

From the Office of
SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
1311 New Senate Office Building
Washington 25, D. C.
Capitol 4-3121, Ext. 2424

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JUNE 14, 1961

HUMPHREY CALLS FOR EXPANSION
OF TOWN AFFILIATION PROGRAM

Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.) today proposed expansion of the "Town Affiliation" program, in which American communities establish active relationships with "Sister Cities" overseas.

The Senate Majority Whip challenged several hundreds mayors meeting in Washington "to take the lead in your communities to establish an affiliation with a community in another country."

Humphrey introduced a resolution in the Senate commending the program of the American Municipal Association and the Civic Committee of the People-to-People Program which has helped promote 150 "Sister City" affiliations.

But he added:

"The names of 150 more foreign cities are on file with requests for Sister Cities in the United States. These cities have extended the hand of friendship and have been left standing without a response.

"A hundred and fifty Town Affiliations are not enough. Three hundred are not enough. We need 3,000 or even 5,000 Sister City affiliations to approach the magnificent potential of American communities joining in friendship and understanding with communities of other nations."

Humphrey, who also spoke at a joint meeting of the A.M.A. and the People-to-People Civic Committee, said initiative for expansion of the Town Affiliation Program "should come from citizens and leaders in the communities" and that the government "can and should be ready to assist in any way necessary."

"The Town Affiliation Program," the Senator said, "is a dramatic movement which can be as important in a tense world as the biggest foreign aid program or the broadest propaganda effort.

"The story of America can be told most effectively by the American people themselves, through their schools and churches and clubs and unions and communities, with exchanges of letters, visits and information and friendship."

TEXT OF ADDRESS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY AT LUNCHEON MEETING
OF THE CIVIC COMMITTEE, PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE PROGRAM, JUNE 14, 1961

I would be less than honest if I didn't tell you that I'm most grateful for your warm and generous introduction. I'm not going to ask any questions as to why. Or if I deserve it, I shall just accept it. And I want you to know that it is much appreciated. I'm particularly honored today to share this platform with so many distinguished guests, fellow Americans, and visitors from other lands and friends of ours. We're honored to have with us His Excellency, the Ambassador of Afghanistan. We consider this a rare privilege. I'm particularly honored, may I say, to have our eternal ambassador of good will from the State of Minnesota, General Melvin Maas, here with us today. He's a remarkable human being who has given of his life to his country and to humanity. And I want to express my greetings to my fellow mayors of the American variety --and I shan't go through all your names -- you who have done so much for your cities, and you that have demonstrated your willingness to do so much for your country and for the world.

We're particularly honored to have with us the Lord Mayor of Bangkok. I think this is a great honor and privilege that is ours. I saw the Lord Mayor's publicity this morning. He's doing mighty well. A good story, and I tell you that any American politician would be very grateful for a news story like that, and I want you to know Mr. Mayor that you're so welcome, not only to the nation's capital -- I'm sure that welcome has been officially extended to you -- but you are welcome to the entire nation, to the United States of America, and if you should ever come to Minnesota, which, of course, is the heartland of the nation, the paradise of these fifty states, we would extend to you a most warm and cordial welcome.

I'm just going to visit with you today. I do not generally do what I have done. I do not generally write a speech. But I did it for two reasons: first of all, I want to deliver it in the Senate, in part, which I'm going to do later on today. I want to put it in the record, as we say, because the Congressional Record goes out to approximately a quarter of a million people, leaders of thought in this country, or at least, civic leaders.

What I have to say, I suppose, is of no monumental importance, but at least it shares some of your thoughts, and I'm hoping that what

I have to say will be worthy of some comment in your communities, and in other communities, so that we can get on with an important program.

I am here today primarily because I love our country, and I love with a passion what we call freedom. I'm here because I'm concerned about our foreign policy, about America's role in the world of today. I'm here because I think we're going to be facing troubles, difficult days, for the indeterminate future. I do not believe anyone can spell out the day or the hour that peace and tranquillity will again be our blessing.

