

MARIA EVA DUARTE DE PERON (I)  
SOCIAL AID FUND

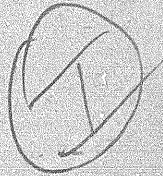
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# DECLARATION

of the

# RIGHTS OF THE AGED



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VICEPRESIDENCIA PROVISIONAL DE LA NACION  
RESOLUCION N° 164



REPUBLICA ARGENTINA

1950

YEAR OF THE LIBERATOR, GENERAL SAN MARTIN

Peronismo - Aspectos Sociales

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*THE problem of destitution in old age has ceased to be a cause of anxiety in our country. On the initiative of the Social Aid Fund over which Eva Perón presides, the Rights of the Aged were proclaimed on the 26th. of August, 1948, which are embodied in a ten point Statute which guarantees to the old folk in the last stage of their life, the welfare to which they have the right because they have spent all their efforts for the good of the community. This conquest, which constitutes a transcendental stage in the social policy of the Government, was embodied in our Constitution by the Constituent Assembly which reformed it in the year 1949.*

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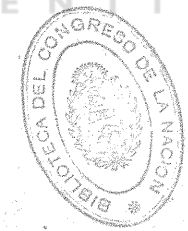
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SPEECH MADE BY

Mrs. MARIA EVA DUARTE DE PERON

With the deepest emotion and fullest comprehension of the transcendental importance of this Ceremony, I feel myself honoured as I deliver into the hands of His Excellency the President of the Argentine People, the ten point Statute which proclaims the Rights of the Aged. Because I am Argentine and as a woman who lives her life with a heartfelt appreciation of our national and social awakening, I know that I could not leave it in better hands nor have found a more auspicious setting for my utterances. In this building Your Excellency, inspiring our actions and guiding us in the fulfilment of our dreams, there dwells the constructive, fraternal and passionately Argentine spirit of that Colonel Perón who raised the standard of the oppressed, setting it aloft to wave alongside of those of the highest ideals of our Country and of all humanity. The generous impulses of those who seek the welfare of the community and the efforts of those upon whom have fallen the high honour and enormous responsibility of carrying on his work, are here encouraged by the vigorous personality of the man who was the first Secretary of Labour and Welfare and the first Argentine of high political investiture to proclaim the imperative right of the workers to enjoy a better standard of living, which was due to them as worthy men and the creators of our wealth. Finally, it was here within these very walls, that the birth was witnessed of our social justice, and where the first hopeful steps were taken towards total restoration, and where it has been verified how the confidence of the Argentines in themselves and in the destinies of their Country has taken shape, together with the very spirit of this New Argentina for all, of which Colonel Perón dreamed and over which, by the will of the people, General Perón now rules.

I think, Your Excellency, that it would have been impossible to find more suitable surroundings for the act of placing in those hands of yours which have accomplished so much, the rights of those who

until yesterday had been relegated to oblivion. It was in this house, the cradle of our social awakening, that one stage of our history was brought to a final conclusion in order to inaugurate the new stage of which the initial chapter has consisted in conferring suitable dignity upon the working populace, the vanguard which has built up and affirmed the rightful claims of our nationality.

Furthermore, it is here that a start will be made on what the Social Aid Fund, over which I have the honour and duty to preside, has desired to undertake in order to make amends for an injustice and include among its labours of mercy all those members of our society who have reached the period of declining years with no one to care for them and bereft of means for the supply of their bare necessities. I firmly believe that just like the whole working populace which from these premises won its triumph, the aged folk also, who can no longer perform any productive work because they have expended all their productive efforts for the benefit of others when there were no laws to protect labour, will likewise triumph at last. The guarantee of this is that passionately Argentine spirit of the then Colonel Perón who battled for the redemption of the outcasts and whose worthy successor is General Perón, President of the Argentine people and the man of America and of all humanity.

