

ADDRESS DELIVERED FEBRUARY 12, 1945, BY THE HONORABLE ANTONIO I. VILLALOBOS, SENATOR AND PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY PARTY OF MEXICO, DURING THE CEREMONIES IN HONOR OF COMMISSIONER ANDERSON AT THE MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM.

Honorable Representative of His Excellency Coke R. Stevenson; Senator J. Franklin Spears; Lt. General Grunert; Mayor Mauermann; Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have been the subject of a generous invitation to attend and address this solemn ceremony by one of the closest friends of the Hon. P. L. Anderson. I refer to Mr. Carlos A. Calderon, Consul General of Mexico in San Antonio, Texas. I gladly accepted the invitation considering that it was not made to me only as a personal friend of Mr. Anderson, but also as President of the Mexican Revolutionary Party, which gathers under its flags the Mexican proletariat, both rural and urban. I said solemn ceremony because when the Government of my country conferred upon Mr. Anderson membership in the Order of the Aztec Eagle, another bridge of unity was built between the Mexicans and the citizens of this country, so as to make possible, now and forever, a closer tie of brotherhood based upon the strictest reciprocity and the best and most sincere understanding.

I cannot but consider that the honor bestowed upon Mr. Anderson by the Chief Executive of my country, His Excellency Manuel Avila Camacho, is well deserved, because undoubtedly this high public official has conscientiously taken into account the merits of the San Antonio Fire and Police Commissioner, and has determined that he is worthy of being deemed an outstanding individual and friend of my government and of the people of my country.

In this chaotic era throughout the world, when humanity suffers the sting of total war, in a proportion never before seen, due to those who, based on inconsistent theory of racial superiority, they attempted to impose upon a peace loving universe the Nazi-fascist hegemony, which in itself denies all the democratic principles that serve the modern world as the foundation of its society. This ceremony has an eloquent significance, because, while it is true that the soundness of our democratic convictions has placed the inhabitants of our respective countries on a war footing, in order to defend with heroic effort the cause of humanity and justice against the sneak aggression of the Nazi and Japanese, with this particular ceremony both countries offer convincing proof that a pacifist and just spirit guides our actions, and that if the defense of the rights of the people forces us to take up arms for the purposes of redemption, such an act by its very noble nature, assures victory for us. We also know how to reward every action that tends to strengthen even the ties of affection and cordiality that rules the conduct of our peoples who love peace and respect civil rights. We should look in this solemn act also, for a deeper significance with regards to the sincerity with which both countries have accepted the challenge of the aggressor nations. I refer to that policy known as the Good Neighbor, wisely created and maintained by His Excellency Franklin Delano Roosevelt. As a matter of fact, Destiny has made us neighbors and our moral virtues shall make us feel as brothers.

The people of both countries, and in this I have to be more emphatic, the people of my country, know very well what the Good Neighbor Policy signifies. Equal treatment, kindness in thought, nobleness of the spirit, and strict adherence to the Laws inherent in every society of civilized countries, all forming an important part of the meaning of these two valued words.

President Roosevelt has lived up to his promise to the people of his country and mine, but it is also necessary that the other authorities of the United States of America know, understand and practice the doctrine embodied in the Good Neighbor Policy; and they have so done, creating a reciprocal current of friendship and effective understanding of which movement you have as leaders, among others, here in Texas, the Hon. Governor Stevenson and the Commissioner of Fire and Police, Preston L. Anderson. That is why the occasion we are now celebrating was needed, because Mr. Anderson has added to his kind words and sincere declarations of friendship, a friendly, sympathetic attitude toward my people, who in large groups, throughout the whole territory of this great State, cooperate toward bringing prosperity and the welfare of Texas.

Spiritual values, unblemished, and good intentions are only the preamble of the picture, which is not completed unless it is translated into positive acts, often repeated and continued, and when these are made without fanfare, and in a modest way, they fall as clear crystal drops in our heart, until overflowed with gratitude because of the benefits that accrue to the Mexicans that live beyond the confines of our country. We have faith that these acts of genuine friendship extended my countrymen, will continue with more frequency, in greater volume and intensity throughout the State of Texas.

We have faith in the dynamic and just spirit of the Hon. Governor of this state; we have faith in the good judgment, fairness and equitable frame of mind of the judicial, legislative and executive branches of this State. We are confident that in the very near future, we can speak of discriminatory acts as things which have been relegated to history, because each day will reaffirm our conviction that the ideals, the theories, and the hopes for which we are fighting, in Europe and in Asia, apply also to America and that the principles defended by the Armed Forces under Washington and so courageously expressed by Lincoln, must be a living and undeniable reality in the entire western hemisphere.

This is the all important meaning of the ceremonies that have brought us together today. We extend our hand in friendship, pressing it sincerely and affectionately to an exponent of the Good Neighbor Policy, who has understood and practiced in Texas, what is being proclaimed repeatedly in Washington by the distinguished President of the United States Franklin D. Roosevelt.

His Excellency, Manuel Avila Camacho has added another token to his record as a Mexican fully identified with his country in rewarding a gentleman as Mr. Anderson who has treated our people fairly and has even helped them when his cooperation has been solicited. Surely, in Texas, there are many persons as our good friend Mr. Anderson. To them, we acknowledge our sincere regard, our fraternal affection and our best wishes so that they will continue to work for this noble task which will undoubtedly bring us closer and closer until we have effaced all that, in a past already forgotten, might have brought about misunderstanding in our common interests and common aspirations.

Mr. Preston L. Anderson, my dear good friend, and the sincere friend of our nationals living in this and the other side of the Bravo. The Mexican Government in bestowing upon you Membership in the Order of the Aztec Eagle has faithfully interpreted the feelings of my people. The National Revolutionary Party, of which I have the honor of being its President, and which gathers under its fold the proletariat majorities of Mexico and the progressive, creative forces of my country, cordially congratulates you for such a well deserved honor, which makes you a distinguished and honorary member of the great Mexican family, and in offering you our loyal cooperation for the continuation of your effective and noble task in the interest of closer friendly relations, it raises you to the summit of its affections, not only as the one man who has known how to penetrate our fraternal feelings in its deepest recesses, but also as one of those men, symbolic of this great North American country, that with their actions do justice to our people, and dignifies its own fellow-citizens, exemplifying them in their true value, as sincere and courageous fighters in the noble cause of a just, progressive and generous humanity of tomorrow.

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