In other words, we're living in a generation of crises, but yet we're living in a generation of excitement, a generation of problems and yet a generation of opportunities. I said to a graduating class this last Sunday at a university, what a wonderful time to live; so unpredictable, so exciting. It calls upon us to do the very best that we can do. This is a period in which excellence is the least we can expect from all of us. There is no room left for mediocrity. That was for other days, quieter days. And I'm talking to people today who can do a lot. I know that there are thousands here today, maybe even hundreds of thousands. But I learned a long time ago that you don't need masses to do great things. What you need are people of conviction and determination, people who get on fire with an idea. Let me tell you, that if you get on fire with an idea, it has a way of spreading.

What I'm trying to do as one citizen, as one Senator, and as one American, is to arouse in people a passion for liberty and freedom and for peace, because without this sense of passion about it, we're not going to get it. Now one of the most eloquent statements in recent months is that from the inaugural statement of President Kennedy when he said, "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country." The President might well have added another request: one which might have helped satisfy those who have criticized him for not being sufficiently specific: that request might well be: ask what thousands of your fellow citizens are doing for their country, and join their ranks, join their efforts, because thousands of their fellow citizens are doing a lot for our country. I'm talking to the representatives of that group.

One of the most effective and challenging efforts is the town affiliation program. That's why I'm here. I'm not here because I have nothing to do. Very frankly, I've been as busy these last two weeks as I've ever been in my life. If I should get any busier, I don't know what would happen. But I felt that this was important. I come here as a spokesman for body of public opinion in this country that wishes to commend you for what you are doing, and we want to ask you to redouble your efforts, and we want to join with you in getting the job done. Now this town affiliation program which you have developed through the American Municipal Association and the Civic Committee of the People-to-People Program is a sound, sensible, constructive, imaginative program. I like it.

And by the way, I come here to a group that just fits my pattern. You're internationally-minded, you're civic minded, you're participants, you're local officials, or representatives of local governments. I would say without any hesitation that the office which I enjoyed the most was being mayor of the city of Minneapolis. I was close to the people. I loved every minute of it. To be a United States Senator is a great honor. It is a heavy responsibility. But the thrill of political participation was to be found in local government. And, believe me, local government is the key to our freedom in this country. And it's only as good as you make it.

Now this town affiliation program is a specific, practical way for individual Americans to contribute their energy and their work to their country's efforts for freedom and for peace. And fellow Americans, don't be afraid to utter those words: freedom and peace. Because this is what we believe in. This is the dedication of our people, generation after generation. And I do not want those who do not believe in freedom to usurp the word, or those who do not believe in peace to preempt it as if it were their own: These are beautiful words. These are part of the lexicon of democracy. Let them not escape our grasp because of our apparent unwillingness to use them, or our lackadaisical interest in them.

The town affiliation program is a new and a dramatic movement which is as important in a tense world as the greatest foreign aid program or the broadest propaganda effort we could ever launch. The need was best summed up in a report by a fellow Minnesotan, Dr. Ronald W. Barr, the Mayor of

Montevideo, Minnesota. Dr. Barr and his wife traveled to Montevideo, Uruguay, earlier this year as a result of a town affiliation between those two cities. I've been at Montevideo, Minnesota, many times for the celebration in July of what they call the Montevideo Festival, where we in Minnesota entertain our friends from Montevideo, Uruguay, and where they in Montevideo, Uruguay, entertain their friends from Montevideo, Minnesota.

Dr. Barr and his wife talked with hundreds of citizens of Uruguay. They emphasized one distinct impression. Here is what Dr. Barr had to say of the people of Uruguay: "They were not interested in dealing with Americans at the government level, but were anxious to meet and exchange ideas with the average American citizen in a friendly atmosphere unencumbered by protocol."

Now the attitude of the Uruguayans Dr. Barr met is typical. Millions of people throughout the world want to meet, want to know, and to understand Americans as individuals and as human beings, not as government officials or as an abstract collective character. This desire is very appropriate, and, in a sense, is a great compliment to America. It is a compliment because millions of people throughout the world realize that the government of the United States is only a part of our national character and identity.

And let's get that clear. This is not a country of a government: we have a government of a country. The government of this country is but a part of America. And I believe that this, if not the only one, is a major difference. In the Soviet Union, the government is the dominant, all-powerful element of an organized society. The government dictates, the government controls; the government distributes; the government purchases; the government sells. In short, the government is the totality of the Soviet Union. This is what is meant by "totalitarianism". That is its meaning, its definition.

