Remarks by George S. Messersmith, American Ambassador to Mexico, Over a Radio Broadcast from Mexico City, on the evening of Saturday, April 14, 1945, on the Theme

"What the Passing of President Roosevelt Means to the American Republics"

The people of the United States today are mourning the loss of their greatest President. They are deeply conscious that they have lost not only a great President, who in the most difficult period of history has given them wise and sound and courageous leadership, but one who has guided their policy during this great war for the defense of our own integrity and liberty and that of free peoples everywhere. They mourn him not only as the head of State but as the Commander in Chief of our Armed Forces, whose example has been a daily and hourly inspiration to our valiant men who are battling for freedom in every part of the world. They mourn him as the great leader who has given not only inspiration and guidance but who has infused into the hearts of all his fellow citizens his courage, his decision and understanding.

We know that in the United States we have lost not only a great President but a great man, a great humanitarian, a man whose heart was filled with understanding of the aspirations of everyone of our own citizens at home and of free peoples everywhere.

The ideas for which President Roosevelt struggled so courageously, and in which struggle he gave his life, just as surely as the soldier who dies on the battlefield, are the ideas of free peoples in this Hemisphere and in all parts of the world. The thought which gives us courage and consolation in these days of mourning is that free peoples in every part of the world are joining with our country in our grief and in our loss for it may be truly said that his passing is a loss to humanity.
But more encouraging is the realization that the ideas for which President Roosevelt struggled and fought are a living factor not only in the United States but in every part of the world. These ideas will live and develop and triumph not only in the war but in the peace to follow.

The international policies of the United States will suffer no change. The ideas and the policies which President Roosevelt initiated and which he so courageously defended have become the policy not only of an administration or of a government but all the people of the United States. In the international field, in the field of inter-American relationships and in our relationships with Mexico, there will be no change. President Truman upon whom has fallen the heavy duties as Chief Executive of the United States has made the solemn declaration that there will be no change in any respect in our policies.

President Truman upon whom this great burden has fallen is a man of sound, considered judgment, of wisdom and great industry who enjoys the respect and confidence of the people of his country. As his great qualities of mind and heart become known more fully in the American Republics and in the rest of the world, as they are known in his own country, it will be realized that under his Presidency and guidance the United States will go forward in the prosecution of all the policies which have characterized the recent actuation of my Government.

The policy of the Good Neighbor and the development of the most intense collaboration among the American Republics in the political, economic, cultural and defense field are just as much a policy of President Truman as it was that of its initiator, President Roosevelt. It will go forward under him unabated in strength.

It is for us in the United States and I believe for free peoples everywhere in the American Republics to resolve that
the great task which has begun under the leadership of this great man must go forward and be consolidated for the years of peace to which we look forward so eagerly.