

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 24, 1995

Mrs. Ruth Cardoso
Brazil

Dear Mrs. Cardoso,

Mrs. Wasmosy joins me in sending this letter.

As you know, this past December many of the Wives of Heads of State and Government met during the Summit of the Americas to discuss some of the most critical challenges facing children on our Hemisphere. We were sorry you could not join us. Through the contributions of so many present, we identified three areas of critical need which are of common concern and enormous importance for the well being of our children.

The First Ladies' Symposium agreed that investment in the human capital of the Americas is vital to the broader goal of eradicating poverty and discrimination. In order to follow up on the important health and education issues that were raised, we would like to propose that we, as First Ladies of the Hemisphere, engage the citizens of our nations in an active three-point agenda to advance the goals in health and education adopted by the leaders at the Summit of the Americas.

The first initiative we propose for follow-up is the elimination of the transmission of measles in the Americas by the year 2000. To start this effort, I will participate in the launching of the Measles Elimination Campaign at the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) headquarters in Washington, D.C. on April 7. Mrs. Wasmosy will lead a parallel effort in Asunción. We understand that local PAHO representatives have been in contact with you and the other First Ladies to encourage you to sponsor similar events in your countries. Our participation in this important initiative will provide the campaign with higher visibility, both at the national and the regional level. To attack this problem, PAHO has formulated a regional project for the elimination of the transmission of measles in the Americas for the years 1995-2000. Strong partnerships with all sectors of society can garner the political and financial support needed to eliminate this killer disease.

The second critical initiative is the reduction of maternal mortality in the Americas. Every year, 20,000 women die in the hemisphere and at least 3 million are hospitalized from complications relating to childbirth -- many of which are preventable. We all agree that we need to promote the implementation across the region of comprehensive health care policies focused on women and the prevention of maternal mortality and morbidity.

During the XXIII Pan American Sanitary Conference in 1990, the Hemispheric Ministers of Health of the countries of the region approved a Regional Plan for the Reduction of Maternal Mortality in the Americas. Progress has been slow. Involving ourselves in this initiative can help save lives of countless women in all of our countries. We propose to include the issue of maternal mortality and morbidity as an item for discussion at the meeting of the Association of First Ladies that will be hosted by Mrs. Wasmosy in Paraguay in October 1995. We are convinced that we can generate renewed interest in an issue that concerns the health and lives of women across the Americas. The meeting in Paraguay will give us each an opportunity to review the national plans, to learn what have been the most successful strategies and projects to reduce maternal mortality and to learn from each other.

The third area of interest is girls' and women's education, which is also likely to be underscored at the 4th United Nations World Conference on Women in Beijing. The rate of girls' enrollment varies from country to country. We do know, however, through extensive research in the field, that investments in the education of girls yield a higher return than any other investment in a country's development. As you know, when countries focus their resources on the education of girls, they achieve a wide range of benefits, including significant improvements in health, domestic, agricultural and industrial productivity, democratic participation and family wellbeing. We propose to seek ways as First Ladies to be engaged in this issue and increase the awareness in our nations of the importance of girls' education. I was pleased to announce earlier this month at the UN Summit on Social Development in Copenhagen that the United States has made a commitment to financially support efforts to enhance educational opportunities for hundreds of thousands of poor girls and women around the world.

We hope that the above three areas and the suggested initiatives adequately reflect the consensus reached at the Summit Symposium in Miami and reflect the issues you believe are most important for us in following up on that meeting. Mrs. Wasmosy is also preparing additional items for the agenda to reflect follow up to the First Ladies Meeting in St. Lucia.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Hillary Rodham Clinton". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Hillary Rodham Clinton

FROM UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE, INC.
220 East 42nd Street, New York, 17

FOR RELEASE THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 1944 AND THEREAFTER.

MY DAY

(TR. MK. REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.)

By Eleanor Roosevelt

Kingston, Jamaica, Wednesday-- We left Miami early Monday morning and fortunately had a most beautiful day for the flight to Guantanamo. The sea was blue and green beneath us with little white clouds which cast their shadows in the water. It seemed no time at all before we were flying over the land again and Cuba, with its hills and valleys and rivers, lay below us.

I was interested to see the many little houses which dotted the hills, and I could not help wondering how the people made a living or ever got in to the centers of population. There seemed to be only little trails winding up and down the hills. There might be patches of green around or near the houses. I was told that most of these people have little gardens, chickens perhaps, and grow a little coffee and citrus fruit. It does not seem like a very extravagant existence.

Guantanamo is ringed by hills, and is, of course, a very finished base. The one great hardship for the men in this area is to be without their families or unable to go home on leave when they see planes flying in and out every day. The war, instead of coming closer, is receding.

Of course men are moving out and gradually most of them will get a leave at home. We in the United States can be very grateful that in this area they fought the war so well that it is no longer considered to be a very active danger zone. We must keep watch, and that watch is never relaxed day or night. Therefore those who stay need never feel that their job is not important, because this is the job that guards a great sector of our mainland. In addition, these bases draw us closer to our South American neighbors. These islands are the stepping stones which keep us in contact with our allies to the south.

In the world of tomorrow, the way our people have conducted the war in this area, the understanding they have built up with the native populations and with the representatives of the various foreign countries which are sovereign here, will mean a great deal.

A great effort is being made by the commanding officers everywhere to see that the men on duty here have as much recreation as possible. If they cannot get to the nearby towns, much is provided on the bases. I am much interested in the post exchange shops, because the American man is not concerned only with what he can buy for himself, but is much concerned with what he can send home to the ladies of his family. You can find silk stockings at \$5 a pair, perfume and ladies' underwear, and many other gifts in the serviceman's post exchange.

The boys here consume large amounts of ice cream, soft drinks and candy, as they do at home. On the whole, health seems excellent. The hospital at Guantanamo had few patients. Late in the afternoon we took off and proceeded to Jamaica. At the base command here, the doctor told me proudly that he had only 15 patients. I will have to tell you more about this place tomorrow.

E. R.

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FROM UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE, INC.
220 East 42nd Street, New York, 17

FOR RELEASE FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 1944 AND THEREAFTER.

MY DAY

(TR. MK. REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.)

By Eleanor Roosevelt

San Juan, Puerto Rico, Thursday-- In Kingston, Jamaica, we visited the U. S. Club which is run by Miss Mullaley. They have a nice building and are doing the most efficient work with a good program of activities covering every day in the week. From there we went to lunch with Mr. and Mrs. John Lord, our American consul and his wife.

We arrived at Kings House yesterday afternoon, where the Governor and Lady Huggins invited us to spend the night. We started out almost immediately to see a very good child welfare center. Here, a woman doctor was busy seeing a crowd of mothers and babies. Quite a bit of excitement was caused by the arrival of one woman who had triplets. Her family already consisted of the large number of seven children. They tell me that there is a tradition here that you can act your way into Heaven by having a large number of children.

At the day nursery where women who go to work leave their children and have them cared for at tuppence a day, we saw a number of tiny ones being fed their respective bottles. Out in the garden, in a screened-in house, a number of other youngsters were being taught in nursery school.

From there we went to the Jamaica Institute, which is an excellent library. They send books to various schools in rotation and have a fine reference library--the beginning of a Smithsonian for the Island of Jamaica, as a young Rhodes Scholar from Rhode Island told me.

Then we drove through some of the poorest quarters in the city to a recreation club for boys called "Boy's Town". Boys of every age are kept busy here during their free hours doing athletics out of doors, learning carpentry work or tailoring. This has been going on for only two years, and it seemed to me a very good beginning.

Now Lady Huggins is planning to start a center for girls of the same type. We paid a brief visit to the Tuberculosis Sanitarium, which is a very fine hospital, and then we drove through the beautiful Hope Gardens, arriving at Kings House where the press was waiting me for an interview at 5:15 P. M.

This left little time to dress before we went down into the gardens to meet a mixed company representing every activity of government, industrial and social life on the island.

The war has hit these islands very hard. There have been shortages of food and great difficulty in obtaining the kind of food to which the islanders are accustomed. Rice and beans is a well established Sunday dish. They even have a folk song about it, and yet rice has been unobtainable and only a very expensive quality is now coming in. The engines to their little trains burn wood because they have practically no coal.

E. R.

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FROM UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE, INC.
220 East 42nd Street, New York, 17

FOR RELEASE SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 1944 AND THEREAFTER.

MY DAY

(TR. MK. REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.)

By Eleanor Roosevelt

San Juan, Puerto Rico, Friday-- On our arrival in Jamaica we were met by His Excellency, the Governor and Lady Huggins, as well as several other island officials and Colonel Dallin, who is in command of the U. S. Army Post. General Shedd also had come over from Puerto Rico and stayed with us for the whole time that we were visiting the various activities on the base.