In our free society, the government strives to express the will of the people. But our government's power is limited. What power it has is given by the people. Government in the United States is like the tip of an iceberg: it can be seen from afar, but it is held up and sustained by a far greater power and force--the substance of the people. This is what we mean by government of the people--and by the people and for the people. The real strength of America is its people. The strength of any free society is the people. The real greatness of America is the freedom and the individual dignity of its citizens, and whenever we abuse these we weaken America. Make no mistake about it: when I read about Un-American activities, I would like to add to the list the abuse of civil liberties, the denial of human rights.

Any abuse of an individual citizen in this country, any denial of his equality, is an Un-American activity.

Now, we're not a nation of government officials and we're not a nation of politicians and we're not a nation of diplomats or international public relations experts. Oh, yes, we have all of these. They are a part of our society. But we have much, much more. Our people are not tools or servants of the government. They are the farmers, and the workers, and the businessmen and the professionals, bound by their love of freedom and their dedication to human rights. Our people are the sovereign. Popular sovereignty: should talk a little bit about that in this day and age. Our government is not the master. Our government is the servant. I would rather have America criticized for its inefficiency and for its waste, than to have some people point to us as having disciplined everybody into a particular pattern.

I not only want the right to be right; I want the right to be wrong. And the right to make a mistake--and still live to make another. And, our land is not a machine of the state. I speak about land, our earth. It is a land of separate farms. We call them family farms. And it is a land of free business and private industry. And it's a land of distinct, self-governing communities. May I add that sometimes we don't govern as well as some would like us to. But, at least, it is, we, the people, who are governing. And I repeat, I would rather have we the people governing, even at times foolishly and mistakenly, than to have somebody who thinks he's omnipotent--all wise--tell us what to do.

Now, this is the story of America, in part, which we must tell the people of the world. It is the story of "voluntarism". Fellow Americans, one great creation of ours is the voluntary group, the voluntary agency. I have often said to our people in government and there are some here today--(it is the Federal government I speak of now), I have said to them, "look, when we talk about the American contribution, or American foreign aid, don't talk just about what your government does. Think of the hundreds of private, voluntary, non-profit, charitable, philanthropic, sectarian, and non-sectarian organizations doing things all over the world that people never hear about." May I say that many of those groups do a better job than some of our public efforts. With less to do with, they do it because it is identified as an individual effort. And, fellow Americans, I ask you to stress that kind of effort, because perhaps this contest which people call

the cold war, government against government, will be a standoff between our government and that of the Communist orbit or of the Soviet or of the Sino-Soviet bloc.

And if it is a standoff, then we win. Not we Americans, but people, all over the world, win. And I'll tell you why. Because the voluntary effort, the individual effort, will be the balance of power. It will be the factor that decides the contest. And I encourage this individual effort.

Yes, this story can be told, that I'm telling you today, by our government through the United States Information Agency, and it is being told. And, by the way, that is a good agency, does a good job. And it can be told by our missions overseas. We intend to strengthen those missions. As a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, I know that we have not done too well in some places, that there is an individual here or there that has failed in his responsibility. I recognize that there have been gross mistakes in some areas of our foreign aid, but I say that on balance, it has been pretty good. The foreign aid mission has done a good job. But we intend to do better.

But this story can be told most effectively and most successfully by the American people themselves. The story of what we are about and what we are like. Through their schools, through their churches, through their clubs, through their business organizations, through their unions, through their communities, through their farm organizations. The town affiliation program offers the efficient framework through which individual Americans can speak the real story of America to the people of other lands.

But the town affiliation story is not a one-way street. Its purpose is true friendship, which requires our understanding of other people, as well as our desire that they understand us. Today more than ever, we need to understand the mood, the character and the aspirations of the people of other nations. We need to know more deeply and more thoroughly that millions of human beings in the vast underdeveloped or what we call the developing regions of the earth are struggling for a new life of freedom and opportunity. Very frankly, fellow Americans, we're abysmally ignorant of the world in which we live. We know so little! I felt that I was at least

somewhat educated in a formal sense, and yet I have no hesitancy in confessing my lack of knowledge of a country such as is represented here (a great country) by the Ambassador of Afghanistan. How little we know, Mr. Ambassador, of your country and your people. And how little we know of our neighbors to the south, our Latin American neighbors. How we oftentimes think of Latin America as the land of manana; lazy people sleeping under the tree. In fact, they're a vital people, a vigorous people, a people who want things done. They are on fire with a new hope for themselves and their part of the world. We know so little, I can recall only two and a half years ago when I visited the Soviet Union. All at once it dawned on me how little I knew of Russian history. How little I knew of the Russian structure even though I was once a professor of international relations and did teach comparative European governments, and did study the structure of the so-called totalitarian state. My friends, we need to understand in depth the mores, the customs, the religion, the economics, the social, the political, the spiritual institutions of peoples and their nations. Otherwise we'll be dealing in superficialities. This is why I think the town affiliation program is so vital.

