I wish first of all to express my gratitude to the management of station XEQ for dedicating this broadcast to the United States of America and for giving me this opportunity, as the Ambassador of my country in the friendly sister republic of Mexico, to address these few words to the radio audience of this station.

These are indeed fateful days in the history of Mexico and of the United States and of all of the American republics, as of the whole world. Our ancestors, through their heroism and devotion to country and to principle and through their sacrifices of blood and treasure, won for us the independence we enjoy and our opportunity to shape our destinies as free men. Under the beneficent influences of that independence and freedom which they won for us, we have been devoting ourselves to the arts of peace, developing our national institutions and our resources, and reaching constantly a higher stage of well-being.

We have been living at peace with each other and mutually respecting the rights of each other. We hoped and believed that war as an instrument of policy between countries was a thing of the past.

But in the heart of Europe and in the Far East, there developed governments in Italy and Germany and in Japan which believe only in the rule of force and who ruthlessly use war to impose their will on others. They believe that small states or large states have no right to exist except at their pleasure. They have determined not only to destroy the
the sovereignty and independence of other states but to reduce their peoples to slavery.

While we in the United States, and you in Mexico, and the peoples of the democracies continued to pursue the arts of peace as though our liberty and independence were not so definitely threatened by these countries, they armed themselves to the teeth and when they were ready they attacked and enslaved one unprepared country after another. On December 7th last year Japan made a ruthless and unprovoked surprise attack on my country. We were forced to war in the defense of our territory and of our independence. A few weeks ago two peaceful merchant ships carrying the flag of Mexico and manned with Mexican seamen were sunk by submarines of these aggressor states against every principle of international law and practice. The Mexican Government and people responded in the only manner in which their tradition and honor permitted, in a declaration of war against the Axis powers. The Mexican Government and people like my Government and people are defending not only their national honor but are fighting for their sovereignty, independence and freedom of their peoples.

We in the United States did not wish war any more than the Mexican people wished it. We are both in the war because we have been forced into it by the Axis powers which are endeavoring to destroy us. It is well for us to remember that it is not only the independence so hard won for us by our ancestors which is at stake, but every single thing in life which we cherish. It is the determined purpose of the enemy to destroy our family life, to destroy our religion,
to destroy the faith of children in their parents, to take away all personal and political liberty, and in the literal sense of the word, to make us slaves. It is our very existence as free men for which we are fighting. Let us not forget this.

The enemy who is attacking us is determined, implacable and is strong. It is therefore necessary for us to be stronger, equally determined and implacable. The victory will not be won by words or by desire or by belief in victory. It will not be won by faith alone. It can only be won if every single one of us in Mexico and in the United States and in the Americas will make our full contribution to the victory.

In my country we are devoting all our material and our spiritual energies to creating a great instrument of war to defeat the enemy. Our young men are going out to battle for human rights in the far-flung battle fields of the world. Wherever the enemy is we shall give it battle and conquer. I have every confidence that in Mexico every Mexican citizen worthy of the independence and freedom which he enjoys will make his contribution to this great struggle, conscious of the consequences of defeat and of the necessity for victory. We are writing pages in the histories of our countries which shall be even more glorious than those written by our ancestors. We shall conquer because we are determined to maintain our personal and political freedom for ourselves and for our children.