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Statement of Senator Mike Mansfield (D., Montana)
March 1, 1956

MEXICO, CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES

Mr. President, I am delighted that President Eisenhower and the Secretary of State, Mr. Dulles, have extended formal invitations to President Ruiz Cortines of Mexico and Prime Minister St. Laurient of Canada to meet with the President on March 26. This meeting of the three great powers of the North American continent can and should be of special significance. It should indicate the solidarity of the three democracies, as well as the equality, the friendship and understanding which exists among us. This meeting can emphasize the fact that we are neighbors, that we have, in many instances, many of the same problems, and that our interests are common to all three. The Republic of Mexico and the Dominion of Canada come not as satellites or subordinate states. They come to the meeting at White Sulphur Springs later this month as equals and as sovereigns in their own right.

It would be my hope, Mr. President, that this meeting of the Big Three would be a forerunner to a later meeting to which all the sovereign states of the Americas, North, South and Caribbean, would be invited. In neighborliness there is strength, and in neighborliness there is tolerance, understanding and good will.