

## Allocution finale de K1. SIERKSMA

Hiermit ist also unsere zweite internationale Begegnung allzu schnell nach dem Anfang beendet. Ich glaube feststellen zu können, daß jeder zufrieden ist mit allem, was wir gehört, besprochen und gesehen haben. Ich persönlich kann Ihnen jedenfalls sagen, daß ich mich gut unterhalten habe und sehr befriedigt bin.

Ich bin davon überzeugt, mit Ihrer allgemeinen Zustimmung feststellen zu dürfen, daß eine dritte internationale Tagung schon im voraus vielversprechend zu nennen ist.

Wir wollen aber nicht nach allen Teilen der Welt ausschwärmen, ohne denjenigen Dank zu sagen, die unser Beisammensein in der Schweiz ermöglicht haben. Es waren sehr viele Personen und Behörden. Deshalb möchte ich nicht riskieren, irgendjemand zu vergessen, und sage einfach, im Namen aller Teilnehmer:

DANKE SCHÖN, SCHWEIZ, DANKE AUS HERZENSGRUND !

Ed adesso, Signori, vorrei dire alcune parole a chi di voi partecipa per la prima volta a questo congresso. Voi avete avuto occasione di fare la conoscenza di colleghi di diverse nazionalità che hanno la stessa passione vostra. In parecchi paesi ci sono delle organizzazioni nazionali ove si ha la possibilità di incontrarsi. Spero però che non dimenticherete l'importanza dei contatti internazionali. Potrete in questi giorni constatare voi stessi quanto questi siano importanti. Qui non ci divide nè lingua, nè politica, nè religione. Mantenete e consolidate i contatti fatti adesso scrivendovi nel periodo tra un congresso e l'altro. Spero che noi tutti abbiamo approfittato quanto più possibile delle occasioni offerteci in questi giorni scambiandoci le nostre idee ed i nostri doni.

Mi auguro inoltre che questo congresso sia uno stimolo per chi tra voi viene da un paese che non ha ancora la sua organizzazione nazionale, a fondarla nella propria patria, cosicchè al prossimo congresso del 1969 tutti i presenti rappresenteranno la propria società. Inutile aggiungere che tutti saremo dispostissimi ad aiutare chiunque abbia bisogno di altro consiglio per la fondazione della nuova organizzazione.

The thing which strikes me most about our meeting is doubtlessly the fact that we have no common ideal. There is no common goal which we seek to attain, and this is all the more remarkable because in this world of ours contacts along international lines are often only made possible by a sharing of the same clearly defined ideal. The peace ideal ranks among the foremost in this field, and we have the missionary one and that of a world language. . . . When we try to analyze our situation, and make an effort to find the one thing, by which we are tied together, I think I may have found the solution to our problem. This solution lies within the nature of the thing that has our undivided attention - the Flag and all it stands for.

Distances on this planet of ours tend to become negligible, and borders and boundaries fade and cease to exist. Contrastingly, or even because of this very fact, Man consciously tries to fit into the greater picture as a cultured personality. Man and the smaller communities of Man grow more and more conscious of the fact that the lengthening chain of thinking humanity is reinforced by every added positive link. And herein we discern our common ideal, the tie linking us together.

We want to be conscious and quiet-living individuals keeping an open mind for the past, the present and the future; people who want to be engrossed in their families, but also in the towns, counties and countries they live in; people partaking in the world which surrounds them. By our signet ring, the name-plate on our door, or the flagstaff in our garden, we offer the signature of our personalities to the world around us, and we want to respect the signature of any other individual in the same way that we expect his respect for ours. We recognize the flag as a clear and modern "insignum" of an individual, or of a mass of individuals being together part of the greater picture.

Our world-wide contacts radiate from one central point:

#### THE FLAG

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Vous voudrez bien me pardonner d'avoir développé à la manière du philosophe les idées que vous venez d'entendre au moment où je vais me démettre de mes fonctions de président. Les participants à notre congrès aux Pays-Bas se rappelleront ce qui a précédé cette démission à Muiderberg: un baiser pour ma femme . . . Eh bien, cette fois c'est au nom de nous tous que j'embrasse cordialement notre Secrétaire Général, mon ami Monsieur Mühlemann.

Et voilà que le moment est venu où je donne le dernier coup de maillet, qui

signifie la clôture de notre deuxième congrès international. En même temps la tâche que vous, mon ami, avez si scrupuleusement remplie et qui a été couronnée par tant de succès, dont témoigne notre congrès, est terminée. Je vous confie donc notre maillet pour l'année 1969, étant sûr de le confier à un homme qui présidera avec verve et enthousiasme notre prochain congrès!

Mesdames et Messieurs,

Nous sommes malheureusement arrivés au moment où nous devons nous quitter et regagner nos divers pays. Je vous souhaite à tous un très bon voyage.

Ainsi je déclare que notre deuxième Congrès International est clos.

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