We began with a visit to the hospital which was brief because, as I told you, there were so few patients. But they gave us tea, and I had a chance to talk with the men. Then we went to the Officers' Club where we met most of the officers, and later to the Officers' Mess for dinner. They have the same kind of crayfish that one gets off the coast of Florida, and these were the greatest treat. Then we proceeded with the entire post personnel, it seemed, to the outdoor theater where a movie was shown. I said a few words to the men.

From there we went over to the Enlisted Men's Club where one of the native Jamaican men sang some folk songs which were most amusing. I was warned that I would find their dialect hard to understand, but except for the fact that the names were unusual, it did not seem very difficult.

The boys came trouping in from the theater, and I noticed two boys sitting together eating ice cream and drinking milk. There is a dairy here so they can have fresh cow's milk, and I notice that the mechanical cows are being used more and more and are really popular.

We got to bed fairly early, but then we had to get up early the next morning to get started on our rounds by 7:30. We visited a number of barracks and mess halls and day rooms. All of them were equipped with books, magazines, radio games, and sometimes pool tables or ping pong tables. From this post it is difficult to get to any city, so there is a central recreation group planned consisting of a canteen, beer garden, bowling alley and various outdoor activities.

The chapel is attractive, but the commanding officer says the men are not very good church goers. Before leaving, we also went to the club for civilian native workers who help maintain the grounds and do a certain amount of work in other activities on the post. They are very proud of their own mess hall, barracks and club, and are shortly going to have a club for the women workers.

I went through the laundry where the civilian workers seem very well satisfied with their pay and working conditions. The bakery and the place where they make ice cream were also on our list of visits. The various shops under the engineering division were most interesting. Here, everything is being repaired, even the machines taken over from the contractors who built the base, and a very good job of salvaging is being done.

We saw a group of Navy men, one of Marines, and a detachment of Air Force men all in their various barracks, and finally drove over to Kingston.

E. R.

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FOR RELEASE MONDAY, MARCH 13, 1944 AND THEREAFTER.

MY DAY

(TR. MK. REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.)

By Eleanor Roosevelt

San Juan, Puerto Rico, Sunday-- In St. Thomas, which is one of the Virgin Islands, we were met by the Acting Governor, Mr. Morris F. De Castro and his wife, and Army, Navy and Marine Corps officers. I spoke to the Marines, Coast Guard and Navy men, then stopped at the hospital, and then drove through the submarine base and into town, going to the Army establishment where Puerto Rican soldiers are now stationed.

I went to the Red Cross and to Captain Ballsley's home, where the civilian officials and the press met me. Then back to the Marine Corps Base where we lunched in the men's mess, and I moved from one table to another in order to meet as many men as possible.

Back in Puerto Rico, we landed at a Naval base, visited some of the personnel and buildings, and then drove through the Army base, which is still under construction. We visited another camp on the way back to La Fortaleza and stopped at the U. S. O. in Caguas, where I was impressed by a young Puerto Rican woman who seemed particularly energetic. She showed me around the whole building and told me she taught in high school six hours a day, spent an hour at noon at the U. S. O. and returned there from 3:30 to 5 and from 7 to 11 P. M.

In this U. S. O. I met two discharged veterans. One was in a hospital in Fiji last August when I went through, and I saw him there. The other one was injured in Africa. Fortunately, both men seemed to be getting well and strong again.

In one of the camps, I was fortunate enough to see Private Richard F. Thomas who was brought over to see me as I mentioned to one of the officers that I had a letter from his sister asking me to see him if possible. He had no idea why he was brought over, and seemed very much surprised when he was introduced to me and I asked him how he was so I could send word to his sister. He assured me he was quite well, and I saw him later at the U. S. O. in Caguas. He must have travelled fairly quickly to get there before we did.

After our return to La Fortaleza, I had a last short interview with the press and we managed to be ready at 7:15 to go to the U. S. O. which is in the center of the town. It is a very beautiful building which was once "The Puerto Rican Club". We were invited to be the guests of the servicemen. Selected men from the various groups sat at the table with us and our food was excellent. The boys all remarked on how good it was, and said they enjoyed trying something different.

At least once a week, sometimes oftener, they have dances with a floor show which features some distinctly Puerto Rican dancer or singer. The Coast Guard and the Air Force bands played and we watched the dancing for a little while. At dinner and during the dancing I think I signed my name several hundred times on a variety of bills, papers and ladies' fans.

This ends our stay in Puerto Rico. Of course we have not seen all the men who are stationed here but I think we have done as much as it was possible to do in the time allowed.

E. R.

FROM UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE, INC.
220 East 42nd Street, New York, 17

FOR RELEASE TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 1944 AND THEREAFTER.

MY DAY

(TR. MK. REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.)

By Eleanor Roosevelt

San Juan, Puerto Rico, Monday-- I want to go back now to our first day in Puerto Rico. The flight from Jamaica took us over the islands of Haiti and Santo Domingo which looked beautiful and wild from the air. On our arrival in San Juan, I could see many changes beginning with the new airfield which was not here when I landed by Pan American in a flying boat ten years ago. The Governor and Mrs. Tugwell and the head military officials met us.

The slums along the waterfront which filled me with horror the last time were not to be seen, but I was told that they had just moved a little further away. They had not disappeared.

The housing situation is almost as bad as ever, according to the Governor. Living costs have risen about 50 per cent, and the head of one of the political parties told me that rice, which used to be five cents a pound, is now ten cents a pound. It is one of the things which the poor people count on as a main article of diet.

The chancellor of the University, Senor Benitez, dined with the Governor and Mrs. Tugwell, and he told me the university had grown very considerably in the past ten years. He said that the government has now established a system of scholarships whereby the best scholars in the high schools are given a chance to go to the university.

A choir from the university led by the head of the music department sang in the evening at the Governor's reception and gave a very lovely program.

The Governor said they had kept everything quiet about my arrival, but nevertheless everybody seemed to know I was there and the children who were out of school early made the narrow street leading to La Fortaleza seem narrower than usual.

We left our things at the Governor's house, and started out almost immediately with General Shedd. He asked me to review with him a regiment of Puerto Rican troops who seemed to me to march very smartly in spite of their few weeks of training.

Then we went to the enlisted men's new recreation building. It is built right on the cliff looking across the ocean. There are some good bowling alleys, a little music room, a writing room upstairs and a big room for games with a sundeck outside, which I am sure will be filled on pleasant evenings. As I "opened" the building I was allowed to roll two balls down an alley and failed each time to hit the pins at the end. At this center, a boy was introduced to me who came from Poughkeepsie, N. Y., and Private Smith was photographed with General Shedd. This will be a photograph which I imagine he will want to send home. It doesn't often happen for a private to have his picture taken with a general!

Curious coincidences are always occurring on these trips. Another young officer, when introduced to me, told me that his name was Deering and that his father is a great friend of our old friend, Major Henry S. Hooker.

E. R.

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FROM UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE, INC.
220 East 42nd Street, New York, 17

FOR RELEASE WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 1944 AND THEREAFTER.

MY DAY

(TR. MK. REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.)

By Eleanor Roosevelt

San Juan, Puerto Rico, Tuesday-- Our first morning in Puerto Rico started with a visit to the Red Cross. The center here is very active. It runs an information center in a busy part of town where boys can get information of any kind and a snack with a cup of coffee. The regular chapter house where the offices are is a very busy place because those in charge take care of the soldiers' family cases, and these are increasing rapidly as Puerto Rican soldiers leave the island. Allotments come through slowly both here and in the Virgin Islands. The Red Cross has had to come to the rescue of many families.

We also visited the production center where volunteers have been busily at work and the shelves are well filled, even though they are sending out a great many things. Emergency supplies are on hand in case they should be called upon suddenly. They also have a mobile canteen which can be turned into an ambulance if necessary, and can take two or three stretcher cases. They are in the midst of their money raising, and the quota is large for Puerto Rico, so they asked me to speak on the radio for them. I did so.

The rest of that morning was devoted to visiting Navy installations. I am afraid you will begin to tire if I tell you of all the barracks, mess halls and hospitals I go through. You can take it for granted that in each military area, I visit all of these things and in addition all the recreational facilities and the post exchanges.

I was particularly glad to see Mr. Adrian Dornbush, who has been setting up a laboratory of design here for the Puerto Rican Industrial Association. The island needs industrial development if it is ever to have a better standard of living, and this is one of the ways in which it may be achieved.

