Third Meeting here. The United States was gratified to issue the corresponding invitation, which was accepted and transmitted to the Member Governments of the Council of the Organization of American States.

Puerto Rico offers a particularly appropriate environment for the sessions of the Inter-American Cultural Council. This remarkable land, cherishing the tradition and the heritage of its Hispanic culture, enlarges that rich store with significant contributions from the culture of the United States. As a site for Inter-American interchange, Puerto Rico has taken on the aspect of a hemisphere town meeting. During the past seven years 10,000 persons have come from more than 100 different lands to study the economic, social, and cultural programs developed here. I understand that approximately two-thirds of that number have come from this hemisphere.

The Government of the United States demonstrates its pride and faith in these Commonwealth programs by cooperating with them through the International Cooperation Administration and the International Educational Exchange programs

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and other activities of the Bureau of International Cultural Relations of our Department of State. Similarly, the Organization of American States has sponsored ^{in Puerto Rico official meetings such as the Tenth Assembly of} ~~here meetings, among others,~~ of the Inter-American Commission of Women, ^{Seminars of the} the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History, and the Pan American Sanitary ^{Conference,} Bureau. The Pan American Union has co-sponsored such ^{Fifth} ~~assemblies~~ ^{unofficial} as the Third Pan American Congress of Social Work and the Round Table on Cultural Understanding and Misunderstanding among the American peoples. Moreover, on a people-to-people basis, Puerto Rico has served as town hall for innumerable conventions ranging from the Fifth Pan American Congress of Otorhinolaryngology and Bronchoesophagology to the Casals Festival.

These activities reflect also the freedom of expression and of information which the United States steadily upholds as essential to inter-American cultural relations. These principles are integral parts of the ^{United States} U.S. Constitution. They have been defended, fought for and cherished by the people of this country as an indispensable instrument of liberty.- In the words of the U.S. Representative to the U.N. Committee on Freedom of Information (January, 1951).

"Freedom of information is the basic communications system of a democratic society, and without it that society and that way of life cannot thrive. It is the means by which common, every-day citizens seek and receive information about their work and about new methods of work; about their living conditions, good or bad, and the reasons for them; about their local officials, their state government and their national government. It is the process by which they reach their decisions and make them felt upon those who govern, so that their country is ruled according to the wishes of the people. Therefore, when information is inadequate, when it is incorrect, when it is false, the decisions of our society are warped and misshapen and the common good suffers.

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Freedom is not only essential to a balanced political life. It is the source of intellectual, cultural and scientific strength and independence. The individual must be free to express his aesthetic feelings according to his motivations and to explore every avenue of thought. Whether he is an architect or artist, an engineer or writer, a stone mason or teacher, his country develops in its own richness only insofar as he is enabled to develop his own talents to the limit of his capacity and in his own way."

They have been aptly summarized by President Eisenhower, who has stated: "A strong society of free men must be kept fully informed. Liberty can flourish only in the climate of truth. When Americans know the truth, they are strong and free to act for the best interest of the nation and the world."

At this point, I think that, as chairman, I should outline briefly my understanding of the role and functions of the Inter-American Cultural Council. The Cultural Council is the cultural arm of the Organization of American States, one of the three organs of the Council of the OAS.

It enjoys, pursuant to the Charter of the OAS, "technical autonomy" for the achievement of its purposes--"the promotion of friendly relations and mutual understanding among the American peoples... through educational, scientific and cultural exchange." I take this to mean that the Cultural Council is independent of the Council of the Organization as regards the contents or substance of its decisions. The execution of our recommendations, however, depends either on the member governments, when recommendations are addressed directly to them, or on the Council of the Organization.

The latter body annually adopts the work programs, and budgetary appropriations for the Pan American Union. It is through the activities of the Union that the objectives of the Inter-American Cultural Council - those set forth in Article 76 of the Charter - are translated into reality.

This leads me to underscore what I consider, as I have looked over the preliminary documents, to be a very important regular function of the Cultural Council --to study and comment upon the annual program of cultural activities of the Pan American Union. The Cultural Council must guide and orient that program so that our governments receive the greatest value in effective activities from their contributions to the Union.

In this connection, I was interested to learn that the present annual expenses of the Union's cultural activities, those outlined in Document No. 7 of this meeting, is about \$1,000,000 (when "general overhead" is considered).

← During the current year this provides for some 57 separate projects of the Department of Cultural Affairs of the Union. Another \$1,000,000 is budgeted for the OAS Fellowship Program, concerning which the Cultural Council is free to make recommendations.

We have a really heavy responsibility, then, in attempting to work out guidelines for the period between now and the Fourth Meeting. In doing so, we must always bear in mind the necessity for coordination with other international organizations, such as UNESCO, which are active in this hemisphere.