It gets us acquainted on the person-to-person, the people-to-people basis. This is why it offers so much to us. We need to know that this is a revolution that is sweeping the world. Let me join with our President and say that that word "revolution" doesn't frighten me one bit. I like to stand before my fellow Americans - and even more before others - and say that I'm proud to be a revolutionary. I come from a long line of revolutionaries, from the days of 1776. I don't point with any unjustified pride, or, I hope, with not too much pride, to the fact that my forebears were in the Continental Army. We were revolutionaries. We were out to get rid of colonialism. And we did. And I want to say that this revolution which is sweeping the world is not a Communist revolution. They'd like to take it, to claim it, to ride it, to usurp it. But it's a revolution against the intolerable conditions of the past. It's a revolution against poverty. It's a revolution against hunger. It's a revolution against ignorance. It's a revolution against social injustice. I cannot help but say, here--pardon the digression again--how deeply concerned we are about the countries to the south of us in Latin America--deeply concerned, fellow Americans, about Cuba. How long has this concern been ours? Do a little soul-searching. What did you know about the peasant, the farmer, the worker in Cuba? Did we cry for their welfare? Were we aware of the

unbelievable economic injustices? Are you aware of them in other areas? The \$72-per-year per-capita income in Haiti? Ninety-two percent illiteracy? Right near our shores? I suggest, my friends, that there is a lot of learning to be done. The revolution sweeping these areas of the world today is not one inspired by Mr. Krushchev or designed by him. I refuse to give him credit for it. This is an old-fashioned revolution against social injustice! And we ought to be its directors--we ought to join it. In this country no one sleeps well who knows there is mass misery in our communities. And this is one community, this world today. So, I call upon local leaders, the citizen leaders, to be deeply concerned about the troubles that grip mankind rather than to wait for some kind of doctrine or dogma from the next Communist Party Congress to exemplify concern on their part. Let it come, the concern, from our hearts! The communication of the spirit, may I say, in the modern world is greater than the communication of any modern mechanics.

Now we can read the terse statistics of human need. We can learn that 83 per cent of the world's population is underfed; my over-fed fellow Americans; and mind you, 62 per cent illiterate; 70 per cent sick or poorly housed.

Yet we have it in our grasp today to abolish hunger from the face of the earth. We can! We have the scientific know-how, the means TO DO IT: if we were half as interested in abolishing hunger as we are in getting to the MOON, we could abolish hunger and illiteracy.

But I'm afraid we don't truly understand. I'm afraid we aren't quite ready for effective action until we become emotionally and compassionately aware of the character and the need, of the joys and the sufferings of individual human beings in other lands. I had read of the poverty of areas of the Middle East, my friends. I do read - a good deal. But I never knew what it was until I went back into the streets in certain cities. I shall never forget it. I shall never be happy until that poverty is at least alleviated, if not abolished. When I saw the sores on the faces of little children, saw the anguish and anxiety, saw the broken bodies of thousands of the young, my religion and my political faith called upon me to be everlastingly restless until such things are overcome.

That is what I mean by being emotionally involved in what we ought to be doing. Here, too, the town affiliation program, your program, my program,

THIS PROGRAM, at least in part, offers the means by which individuals in America can learn from individuals in other nations. This willingness to learn is so vital today. For too long America has been pictured overseas as a ponderous giant, boasting of its superior ways, of our superior way of life. I rather think we need a touch of humility, perhaps some ashes and sackcloth in our attitude towards the people of other nations. We need not only to extend our frequently superior skills, and the tools to use them, but more importantly, the hand of friendship and understanding as neighbors and as partners and equals. This is what people want. They don't care to be rich, particularly. They really want to know that we understand them, that we're a part of them, that we feel with them. They want to feel needed, and not as if, somehow or other, America stands on a high plateau, looking down into the valley of the poor, spreading our benefits to those who may ask for them.

