ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN

CIM

SIXTEENTH ASSEMBLY
September 20-29, 1972
Washington, D.C.

OEA/Ser.L/II.2.16
CIM/doc.54
25 September 1972
Original: English

REMARKS BY MRS. JESSIE SARGENT FROM PARTNERS OF THE AMERICAS

On behalf of the Women's Program Development Committee of the Partners of the Americas, I want to express my deepest appreciation for the opportunity to speak briefly to this distinguished assembly of women.

The Partners of the Americas was founded by President John F. Kennedy as a private volunteer People-to-People Program complementing the work of the Alliance for Progress. Forty-three states in the United States are paired with forty-three countries, states, or regions of Latin America and the Caribbean to develop programs of mutual benefit. President Nixon has recently accepted the Honorary Chairmanship of the Partners of the Americas, and in more than half the states, the State Governor serves as Honorary Chairman. Twenty million dollars worth of equipment, materials, technical assistance, professional services and exchanges has been generated through thousands of private citizens in both the United States and Latin America. Women have played a major role in planning and completion of this program.

More important than the monetary value of Partners' programs is the friendship, the good will and understanding between the people in our Hemisphere -- an intangible quality which cannot be measured in dollars and cents.

In view of the fact that the purposes of the Inter-American Commission of Women are so similar to those of the Partners of the Americas, we urge you to become familiar with our program in order that our mutual concern and action can be harnessed to strengthen our Hemisphere. The strength of the Partners lies in facilitating people-to-people exchanges in such widely diversified areas as education, public health, medicine, mental health, special education and rehabilitation, agriculture, business investment and trade promotion, creative and performing arts, community recreation and sports, tourism, environmental improvement and emergency relief. Some special examples of Partners' projects are: Utah-Bolivia, where funds to build 43 schools in the rural and altiplano areas have been raised by Utah school children; Iowa-Yucatán, where over 100 Iowa doctors, dentists and nurses have set up clinics in outlying villages of the Yucatán Peninsula to care for women and children where these services are not readily available; Kansas-Paraguay, where last year Kansas celebrated Paraguay week. Musical groups and representatives of the Paraguay Partners traveled over the entire State of Kansas giving performances. As a result, the people of Kansas are more familiar with Paraguay and vice versa.

Massachusetts-Antioquia, Colombia, where Partners have an extensive program of medical, nursing and nutritional exchange. We have an increasing program of student exchange and cultural exchange at all levels.

As your sessions continue this week, we of the Partners of the Americas hope to be able to meet with you individually to explore ways in which the Partners and the Inter-American Commission of Women can combine their talents and energies to accelerate Hemispheric development and understanding.

Thank you Madam Chairman.