The Army and Navy photographers, as well as the press photographers, have been quite busy on this trip, and I was enormously amused at seeing young Charles Eggert of the Navy suddenly dive down for his extra flash bulbs, which he kept in his sock. The Navy uniform does not have any convenient pockets for photographers. I have watched him ever since with the greatest amusement. He has now entered into the joke, and reminds me that one of the things which will make me remember Puerto Rico is the peculiar way in which Navy photographers carry their flash bulbs!

It is evident that there are still many problems in the civilian life of Puerto Rico which have not been ironed out. I asked Governor Tugwell about the food supply of the island. He explained the difficult time they had here, as on all the other islands, when the submarine sinkings were serious. But now they are really better off, he said.

Nevertheless the cost of living here, as in the other islands, has gone far beyond the rise in the cost of living in the continental United States. People here can be grateful for the fact that the military activities on the island have given them work so far.

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FOR RELEASE THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 1944 AND THEREAFTER.

MY DAY

(TR. MK. REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.)

By Eleanor Roosevelt

Somewhere in the West Indies, Wednesday-- Saturday we flew over many islands. The one that looked the most interesting from the air was Saba, which belongs to Curacao. As far as one can see from the air, the cliffs go right down into the sea, but there must be a landing place somewhere. The summit has a number of very flat places, and these are dotted with little red-roofed houses with fields laid out in regular squares.

St. Christopher's Island was pointed out to me, and I feel sure it must be what I have always heard called St. Kit's. In a very short time we landed on Antigua. The Governor and some of the island officials met me, and we exchanged regrets that I would only have time to see our American troops. Then I proceeded to see the men, the barracks, mess halls, kitchens, libraries and recreation rooms. I was sorry not to be able to go to St. John's to see the cathedral which was built in 1678.

We went on the St. Lucia where again I was met by the Governor and some of the island officials. I spent my time at this base as usual, seeing the men and the barracks and the hospital. Our final flight was into Trinidad, where we arrived in time to leave our bags at Colonel William V. Rattan's house, which he very kindly turned over to us, and then we went immediately to mess with the men.

The band played outside while we ate, and the music was delightful. We had a particularly nice group of young men--one Puerto Rican and the others from various states in the union. They asked me about rationing at home, as usual, and seemed to think that people were not getting enough to eat.

I told them that was not really our trouble. It was just that we were not accustomed to the point system and not being able to buy whatever we needed. One boy said: "My mother has always had a big family and she is accustomed to laying in supplies on Saturday, but she can't do it now." I told him that they were getting part of the food we didn't use, so we really didn't mind.

After supper with the men, we went back to dress and I went to a number of movie theatres in different areas to deliver a message from the President to the men. Finally we went to the Officers' Club dance. It was a delightfully cool evening. The most beautiful tropical moon made it almost as bright as day. One of the blessings of being stationed in Trinidad is that the nights are cool, and one sleeps under a blanket although the days may be very warm.

At 4 A. M. I was awakened by what sounded like a flood, but it was just a severe tropical rain, however, and like most tropical rains, did not last long.

There are snakes on this island, but fortunately I didn't see any and nobody seems to be really troubled by them. There are a number of malaria cases in the hospital, but the malaria control people are doing a wonderful piece of work and there are fewer and fewer cases.

On the whole, in all the islands, health seemed good among the men, and the hospitals and clinics do a good job of prevention as well as of cure.

E. R.

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220 East 42nd Street, New York, 17

FOR RELEASE FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 1944 AND THEREAFTER.

MY DAY

(TR. MK. REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.)

By Eleanor Roosevelt

Natal, Brazil, Thursday-- On landing in Belem, there was a reception for the Brazilian officials who welcomed me and for some officers, nurses, Red Cross workers and U. S. O. workers. The next morning there was a short press conference at which questions had to be interpreted and my answers translated! Afterwards I visited the Naval Air Station where Lieutenant Commander Congdon is in charge, and then we left for Natal.

Admiral Ingram is away on a mission, but General Walsh and Admiral Read are not only taking good care of me, but are arranging full schedules so that I may see as much as possible of what has been accomplished and as many of our men as I can.

The Red Cross girls have only joined the field director a month ago. One is from Philadelphia, one is from Baltimore, and one is from Boston. They are already popular in the hospital, and are setting up a small recreation center for the men on the post and will teach craftwork.

After a night's sleep, we started out fairly early and visited the Naval Air Base, the hospital, and various other installations around the camp. At eleven o'clock we took off for Natal. This is a country of magnificent distances and as yet communications are not highly developed, so each state is like a little country in itself.

An interventor heads the state, which is divided into counties, and his duties are similar to those of our governors. Because of the lack of transportation facilities, the old families have lived in their own cities with less contact sometimes with other parts of Brazil than they have had with European countries.

What impresses me is the extraordinary cooperation that has existed between our officials and the Brazilian officials, and how very kindly the people have felt towards our men. Needless to say, here as everywhere else, our boys have been remarkable ambassadors.

Senhora Salgado Filho, the wife of the Minister of Aviation for Brazil, was sent by Madame Vargas from Rio to be with me here, and with her came Senhora Lia Souza E Silva Do Amaral, who heads the Brazilian Legion for Assistance, and Senhorita Dedei Aranha, the daughter of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, who is a member of this same organization.

At dinner, both these young women told me how remarkably well our men, from the young flying officers down to the sailors of our Navy, behaved. They stressed particularly the fact that in Brazil it is the custom for a woman to speak first, showing that she is willing to be addressed. Our boys have observed that custom meticulously, but when the women greeted them they were always most polite in answering. This must require some restraint on the part of our boys, for when they land they must be hungry for a word from a woman and they are not usually bashful when they are at home.

E. R.

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220 East 42nd Street, New York, 17

FOR RELEASE SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 1944 AND THEREAFTER.

MY DAY

(TR. MK. REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.)

By Eleanor Roosevelt

Somewhere in the West Indies, Friday-- I think I am more deeply impressed by the work of the engineering groups and the Seabees on the different bases on Trinidad than anywhere else, though it is impressive everywhere in this area. In Trinidad the Seabees have cut a base out of the jungle and cleared about 32 square miles. A number of fine roads have been built and one of them looks like an extraordinary feat of engineering.

Sunday morning we visited the Naval Operating Base including the Naval Air Station. Everything was planned in expectation of more active opposition in this area than we have encountered, but our very preparation is what has brought about our safety.

The Naval hospital here is a fine hospital with every facility for taking care of the men. There are a few serious accident cases, but all are getting well. One youngster will have a permanent handicap to fight, but he has the stuff to win, I think.

During the day we drove to a high point where there is an extremely interesting station. The officer in charge seemed to feel that he and his men were all one family, and were particularly privileged to be by themselves on top of a mountain! The Naval Base has many acres of citrus fruit, and if properly taken care of, these orchards ought to provide our men with fresh fruit and be a great asset to the fleet and bases in this area.

Sir Bede Clifford and several of the island officials met me on our arrival in Trinidad, and we met again at a dinner at the Officers' Club at Macqueripe. There is a beautiful view of the harbor from this club, and it is in every way a charming spot with a good swimming beach.

We saw the most wonderful recreation area at Scotland Bay which was developed by the men on the station and the men from the ships which come in here. Everything that anyone could possibly want to do out of doors is at hand. Some of the men were doing some fancy diving; others were practicing upsetting in a rubber boat and climbing back. Basket-ball, horse shoe pitching, and just lying in the sun with the prospects of food cooked on the out of door grills and soft drinks and beer when they wanted them seemed to provide a good day's outing to all.

I also saw the recreation rooms for enlisted men on the post, and one club for the non-commissioned officers, all of which must help to build up morale--that intangible thing that nobody likes to talk about but which everybody thinks about. In the evening I went to two U.S.O. clubs in Port of Spain. Both were well equipped and crowded.

I would like to mention the work of a Colored Naval construction unit which has done such good work that it has earned a wonderful reputation among all the officers.

E. R.

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220 East 42nd Street, New York, 17

FOR RELEASE MONDAY, MARCH 20, 1944 AND THEREAFTER.

MY DAY

(TR. MK. REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.)

By Eleanor Roosevelt

Somewhere in South America, Sunday-- The first evening in Natal, a reception was held for the Brazilian officials and the Army and Navy officers at the U.S. base. Madame Salgado and the Senhor Interventor for the state were hosts at the dinner given at the guest house.

At ten P. M. we started out for operational headquarters. This is one of the busy spots where night can be as active as day. General Robert Walsh asked me to notice particularly that the restaurant ran all night, so that those who go through can get food at any hour. It appears that my husband was concerned about this when he visited here. Very good hamburgers were being cooked and Brazilian coffee, which is usually stronger than ours, seemed to be very popular. I am sure my husband would be entirely satisfied.