The American cities in this program represent every section of the country and are of every size from New York to Oakland, Nebraska, with a population of 1600. These town affiliations have gone far beyond ceremonial functions. Tens of thousands of school children in American communities now correspond regularly with children in other sister cities overseas. This is so important! so important! This personal contact. Hundreds of school exchanges have been arranged and we need hundreds more.

Let me give you a little example of what I mean. I'm filled up to the brim with this. Let me talk about Mexico. I heard a man say the other day, "I wonder why those Mexicans say some of the things they say about us?" They have good reasons to say a lot of things about us, my dear friends. From the Mexican war and up they have reasons. Let me show you one of the reasons that they lack understanding of Americans. How many exchanges do you think we have with Mexico-teacher exchanges? Forty-four! The Soviet Union has on file in Mexico City a request for 2,000 teachers-all expenses paid to their universities!

I don't say that this is for our government to do alone. I don't want the Federal Government to do this job alone. What are our state governments doing about it? Instead of griping about state's rights, get busy and do some state's doings! That is what we need! Don't tell me that states can't afford to do some of this. What about our local government? What about our one-hundred-and-one clubs which look around for projects to do? One less country club party per year will finance one student!

There are many things we can do. Businessmen, doctors, lawyers, Union leaders, farmers and others have exchanged knowledge, visits and advice with their counterparts in foreign cities. And it is working! General Maas, I have learned from Minnesota that doctors are leaving their professions; some of our young doctors are going overseas free of charge for six months on their own. No government, no nothing! Just taking off, volunteering for an agency or a local government jurisdiction or some charitable organization, giving their talent and time. This no one can match except a free people. City officials have arranged reciprocal visits to their sister cities, reporting back to their fellow citizens what they saw and learned, just as the Lord Mayor of Bangkok is doing here today. We need mayors and councilmen, city officials and county officials, to visit in large numbers cities all over the world. We have a lot to learn. We don't have it all locked up. There is much that we can find out. Special classes have been organized to teach local citizens the language and the culture of their sister cities. Every library of every city should have an international section for its sister city. Audio visual aids, books, pamphlets--everything to educate people about a particular area of the world.

There are countless examples of town affiliations leading to specific projects. I have one here: a 5 year old boy in Villaviciosa--I believe that's the way to pronounce it, in the Phillipines will be able to walk again because the people of Forest Heights, Md., extended help for modern medical treatment of his crippled legs. I tell you it works!

I was in Cairo, Egypt, three and a half or four years ago and saw a team there of doctors at the University of Cairo. Those five doctors did more good for the United States of America at that particular, critical hour after the Suez Crisis than almost anything else that we could have done at that time. They were healing the sick, performing miracles. I met Egyptian mothers whose children had been rescued from death. No amount of propaganda can make them believe that Americans are bad. This was a miracle, a mission of mercy. And this sort of action, my friends, yields results.

When Hagerstown, Maryland, was gripped by severe unemployment last winter the citizens of Wesel, Germany, offered substantial help! Oh yes, a two-way street! Now some may scoff at such examples, and say they are so few. Some people may condescendingly admit that the exchange of sister

cities are all very fine, but they are too humble, too limited to have any significant effect on a restless and tense world. Perhaps. Perhaps it is time for us to modify our "think big" concept of international relations, and to think right. Perhaps it is time for us to add something deeper and more basic to our big economic aid programs and our huge technical assistance programs and our massive military aid projects. Perhaps we ought to enter the human equation. Government programs of technical and economic assistance are needed, and they should be increased - and I am going to try to get it done. But we must also extend the little human touches of friendship to others.

The United States today plans to step up its foreign aid programs. We are today prepared to boost our defense budget. This is a heavy burden on us. We don't like to have to do it. Our government has committed the nation to a vast new program of exploration of outer space. Forty-billion dollars! Minimum! Beginning! Including a multi-billion-dollar program to place a man on the moon and to bring him back - and we will. Because we're committed to it. We planned it. We designed it.

Now the record of a hundred and thirty-six American communities affiliated with cities in other countries is good - but I submit that the sister-city program must be expanded - and that's where you come in.

