April 10, 1945.

Remarks of
George S. Messersmith,
American Ambassador to Mexico,
at the annual luncheon
of the
PAN-AMERICAN ROUND TABLE
in
Mexico City

To the members of the Pan-American Round Table in Mexico City, this luncheon today will, I am sure, remain a memorable one, following as it does so closely the Inter-American Conference on Problems of War and Peace recently held in Mexico City. This celebration of the Day of the Americas is indeed one to be remembered by you, as well as by members of Pan-American Round Tables in the American republics and by all who have so sincerely and so understandingly labored for more effective collaboration among the American States for so many years.

Collaboration among the American States has never been on a sounder and more durable basis than it is today.

This unity of the Americas and the most intimate collaboration among them has been not only the vision, but the basis of realistic effort of statesmen and far-seeing men and women in all of the American republics for more than a hundred years, and increasingly in recent years. Their dreams and their work found fruit in the various Inter-American meetings during the last hundred years or more. Every one of these meetings was important. Every one of them marked a step forward. Every successive meeting made its particular contribution to the Inter-American structure and understanding. I think it may be already safely said, however, that no previous meeting of the American Republics had such broad and concrete results as that which has recently ended in Mexico City. Those who, in the future, shall record the history of the Americas will, I am sure, write of the meeting in Mexico City of the Inter-American Conference on Problems of War and Peace as the most significant and productive of all the meetings of the American States held to this day.

There are many reasons why this meeting proved to be so constructive and so epoch-making, but I will not endeavor to enter into a full analysis of these reasons. I do believe, however, that a few brief observations are justified by the facts. The most important contributing factor to the success of the meeting was the circumstance of the period through which we have been passing, and in which we still are. The repercussions of this great world conflict, in which everything which civilization and humanity had achieved through hundreds of years of effort was at stake, have been deeply felt in every country of this hemisphere. The political, and economic and social structure of all of the American republics is based on certain fundamental principles of liberty and freedom and the opportunity of peoples to rise to higher standards of living,
in an atmosphere of peace and of cooperation. The events of
the last years in all parts of the world showed the peoples
of the Americas that everything which they held precious
was at stake, and that victory could only be gained by the
closest collaboration in every field against the enemies of
these freedoms.

To anyone in the American republics who reads the
pages of history and who has any comprehension of the les­
sions which the war has taught us, and who has any compre­
hension of the future which lies before us, there remains
no vestige of doubt that the collaboration of all the States
of this hemisphere is essential for the happiness, the develop­
ment, the security of us all.

During the critical years through which we have passed,
and out of which we have not yet emerged, we have learned in
the most realistic way that the ideas for which the republics
of this hemisphere stand, and which they intend to conserve
and defend, can only be maintained through the closest col­
laboration in the political, economic, cultural and defense
fields. This, I believe, we have learned once and for all,
and in such a manner that none of us will ever forget it,
and if I am correct in this assumption then indeed the spirit­
ual unity of the Americas is consolidated as never before.

Every one of the delegations of the twenty Republics
which participated in the Mexico City meeting came to the
meeting with a very deep conviction of its importance. Every
delegation came in a very serious attitude and with a real
understanding of the problems of the Americas and their
relation to the world problem. Every delegation came in a
constructive spirit and with a realization that this meeting
was not a meeting in which national or particular problems
had to be pressed for a solution but rather a meeting in which
first of all the common problems of the hemisphere required
consideration. Every delegation came with full appreciation
of the fact that if in the Mexico City meeting constructive
understandings could be reached with regard to common problems,
this would open the way, through future collaborative action,
to the solution of individual problems.

I have, over the years, participated in a number of
international meetings. I can say that I have never parti­
cipated in any international meeting which started in so
serious, understanding and constructive a spirit as the
Mexico City meeting. I have never attended a meeting of this
character in which all problems of common interest were faced
more frankly, more fully discussed, and in a more constructive
and understanding spirit. I have never attended an inter­
national meeting which ended in so complete a spirit of har­
mony and with the full appreciation and expression of everyone
participating that a really collaborative attitude had been
shown by all.

It was in such an atmosphere that the deliberations
of the Inter-American Conference on Problems of War and Peace
were held and it was in that atmosphere that it was possible
to arrive at so many broad and constructive resolutions.

The American republics during the Mexico City meeting
showed no disposition to form a political bloc outside of the
world security organization. They showed in their deliberations
that they felt a keen sense of the fundamental importance and necessity of a world security organization which comprises all peace-loving States. Throughout all their deliberations it was clear that all of the American States recognized such a world security organization as necessary to peace in this hemisphere and to a lasting peace in the world. On the other hand, they showed in their deliberations that they realized that in any world organization for security the closest cooperation of the American republics, consecrated in the last hundred years, was an indispensable and essential factor. The fruits of over a hundred years of collaboration in the ideals which must form the basis of any world organization for peace and security could not be sacrificed in this hemisphere, but must be consolidated so that as individual States, and as a hemisphere, we are in a position to work together effectively and adequately in such a world security organization.

