Tonight, you start on another great adventure. You are entering into a new frontier of service to America, as you launch your 1959 March of Dimes Campaign.

Your frontier is the largely uncharted domain which the National Foundation has boldly and wisely announced as its great new targets:

- An all-out drive against
  - Arthritis and rheumatism
  - Congenital birth defects
  - Disorders of the central nervous system

And all this, of course, is in addition to your continuing effort in polio research and rehabilitation.

I am here tonight to wish you well in this inspiring undertaking.

I would like you to know that this legislator -- and I believe -- ALL the legislators of the Congress of the United States are with you - heart and soul.
Your success will be America's and the world's. For you will be eliminating or easing an incalculable amount of pain and suffering inherent in these mysterious diseases wherever and whomever they strike.

The world's need -- voluntarism

It is not just America, but the world which tonight is watching your efforts with good will and good wishes.

The world needs your example. For yours is by far the greatest single model of voluntary pioneering against disease to be seen anywhere which I made on behalf of better world health: --

The human race desperately needs enlarged voluntary action against disease. It needs private initiative in strengthening teamwork between the medical arts and the layman. It needs enthusiastic voluntarism -- the very concept, the creed, the driving force -- which the National Foundation symbolizes and represents.

To be sure, there is a role for greater governmental effort, in research
hospitalization, public health services and rehabilitation. I shall discuss and outline during these remarks, an expanded Federal program which I, for one, feel our government should undertake.

But more important even than what government - local, State, and Federal - can do and should do - is what private citizens can do and must do.

**BASIL O'CONNOR -- A SYMBOL OF SERVICE**

And if anyone anywhere seeks an example as to what a single enlightened individual - a layman - can do, he need look no further than your great National President, Basil O'Connor. He is the living symbol of what a tireless, dedicated, and inspired lay leader can accomplish.

But all around us tonight, I see other individuals who represent to Minnesota what Basil O'Connor represents on the National Scene. I refer to personal dedication, sacrifice, and selfless service to the realities of unceasing devotion, to sacrificing countless weeks and months out of busy lives, out of active labor, business and professional careers. Why? In order to lift the yoke of suffering from youngsters and adults. In order to fulfill the creed which is basic to every church, every
temple, every synagogue represented in this audience tonight - the creed of giving of oneself in order that others "might have life and have it more abundantly."

That is why 70 million generous Americans will contribute to the March of Dimes. It is why one million women will take part in the Mothers' March. It is why over 2 million volunteers will work for the March of Dimes during campaign season. It is why 30,000 dedicated Americans serve National Foundation Chapters on a year-round basis.

This is selflessness, and it is common sense. It is enlightened self-interest, for in helping others, we help ourselves and our own loved ones.

But the National Foundation's greatest deeds are still ahead.

Your past and present leadership in the conquest of polio represents one of the most stirring chapters in the history of science.

Now, your superb organization, with its tried and tested efficiency and precision - is engaged in an infinitely broader task.

I know you are going to succeed.

WHAT DIMES AND DOLLARS ACHIEVE

Every dime, every dollar that we collect advances by just that much the ultimate day when --
Mothers and fathers will be spared the heartbreak of new-born
infants with congenital defects, like "open spine" and "open skull"
or excessive fluid in the cavities of the brain.

Million Americans with arthritis and rheumatism will feel their
stiff joints, their deformed bones, their aching bodies relieved
of pain.

Man's smallest enemy - the virus will just as bacteria have
fallen, before man's scientific genius.

THE BROADER USE OF SCIENCE

But scientific genius can do even more for America than conquering
disease. Science, especially medical science, can provide a link which
is desperately needed in the world today.

These two mighty powers are today divided by a wide gulf of suspicion
and fear. Across this gulf has been hurled endless insult and vituperation.

Meanwhile, each fearfully continues to build up - guided missiles - nuclear
capacity not only capable of devasting each other, but capable of
unintentionally pulverizing most of the world into radioactive rubble.

The ghastly spectre of thermonuclear war hangs heavy over mankind.

And so, every possible action which we can take to eliminate that spectre must be taken.

Obviously it makes little sense for doctors and laymen to be trying to save thousands of lives from disease and disability, if we do not do everything within the capacity of man to save literally hundreds of millions of lives, such as might be lost if ever thermonuclear war were to happen.

