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Ladies and Gentlemen:

The organizing committee for the Fifth Medical Dental Convention has paid me distinguished consideration in inviting me to say a few words at the opening session of your Convention. I am deeply appreciative of this opportunity of being with you this evening, and I thank you.

It is now four years that I have had the privilege of serving my Government in Mexico. During that time I have taken as deep, if not a deeper interest, in all that concerns the life of this country than I have in the course of my work in the many other countries in various parts of the world in which I have had the opportunity of serving. I have done so because of the profound conviction which I have that the relations between Mexico and the United States in every field are in many respects more important than their relationships with any other country. I am convinced that anything that affects the life and future of the people of the United States affects the people of Mexico, and in the same manner, that anything which affects the life and future of Mexico and her people affects profoundly my country. For that reason, the relationships between the two countries take on a vital significance which I believe is increasingly recognized by most thoughtful people in both countries.

During the four years that I have lived in Mexico, I have begun to know the Mexican people and their basic aspirations. I wish here to voice the conviction which I have expressed on other occasions that in recent years extraordinary progress has been made in Mexico in practically every field. Her conduct in the political field and in the international field has increasingly enhanced her prestige among the nations. Great progress has been made in industry and in agriculture. A corresponding rise in the standard of living of her people has become obvious. In the field of public education, great strides have been made. There is practically no aspect of Mexican life in which the endeavors of constructive men are not finding fruit.

In no field, however, has there been greater progress in Mexico than in the development of medical science and research. I will not endeavor to enter into detail, but I should like to make mention only of the considerable progress of hospital financial circumstances in recent years. I want to make mention of the Institute of Tropical Research which holds a place of prominence in that field, not only in this continent, but in the world. I wish to call attention to the Institute of Cardiology, which in some respects is the most outstanding institute of its kind to be found anywhere. These are merely indications of the interest and energy and vision of the scientific and medical professions in Mexico.

In every field of medicine, there is this increased interest in the country which, like the interest in education, is bound to have tremendous repercussions in the life

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of the people and is basic to their development and progress. It is because of my recognition of these basic currents of thought and progress in Mexico that I have noted with particular interest these conventions of the Mexican Dental Association. Science knows no national boundaries and must not know them, and the association of Mexican specialists and those of the other American countries including my own in the work which you are carrying on through this Association and through this Convention is bound to be productive not only in the specific professional field in which you are interested, but in the broader field of human progress and human relationships in which all of us are interested so profoundly as the basis of security and peace for which we all so devoutly hope and pray.

It is because I am animated with thoughts of this kind that I am particularly happy to be with you this evening to express to you my appreciation of the consideration which you have shown me and to take this opportunity to express to you my sincere congratulations on the work which you have already accomplished and on the greater work which I am confident lies before you.

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