The following morning we visited our Army and Navy and the Brazilian forces. At eleven-thirty, we gathered at the naval base to attend the formal ceremonies where a Navy flying squadron was decorated for its courageous and successful achievements during the last few months. The squadron consists of a wonderful looking group of young men, and I was very happy when Vice Admiral Jonas Ingram gave me the opportunity to pin on their decorations. There was a moment when I thought that their beautifully starched uniforms were going to withstand all my efforts to get a pin through the material. I was glad when we reached a point where I could just hand them the medals without actually pinning them on.

These ceremonies are not only interesting, but very moving, and the playing of the "Star Spangled Banner" takes on a special significance at an occasion of this kind. We lunched at the transient enlisted men's mess. At my table there were three men who are stationed permanently at this base. The others were all passing through. Some of the other ladies told me that at their tables there were only men who were either going out or returning.

Madame Salgado, wife of the Minister of Aviation for Brazil, and two younger Brazilian ladies were extremely popular with our men who asked a tremendous number of questions which showed a great interest in Brazil. On the drive back, we reviewed a number of Brazilian Army contingents and attended a charming double flag raising ceremony which was held at one of the Brazilian establishments.

After returning to the U. S. Army base we held a short press conference, and then, in the barracks, there was a tea for all the women that included Army nurses, USO and Red Cross workers and civilian employees.

E. R.

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220 East 42nd Street, New York, 17

MAR 23 REGD

FOR RELEASE TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 1944 AND THEREAFTER.

MY DAY

(TR. MK. REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.)

By Eleanor Roosevelt

Somewhere in South America, Monday-- On the second evening in Natal, I was hostess to the Brazilian officials and Army and Navy officers at dinner at the Army guest house. After dinner we visited the Red Cross recreation room where there was a singsong going on.

Technical Sergeant Lew Kerners, who has been master of ceremonies at many posts and is just back from Ascension Island, did a wonderful job of amusing the boys and making them sing wholeheartedly. A Red Cross girl with some selected boys led the singing. The band made up of servicemen was good, and I enjoyed the singing and the playing here.

As in every other place where groups of men were gathered, I gave them a short message from their Commander-in-Chief. The two younger Brazilian ladies stayed on after the older people left, and answered questions about customs and ways of life in Brazil. They came back after having had a grand time, and they were very pleased with our boys. I think the fact that young ladies here do not often associate with young men in large groups added to the zest of the occasion.

After leaving the Red Cross Club we saw a group of fliers just before they took off, and one young man asked me to sign a new bill saying he was not yet a short snorter but would be the next day. The captain of that crew said they were "going all the way", so this boy will be well seasoned by the time he gets home. You wish them luck with a catch in your throat because you know that for the "first timer", there are experiences ahead of which he scarcely dreams.

On the morning of March 16th, accompanied by our Brazilian friends who came up from Rio to be with us, we were in the air by eight-thirty and on our way to Recife. The flight took less than forty-five minutes. I can perhaps give you an idea that transportation is not highly developed in this area when I tell you that later in the day we ran beside a little narrow gauge railway track and passed the train which, because of the coal shortage, was burning wood. That train meanders around the back country, but takes 16 hours to go to Recife.

I hope the Brazilians in this newly developing country will avoid one of our mistakes. This track of theirs runs along a beautiful beach in Recife. The road runs beside it, and across the road are some very lovely houses. It did not matter much in the old days in the U. S. A. when we laid some of our railroad tracks along our most beautiful river banks, but what wouldn't we give now to have them put further back where they would not interfere with the scenery!

A large gathering of officials greeted us in Recife, for this is one of Brazil's largest cities. After the greetings were over, we proceeded to Captain and Mrs. William Hildgman's house, where Miss Thompson and I spent the night.

E. R.

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FROM UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE, INC.
220 East 42nd Street, New York, 17

FOR RELEASE WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 1944 AND THEREAFTER.

MY DAY

(TR. MK. REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.)

Caracas, Venezuela, Tuesday-- We arrived at Atkinson Field, British Guiana Saturday morning, in time to be greeted by the Governor, Sir Charles Leatham. With Colonel Alan, the commanding officer of the field, he accompanied us to a movie theater where some of our men had assembled. After talking to the men for a few moments, we went back to the officers' mess for luncheon and the Governor bade us goodbye, leaving Colonel Hooker, a very delightful Scotchman, to represent him.

The Governor said he had a commission in Georgetown visiting him from Great Britain, which was taking testimony on the local education situation. Just before meeting us he had had a parliamentary committee, so he was being kept very busy. I gathered that these committees were like some of our own which go to investigate conditions and are a little trying to residents of far away places sometimes, because committee members have to be told all the things which the people who are on the spot have taken months to learn. Decisions which have been arrived at by people who have perhaps lived for years in that locality are often misunderstood because visitors have less experience and background on local situations.

We had a very pleasant lunch with the officers on the field, and then went back to talk to another group that had come into the movie theater from other parts of the field. In anticipation of bombings from the air, the camps are widely scattered and well camouflaged, which was a wise precaution but which does make gathering at any one place a little difficult.

We drove around the base, stopping at the hospital which had very few patients who were all on the road to recovery. It was rather interesting to see two Brazilians whom Major Art Williams had brought in by air from far outlying ranches on the border between British Guiana and Brazil. They were extremely grateful for the care they had received, and it had a great effect upon the feeling of friendliness which these men in isolated places now have for Americans.

For two hours in the afternoon, Major Art Williams, a friend of ours who is a character and has lived in this country for 10 years, showed us interesting places in the interior. He was a flier during World War I, and he knows every mountain and stream.

Around Georgetown and all along the coast, British Guiana is low--practically under water. Rice and sugar grow and there is a certain amount of gardening on drier spots. But the jungle is thick as you get further back, and you see both up to date and very primitive gold and diamond mining in occasional clearings, and then high mountains loom before you.

The rivers are filled with rapids. We hoped to get a glimpse of the highest falls in the world, but the mountains were enveloped in mist. Instead we saw an extraordinary sight, swiftly blowing dark clouds, a lowering and angry sky, and below us, a steaming jungle from which floated upward what might have been clouds, smoke or steam.

I could only think that it would have been a remarkable illustration from Dante's Inferno, and we in our little plane might have been the disembodied spirits looking down into the terrifying Hell of Dante's dream. It was evil looking and yet fascinating, full of hidden things.

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220 East 42nd Street, New York, 17

FOR RELEASE THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 1944 AND THEREAFTER.

MY DAY

(TR. MK. REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.)

By Eleanor Roosevelt

Caracas, Venezuela, Wednesday-- Back in the mountains of British Guiana are flat plateaus where the hardy rancher can build himself a home and in 20 years, so Major Art Williams told me, he can be secure enough financially to send his boys and girls away to school. Men and women must work hard, however, and no weakling could succeed. Spaniards, Scotchmen, Americans from Texas, and various other pioneers are today ranching successfully, and their stories seemed like those written about our own early pioneers.

The officers at Atkinson Field gave me a most interesting bag made by a Mr. Melville, one of the ranchers, who is a friend of our guide, Major Art Williams. He killed a jaguar and a deer, and he dressed the skins to make this very unusual and beautiful bag.

Major Art Williams also flew us over the old Dutch seat of government, where the diamond shaped fort and old Dutch Government House stand, and he pointed out forests of greenheart wood which will not float but must be loaded on barges for transport.

At 5 o'clock we landed at the U. S. Naval base. Here we went directly to mess with the enlisted men. The boy next to me came from Washington, D. C., and I have promised to tell his wife how he is when I get home. Then there was a boy from Seattle, one from Minneapolis, one from New York and one from Arkansas. I had a chance to talk to a number of the boys and some of the girls brought out for a dance by the U. S. O. Later we went to the movies with them all, and saw a gangster film which I am sure took their minds from the war. I was breathless when it was over.

Then we went to the Naval hospital, where again they had very few patients. This is evidently a healthy spot. It is a tribute to the work done by "malaria control" and clearing the jungle around the bases. Finally we went back to the dance at the mess hall, and spent an hour or more talking to various boys as they gathered around.

It was well after midnight when we got to bed, and we had to take off the following morning with Major Art Williams at 7:30. Back at Atkinson Field, we changed to a bigger plane and left for La Guaira. We were met on arrival by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Senora Parra Perez and our Ambassador and Mrs. Corrigan. I drove with Foreign Minister and Senora Parra Perez to Caracas.

It is a wonderful road, winding up into mountains giving view after view of sea and mountains below and above. After arriving in the city, we went immediately to the Pantheon, and I laid a wreath on Simon Bolivar's tomb. This is a dignified and beautiful building worthy of the great liberator who lies surrounded by monuments of other Venezuelan patriots.