The American Municipal Association has reported to me that the names of more than a hundred and fifty foreign cities are on file with requests for sister cities in the United States. Do you want to do something? "Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country." Of course, this is like most meetings: I'm talking to the people who have already done it. It's your job now to go out and find someone who hasn't. It is incredible that the names of 150 cities should be on file as looking for sister cities in America at a time when Americans are asking "What can we do?" We're so blind we don't see the opportunity. To put it another way, 150 cities have extended the hand of friendship and have been left standing without a response. The requests of these cities from other lands must be answered by American communities willing and eager to establish town affiliations. We need to do more to stimulate and encourage and promote additional sister-city relationships, with the initiative coming from American communities.

One hundred and fifty town affiliations is not nearly enough. Scratching the surface only. Three hundred are not much more, surely not enough. We need three thousand, we need five thousand to approach the magnificent potential for friendship of American communities. And this will be good for us - not just for them. We will become a wiser, more prudent, and a more just people. Our ideals should not be limited. Our approach should not be timid. We should hope for the day when everyone in America's thirteen thousand communities has joined as a working neighbor for a foreign community. Such expansion of the town affiliation program can come only through the initiative and efforts of citizens and leaders in our local communities. Therefore, the town affiliation program must be sustained as a true and spontaneous people-to-people effort.

But our government can, and should be, ready to assist the American Municipal Association and the people-to-people program in any way necessary. If the leaders of the town affiliation program seek additional help, I am confident the government will respond with no strings attached.

It remains the responsibility, however, of community leaders to stimulate and develop an expansion of the town affiliation program. I, for one, intend to do all I can to help promote this concept. Let me announce now that today, within two hours, I am introducing in the Senate a resolution commending the town affiliation program of the American Municipal Association and the Civic Committee of the People-to-People Program. That resolution reads as follows:

"Whereas the need for establishing direct friendly relationships among the people of the free world has never been more critical; and,

"Whereas the American Municipal Association and the Civic Committee's People-to-People town affiliation program provides one of the most effective means for the people of this country to establish more friendly ties with citizens of all ages and interests in the cities, towns and villages throughout the free world; and,

"Whereas over a hundred and fifty communities from more than forty countries throughout the free world, representing an approximate population of over twenty-five million people, are actively seeking affiliations with American cities; and,

"Whereas, the town affiliation program offers to many Americans one of the most effective means of responding to President Kennedy's challenge to ask what you can do for your country by working directly with the citizens of foreign lands in an exchange of ideas, projects, and visits which will strengthen the bonds amongst the peoples of the Free World,

" Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the Senate, and the House of Representatives concurring,

" That the town affiliation program of the American Municipal Association and the Civic Committee People-to-People Program is commended as a major step forward in increasing goodwill and understanding and bringing the people of all nations together in a bond of mutual trust, friendship and cooperation, and,

" Therefore, the citizens of all communities in our country join with the citizens of communities throughout the world in town affiliations based on mutual interests, respect, and understanding."

I am confident that the Senate and the House will adopt this resolution and thus help to stimulate and broaden town affiliation programs and thus, also, put our government on record as in complete support of this very worthwhile and proper endeavor. I also am confident that hundreds, and even thousands, of American communities will, in the near future, join this noble movement for understanding and peace.

Now, I ask you to leave here as crusading missionaries to get this job done. There is no use in coming to listen to a speech, if that's all you're going to do. Luncheons are much more enjoyable without speeches. What I ask you to do is get charged up, to move into battle. I ask you to be on the march, because without it, may I say that you will be in retreat, as Americans and free citizens.

Thank you.

"TOWN AFFILIATIONS---FRIENDSHIP FOR PEACE"

Address By
SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

Fourth Annual Town Affiliation Meeting
Washington, D.C.

June 14, 1961

One of the most quoted
statements in recent months
has been the eloquent inaugural
plea of President Kennedy.

He said, "Ask not what your
country can do for you -- ask
what you can do for your country."

~~I think~~ the President might well have added another request, one which might help satisfy those who have criticized him for not being "specific."

That request would be:

"Ask what thousands of your fellow-citizens are doing for their country, and join their efforts."

One of the most effective and challenging efforts is the Town Affiliation Program, which you have developed through the American Municipal Association

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Here is a specific,
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W. Barr, the Mayor of Montevideo, in my own State of Minnesota.

