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SPEECH BY MR. A. E. SPEEKENBRINK OF THE NETHERLANDS
DELEGATION AT FINAL ACT CEREMONY

Mr. Chairman and Fellow Delegates,

It is with the greatest pleasure that I move a resolution on behalf of this Conference to convey our heartfelt thanks and lasting gratitude to the Government and the People of Cuba, who have been our hosts during the last four months. Cuban hospitality, of which I had heard before I came to this delightful country, has beaten, in my view, any known record, and the way all of us have been received, helped and feasted was most remarkable as well as most gratifying.

Mr. Chairman, there is an old saying that one must be prepared to live up to his sins. There may have been some Delegates who, at the time I suggested in Geneva selecting Havana as the place for this Conference, possibly had some misgivings, and maybe a few of them thought in fact I was committing a sin. Whatever might be the case, I know now that all my colleagues sooner or later after their arrival became convinced of the sinful wisdom of the decision made in Geneva. Being impressed by the excellent organization which welcomed us, we all sensed from the start the beauty of Havana, the cordiality of our Cuban friends and the charm of nature in Cuba. It seems to be the case that many of us felt we were being bewitched by Cuba and the Cubans, and, if you permit me, Mr. Chairman, I am afraid you yourself, with your consistent cheerfulness, your good humor and pervading heartiness, have been one of the main sorcerers.

Most of us had never been in Cuba and we only faintly had an idea of a wonderful island in the Caribbean, from where sugar and tobacco came, where people danced rumbas, and where all ladies were beautiful. All this proved to be more than true, and I take this opportunity to thank on behalf of my colleagues and myself, particularly our charm-
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ing Cuban hostesses, who have contributed so largely to the comfort of us poor, overworked delegates, in a never failing and always successful attempt to cheer us up, and who therefore are certainly responsible to a considerable extent for the fine results of this Conference,

However, we have certainly not been here only for work and pleasure. Many of us interested ourselves in Cuban culture, in its arts and sciences, which we found thriving beyond any expectation, and I may be permitted to mention that the Delegation of the Netherlands, having tasted Cuban musical life both in the folk style and in the classical way, goes home deeply impressed by the innate musicality of the Cuban people, one of the most precious gifts nature can bestow on mankind.

We all had to learn about Cuba's history, and nobody could ignore the fact that the long fight for freedom Cuba had to put up is of symbolic significance in modern times when there has just been fought a long and bloody war to prevent freedom being curtailed by ruthless power and liberty destroyed by brute force.

Mr. Chairman, Fellow Delegates, you have all known me as a son of my country, practical, realistic, matter of fact as a Dutchman should be. However, I must confess that I am deeply moved when I now present for formal adoption the resolution of gratitude to the Government and People of Cuba.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

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