The older part of the city through which we passed is interesting, with some lovely squares and public buildings. Many people live in the suburbs of the city where houses are surrounded by beautiful gardens. We spent the night at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Phelps, which is charming in every way.

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FROM UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE, INC.
220 East 42nd Street, New York, 17

FOR RELEASE FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 1944 AND THEREAFTER.

MY DAY

(TR. MK. REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.)

By Eleanor Roosevelt

Caracas, Venezuela, Thursday-- The people of Venezuela seemed very friendly. They waved and made us feel most welcome. Venezuela now has a very progressive government. They are clearing away slums and have started on a low cost housing program in the heart of the city of Caracas. They are training teachers and building new primary schools. A system of maternal and infancy care in which ladies' groups are much interested is being tried here.

The war has complicated the lives of these people because of the lack of shipping for their products. The cost of living has risen, so I imagine the poor people are having a hard time, even though wages are fairly high in oil fields and on government work, and have risen in some other occupations.

The question of granting the franchise to women is now being discussed, and I gathered at my meeting with representative groups of ladies, and afterwards when I met with the press, that this is creating a good deal of talk. One might almost say a feminist movement exists here.

After lunching at our embassy, we went to call on Madame Medina Angarita, the wife of the President of Venezuela. The President and Madame Medina Angarita received us on our arrival at Mr. Phelps' house, and that night we dined at their home.

At four o'clock we reached the headquarters of the American Society, where I met first with the ladies belonging to various organizations and answered some questions which they had prepared for me. Then I met the press, went through the building and back to our embassy for a reception for American women in Caracas. To my surprise, there must be several hundred here, which I think surprised even the ambassador!

Quite a number of our boys come to Caracas on short leaves and the American ladies have formed themselves into a committee of hostesses, instead of starting a U. S. O. Whenever they hear that either officers or enlisted men have arrived, the acting hostess contacts the men, finds out what they'd like to do, and makes any arrangements for their entertainment. She sees that they are asked into homes to buffet suppers and dancing parties.

The women tell me they have had most appreciative letters thanking them for making the boys feel "at home" away from home. It has evidently been of great satisfaction to Americans who feel far away from the war in which many of their loved ones are involved and who want to do something to be drawn closer to the war effort.

We had nearly two hours to rest before dinner, but we really needed to rest because this column had to be written and in the morning we had to be on our way again a little after 8 o'clock.

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FROM UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE, INC.
220 East 42nd Street, New York, 17

FOR RELEASE SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 1944 AND THEREAFTER.

MY DAY

(TR. MK. REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.)

By Eleanor Roosevelt

Balboa, Canal Zone, Friday-- Miss Thompson and I were very much touched at the Navy Base at Curacao when, at the movie theater, we were presented with little gifts which the whole camp had brought for us. The gifts were lovely in themselves, but the thought touched us more.

At 7:45 Tuesday morning, the band was already playing in the inner square as we stepped from the Governor's house and stood on top of the high steps. We looked down upon a very big group of school children who were carrying the stars and stripes and orange school banners, and the Dutch flag.

Much of the teaching on the island is done by Catholic brothers. Some of them led the children in singing all the verses of "The Star Spangled Banner" in English, followed by their own Dutch national anthem.

Most children talk "papiamento", so it is an achievement to know both Dutch and English and they told me that many of them learn other languages as well, but of course the language of the schools is Dutch.

We drove to the flying field, took leave of the Governor and left for Aruba. Since this is the dry season, this island which calls itself "The Gem of the Caribbean" looked to me rather arid. Their rainfall at all times is low, only about 13 inches yearly, and I wondered that herds of sheep and goats got enough to eat.

We drove through refinery grounds and were amazed at the sight of flourishing little gardens around many houses. I soon discovered, however, that these gardens flourish because water which is brought from the United States and very carefully doled out for drinking and washing purposes, is occasionally diverted to the gardens.

I had a chance to meet all the American women living here after I had met the Army and Navy personnel. The USO here is a particularly good one as Mr. Vint, director, was here before and knows people. He has obtained good cooperation and seems to keep his program moving all the time.

It took only a little more than an hour to fly to Barranquilla. Here the wife of the Acting President, Mrs. Echandia, with other Colombian officials and our ambassador, Mr. Lane and his wife, met us, along with local military officers and General Brett and Admiral Train who came over from Panama.

We drove to the city about ten miles away to see the club which the women of the city run for the soldiers. It is the equivalent of our USO, but it was started before the USO became active down here. They have open space at the back with shade, trees and gay hammocks hung for the boys to lie in. Twenty-five steaks can be broiled at once on the big grill. They give the boys service which is exceptional.

The boys are always looking for gifts to send home, and frequently shopkeepers put up prices because they know American boys are unwilling to bargain and do not know the value of native products. Our boys think only of getting gifts started toward home. The ladies who run the service club have the gifts consigned to them, put on display in the shops, and then let the boys buy through them. They told me they had sold more than \$6,000 worth in a few months.

I visited the Army and Navy areas, and before we left there was a short reception at the airport. Three o'clock found us taking off for Panama.

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FROM UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE, INC.
220 East 42nd Street, New York, 17

FOR RELEASE MONDAY, MARCH 27, 1944 AND THEREAFTER.

MY DAY

(TR. MK. REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.)

By Eleanor Roosevelt

Balboa, Canal Zone, Sunday-- On our arrival in Panama, we were met by the President and Mrs. de la Guardia and various officials of Panama, as well as our own Army and Navy officials. We went at once to supper with the enlisted men of a troop carrier squadron. I happened to notice the clever, Walt Disney-like illustration on the barracks sign and found that a young Chinese, who was sitting on my left at supper, had not only drawn that but had also drawn many other things. His home was in San Francisco, Cal. The table, as a whole, was representative of different groups within the squadron and of a great variety of states.

After supper we drove to the home of Governor and Mrs. Edgerton, where we had just time to change before going to call on President and Mrs. de la Guardia at 7:30 P. M. The entrance to the Presidencia has a fountain with water flowing over into a basin which gives the whole patio a cool feeling even on a warm evening,

We talked over various reforms which the President is trying to put through, such as control of tuberculosis, an asylum for children which I gathered was really to be a hospital, and other improvements which are all contemplated as soon as building materials are available.

After this visit we went to the USO where a regular visiting show was being put on. I became part of the show for a few minutes, and spoke to the audience, which was most responsive and in the best possible spirits. I don't wonder that the people who go to camp shows tell me that the soldiers and sailors are the best audience in the world. They certainly respond as no audience in the United States would to any effort to entertain them. That ended my first day in Panama.

We started off the next morning at 7:45 and attended an orientation class conducted by the enlisted men themselves. The discussion was on "What Shall We Do With Germany After the War?" As boy after boy got up to comment on various proposals which were put forth as possibilities by Sergeant Joseph Klein, I was interested to notice that many of our Army men still speak with an accent which denotes background from another country, but they think as Americans. The young man who led the discussion, Private Warren Dempsey, did a very good job. The young lieutenant, Dan Herr, who sponsors these courses, went to the Army school in Virginia and is a veteran of the New Guinea campaign.

From there we went to Fort Clayton Army Hospital. Then we drove through Corozal Military Cemetery. The older part of it has trees and looks very well cared for, but it has had to be enlarged since the war. The new part is less attractive. This will change with time, however.

E. R.

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FROM UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE, INC.
220 East 42nd Street, New York, 17

FOR RELEASE TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 1944 AND THEREAFTER.

MY DAY

(TR. MK. REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.)

By Eleanor Roosevelt

Guatemala City, Guatemala, Monday-- It took only a little over four hours to fly from Panama to Salinas. Here we were met by the wife of the President of Ecuador, Senora Arroyo del Rio and several Ecuadorian ladies, as well as our Army and Navy commanders, Colonel Cunningham and Commander Hummer.

We visited both the Army and Navy hospitals, and I'm glad to report that they had very few patients. There is practically no malaria here; the climate is very dry and the one real difficulty is lack of water. All the water is distilled, but since there is a wonderful beach with good, safe swimming, I imagine many of the men take to the sea when water gets scarce.

Salinas itself is used as a summer resort by people from Quito and by British and American people working here, which is pleasant for our men.

At lunch with a mixed group of Army and Navy enlisted personnel, I found myself talking to a boy who had married a girl from Quito. The girl's mother was from the United States, and is now married to an Ecuadorian. Now the boy, who is American, is planning to take his wife home with him when the war is over.

