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STATEMENT OF ACCEPTANCE BY SENATOR MIKE MANSFIELD (D., MONTANA)
OF THE AWARD OF THE MEXICAN ORDER OF THE "AZTEC EAGLE"

The Mexican Embassy, Washington, D. C.

Wednesday, May 4, 1966

Mr. Ambassador and Mrs. de Margain, distinguished guests,
and friends from Mexico and the United States.

Words are inadequate to express my deep appreciation. The
bestowal of this beautiful medal is an honor which means more to me *& to the*
United States Senate
than I can say.

It is an honor which is especially welcomed, because it comes
from the Republic of Mexico. There is no nation *other than my own,*
N which I hold in higher
esteem. There is no people for whom I feel a greater affection than the
people of Mexico. Congressional duties, particularly in recent years,
have made it possible for both Mrs. Mansfield and myself to meet fre-
quently with Mexicans. Indeed, Mrs. Mansfield has been so much a part
of these meetings that I feel that I am receiving this medal on her
behalf.

These periodic associations have led to deep personal under-
standings and to enduring personal friendships. We have been exhilarated
by the warmth of Mexican hospitality and, even more, by the generosity *+ understanding*
of
the Mexican spirit.

It has been my privilege to know not only the leaders of your country (and may I say that my esteem for ^{former} ~~ex~~ President Adolfo Lopez Mateos and President Gustavo Diaz Ordaz is of the highest), but also numerous Mexican parliamentarians who, like those of us in the Senate and the House of Representatives, come from all walks of life. Through this great experience of the U.S.-Mexican Parliamentary meetings, we parliamentarians of both countries have come to appreciate each other's ways, each other's needs, each other's expectancies ~~to do so in the future~~ ^{of mutual respect}

Mr. Ambassador, while this award is deeply appreciated on a personal basis, I look upon it, too, as something more. I see it as an expression of that mutuality of national respect, sympathy, and forbearance which has formed between the United States and Mexico. It has not always been so but in these years of our times, it has become so. In this respect, the two nations owe much to Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson and to Presidents Lopez Mateos and Diaz Ordaz ^{as well as to their immediate predecessors.}

The task now is to strive to maintain what has been achieved. It will require a continuing and expanding effort on the part of both nations, not only on the part of Presidents ^{and} ~~or~~ Parliamentarians but, even more, on the part of all who live on both sides of the border.

As I look to the future, Mr. Ambassador, I have every confidence that the Republic of Mexico and the Republic of the United States will shape a resplendent relationship out of their two diverse heritages and

their shared heritage of the New World. It will be a relationship which is not only ^{based on} ~~of~~ peace but also of an ever-deepening understanding. It is this implication of this award which touches my heart most deeply. It is with this vision of the tomorrow of our two countries that I accept this award, gladly and ~~humbly~~ ^{appreciatively}.

~~In making this presentation, Mr. Ambassador, your great country + great people have bestowed honor upon all of us who serve in the Congress. In their behalf I wish to express my deepest thanks, through you, to ~~the~~ our neighbors below the Rio Bravo~~