Dr. Barr and his wife traveled to Montevideo, Uruguay, earlier this year as a result of a Town Affiliation between the two cities. They talked with hundreds of citizens of Uruguay, and Dr. Barr emphasized one distinct impression he gained from these people.

"They were not interested in dealing with Americans at the government level," he said,

"but were anxious to meet and exchange ideas with the average American citizen in a friendly atmosphere unencumbered by protocol."

The attitude of the Uruguayans Dr. Barr met is typical. Millions of people throughout the world want to meet, ^{to} know and understand Americans as individuals and as human beings, not as government officials or as an abstract, collective character.

This desire is appropriate,

and -- in a sense -- a compliment to America.

It is a compliment because millions of people throughout the world realize that the government of the United States is only a part of our national character and identity.

This is a major difference between the United States and the Soviet Union today.

↳ In the Soviet Union, the government is the dominant, all-powerful element of an organized society. The government

dictates, the government controls, the government speaks the distinct and contrived policy and mood of the entire nation. In short, the government is the totality of the Soviet nation.

↳ In our free society, the government strives to express the will of the people, but its power is limited and given by the people.

↳ Government in the United States is like the tip of an iceberg. It can be seen from

afar, but it is held up and sustained by the greater power, force and substance of the people.

↳ The real strength of America is the people. The real greatness of America is the freedom and the individual dignity of its citizens.

↳ We are not a nation of government officials. We are not a nation of politicians.

We are not a nation of diplomats or international public relations experts.

We are ~~this~~ all of this but much, much more.

Our people are not tools or *servants* of the government. They are farmers and workers and businessmen and professionals bound together ~~only~~ by their love of freedom and their dedication to human rights. *They are the Sovereigns, they are the Power - Government is not the Master, but*
And Our land is not a machine } *rather is*
of the State. It is a land of } *the Servant,*
separate farms and free business
and private industry and distinct,
self-governing communities.

This is the story of America which we must tell the people of the world.

Voluntarism - Voluntary Groups!

Yes, this story can be told in part by the government, through the United States Information Agency and other missions overseas.

But it can be told most effectively and most successfully by the American people themselves, through their schools and churches and clubs and unions and communities.

↳ The Town Affiliation Program offers the efficient framework through which individual Americans can speak the real story of

America to the people of other lands.

↳ But the Town Affiliation Program is not a one-way street. Its purpose is true friendship, which requires our understanding of other peoples.

↳ Today more than ever, we need to understand the character, the mood and the aspirations of the people of other nations.

↳ We need to know more deeply and thoroughly that millions of human beings in the vast underdeveloped regions of the earth are struggling for a new life

of freedom and opportunity.

↳ We need to know that a revolution is sweeping the world -- not a Communist revolution but a revolution against the intolerable conditions of the past -- poverty, hunger, ignorance and social injustice. And this revolution is winning.

↳ We can read the terse statistics of human needs and learn that 83 per cent of the world's people are underfed, 62 per cent are illiterate and 70 per cent are sick or poorly housed.

But we do not truly understand -- and we are not ready for effective action -- until we become compassionately aware of the character and needs, the joys and sufferings of individual human beings in other lands.

Here, too Town Affiliations offer the means by which individuals in America can learn from individuals in other nations.

This willingness to learn is vital today. For too long, America has been pictured

overseas as a ponderous giant
boasting of its superior way
of life.

↳ We need a touch of
humility in our attitude
toward the peoples of other
nations. We need to extend
not just our frequently superior
skills and the tools to use them,
but also the hand of friendship,
as neighbors, as partners, as
equals.

Today, tens of thousands of
Americans are extending that hand
of friendship to people overseas.

More than 150 American cities now are affiliated with Sister Cities in other nations. The American cities in the program represent every section of the country, and every size -- from New York City to Oakland, Nebraska -- population 1600.

These Town Affiliations have gone far beyond ceremonial functions.

Tens of thousands of school children in American communities now correspond regularly with

children in their Sister Cities
overseas.

↳ Hundreds of student ex-
changes have been arranged.

Businessmen, doctors,
lawyers, union leaders and
others have exchanged knowledge,
advice, information and visits
with their counterparts in
foreign cities.

↳ City officials have arranged
reciprocal visits to their Sister
Cities, reporting back to their
fellow citizens what they saw
and learned.