Next we went to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Toes where Senora Arroyo del Rio gave a reception and we met some Ecuadorians as well as members of our own embassy staff. The Ecuadorian troops stood on guard near the house and their band played The Star Spangled Banner. Our flying officers are instructing a group of Ecuadorian cadets whose training planes are kept near our base. It seemed to me that the best of feeling exists, and cooperation is very good here as everywhere else.

By one-thirty we took off for the Galapagos Islands, where we arrived in time to get an idea of the amount of work which had been done to create the Army and Navy installations. Much building is still going on. We had supper with a representative group of enlisted men, and found among them a boy who said he had worked in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. for several years.

We went back to our quarters and emerged an hour later with a great feeling of satisfaction because of the work we had done. We went over to the Officers' Club at seven, where both Army and Navy officers and civilian engineers were gathered. This must be a very pleasant place to come to after the day's work is done.

We spent an hour talking with various officers. Among them was a young man from Washington, D. C. who said that I had spoken at his high school. He is now a flier, and with him was another young flier whose wife works in the District. I hope he will give me her name so I can call her up on my return, though he could not find a pencil and paper at the moment to write it down.

Some of the boys feel the monotony and the loneliness of this particular post, and would like very much to be nearer to what they feel is active service. Yet the job here is essential and must be done, as so many other jobs depend upon it.

Saturday morning we went to our enlisted men's mess at six-thirty A. M., leaving our quarters a little before six. Saturday was one long succession of visits to day rooms, service clubs, post exchanges, gun positions, the chapel, the cemetery and the Army and Navy hospitals. In all of these there are certain similarities, since there is a standard set for each place according to the size and need of the installation. But one has to realize in looking at them that for each man this is his particular achievement, and vitally important to the well being of the group.

FROM UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE, INC.
220 East 42nd Street, New York, 17

FOR RELEASE WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 1944 AND THEREAFTER.

MY DAY

(TR, MK. REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.)

By Eleanor Roosevelt

Guatemala City, Guatemala, Tuesday-- On our last full day in Panama, we left the house at the very reasonable hour of 8 A. M. We visited the Marines, saw the Naval hospital and attended a demonstration at the fire fighting school. The men do a remarkable job on fire fighting today. They are not only putting the men at the base through this school, but they even give intensive instruction to men who can be spared from ships. It was an extraordinary demonstration of how fire could be handled on ship board. As one boy said: "In the old days we would have thought there was nothing to do but jump overboard." It is a very important course for both officers and men to take, as it gives them knowledge and training which will see them through many tight places.

We went from there to another Naval installation on a nearby island. This gave me my first chance to travel on a PT boat. What speed these boats have! Any young man who has ever liked a yacht would be fascinated by the compactness with which they are designed. I went all through the boat, for I knew that I would probably never have another chance to see one. My chief concern on the trip was a photographer, who insisted on taking photographs from precarious places. I was thankful when we had him safe on land again.

On the island we visited the Naval hospital, which had no patients thus showing what a healthy spot this place happens to be. Since there is not a very large group of men, the men here have one advantage usually found in small places. They feel like a family group. We had lunch in the enlisted men's mess.

After returning to the mainland, we went to visit a school run primarily for Puerto Rican inductees, although many officers and men from the continental troops attend. We heard an orientation lecture given in Spanish and I thought every class, whether it was held in a classroom or in a shop, captured the men's attention and achieved the desired results.

Then we went to General Brett's residence for a press conference. These conferences are ~~rather~~ amusing because many of the press representatives speak only Spanish. Therefore the questions are carefully prepared beforehand and translated into English. As I answer them, they have to be translated into Spanish.

Later, we went for a short drive around the city and visited the very fine Santomas Hospital. Many of the nurses on the staff go to the USO dances on their time off. I had a glimpse of the church of San Jose, with its wonderful golden altar which was brought from Brazil many years ago. It is carved out of mahogany and covered with gold leaf. It is one of the most elaborate and dazzling pieces of work I have ever seen.

We had supper in one of the enlisted Navy men's messes, and at 6 o'clock we attended an informal reception given by the President and Madame de la Guardia at the Presidencia. In the evening we went to three USO clubs. One had a particularly large gathering, and two soldier bakers had provided one of the most elaborate cakes I ever saw in my honor. So of course I had to cut it. Again I drew the door prizes at a jungle dance, and then the show went merrily on.

We did have a little time to sit and talk to our hosts, and I was glad to have this opportunity. I hope I shall see Governor and Mrs. Edgerton in Washington before long, since the Governor's tour of duty is nearly over. I did want a chance to thank them both for their very generous hospitality, which included calling us at 5:30 and seeing us off at 6:45 in the morning.

E. R.

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page 1 of 2
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
OCTOBER 3, 1995

CONTACT: LISA CAPUTO
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FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON TO
VISIT LATIN AMERICA

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will make an official visit to four countries in Latin America October 12 - 17, 1995. Her visit to Nicaragua, Chile, Brazil and Paraguay is part of the Administration's continuing efforts to strengthen U.S. relations with countries in our own Western Hemisphere.

"At the Summit of the Americas, the leaders of our hemisphere agreed that our mutual prosperity depends upon the welfare of our children, families and communities. With her deep interests in health and education, and in women and children, the First Lady will be a strong spokesperson for this administration's commitment to the fundamental social values that unite this hemisphere," said The President.

In Paraguay, Mrs. Clinton will attend the Fifth Conference of Wives of Heads of State and of Government of the Americas. Mrs. Clinton will address the conference on the goals established at the Summit of the Americas in Miami last December, with special attention to the Summit initiatives in health, education and women's rights, particularly as they relate to children.

Throughout her trip, Mrs. Clinton will meet with governmental leaders and with women representatives from official agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), education, health, business, religious institutions and the arts. The First Lady will visit communities to see first hand the progress being made in eradicating poverty and investing in people, through better schools, health services and employment opportunities.

"The United States has a vital stake in the economic prosperity and social well-being of our hemispheric neighbors. In Miami, the leaders of our hemisphere committed their nations to a powerful agenda for addressing our common social concerns in a better future for our children and families. I look forward to meeting with the men and women who are working to build a hemisphere that is more democratic, more prosperous and more just," said Mrs. Clinton.

-MORE-

At the Summit of the Americas, Mrs. Clinton hosted The First Ladies' Symposium on Children of the Americas to discuss the Summit's initiatives in health and education as they related to the needs of children. Since then, Mrs. Clinton addressed the Pan-American Health Association as it launched its campaign to eliminate measles from the Western Hemisphere.

The administration has given its relations with the Western Hemisphere a high priority. Among his many meetings with hemispheric leaders, President Clinton has hosted visits to the White House by President Chamorro of Nicaragua, President Frei of Chile and President Cardoso of Brazil.

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MEMORANDUM

To: Lissa
Fr: Deb
Re: Alliance for Progress
Dt: October 4, 1995

President Kennedy summoned the Latin American diplomatic corps to the White House on March 13, 1961 to announce that the United States was prepared to support a hemisphere-wide development program he called the Alliance for Progress.

The Punta del Este Declaration, as the framers named it, aimed "to improve and strengthen democratic institutions through application of the principle of self-determination by the people." Its focus was economic growth, increased incomes, improved housing and land reform, fair wages, satisfactory work conditions, wiping out illiteracy, building schools, eradicating disease and improving public health.

Factors in Latin America leading to the formation of the Alliance included a burgeoning population growth in economies that were unable to generate employment; mass migration into cities, transforming the countryside and creating widespread urban slum conditions; and widespread illiteracy. In addition, agriculture lagged behind population growth, forcing increased food imports, while commodity prices for Latin America's exports, particularly coffee and sugar, were continually falling. All of these phenomena were creating a widening gap between rich and poor.

Specific contributions by the U.S. included: thousands of new classrooms; several million new books; at least 10,000 new homes; thousands of newly trained teachers; benefits to farmers, workers and slum dwellers; and stabilization of the price of coffee (world-wide agreement).

United States' involvement in the Alliance was largely political though there are varying opinions about the underlying motives. Cynics, primarily Latin Americans opposed to United States involvement, felt that the Alliance was primarily a security based issue linked to the fear of Fidel Castro and the threat of communism. However, above and beyond that fear, policymakers were troubled by the underlying inequities that were distorting the political evolution of the Latin American Nations.

For the seven years following the declaration, large amounts of capital were channeled to Latin America (about \$2 billion annually) which spurred further interest from commercial banks in the succeeding decade to loan over \$200 billion to developing countries in the region.

The Alliance is mostly remembered for emphasizing the importance of ideological change along with economic development. It simultaneously pursued such diverse goals as social justice, economic growth, political stability, and private sector investment.