Here is where medical science can fulfill its larger role.

Medicine is a universal profession with a universal creed and a universal appeal.

Medicine can unite people whom political ideology divides.

Medicine can bridge the gulf between East and West, and the people of every race, creed, and nationality committed and uncommitted.

That is one of the reasons why I went to Europe, not only in my capacity as a Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, but as
Chairman of a Senate Subcommittee on international health study.

It is why I published, prior to my trip, a 117-page document entitled "International Medical Research." For it documents the indebtedness of every American to scientists of every nationality in the conquest of countless scourges. I refer to unforgettable men like Pasteur, Koch, Comer, Semmelweis, Boening, Jenner, Naguchi, Metchnikoff, and French, Scandina...[unreadable]

Yes, men and women whose love of their own country and dedication to science and healing, was paralleled by their devotion to mankind.

I refer to the great Americans, native born or immigrant, such as the Avery, Watson, Walter Reed, Bets, Goldberger, and men whom you participated knew the great pioneers—Ehrlich, Robbins, and others—[unreadable]

who showed how to cultivate poliomyelitis virus in monkey tissues and flasks; as well as the renowned, Jonas Salk.

THE GREATEST VACCINE

But now let me speak of what this type of man can do—creating the most important vaccine of the 20th Century—a vaccine to immunize the
US and USSR against the "viruses" that could lead to war. I mean the deadly micro-organisms of distrust and fear which can paralyze the intellect and lead to a thermonuclear holocaust.

Jonas Salk can help develop such a "vaccine," and so can fellow scientists here and in the Soviet Union. They can do so and I pray, they will do so - not merely by talking foreign policy - but rather by deeds of science, by works of peace.

Already, American and Soviet virologists have been working side by side against man's common enemy. They and Polish, Czech, and other Soviet Bloc scientists are working in the World Health Organization, and in the International Union Against Cancer, in Cardio-vascular efforts and in innumerable other medical fields, like your own.

So, inch by inch, the "big freeze" of the cold war is starting to thaw. But you who made possible the extension of the Warm Springs Foundation, know that the fight against viruses is a long hard one, that it takes infinite patience and resourcefulness and dedication.

That is what I appeal for tonight. I appeal for unrelenting mobilization of the peaceful resources of humanity to find and utilize and perfect a "vaccine" of peace.
There will be no "one shot" cure. It will take lots of "booster shots."

But each "innoculation" against distrust and fear is 100% safe. We have nothing to fear from medical scientists cooperating to conquer disease and thereby innoculating the body politic with friendship and mutual respect.

So far, we have not even begun to realize the larger potentialities of this effort.

That is why I discussed for the first two hours of my 8-1/2 hours meeting with the Chief of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, Nikita S. Khruschev, medical cooperation exclusively. It is why I discussed this general subject - personally in detail and in a subsequent memorandum with President Dwight D. Eisenhower, immediately upon my return.

And it is why, I am particularly gratified to report, both Heads of State responded, not only warmly, but enthusiastically to specific Health for Peace proposals which I submitted.

SIX PROPOSALS TO KREMLIN

What are these proposals, as outlined first to Premier Khruschev, as well as to the Deputy Minister of Health, Dr. V. M. Khvanov and to our State Department? They are six in number:
Further implementation and broadening of the very fruitful medical exchange provisions under the Lacy-Zarubin Agreement -- between USA and USSR.

Additional progress in increasing the two-way flow of medical data, including fuller and prompter exchange of publications and abstracts.

An even wider increase in a phase which is indispensable -- personal contacts between medical scientists in the two blocs -- through freer correspondence and visits.

"Full speed ahead" on plans for an International Health and Medical Research Year, possibly in 1961.

Joint Soviet-US collaboration commencing as soon as possible, in one particular new project of universal interest -- a campaign for intensified peri-natal research, so as to facilitate healthier babies for mankind.

Expanded physical rehabilitation efforts, at home and abroad.

You of the National Foundation are especially interested in both the latter two points.

You realize that birth defects constitute the most important unmet
medical problem of childhood today. An estimated 250,000 infants are born each year with some significant defect.

What heartbreak, what socio-economic loss - that stark statistic represents.