In the picture of our social conditions at the present day, which we can exhibit as an example to the world, it must be confessed to our shame, Your Excellency, that our infirm aged folks appear as a suffering replica of what the majority of our Argentine workers were until the day on which, from your lips, the Nation heard the declaration that either justice was social and the hypocritical veil of privileges which blinded its eyes must be torn away, or else it was not justice and in fact was nothing at all. Today they are like the great majority of the labourers in the past who in spite of the productive value of their work could never do more than taste the crumbs that fell from the table at the endless banquet enjoyed by those in power who were puffed up in their pride and forgetfulness both of God and of their brethren through whose work they were enriched. In order to liberate the workers from the bonds of an unjust and cruel society, which through its judges and intermediaries systematically rejected any form of evolution, any collective improvement, or any right for the majority to participate in any measure in the wealth which they were producing for those of the minority, and which wealth they could never see converted into bread for their children and prosperity for their homes, a Revolution was necessary. It had to be a Revolution with a capital R, which inspired by the dynamic personality and historic vision of Colonel Perón, should proclaim to the four points of the compass its purpose

of social reform, its intention to set our economy in order and its inflexible passion for sovereignty. Its social spirit won to its ranks the whole body of the labouring classes of the country who rallied to follow the lead of their vanguard of "descamisados" and accomplished the glorious exploit of the liberation of their Leader.

Its plan of economic reorganization laid the foundation of the new social justice which opened up for the future of the Argentine people fresh prospects of unity, fraternity and a life of happy fellowship, and its passion for sovereignty proclaimed to the post-war world that while inspired with the highest ideals of peace, the Argentine people would never renounce a single one of its essential rights.

That Revolution, Your Excellency, which discovered in Colonel Perón its Leader and Guide, and which possesses in General Perón the man who has carried out its programmes, has already effected the physical and spiritual transformation of the Country. That opportune and re-echoing dictum "Deeds are better than words, and fulfilment is better than promises" has ceased to be a constructive slogan to be transformed into a palpable and tangible reality revealed before the eyes and consciousness of the nation through the work of its President. "Deeds are better than words" is being proclaimed by the situation of our workers in the picture of our social conditions at the present day, those same workers who were found by the Revolution which you inspired, in receipt of starvation wages, deprived of the right of organization and lacking everything which makes life worth living, and who now display to the whole world a standard of living and a percentage of participation in the affairs of government such as they never even dreamed of in the past which is something of hardly a few days ago. "Fulfilment is better than promises" is being proclaimed to the four winds by the solid stonework of the dams which are reclaiming land for fruitful cultivation, by the Argentine vessels which are carrying our products to all the ports of the world and by the pipelines which are conveying the breath of our mother earth from far distant regions to light the fires of our hearths. "Fulfilment is better than promises" is repeated by the women of the Country whose civic rights were recognized to them by the Revolution and whose social and patriotic enthusiasm has been fanned to flame through the work of the Government.

That transformation, Your Excellency, as I have already said, is not confined to the hard facts of material things. It reaches out beyond them and overflows into the mystic province of the national spirit itself. Your material labours, with all their grandeur, and exemplifying as they do an effort which is without parallel throughout the whole continent, would appear to be liable to

perish in the future if they could not rely for their support and multiplication, upon the new and gigantic encouragement of national unity.

I will be even more explicit. I will state that the conquests of the workers, for example, depend less on their more adequate wages than on their status of men who feel their manhood and who for that very reason are rendered fit for the greatest undertaking and the highest ideals concordant with the human state. And, Your Excellency, this is because the Revolution which found its leader in Colonel Perón, had as its main object the liberation of man from the egoism and other limitations of his own nature and has been successful, opening up in our history a new era of national fraternity for which we can find a parallel only in the common glory won by all who shared in the battles for our political independence and in the exploits of San Martín when he won freedom for our sister Nations.

Argentine manhood, Your Excellency, has been saved. By raising the status of the workers, and enforcing a humanitarian use of capital, your Revolution has laid the foundation stone for a new communal and national spirit which dignifies the life we lead and which is conveying us, not hurriedly perhaps, but inevitably, like the stars in their courses, towards the most absolute, perfect and indissoluble national unity. We are going forward, as you yourself said on one occasion, in the realization of the ideal of establishing a country in which the rich will not be so rich, and the poor will not be so poor. We are marching onwards, a people united in one spirit and one purpose, aware that with each new day our ranks are swollen by fresh contingents of men and women won over to a common destiny by the magnificent work which you have done and by the nobility of the example you have set, towards a higher conception of the bonds of brotherhood. And, for that same reason, towards perfection, because a state of perfection is always one in which love, mutual respect, tolerance and solidarity are all united.

