

Periodic meetings of representatives of the several governments, such as the coming conference at Lima, give the opportunity to exchange views, to perfect organization and procedure, and to discuss in a frank and friendly manner our problems and the possible solutions for them.

The system of consultation and cooperation which crystallized in such an initially satisfactory form in the last Inter-American Conference at Buenos Aires indicates, I believe, the course which we must pursue in our inter-American relations in order to achieve the objectives we have set for ourselves. It has already been proved good in practice. It holds even greater promise for the future.

That it be strengthened and upheld is of vital importance to every one of our nations. Our respective freedom, independence, and future welfare may depend upon our continued solidarity. Just two years ago the American republics in a joint declaration unanimously proclaimed that any threat to the peace of any one of the American republics was a threat to the peace of all of them and justified immediate consultation between them all.

Not only the physical integrity of the nations of the New World, but the security of the individual rights and liberties of their citizens may also depend upon the maintenance of that relationship. At this epoch in the history of the world, the doctrine of hatred is threatening civilization. You can see it extending its influence month by month, day by day, as its shadow darkens more and more of the face of the earth. How can there be peace in the world, as the President said the other night, if the reign of law is to be replaced by the recurrent sanctification of sheer force; if national policies adopt as a deliberate instrument the dispersion all over the world of millions of helpless and persecuted wanderers with no place to lay their heads; if men and women are not free to think their own thoughts, to express their own feelings, to worship God?

As a nation we will assure ourselves that we are in a position to defend ourselves from all aggression from whatever source it may arise, and to be prepared to join with our fellow democracies of the New World in preserving the Western Hemisphere safe from any threat of attack.

But the nations of the New World can do still more; they can guard and maintain inviolate the freedom of men's souls and intellects by the preservation and strengthening of the spirit of tolerance and the democratic institutions which are instinct in the national lives of every one of our 21 nations; and through such example and through their continued close cooperation they can greatly aid in the establishment of a better world order.

HISTORY OF THE U. S. MARINE CORPS

1. After nineteen years since the establishment of the Historical Section at this Headquarters for the purpose of collecting historical material of interest and writing a history of the Marine Corps, such a history has been completed by Lt. Col. C. H. Metcalf, U. S. M. C., and is now

ready for publication. The history as written presents the services of the Marine Corps to the Nation and is designed not only to be of interest to Marine Corps personnel but to all persons in any way interested in the Corps. There are no Government or Marine Corps funds available for its publication, but it is not even believed desirable that it should be "officially" printed. In order to assure a wide distribution of the book it should be published by one of the better known publishing houses having access to the book trade, equipped to procure the desired publicity and reviews, and be in position to at least place the history in the larger libraries throughout the country. Unfortunately, perhaps, a history of the Marine Corps does not have sufficient general interest to warrant its publication as a business venture by one of the desired publishers. It is therefore necessary to underwrite its publication in a manner that will insure the publisher against undue risk.

2. Since there is no official way to make a guarantee to the publisher, it is the desire of this Headquarters that the officers and enlisted men of the Marine Corps, the post exchanges, post amusement funds, and post and other libraries assist in every way by advance orders the satisfactory publication of our history. In this connection post exchanges should anticipate their probable sales for a considerable period as there is no certainty that the book will have more than one printing.

3. The Historical Section will circularize all officers and warrant officers of the Marine Corps, post exchanges, personnel at Headquarters, Marine Corps and the naval library facilities for subscriptions. All commanding officers will bring this matter to the attention of the enlisted men of their command, procure as many advance orders as possible for delivery through exchanges or in any other manner desired and submit to this Headquarters a report of all orders showing the names and number of copies desired.

4. The present indications are that the delivery price of the book to our personnel will not exceed \$3.00, if subscribed for in advance. Its list price by the publisher will probably be \$4.50. It will contain approximately 500 pages, be as fully illustrated as possible within the price and will be attractively bound. If the response for advance orders is large enough the price, of course, will be considerably reduced.

5. The Major General Commandant feels that a copy of this history would be a valuable addition to the library of any one interested in the Marine Corps, particularly our own personnel. It would be of valuable assistance in helping our younger officers and enlisted men to understand the place of the Marine Corps in our scheme of national defense and what it has stood for in the past. A knowledge of history being a means of avoiding the mistakes made by those who have gone before us and of profiting by a knowledge of how they succeeded, the history will undoubtedly be particularly valuable to all officers. It is hoped that there will be a whole-hearted and prompt response from the entire Corps so that the Historical Section can proceed with having the history published and distributed in a satisfactory manner to all concerned.

T. HOLCOMB.