COPIADO PARA EXPEDIENTE

INTER AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN

LA

DORIS STEVENS, CHAIRMAN

THE INTER AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN IS COMPOSED OF ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM EACH REPUBLIC OF THE PAN AMERICAN UNION. THIS COMMISSION WAS CREATED BY THE SIXTH PAN AMERICAN CONFERENCE IN HAVANA. ITS WORK IS TO STUDY AND ADVISE CONCERNING THE POSITION OF WOMEN ON THE AMERICAN CONTINENT.

PAN AMERICAN UNION
WASHINGTON, D. C.
U. S. A.

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URUGUAY SRTA. CLARA ELISA DE SALTERAIN
VENEZUELA SRA. CLOTILDE C. DE ARVELO

CABLE ADDRESS: INTERAM

Conv. s/ a nacionalidade da mulher. Montevidéo, 1933.
602.5(20)
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September 15, 1936

S. DE E. DAS RELAÇÕES EXTERIORES
Serviço de Communicações
15 OUT. 1936
No 11787

His Excellency
Dr. José Carlos de Macedo Soares.
Minister of Foreign Relations,
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Excellency:

The Inter American Commission of Women is deeply concerned to know what steps have been taken by Brazil respecting ratification of the Equal Nationality Treaty, signed by the diplomatic representatives of your government at Montevideo in 1933.

As you are undoubtedly aware, this treaty has already been ratified by the United States, Chile, Mexico, Colombia, Guatemala and Honduras. We have been advised by the Foreign Offices of several other American Republics that it will be submitted for ratification during the present session of their congresses.

It is possible, of course, that your congress has already acted and that word has not yet reached us. If this is true, we shall be grateful if your office will kindly advise us of the date of action.

On August 16, 1934, we received a communication from your office saying that the Montevideo Convention on Nationality would be submitted to the September session of the Brazilian Congress that year.

We know, of course, that Brazil has adopted almost complete equality in nationality for its men and women citizens under the new Constitution, but we earnestly desire, nevertheless, that Brazil join with the other American Republics in ratifying the treaty as well, because of the powerful influence which this action would have in the other republics.

If the congress has not yet acted on this treaty we urge your consideration of the exigent situation in world affairs that justifies you in taking immediate action.

The peace of the world is again hanging in the balance. No government can foresee the eventualities if war should again divide the nations of the world into opposing camps. Even though the American Republics did not become involved in the conflict that threatens other continents, there would still remain the duty of protecting their nationals who might be caught abroad when the seemingly inevitable storm breaks.

During the World War countless numbers of women and children suffered cruelly, both physically and spiritually, because the protection which governments gave to their men citizens did not apply to their women. Especially distressing were the conditions in which women who had been involuntarily expatriated by marriage to aliens found themselves.

Wise and humane foresight demands that governments should act for the fullest possible protection of their nationals before the impending catastrophe distrupts friendly international relations.

Since the government of Brazil is already dedicated to the principle of equality between men and women in nationality rights, we most earnestly urge that you will act to have this principle translated into law at the present session of your congress.

If all the powerful republics of our hemisphere have ratified this treaty before the convening of the Buenos Aires Conference there will be an irrestible pressure for action by the other republics.

In the hopw that we may soon learn of favorable action by your government, and with the assurance of my highest respect and esteem,

Believe me,

Very cordially yours,

Helena Hill Weed

(Mrs.) Helena Hill Weed
Rapporteur, Intercontinental Committee
on Ratification and Adherence.