In this building the work is going forward in the spirit of its best tradition. Your presence here, Your Excellency, evokes its early days and brings to mind highlights in your heroic struggles in the past. And the memory is always with us, acting as the fount of inspiration at which we may quench our insatiable thirst for economic, political and social justice, of the then Colonel Perón who, when he was here, prepared the way for the advent of this New Argentina. These walls, ladies and gentlemen, have

seen the joys and sorrows, the hopes and the unshakable faith in the people which filled his heart to overflowing, and strengthened Colonel Perón in his determination to succeed. His joy was unbounded when he was able to glean some happiness from life for them after he had entered this building; his sorrow was profound when he was confronted by the lack of comprehension in some quarters and by the bad faith in others, and the implacable hatred of those who had to give way to that which was inevitable by all the biological and social laws of life. He hoped for a national revival, inexplicably postponed, as were the rights of the working classes, and he believed in an Argentina which would be great, prosperous and happy, and also a true Motherland and a real home for all Argentines, and for all men of goodwill who come to our shores to inhabit our land and to increase her fruitfulness.

I am invoking, Your Excellency, this creative spirit which has never gone and never will go from within the walls of this building so that it may protect with its strength, its honour and its faith, the rights of those who have been totally forgotten, and whom we refuse to forget any longer. The "María Eva Duarte de Perón" Social Aid Fund, through me, the humblest, but at the same time, the most enthusiastic and passionately devoted of all your collaborators, proclaims the rights of the aged.

Your Excellency the President, Honourable Ministers, ladies and gentlemen, the mere proclamation of the Rights of the Aged will not fulfil our object or satisfy our aspirations, all of which are in harmony with the principles of mutual support and the policy of essential justice which General Perón introduced. Our purpose goes much further than this; our aspirations seek a much more practical fulfilment, reaching out not only to the aged who are disabled, but also to the outcasts of society.

Justice and mutual compassion do not, and cannot recognize any frontier barriers. They are the higher manifestations of our human nature, the outward revelations of the divine spirit which inspires our lives and seeks perfection in the face of eternity.

In leaving in your hands, Your Excellency, the rights of the aged, I am also leaving with them a fervent desire and my unshakable faith in them. A fervent desire that these rights of the aged which we are proclaiming today may find their place among the basic laws which govern our national life, to which you have added the benefit of your foresight so that from one day to another, they may include, in a wide and protective embrace, all

the complex contingencies of the economic, political and social life of our Country. It is my unshakable belief that these same rights which we are proclaiming today, if they were defined to the rest of the world, would serve as an inspiration, would touch the conscience of the peoples, and might one day come to be felt, like a blessing from afar, on all the white heads of the aged and infirm all over the world. That is all.

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## DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE AGED

### 1. The right to assistance

Every aged person has the right to complete protection for the account and liability of his family. In the event of his destitution it is the duty of the State to provide such protection either directly or through the institutes and foundations created or to be created for that purpose, without detriment to the subrogatory right of the State or of the said institutes to demand the pertinent contributions of remiss and solvent members of the family.

### 2. The right to lodging

The right to a hygienic lodging with a minimum of home comforts is inherent in the condition of humanity.

### 3. The right to sustenance

Healthy nourishment adequate to the age and physical condition of each person, should be given special attention.

### 4. The right to clothing

Decorous wearing apparel appropriate to the climate is complementary to the foregoing right.

### 5. The right to the care of physical health

The care of the physical health of the aged must be a most special and permanent consideration.

### 6. The right to the care of moral health

The free exercise of spiritual expansion, in accordance with morality and religion, should be ensured.

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7. The right to recreation

Recognition must be given to the right of the aged to enjoy in moderation a minimum of entertainments, so that they may with satisfaction support their hours of waiting.

8. The right to work

When their state and condition permit, the employment of the aged by means of labour-therapy should be facilitated. This will avoid the diminution of personality.

9. The right to tranquillity

To enjoy tranquillity, free from anxieties and preoccupations in the last years of life is the inheritance of the aged.

10. The right to respect

The aged have the right to the respect and consideration of their fellow-beings.





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