Another major regular function of the Cultural Council is to take the "final decision" with respect to the studies assigned to its permanent committee, the Committee for Cultural Action. Twenty-nine such studies have been produced since the First Meeting of the Cultural Council in Mexico City in 1951. Twelve are before this meeting. In the Committee's general report on its activities, Document 2, ^{there} is an illuminating discussion of the Committee's method of work, and of the problems it has faced with respect to certain topics.

In my opinion, the Cultural Council has an obligation to its permanent committee to assign the most viable undertakings; only those which are within

its capacity and which promise useful results for our countries. In 1951, about 35 studies were assigned to the Committee, of which it completed 17. In 1956, 10 of the prior assignments were continued, and 8 more were added; making a total of 18 different topics to be prepared for the present meeting. It seems to me that the time has come to improve this situation. We must now apply realistically the criteria which the Council of the OAS adopted in paragraphs 2 and 3 the document "Principles and Standards that Govern the Organization and Functioning of the Committee for Cultural Action."

I should like now for a moment to cast a general backward glance at the important contributions of the two previous meetings of the Cultural Council, ^{which} ~~that~~ ^{were held} in Mexico in 1951, and ⁱⁿ ~~especially our immediate predecessors at~~ Lima in ^{provide} May 1956. Their resolutions are a foundation for our own deliberations, and at the same time underscore the significant role of the Cultural Council in developing and improving cultural relations among the Member States.

^{In Mexico the basis was laid for:} ~~From the First Meeting came forth~~ the continuing work of the Committee for Cultural Actions, ^{It was there that it received its} ~~whose first assignments were made there.~~ In addition to general broad lines of guidance, ^{the} ~~that~~ meeting also took special cognizance of the sciences, both the social sciences and the natural sciences.

^{With this basis as a point of departure, the Lima Meeting} ~~The Second Meeting, with these as points of departure,~~ made important and concrete recommendations, many of which have been translated into specific and fructifying programs. ^{Of these I call to your attention} ~~Let me recall some of them for you:~~ Among some of the most outstanding, ~~in my mind, would be the following:~~ the Science Development program; ^{and} the Library Development program; the Applied Social Science program.

The Lima Meeting adopted a broad resolution (Lima, Res. III, 1-7) that has served as the basic guideline and charter of the Science Development Program of the Pan American Union. Cultural Council recommendations ^{Resulted in} brought forth an important meeting of leading scientists; their evaluation and suggestions on the role of the Pan American Union in science form the basis of the present work program.

In applied Social Sciences, a parallel resolution (Lima, II, 8) from Lima has had far-reaching results. The Government of Mexico generously cooperated with the OAS Technical Cooperation Program to provide quarters for the first of a series of regional centers, ^{designed} to train persons from the several Member States in applied anthropology, sociology, and related fields. The program began in 1959, with 18 students, now in Mexico, selected from over 100 applications.

Similarly, another resolution by the Second Meeting has reoriented the work of the Columbus Memorial Library of the Pan American Union.

These are but selected samples. I have mentioned them with a view to stressing our responsibility at this meeting
~~The matters above are selected samples. I have purposely included them for several reasons. One of the most compelling is to stress our responsibility~~
here to review with care the cultural needs of the hemisphere and to recommend with cautious deliberation those activities appropriate to the OAS, ^{and within the possibilities of} and within its possibilities. The specific impact which recommendations from the Cultural Council may have are illustrated by the sample programs I have mentioned. In short, one of our main duties is to carry on and to enhance the short but meaningful traditions already generated by two previous meetings of the Cultural Council.

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I have stressed the retrospective view. Now let us turn to the immediate prospect.

The Agenda for this Meeting of the Council emphasizes, first, the review of the studies of the Committee for Cultural Action and proposals for new studies; secondly, a consideration of the proposed work-program of the Department of Cultural Affairs of the Pan American Union; and, thirdly, the discussion of certain important phases of cultural cooperation. We are to discuss these matters with a view to possible recommendations for action to the Committee, the Council of the Organization, or to the Member States, their agencies and organizations, official and non-official.

Experience gained thus far by the Inter-American Cultural Council suggests that these meetings can lead to more fruitful results if recommendations for action emerge from concentrating our attention on important matters of common interest rather than from repeating and elaborating on numerous resolutions on all possible topics within the wide spectrum of cultural affairs. This principle of procedure, in fact, has already been formally embodied in the records of the Cultural Council. In this connection, I call attention to a resolution of the Second Meeting, at Lima in 1956, recommending that "consideration of a small number of other topics of major importance in the development of inter-American cultural relations" should be the point of departure for this Meeting and all subsequent meetings of the Inter-American Cultural Council (Resolution XXXIII, b).

This meeting offers us the first opportunity to put this resolution into effect: Let us take full advantage of this opportunity.