We have shown in the Americas over a long period of years that such collaboration among peace-loving States is possible and effective, and our example may well serve as a basis for cooperation among peace-loving States of the whole world in a world security organization.

To me, one of the most interesting and significant features of the Mexico City meeting was that the resolutions adopted cover such a broad scope in the political, economic, social and defense fields. There was not a single decision taken during the course of the meeting which was not of a unanimous character and all decisions were reached after full and free and frank discussion.

At the close of the meeting, the twenty American republics expressed frankly their regret that the Argentine nation and people had not been represented at the meeting and expressed the hope that the Argentine people would shortly completely associate themselves in the common war effort, and in the measures for the collaboration in the peace, through adherence to the declarations and resolutions of the Mexico City meeting.

The American republics participating expressed their sympathy with the Argentine nation and people and the earnest hope that they would soon again be collaborating in the most complete manner in the inter-American structure. It is, in my view, a real source of satisfaction to the peoples of every one of the twenty-one American republics that the Argentina has associated herself in the war effort and has adhered to the declarations of the Mexico City meeting. No greater tribute could have been paid to the wisdom and the vision and the fundamental equity of the resolutions reached at the Mexico City meeting than that the Argentina has subscribed to these resolutions without reservation and without having participated in the formulation thereof. What greater proof could we have that fundamentally the principles and aspirations of all of the American peoples are identical?

I think we may all be very much pleased that this great meeting of the American Republics should have been held in Mexico City. Mexico is one of the great republics which has consistently in recent years shown by its external and internal policy its adherence to the democratic idea and to the humanitarian principles which actuate us all. The President of Mexico, who is a wise and far-seeing statesman, and the Foreign Minister of Mexico, who has won the respect and esteem of statesmen and peoples in all of the other American republics as well as in the rest of the world, did a great deal to create the atmosphere in which this meeting was held.
I should like, however, as one who participated, if in a very modest capacity, in the work of the Mexico City meeting to pay tribute at this time to the capacity and to the understanding and to the patriotism and to the Americanism of all of the delegations of the American republics which participated in the meeting. No one who was closely associated with the meeting could fail to note the patriotic and constructive spirit in which each and every delegation labored in the common cause of the Americas, of real peace and security, and the establishment of conditions in which the broad masses of humanity can live with increasing possibilities of the realization of their aspirations.

With victory on the horizon over those who wished to destroy sovereignty and freedom and individual liberty, we look forward with high hopes to the future. There are some clouds on the horizon but with the earnest and patient and understanding effort and good will which we have shown in this hemisphere, these will be dispelled on the world horizon. I am one of those who has the conviction that in the San Francisco meeting which is to prepare a world organization for security, the same constructive spirit will be shown which was demonstrated in the Mexico City meeting. There will be those at the meeting who may try to push forward individual problems, class problems, and national problems in that egotistic spirit which the past has been the breeder of wars. The spirit of the meeting in San Francisco, however, will be one of such deep seriousness and understanding of the gravity of the problems which face the world of the future, that such interests, vocal as they may be, will find themselves in a minority and ineffective. The issues before the world in the establishment and maintenance of peace are too great for any nationalistic, class or individual interest to interfere with the organization of world security. It is only if we are successful in building a sound world organization for peace and security that we can create the atmosphere and conditions in which all mankind, irrespective of class, and all countries, irrespective of size and power, can live together and work together and mutually help each other.

I should like to offer a thought which is in no sense new: that it is fundamentally important that we realize that perfection cannot be attained in a day or in a year and the building of a perfect world organization is something which involves painful and understanding effort as well as a certain amount of experimentation and trial. We cannot hope to reach a perfect world organization in a single conference, or even in a decade of perfecting thereof. With the lessons of this great war so definitely before us, we will strive in the spirit of understanding which will make it possible to attain world organization which will maintain peace and provide the opportunities for peaceful development which we all so fervently desire. Working in that atmosphere, and in that spirit, a world organization will evolve which will make future wars impossible.

For us in the Americas we have the satisfaction of knowing that the hundred years and more of collaboration which we have had among ourselves and which we have strengthened and consolidated, and which at all costs we intend to preserve, is sure to be one of the contributing factors of the successful formation of a world organization for peace and security and the constant successful perfection thereof.

George S. Messersmith