Memorandum of Conversation Between
the President of Mexico, General Manuel
Avila Camacho, and Secretary of State,
Edward R. Stettinius, Jr.

On the invitation of the President of Mexico, Secretary Stettinius called on President Avila Camacho at the National Palace at 11 a.m. on March 8 and had with the President a thirty-five minute conversation, which was marked by extreme cordiality. At the request of the President, Secretary Stettinius was accompanied during this conversation by Assistant Secretary Rockefeller and Ambassador Messersmith.

Mr. Warren Pierson, the President of the Export-Import Bank, accompanied the foregoing on this call to the President in order to deliver to the President a small gift which Mr. Pierson had brought to Mexico for the President's brother, General Maximo Avila Camacho. In having Mr. Pierson accompany Secretary Stettinius on this call it was intended that Mr. Pierson would leave immediately after presenting this gift to the President, but the President who has a very high regard for Mr. Pierson requested him to stay during the conversation.

The conversation was marked by extreme cordiality and the whole tenor of the President's remarks was such as to show his deep attachment to the United States and his determination to maintain the relationships between the two countries on the present sound constructive basis.

Secretary Stettinius in a previous conversation with the President during a luncheon at Cuernavaca had already conveyed to President Avila Camacho the cordial greetings of President Roosevelt and the hope of President Roosevelt that in the not too distant future they might again be able to see each other and renew the pleasant experiences and constructive exchanges of opinion at Monterrey and Corpus Christi. During the previous conversation with the President at Cuernavaca Secretary Stettinius had also conveyed to President Avila Camacho the high opinion which we have in our Government and among our people of the Minister of Foreign Relations,

Dr. Padilla,
Dr. Padilla, and the hope that Dr. Padilla would be at
the San Francisco meeting of the United Nations.

In the conversation now reported upon, Secretary
Stettinius expressed to the President his deep apprecia-
tion of the interest which the President was taking in
the Conference, and of the constructive leadership which
he and the Foreign Minister, Dr. Padilla, have given during
the meeting. He said that a great deal of the success of
the meeting was due to the constructive leadership of Dr.
Padilla whose statesmanship was recognized in our country
and in the other American Republics.

Secretary Stettinius referred to the increasing
general understanding of Mexico in the United States and
the knowledge and respect in our country of President
Avila Camacho's understanding, sound, wise, constructive
actuation in Mexico in the conduct of her internal matters
and of her external relations. The Secretary referred
particularly to the constructive programs which Mexico has
been following during President Avila Camacho's administra-
tion in the field of education, hospitalization, improve-
ment in communications and improvement of living standards.

Secretary Stettinius said that the new atmosphere in
Mexican-United States relationships had made possible this
effective collaboration during the war and that only such
cooperation and mutual understanding on both sides could
serve as a basis in the postwar period when this coopera-
tion would be just as essential to the interest of both
countries.

Secretary Stettinius stated that we knew the President's
problems in Mexico and that there were those who did not favor
full collaboration with the United States, just as we knew
he realized our problems at home where there were those who
did not understand fully the importance of our relation-
ships with Mexico. Secretary Stettinius expressed faith
that in both countries this basis of understanding would
grow because it was so essential for the maintenance of
the relationships of vital importance to both countries.

Secretary Stettinius emphasized our appreciation of
Mexico's collaboration in the war and stated that we had
devoted to make our collaboration complete during the
war, in spite of the demands of the war upon our economy.
Secretary Stettinius further stated that, of course, there was much to be done in both countries towards the consolidation of the relationships between the two countries, but that this was understood fortunately in both countries, and he closed by saying that the future of Mexican-American relationships depends upon the maintenance of the present collaboration.

President Avila Camacho then spoke most warmly in appreciation of President Roosevelt, and of Secretary Stettinius and of the actuation of our country with respect to Mexico in more recent years. He spoke with obvious emotion when he said that there was no longer any need to be fearful about the future of relationships between our two countries and our capacity to solve our problems in a constructive and collaborative manner. He said he had full appreciation of the observations which Secretary Stettinius had just made but that so far as he was concerned he had every assurance that the path which had been followed during the last years would be followed in the years to come and that the relationships between Mexico and the United States would be in a spirit of the most cordial collaboration.

President Avila Camacho renewed his expressions of warm sympathy for Secretary Stettinius and said that the Secretary could count on him as a sincere, devoted and faithful friend, as could President Roosevelt. The President also spoke in warm terms of Mr. Rockefeller whose actuation he so well knew and also in similar terms of Mr. Pierson and expressed the hope that the latter would remain in the Government service.

The President said that although Ambassador Messersmith was present he wished to repeat what he had frequently said in the past, and what he had said again to Senator Connally the other day, with respect to the rectitude, dignity and understanding with which Ambassador Messersmith was carrying through his duties in Mexico, which actuation was thoroughly understood and appreciated not only by himself and the officials of the Mexican Government but also by the Mexican people.

This summary is a very inadequate resume of the conversation with the President. It is only necessary to emphasize that during the whole conversation the President spoke with the most obvious sincerity and with a certain degree
degree of emotion. The remarks of the President and his manner of expression were indicative of the undoubted sincere feelings of friendship which he has for the United States.

It should be remarked that during the course of the conversation the President spoke in high terms of the composition and actuation of the whole American delegation. He remarked that various of the heads of delegations of the other American Republics had spoken to him in the highest terms of the actuation and understanding of the American delegation.