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This principle, I suggest, should apply to all our deliberations. It may be especially useful in considering Item C of the Agenda, namely "Main Points of Cultural Cooperation," in view of the broad nature of the topics listed thereunder and the consequent hazard which they present for the dispersal of our attention over a wide but possibly superficial range of associated activities. Our general problem is to reinforce and intensify existing sentiments by bringing them into focus and making them capable of translation into programs that can be carried forward both by the Organization and the Member States.

The General Secretariat has prepared an excellent Working Paper on the "Role of Universities in Inter-American Cultural Relations" (on Agenda, Item 3 under C) (Doc. 10/sb-10, 1 oct. 1959). That paper has eloquently stressed the interest displayed in university circles concerning cultures beyond national boundaries and the relatively new and certainly important role which cultural relations, through universities, can play in inter-American affairs.

The significance thus attached to universities as channels of inter-American cultural cooperation suggests that this subject, namely, the role or function of universities, be considered a unifying theme, if not the unifying theme for the consideration of all phases of the topic "Main Points of Cultural Cooperation," that is Item C of the Agenda. If this approach were adopted, the discussions and resolutions regarding all subjects under this topic would be closely related to "universities." All these topics are of major importance, and their significance would be highlighted and carried into greater depth if the frame of reference provided by consideration of the functions of universities

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forms the outer perimeter of such discussions and resolutions.

Freedom of expression and of information could not be more firmly woven with the university traditions of the New World. These could not be more firmly interwoven with the university traditions of the New World. In the great Western traditions, early rooted in the Americas, universities have a long and distinguished history as spokesmen for freedom of expression. It has been universally agreed that such freedom of expression is the only basis on which knowledge can be created and transmitted. It is almost a touchstone of the degree of freedom in a given country or area to determine that matters cannot, for one reason or another, be freely discussed in university circles.

~~A noble chapter in the eternal fight for liberty~~ ^{The} is the continuous and successful efforts which universities throughout the Western Hemisphere have made to become and remain autonomous, ^{insofar} so far as the substance of teaching and administration of internal affairs are concerned, ^{constitutes a noble chapter in}

~~One of the more interesting and important aspects of the development of universities in the New World is the distinct approach toward a common goal. The same goal has been freedom of expression.~~

The complex problems of university autonomy have not been as dramatically or clearly visible on the national level in the United States as they have ^{been} in other parts of America, but the same issues and often the same kind of activities leading to and maintaining such autonomy have been repeated time and again in the various states of the United States, many of whose problems, both in kind and magnitude, parallel those in the hemisphere outside the United States.

The United States as a government and as a people are sympathetically aware of the noble battles waged and won on the university front in Latin America to preserve freedom of expression.

The United States believes that many of the most moving and important documents concerning freedom of expression have emerged from the lips or pens of persons closely identified with universities throughout the hemisphere.

Closely related to freedom of expression is freedom of information. This is often and intimately linked and equated with "freedom of expression" but is, for purposes of analysis and exposition, quite a distinct matter. The concept of freedom of information is, however, wholly as basic to university life as is freedom of expression, and is certainly interwoven in its fabric. In this context, freedom of information includes both free access to information, as well as liberty and opportunity to make known new truths and views resulting from teaching and research.

Both in practice and in policy, the United States has consistently opposed peacetime censorship. Professional groups connected with universities-- associations of professors, professional librarians, and others-- have gone on record frequently in favor of the right of access to knowledge by the reading public; including access to works presenting all shades of opinion.

These freedoms within universities reflect, as do so many features of our institutions of learning, the principles of conduct of our people as a whole.

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Both in and out of universites they have been successful, largely in proportion to the extent to which they are balanced by an awareness of civic responsibility. They represent freedom -- not license.

This is a propitious moment to examine at length many of these matters as they pertain to the Western Hemisphere. ^{Recently} There has ^{increasing} recently been ⁱⁿ increased worldwide interest in the relations of universities to each other and the part which they can play in international relations. A series of conferences, sponsored by international agencies, and by private bodies, have concentrated their attention on possibilities and problems in other major regions of the world.

At this moment, the Cultural Council has an excellent opportunity to observe and evaluate, with the possibility of adopting and adapting to the peculiar American circumstances, many fruitful suggestions and developments voiced for other major regions of the world. At the same time, the Western Hemisphere, through this Meeting, has a splendid chance to voice its own views, based on a long and honorable tradition of inter-university cooperation and mutual understanding. ^{it} Thus/^{is} evident that the role and function of universities in inter-American cultural relations are of paramount importance. They are of interest to all Member States and their citizens.

In closing, let me emphasize the fact that, as chairman, I shall apply impartially the regulations of the Council. Whenever it becomes necessary that I speak as Representative of my Government, I shall make it abundantly clear that I am doing so. Throughout the session, I shall rely heavily on the advise and experience of the able and dedicated members of the Secretariat.

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