While it did little, in retrospect, to advance the economic development at the time (population growth inhibited any real gains), it is seen as one of the most important tools in establishing not only positive relations within the Americas, but in paving the way for the modern development of Central and South America.

JFK quotes:

"As each powerful new wave of ideas and aspiration has swept across our shores, the inter-American system has been able to translate these ideas and aspirations into a working reality for our people. In this respect it has been unique among efforts at world collaboration. That is why it has endured in the past and must endure in the future."

"...the people of the Americas have fashioned an *Allianza para el Progreso*, an alliance in which all the American states have mobilized their resources and energies to secure land for the landless, education for those without schools, and a faster rate of economic growth within a society where all can share in the fruits of progress."

"...New regional institutions have been created; a central bank has been established; and centralized planning and direction are going ahead in education, finance, and many other fields."

--San Jose, Costa Rica, March, 1963.

information taken from The Alliance for Progress: A Retrospective, edited by L. Ronald Scheman

outside the competitive service, these same principles are to be followed. All departments and agencies are requested to review their policies and practices regarding maximum age limits in other than the competitive

service, and to take steps to insure that such limits are established only when absolutely necessary.

JOHN F. KENNEDY

97 Remarks Upon Arrival at the Airport, San José, Costa Rica.
March 18, 1963

Mr. President:

I want to express my warm appreciation to you and to the people of Costa Rica for your welcome to us today.

About 500 years ago, Christopher Columbus, after having discovered Costa Rica, turned from Panama and began his last journey home. He described this fourth voyage as the "High Journey," the high voyage, and I feel in a very real sense that this is a high voyage for all of us who meet today in this free and democratic country. Our high voyage, Mr. President, is not to seek new lands to conquer, but to make sure that old lands remain free. We don't seek gold for a few in our voyage; we seek a better life for all of our people.

Mr. President, the purpose of our meeting is, as you have suggested, to see what our countries, working together, the United States and the countries of the Isthmus, we, working together, can do for our people to make sure that along with a system of political independence, hand in hand will go economic well-being.

It is our responsibility in this hemisphere, in this Isthmus, in my own country in the

1960's, to demonstrate that economic prosperity is the handmaiden of political liberty. That is the responsibility of all of us. If we meet that responsibility, then this country and all countries like it in this hemisphere will remain free. If we do not meet this responsibility, then their inevitable fate will be one of enslavement by those who already have indicated their desire to crush out independence in this hemisphere.

So this meeting is most vital, and I want you to know, Mr. President, that I come here today not only with the Members of the Congress and the Secretary of State and others, but I come here today with 180 million fellow Americans who want this hemisphere to be free, and who want this hemisphere to be an example to a watching world in the crucial years of this century and this decade.

And, Mr. President, I want to express again our thanks to you. We could not feel more at home a thousand miles from the United States than here in Costa Rica.

NOTE: The President's opening words referred to Francisco J. Orlich, President of Costa Rica.

98 Remarks to Members of the American Colony in San José.
March 18, 1963

Mr. Ambassador:

I want to thank you very much. I would first like to introduce those who came down with us from the United States. I think you have seen the Secretary of State, Mr. Rusk. Then Senator Morse, who is Chairman of

the Subcommittee on Latin Affairs of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; Congressman Armistead Selden of Alabama, who is Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Latin America; and Congressman Mailliard, who serves with Congress-

man Selden and is the ranking Republican on that committee, who came down with us also.

We are delighted to be here and to be the guests of our distinguished Ambassador, who is an old friend of mine, and also to be here with you. I want to express our very warm thanks and appreciation to all those who work for the United States Government here in Costa Rica. You are some miles from home, and I hope you realize how vital your service is and how much depends upon what you are able to do. This is a most critical time in the life of our country. We are, as Americans, more concerned, I think, for one of the first times in our history—perhaps somewhat belatedly—but I think as Americans we are more concerned with what goes on in the countries to the south of us that we have even been before. I think all of us regard this as the most critical and, in a sense, important area in the world today.

Our great effort, in a hemisphere which has known a good deal of turbulent history, must be to help construct democratic, responsible, and stable governments which provide an ever-increasing standard of living for the people of their countries. That is our objective. That is why we are here today. That is the meaning of the Alliance for Progress. It is a joint effort by the leaders of all of our sister Republics and the United States to see if we can solve, by democratic means, the pressing problems of illiteracy, and maldistribution of wealth, lack of education, lack of security, lack of jobs. This is a tremendously difficult assignment, much more difficult in many ways than was our

responsibility at the end of World War II in regard to Europe. There, there were great skills, great potential, long experience, and the United States played an important and significant role in helping the countries of Europe to build themselves up. Now we are attempting to do a similar cooperative effort here in this hemisphere, and a great deal depends upon all of you.

Whether you are working for the Government here, whether you are working for the Information Service, whether you work for the State Department, or whether you work for private companies, I hope that all of us together, during this visit and in the days to come, can demonstrate our strong identification with the people of Costa Rica, with the people of Central America, with the people of Latin America. We want them to know that this is a continuing, constant interest, and that we spend not only 2 days here, but that all of the efforts of the United States will be dedicated in this decade to seeing if we can solve, through freedom, the problems which they face in their everyday lives. This is a great responsibility, a great opportunity, and you are the leaders of it. So I want to express the thanks of all of our countrymen to you and to also express our very warm appreciation to you for having come this afternoon to welcome us here today, and also for the warm welcome you gave us all coming to town today. We appreciate it.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke from the steps of the Ambassador's residence in Costa Rica. His opening words referred to U.S. Ambassador Raymond Telles.

99 Address at the Teatro Nacional in San José Upon Opening the Presidents' Conference. March 18, 1963

Presidents of the Central American Republics, President of Panama, Your Excellencies, the First Ladies of the Central American Republics, members of the diplomatic service, the Archbishop, ladies and gentlemen:

I think the extraordinary statements which we have heard this afternoon will serve to illuminate for the people of this hemisphere, and particularly for the people of the United States, the harsh and striking

challenges we face in these Republics and in the other Republics of this hemisphere in attempting to improve the life of our people. The statements that have been made today I think serve as a call to action by all of us, north and south, to move ahead in these days before time passes us by.

In 1825 a son of El Salvador, and a citizen of Central America—Antonio José Canas—the first minister accredited by the United Provinces of Central America to the United States, delivered an invitation to Secretary of State Henry Clay. He asked him to send representatives to the first Inter-American Congress at Panama, a meeting at which, he said, the struggling new nations of the hemisphere "might consider upon and adopt the best plan for defending the states of the New World from foreign aggression, and . . . raise them to that elevation of wealth and power, which, from their resources, they may attain."

Today, 138 years later, we are gathered in this theater in pursuit of those same goals: the preservation of our independence, the extension of freedom, and the elevation of the welfare of our citizens to a level as high as "from our resources" we can attain. And today I have come from the United States at the invitation of a Central America which, with Panama, is rapidly attaining a unity of purpose, effort and achievement which has been unknown since the dissolution of that earliest federation.

That early conference did not achieve all its goals. But from it flowed the dream and creation of Bolívar, Canas, and José Cecilio de Valle of Costa Rica—the dream which became the inter-American system and this system has been the most successful, the most fruitful, and the most enduring of international order in the history of the world.

We say this because every effort to reimpose the despotisms of the Old World on the people of the New has ultimately been beaten back—because within this system 20 Republics have attained the full recognition of their dignity as sovereign nations—and

because this system has maintained an unmatched record of peaceful relations among its members. There have been occasional conflicts to mar this record. But nowhere else have nations lived as neighbors with so little hostility and warfare. And today the principles of nonintervention and the peaceful resolution of disputes have been so firmly imbedded in our tradition that the heroic democracy in which we meet today can pursue its national goals without an armed force to guard its frontiers. In few other spots in the world could this be said today.

We have not attained this strength by merely trying to protect what was already won, to preserve the gains of the past, to maintain the status quo. If these were our system's goals, it would inevitably have crumbled as old orders crumbled. Instead, it has survived, prospered, and grown despite wars and revolutions, despite changing ideologies and changing technologies, despite shifts in power and shifts in wealth—because it has been itself an instrument of change, profound revolutionary change which has molded the history of this hemisphere and shaped the thinking of men seeking freedom and dignity in all lands. As each powerful new wave of ideas and aspiration has swept across our shores, the inter-American system has been able to translate these ideas and aspirations into a working reality for our people. In this respect it has been unique among efforts at world collaboration. That is why it has endured in the past and must endure in the future.

In the first three centuries of our history, the seeds of Western civilization and culture were planted here.