Special classes have been organized to teach local citizens the language and culture of their Sister City.

There are countless examples of Town Affiliations leading to specific projects of help and assistance in times of need.

A five year old boy in (VIA-VEES-105A) Villaviciosa, the Philippines, will be able to walk again because the people of Forest Heights, Maryland, extended help for modern medical treatment of his crippled legs.

When Hagerstown, Maryland, was gripped by severe unemployment last winter, the citizens of ^(WESEL) Wesel, Germany, offered substantial help.

Some may scoff at such examples. Some people may condescendingly admit that the exchanges of Sister Cities are all very fine, but that they are too humble to have any significant effect on a restless and tense world.

Perhaps it is time for us to modify our "Think Big"

approach to international relations and begin to "Think Right." Perhaps it is time for us to add something deeper and more basic to our big economic aid programs, our huge technical assistance plans and our massive military aid projects.

The government programs of economic and technical assistance are needed and should be increased, but we must also extend the little, human touches of friendship to others.

The United States today plans to step up its foreign aid programs. We are today prepared to boost our defense budget. Our government has committed the nation to a vast new program for the exploration of outer space, including a multi-billion dollar program to place a man on the moon.

The record of 150 American cities affiliated with communities in 36 nations is good, but the Sister City Program must be expanded.

The American Municipal Association has reported to me that the names of 150 more foreign cities are on file with requests for Sister Cities in the United States.

To be blunt, 150 foreign cities have extended the hand of friendship and have been left standing without a response.

The requests of those 150 foreign cities must be answered by American communities willing and eager to establish Town Affiliations.

And we need to do more to stimulate, encourage and promote additional Sister City relationships -- with the initiative coming from American communities.

A hundred and fifty Town Affiliations are not enough. Three hundred Town Affiliations are not enough. We need 3,000 or even 5,000 Sister City affiliations to approach the magnificent potential of American communities joining in friendship and understanding with communities of other nations.

Our ideal should not be limited; our approach should not be timid. We should hope for the day when everyone of America's 13,000 communities has joined as a working neighbor with a foreign community.

Such an expansion of the ^{City to City} Town Affiliation movement can come only through the initiative and efforts of citizens and leaders in the communities. The Town Affiliation Program must be sustained as a true and spontaneous People-to-People effort.

But the government can and should be ready to assist the American Municipal Association and the People-to-People Program in any way necessary. If the leaders of the Town Affiliation Program seek additional help, I am confident the government will respond, with no strings attached.

It remains the responsibility of individual citizens and community leaders to stimulate and develop an expansion of the Town Affiliation Program. I, for

one, intend to do all I can to help promote the concept and practice of the Town Affiliation Program in communities of the United States.

And let me announce now that today I am introducing in the Senate a resolution commending the Town Affiliation Program of the American Municipal Association and the Civic Committee of the People-to-People Program.

That resolution reads as follows:

"WHEREAS, the need for establishing direct friendly relationships among the people of the free world has never been more critical, and

"WHEREAS, the American Municipal Association and the Civic Committees People-to-People Town Affiliation Program provides one of the most effective means for the people of this country to establish more friendly ties with citizens of all ages and interests in the cities, towns and villages

throughout the free world, and

"WHEREAS, over 150 communities from more than forty countries throughout the free world representing an approximate population of over 25 million people are actively seeking affiliations with American cities, and

"WHEREAS, the Town Affiliation Program offers to many Americans one of the most effective means of responding to President Kennedy's challenge "to ask what you can do for your country" by working

directly with citizens of foreign lands in an exchange of ideas, projects and visits which will strengthen the bonds among the peoples of the free world:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE (The House of Representatives concurring), That the Town Affiliation Program of the American Municipal Association and the Civic Committee, People-to-People Program, is commended as a major step forward in increasing goodwill and understanding

and bringing the people of all nations together in a bond of mutual trust, friendship and cooperation, and, therefore, the citizens of all communities in our country join with the citizens of communities throughout the world in Town Affiliations based on mutual interests, respect and understanding."

I am confident that the Senate and the House of Representatives will adopt this resolution, and thus help to stimulate a broadened Town Affiliation Program.

And I am confident that
hundreds and even thousands of
American communities will in
the near future join this noble
movement for understanding and
peace.



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