

Remarks to be made by U. S. Spokesman After Vote on Buenos Aires Convention - March 23, 1954

Mr. Chairman:

In voting for the revision of the Convention for the Promotion of Inter-American Cultural Relations, I wish to express the satisfaction of the United States Delegation with the work that has been accomplished by the Committee in this matter and the spirit in which it has been undertaken.

The Convention is a unique document. The original version, concluded at Buenos Aires in 1936, was the first Convention in this hemisphere, if not in the world, which represented the common recognition by a large group of sovereign states of the value of exchange of persons programs in the development of cultural relations as a fundamental basis for the improvement of international understanding between peoples. Prior to that time the United States, through non-governmental organizations, had done much in this field and such organizations have, through the years, continued to promote projects with that ultimate purpose in mind. Since 1936, however, when our government proposed the original Convention, we have made every effort to comply with it, both in word and in deed, both in the letter and in the spirit. <sup>Under these auspices about 4000</sup> ~~Two thousand six hundred eight~~ students, teachers, professors and other specialists were sent <sup>to</sup> the United States between 1940 and 1944 ~~and 1,016 were sent to Latin America.~~ In addition, projects for the interchange of specialists and for the training of technical personnel under the Institute of Inter-American Affairs and other American <sup>from</sup> auspices have increased that number considerably.

Moreover, in recent years critical objective appraisals of this kind of activity have been undertaken, all of which indicate that the objectives of this Convention -- the promotion of a mutual understanding among peoples of diverse cultures -- have been successful.

None of this would have been possible, of course, without the wholehearted interest and cooperation, financial and otherwise, of the other States, members of this Organization, ~~and~~ <sup>The</sup> cooperative spirit which has been manifested throughout the years in the conduct of these projects and which has been exhibited here in the review of <sup>review of this</sup> ~~this matter.~~ <sup>Convention</sup> These are, to us, ample assurances that the cooperation which has characterized the program in the past will be even more intensive in the future.

One point we can make is that the Cultural Council has never seen the proposal ~~of~~ the Cult. Action Committee. Also, the ministers of Education themselves have not been heard on this subject — the report came out only a few months ago.

If there could be a trial session, they would have a chance to opine. Also, if the 3<sup>rd</sup> C.I.C., the 2<sup>nd</sup> C.I.C. <sup>(during)</sup> could adopt a definitive plan.