

SOURCE: UNIVERSAL GRAFICO  
Mexico City  
August 7, 1944.

T R A N S L A T I O N

MEGAPHONES OR CONGRESSES.

The most elemental experience in matters of scientific congresses, international assemblies and all types of similar meetings teaches us that great advantages may be gained from the point of view of tourist business, personal relations among professional men and the special technical problems acted upon, although in reality they may never be discussed; but it would be illogical to hope that from such conferences will result conclusions of a practical and active character.

We say this because in the Lawyers' Congress there have occurred some incidents which exceed and transgress the limits fixed by its announced purposes and by common sense. On the contrary, there have been presented other proposals for declarations which could fall within the jurisdiction of the Congress and which are fully justified on all counts but which would not achieve much even though they were adopted formally. In these conditions, it appears that the assemblies mentioned have rather the character of a short wave broadcasting station, because they are at the same time a microphone to pick up the weakest murmurs and a megaphone to transmit them in all directions over the air.

We have already commented in these columns on the proposal made to promote the fulfillment of the arbitral award favorable to Mexico in the old matter of the Chemizal, and in this case we clearly see that even when justice is on our side, the problem is obviously very far above the possibilities of a congress of professional men. The organizers of the present Congress wanted to regain their health, and they expressly prohibited the discussion of political subjects. But it has cost them much work to maintain that prohibition, because in these times even the most frivolous subjects, directly or indirectly, have outlets in the political sea, in their national and international aspects.

For this reason we have seen that in the assembly of legal experts there have been raised spectres like the autonomy of Puerto Rico or the isolation of Argentina, or questions as delicate as the prosecution and punishment of the criminals who have unleashed the present war or who

have

1626

-2-

have committed crimes taking advantage of the abnormal situation provoked by the war since its beginning on the experimental field of Spain.

In addition, the directors of the Lawyers' Congress will be able to say to the delegate who wished to speak in favor of Puerto Rico that it is not necessary to use exclusively the tribunal of the legal Congress to give publicity to his cause and his documents. But the microphone has been used even in this manner.

Although there have been no express resolutions regarding the Chamizal, Puerto Rico or the punishment of guilty offenders of the war or the like, the fundamental purpose of attracting the attention of public opinion has been realized.

Trans. FP