Some of you may recall the famous observation that man's first nine months of life, within his mother's womb, are undoubtedly the most important in his entire life. Scientists now believe that what is termed the peri-natal period, commencing the 20th week of pregnancy and extending through the first month after birth, represents a field for study and medical action whose results are almost incalculable in terms of health of the human family.

Every 6 seconds a baby is born in the USSR. Every 7-1/2 seconds, a baby is born in the US. These babies are the future of our two countries.

Surely US-Soviet differences must not be allowed to diminish by one iota what Soviet and American medical scientists may be able to do for the unborn.

Still another joint Soviet-US effort would be in a field dear to the hearts of you who have been laboring "in the Lord's vineyard of health" -- the area of rehabilitation. This, too, is a frontier to which the Foundation
has magnificently responded, and where, as you so well know, infinitely more needs still be done. 

(Pause)

These, then, are but the beginnings. You have my assurance that in the 86th Congress, commencing January 7th, I, for one, will do everything possible to help advance these and other objectives.

THREE OTHER CONGRESSIONAL OBJECTIVES

I should like to list now three other Congressional targets as I see them:

First and foremost should be the legislation to create a new National Institute for International Medical Research, authored by the universally acknowledged "Dean" of Congressional health legislation, the gifted and able Senator Lister Hill of Alabama. Under this bill, which I have been involved in for years, the United States would grant up to 50 million dollars annually under the supervision of the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare to strengthen the national battle against disease and disability.

How would this money be utilized? It would be expended by our great National Institute of Health in direct financial grants abroad for specific
research projects and experiments in hospitals, 

It would be used to encourage and support the rapid international interchange of knowledge and information concerning disease and disability, including the holding of international conferences. It would be used to step up the program of training scientists throughout the world, meaning an increase in exchanges and fellowships.

Thus, no one need remind you of the National Foundation - (with your own admirable Health Scholarship Plan on the home front) - how important is the task of training of additional health personnel.

**FOOD FOR HEALTH**

Secondly, we must use food to feed the hungry and malnourished of foreign lands.

Scientist after scientist has told me, "Senator, how will it avail mankind if medical science continues to reduce infant mortality, but if the very children whom we are saving from birth injury and infectious diseases are to fall prey later on to malnutrition and starvation?"

Obviously, as the population of the earth increases, there must be more food for the additional millions of mouths and stomachs. That's where America's bountiful food must be constructively used.
Fortunately, we have begun to use this great resource, but all too often only with reluctance and halting steps.

Now, by virtue of new amendments to the Agriculture Trade Development and Assistance Act, (popularly known as Public Law 480) in the 83rd Congress, we are beginning to use so-called "surplus food" constructively in the underdeveloped regions of the globe. We are selling more of our food, at reasonable prices, and then using the foreign currency earned thereby to help strengthen local economies.

And included in such local uses must be an increased effort directly in the field of medical research, such as medical research in exploratory nature.

**EXPAND REHABILITATION**

Thirdly, we must greatly expand our national effort in the field of rehabilitation.

We must reduce to a minimum the enormous backlog of handicapped millions of individuals who have been "sitting on the shelf" year after year. Thus far our Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, has unfortunately been denied sufficient resources not only to help many of each year's
Unable to disabled, but to cope with the accumulation of cases from past years of neglect and disinterest.

Had it not been for the National Foundation and other organizations together with dedicated individuals, like Dr. Howard Rusk, and our own doctors Frank Krusen and Frederic Kottke, we couldn't have made as much progress as we have to date.

But much needs still to be done. I, for one, would like to see a National Institute of Physical Rehabilitation, as a spearhead for research in this developing field.

INTERIM SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

On January 31, 1959 the Subcommittee on Reorganization and International Organizations which has been conducting the international health study, will file a report in accordance with the resolution under which we were created. It is still too early to state what we will attempt to set forth in that report, for that awaits the decision of the full 7 members of the Subcommittee. It is up to my colleagues, for example, to decide on extension of our study; but I do believe we will continue for another year.
For myself, I can tell you that naturally there will be included an account of my observations in the course of my trip. There will be set forth a list of all the hospitals and research centers which I visited together with members of the Subcommittee staff. I can recall now, for example, the children's hospitals which I visited in Paris, in Stockholm, and in Helsinki where I saw, incidentally, a great many youngsters afflicted with congenital defects. I will tell of my visit to a Moscow Cancer Institute where I recall seeing among others, numerous children afflicted with cancer, and I will tell of other experiences in the course of the trip.

