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GIVING A HUG to Dr. C. Everett Koop, Rodriguez. A team of 23 doctors performed the 10-hour operation for 13-month-old Clara who headed the Philadelphia surgical team which separated her Siamese twin and Alta. Both girls are now reported to be doing fine. daughters two days earlier, is Mrs. Farida

Mrs. Farida Rodriguez and Dr. C. Everett Koop express their happiness over Siamese twin operation

Twins' Mother Meets Press

Hug From Surgeon Breaks the Ice

By DONALD C. DRAKE
Inquirer Medical Writer

The mother of the Siamese twins clearly wasn't very happy sitting under the floodlights facing a roomful of television cameras and newsmen.

Two days earlier a surgical team under Dr. C. Everett Koop at Children's Hospital had separated her twin daughters in a remarkably successful operation, and the time had come for Mrs. Farida Rodriguez—who until recently had led the secluded

life of a farmer's wife in Dominican Republic—to share her experience with the world.

"Smile, Mrs. Rodriguez, smile," a television man said in broken Spanish.

She sat with arms clutched across her chest, her head rigid. As the cameras clicked, her eyes darted but the head remained motionless.

Most of the talking was done by Mrs. Diana Zimnoch of Warrington, who got the Children's Hospital staff interested in the case and,

through her church, raised the money to bring Mrs. Rodriguez to Philadelphia.

Mrs. Zimnoch reported that a Philadelphia man had donated money to pay Mrs. Rodriguez' fare to go home to her five other children while the twins are recuperating here for a month and to return later to take them home.

She said also that a cable had been sent to the family right after the operation. It said: "The girls were operated on successfully. Thank God. Both doing well."

Suddenly Dr. Koop, a bear of a man with a Lincoln-esque

beard, pushed into the room and sat next to Mrs. Rodriguez. She threw her arms around him.

Dr. Koop, moved himself, hugged her back. Then he said that both girls were doing beautifully.

He said Clara was no longer getting drugs that paralyze her muscles to keep from hurting the wound in her abdomen. She had also been taken off the breathing machine.

Her sister Alta would be taken off drugs and the breathing machine today at the latest, he said.