In the next century, we established an inter-American system which helped to complete and maintain our freedom from foreign rule. This freedom has often been challenged—as today it is challenged in Cuba. But with the help of dedicated and brave men—men such as those who drove out Maximilian or men such as those who prevented the Spanish reconquest in 1866, men

such as Costa Rica's Mora, who helped to drive out William Walker—with such help we have destroyed all efforts at foreign conquest in the past, as we will ultimately triumph over the new conquerors of today.

In the 50 years following its creation, the inter-American system worked to establish the political equality and national dignity of all its members, to extend political democracy and to strengthen the principle that no nation should forcibly impose its will upon another. These goals have been largely met. The equality of sovereign states is accepted by all. Intervention and force have been renounced. Machinery of peaceful settlement has been strengthened. Democracy rules in most of our lands. It will ultimately prevail over the last vestiges of tyranny in every land in this hemisphere.

Now, in our own time, the inter-American system faces old foes and new challenges; and it is again demonstrating the capacity for change which has always given it strength. The foes are stronger and more determined than ever before and the challenges are more difficult, more complex, and more burdensome. For today we are faced not merely with the protection of new nations, but with the remolding of ancient societies—not only with the destruction of political enemies, but with the destruction of poverty, hunger, ignorance, and disease—not alone with the creation of national dignity but with the preservation of human dignity.

To meet this enormous challenge, the peoples of the Americas have fashioned an *Alianza para el Progreso*, an alliance in which all the American states have mobilized their resources and energies to secure land for the landless, education for those without schools, and a faster rate of economic growth within a society where all can share in the fruits of progress.

Here in Central America we have already begun to move towards the goals of the *Alianza*.

You have made enormous strides towards

the creation of a common market of 13 million people. New regional institutions have been created; a central bank has been established; and centralized planning and direction are going ahead in education, finance, and many other fields. I congratulate you on your effort to reestablish an historic unity to meet new needs; and I pledge my Government's continued assistance to that great effort.

In addition, you have begun to formulate the long-range economic development plans essential to the success of the *Alianza*. The organization of the Central American Joint Planning Mission gives new impetus to planning on a regional development scale.

In nearly every country represented here, new land reform or tax reform programs have been adopted in an effort to meet the basic pledges of increased social justice contained in the Charter of Punta del Este and demanded by all of our people.

In the 2-year period beginning July 1, 1961, under programs supported by the United States as part of its contribution to the alliance, almost 3,000 new classrooms will have been built in the nations represented here today; almost a million new books have been distributed; and tomorrow we will begin to distribute more than 2 million more books to children hungry for learning. But much more remains to be done.

Some 7600 new homes will have been built during this 2-year period under *Alianza* programs in these nations—but much more remains to be done.

Three-quarters of a million children will have been fed, but many are still hungry.

Six thousand new teachers have been trained, as well as many thousands of agricultural workers, public health and other public administrators. Still more are needed.

During the last 18 months, almost 3 million people in Central America—farmers, workers, children, and slum dwellers—have received some form of direct benefit under the *Alianza*. And almost \$250 million of external resources have been committed in

support of the alliance in Central America and Panama, to help strengthen the basic structure of the economy and at the same time meet the basic needs of the people for improved health, education, housing, and institutions.

Finally, a revolutionary worldwide agreement to stabilize the price of coffee has been entered into which we in the United States are determined to make work—to protect your most vital source of export earnings. As every speaker here today has said, every one of these countries sell their agricultural commodities in a sense at wholesale, and buy their manufactured goods at retail, and pay the freight both ways. And we are also willing to move ahead to agreements stabilizing the prices of other commodities, so that your future prosperity will not depend on the often destructive fluctuation of prices beyond your control.

Tomorrow, at El Bosque, we will see how the *Alianza* enters into the lives of citizens of Costa Rica—providing them with new homes in which they and their families can find decent shelter.

We shall continue under the alliance to build economies more balanced and less dependent on one or two export commodities. To this end we must push forward plans for industrialization, greater crop diversification, stronger educational facilities, and better utilization of our resources.

Yet we cannot be, and I know none of us are, satisfied with the progress we have made. Peoples who have waited centuries for opportunity and dignity cannot wait much longer. And unless those of us now making an effort are willing to redouble our efforts, unless the rich are willing to use some of their riches more wisely, unless the privileged are willing to yield up their privileges to a common good, unless the young and the educated are given opportunities to use their education, and unless governments are willing to dedicate themselves tirelessly to the tasks of governing efficiently and developing swiftly, then let us realize our

Alianza will fail, and with it will fall the society of free nations which our forefathers labored to build.

Unfortunately, while this new endeavor goes forward we are also confronted by one of the oldest of our enemies. For, at the very time that newly independent nations rise in the Caribbean the people of Cuba have been forcibly compelled to submit to a new imperialism, more ruthless, more powerful, and more deadly in its pursuit of power than any that this hemisphere has ever known. Just when it was hoped that Cuba was about to enter upon a new era of democracy and social justice, the Soviet Union, through its Cuban puppets, absorbed the Cuban nation into its empire—and its now seeks to extend its rule to the shores of the continent itself.

But other foreign powers have discovered that the American Hemisphere is not a fertile ground for foreign tyranny, and that any effort to spread such rule will meet with fierce and unyielding resistance. For Americans will not yield up those freedoms which they shed so much blood to achieve.

At the OAS, at this meeting, and wherever Americans gather to consult about the future of their continent, we will continue to strengthen the structure of resistance to subversion. I am hopeful that at this meeting we will again increase our capacity to prevent the infiltration of Cuban agents, money, and propaganda. We will build a wall around Cuba—not a wall of mortar or brick or barbed wire, but a wall of dedicated men determined to protect their freedom and their sovereignty. And in this effort, as in all the other necessary efforts, I can assure you the United States will play its full part and bear its full burden.

In 1822, Bolívar, the father of the inter-American system, said this: "United in heart, in spirit and in aims, this Continent . . . must raise its eyes . . . to peer into the centuries which lie ahead. It can then contemplate with pride those future generations of men, happy and free, enjoying to the full the

blessings that heaven bestows on this earth, and recalling in their hearts the protectors and liberators of our day."

My friends and colleagues; today we meet, representing seven of the great Republics of America, united in spirit and in aims. We are confident of our ultimate success in protecting our freedom, in raising the living standards of our citizens, in beginning a new era of hope in American history. Secure in that confidence, we, too, can look forward

to other centuries knowing that our descendants may also gratefully recall in their hearts the "protectors and liberators" of our day.

Thank you.

NOTE: In his opening words the President referred to Francisco J. Orlich, President of Costa Rica; Miguel Ydigoras, President of Guatemala; Julio A. Rivera, President of El Salvador; Ramón Villeda, President of Honduras; Luis Somoza, President of Nicaragua; Roberto F. Chiari, President of Panama; and the Most Reverend Carlos Humberto Rodríguez Quirós, Archbishop of San José.

100 Toast of the President at a Dinner at the Casa Presidencial in San José. March 18, 1963

[The White House Official Reporter noted that the microphones were turned on late and the opening sentences of the salutation were therefore missed.]

. . . I know that, as the President of Costa Rica said today, we were anxious that this affair not be merely a ceremonial visit, and there may be occasions when you may wonder whether a 2-day meeting would bring results that would be worthwhile.

I think one of the most important effects has been that it has turned the attention of the United States Government, Members of the Congress who accompanied me here, and who are as concerned as I am about our relations with Central America, it has brought the attention of the Government and the Congress to Central America and the great problems which remain unsolved.

The United States had a long history of isolation which was ended by the Second War, and since the Second War we have been bearing the burdens around the world which may, on occasions, have fatigued us. I think that this visit here—a reminder of the tremendously important unfinished problems, the challenges, which face us here, in our own hemisphere, among our good neighbors—is a very welcome reminder to

me as President, and certainly, I think, to all of us as citizens of the United States.

This does represent the most direct challenge that the free world has, I believe, here in Central America and in Latin America. I want all of you gentlemen to know that we will do everything we possibly can to meet our responsibilities in the solution of those problems.

We are very grateful to you and to the people of Costa Rica. All of us in America are daily thrilled and chilled by our correspondents who travel through the world describing the great, latent hostilities to America which are felt by people all around, from Canada to the Argentine, so this comes as a rather agreeable shock when we get smiled at, as we were today.

In any case, I hope that members of the United States will join me in drinking to the people of Central America and Panama, and to the very good health of our friends, the Presidents, who have stood with the United States in the cause of freedom on many occasions and to whom we express our very warm sentiments of appreciation.

Gentlemen, to your health.

NOTE: The President proposed the toast at a dinner given in his honor by President Luis Somoza of Nicaragua.