Let me mention, now, specifically some of the institutions which I personally visited:

In Paris - The Radium Institute and Hospital, The Pasteur Institute, The Maternity Hospital and the Hospital for Sick Children.

In Geneva - The headquarters of the World Health Organization where I consulted with Dr. N. G. Candau, Director General, and WHO experts on virology, malaria, genetics, and many other specialties. In Geneva, too,
I visited the International Labor Organization in connection with occupational health and other problems.

In Stockholm - The Karolinska Institute's Centers of Bacteriology and Immunology, Children's Hospital and Institute of Cell Research.

In Helsinki - The Brain-Damage Institute, The Institute for Occupational Diseases, Tumor Center, The Children's Hospital, and others.

In Moscow - The Institute of Experimental Therapy and Pathology of Cancer, The Institute for Experimental Physiology.

In Oslo - The Radium Hospital, the Institute for Internal Medicine.

In London - The United Kingdom Medical Research Council.

I spoke with MD's and PHD's, with Nobel Prize winners and young, up-coming scientists. I discussed health with many Cabinet Ministers of Health and with diplomats and political leaders - with the President of Finland, The Prime Minister of Sweden, the Acting Foreign Minister of Norway, and others. I discussed it with representatives of the World Council of Churches, and of the National Catholic Welfare Conference.

--- A MARSHALL PLAN FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH ---

One of the suggestions put forward one will have to aim at the goal of America, so far as international medical research is concerned,
should be to help strengthen the "base" for foreign discovery. We definitely
do not seek to deprive Western Europe of its leading scientific talent by
encouraging, for example, mass emigration of scientists to the States.

Indeed, we should help and encourage foreign countries to expand their own
facilities "in their own backyards", so that they themselves are more
capable of helping to unlock the mysteries of disease. But the basic fact
is that European scientists can use a carefully worked out "Marshall Plan"
of medical research. Why? Because European scientists have still not
fully recovered from the 6 lost years of World War II and from the anemic
budgets allocated to health ministeries in the immediate post war era.

which should include, of course, other regions of the world, as well.

This "Marshall Plan" would not cost in dollars but the tiniest fraction of
what our overall economic aid has cost. It would be infinitely less than

an after-thought cost. It should not be undertaken at the expense
of our own domestic needs and it should not be conceived as a one-way
street.

Indeed Europe, yes, Latin America, Asia, and Africa, have a great
deal to give us in new directions of discovery. Europe and each
other area must do far more for itself -- it must raise the budgets of
It must quit penny-pinching on medical research necessities. What I am suggesting therefore parallels the suggestions of Lister Hill. But I am recommending that each region of Europe and of the world reassess its own medical budget and see if it can "break through" to a higher level of support for research. Present national budgets in most countries are pitifully small in relation to other far less significant uses of resources. I am not in favor of the United States doing for any country what that country can do and should do for itself. But I am in favor of a helping hand in medical research wherever it is justified, as it is indeed in many countries. One of the goals of the International Health and Medical Research Year should be an increase in the level of effort and expenditures by the various nations for medical research. The through the International Cooperation Administration United States can and will play its role unilaterally, bilaterally and multilaterally through WHO, UNICEF and other agencies.

CONCLUSION

Great vistas lie before us - inspiring visions, calling on us to do our very best.
A Jonas Salk can help change the course of medical history, working in collaboration with other selfless scientists.

But, as I have indicated, A Doctor visiting in the Soviet Union and working with his counterparts there can evoke friendship and warmth which are indispensable if the larger challenge of peace is to be fulfilled.

I can assure you that I would far rather see the peaceful news of Dr Salk and the news of the National Foundation's wonderful plans fill the Nation's and foreign newspapers, than to see the oft-quoted belligerent statements of Generals and Admirals, talking about destruction which they say they are capable of unleashing.

One type of news - medical research - arouses universal hope and faith; the other - military threats - excites ugly fear and vengeful recrimination from behind the Iron Curtain.

To immunize against such fear - that is our task.

A "vaccine for peace" -- to this, you of the Foundation will contribute in the drive which you undertake tonight. For news of your success will circle around the world and will inspire the hearts of men everywhere.