Possibility that Mexico May Send Aviators to the Battle Front

At Least, They Will Go in a Representative Capacity

Thus spoke the President Yesterday at the Air Force Luncheon

The President of the Republic stated yesterday before the members of the Mexican Air Force, that in accordance with the wishes of soldiers and men, he will determine the moment when our national banner will be carried to the battlefront.

In speaking to the pilots at the luncheon which was given yesterday in the Casino Militar, he said: "So far cooperation of this kind has not been required of us" -- he referred to that kind of cooperation which the Allies might request of Mexico -- "but considering human feelings and the eagerness of soldiers and men, I am thinking of the possibility that Mexico may participate, at least in a representative form, and our flag may be carried to the theater of war if the occasion arises, and I consider that no one is more fitted to carry our colors as a gesture of highest cooperation, than the Air Force."

There follows the text of the President's remarks:

"Chiefs and Officers of the Air Force: I have looked forward to this opportunity when most of you are present to have the satisfaction of sharing with you these moments in order to express recognition on the part of the Nation, through the Government, of the notable efforts of the Air Force in the present state of war in which we find ourselves.

"The entire Mexican Army, as one man, has given manifest proof of its great patriotism and of its loyalty to the Nation; but I wish to point out also that you have been faced with definite hardships as soldiers and members of the Air Force. It has been due to you that our coasts, our skies and our land have been constantly protected. On a certain occasion when I also had the satisfaction of meeting with the Generals of our Army, I said that, if the international cause which we are defending should demand in the form of a justifiable request from
from our Allies that a Mexican contingent defend that cause, we would be prepared to do so. The leaders of the nations which face war in all its aspects know our attitude and have not needed to call for our cooperation. The Allied Armies are only awaiting the moment to utilize all their contingents in the necessities of the present war, and, inasmuch as present forces suffice for the moment they do not now require our aid. You have shown now, and individually on other occasions the desire and eagerness of many members of the various branches of our armed forces, who as men, as soldiers, as Mexicans, wish to take part in this conflict, because they do not believe that it is human or just that other armies should be alone in shedding their blood defending the common cause. I see in this eagerness the reaction of your sincerity, and I repeat to you that until now cooperation has not been required of us in this connection; but taking into account your human sentiments and your desires as soldiers and as men I shall consider the possibility that Mexico may take part, at least in a representative form, and our flag may be carried to the theater of war and, further, should the occasion arise, I consider that no one is more fit to carry it in the most cooperative manner, than the Air Force.

For this reason I am bearing in mind your promises and enthusiasm in order to profit therefrom when the time comes for our flag to wave on the battle front, confident of your bravery and skill as soldiers."