It is a high honor and privilege to be able to address this brief message to the Mexican people and to our own on this anniversary of the independence of Mexico. I am particularly gratified to be able to participate in this broadcast with His Excellency Licenciado Ezequiel Padilla, Minister for Foreign Relations of Mexico, who has so clearly demonstrated to the Americas and to the world that he is not only a great Mexican but also a great statesman, and in these difficult times one of the staunchest and most courageous supporters of the principles of freedom and decency for which Mexico, my country, and the United Nations are fighting.

In the village of Dolores in September 1810, Hidalgo raised his plea for freedom and set into motion the vital forces which resulted in the independence of Mexico. Since that time the devotion of Mexico and her people to the principles of freedom and liberty has been clearly defined and never in doubt.

The history of this struggle of the Mexican people for their independence is filled with glorious pages and is in many respects similar to our own, except that the Mexican people had to battle and suffer even more years than we. Hidalgo and his successor Morelos were captured and put to death by those who had imposed their rule on this country and who were determined to maintain that hold. The fight for independence was carried on by Guerrero, who finally entered Mexico City with his forces in 1821, ending a long and arduous struggle. Since that time the people of Mexico have proved to the world that they know how to value their freedom and how to fight for it,
for it, no matter how great the sacrifice or how bitter the conflict.

Almost the whole world is now involved in this great struggle in which the democratic nations are engaged to maintain their freedom, their independence and their sovereignty. In joining the other democracies on this gigantic struggle Mexico has remained true to the liberal heritage, to ideals which inspired Hidalgo, Morelos, and Guerrero and those who fought and bled and died with them. During recent years Mexico has written some of the most brilliant pages of her history, equalling those of her struggle for independence. She has consistently and courageously been in the forefront among the nations condemning aggression and oppression. Together with other nations determined to maintain their sovereignty and freedom, Mexico saw with horror and concern the conquest and enslaving of one small nation after another. The weakened countries of Europe were being conquered one by one by the war machine of Germany and Italy, so long and so deliberately prepared; and in the Far East, Japan was setting out on the conquest of the whole of that area. The Government of Mexico, as did the Government of the United States, realized that the Americas could not remain untouched and that the objective of the Axis powers, through world conquest, included the Mexican people as well as those of my country and of all the Americas.

With this wise early conception of all the implications of this great struggle, the Mexican Government and people unswervingly followed a course which left no doubt as to their ultimate decision when attacked.

We are united in the Americas, and we are determined that such brutal oppression shall not find a place in this hemisphere.
hemisphere. We are determined that whatever sacrifice shall be necessary, we shall make it. Led by her great President, General Manuel Avila Camacho - wise, serene, considered, and far-seeing - and aided by men in the Government such as Licenciado Padilla, with his wisdom, vision, statesmanship and courage; and by the other wise men in the Mexican Government; the Mexican people will maintain the independence which they established more than 130 years ago.

Mexico is a country which respects traditions, and no tradition is older and more firmly rooted in this nation than that of democracy. For the Mexican people, September 16th is a day of freedom and justice and hope. Mexico has drawn the sword: not the sword of aggression, but the sword with which she is defending her own and helping to defend the liberties of all peoples, the rights of all oppressed nations. Mexico realizes that freedom is just as much one of our essential needs as air and bread and water. Mexico realizes that this freedom would be impossible if the Axis powers were able to carry through their objectives, which they have made clear to the world.

It is a deep satisfaction that we are able to realize that the relations between the people of Mexico and of the United States have never been better than they are today. It is a satisfaction to all of us to know that these two great peoples are joined in a common struggle for the maintenance of all they wish to enjoy in common. Whatever the sacrifices we shall have to make, Mexico and the United States will emerge from this struggle stronger and greater and they shall have made a contribution not only to the future generations of their respective countries but also to the peace and order of the world.

It is my
It is my privilege and honor on this day to offer respectful homage to the statesman who is now heading the destinies of the Mexican people, His Excellency General Manuel Avila Camacho, and to the people of Mexico.