At General Meeting of American Society at the University Club on August 31, 1945.

All of us Americans residing in Mexico are joining with our compatriots at home in joy and thanksgiving that this great war in which we have engaged all our energies, our treasure, and our blood, for the last years is over, and that our sacrifices have been crowned with victory.

Our joy is mingled with sorrow because we are very mindful and have ever present in our thoughts that many a home in the United States, and in Mexico as well, is still mourning the loss of a cherished son. Our joy is mingled with a deep sense of responsibility for we know that with the end of the war and the military victory, grave tasks lie in perspective before our country and our people. We know that the military victory has been made possible through the common effort of the United Nations and of infinite sacrifice. We know that through the military victory the power of the aggressor states, Germany, Italy and Japan, has been definitely broken forever. We know that through the military victory our sovereignty and liberties and way of life have been preserved. For all this we are duly thankful.

We cannot escape, however, from the realization that the tasks which now have come to our country are greater than those which have come to any other country before in history. We did not seek these responsibilities. We did not
not seek in any way the position of being the first world power. We would have much preferred to avoid these responsibilities. The fact that we have them and that we shall have to carry them through is a sobering thought in these days of rejoicing.

All of us can take a very profound and legitimate pride in the part which our country and people have played in the winning of this victory of the United Nations over the aggressor countries. That part has been a predominant one, as is recognized today and will be increasingly recognized as all the facts of this great struggle are recorded on the enduring pages of history. It is the spirit of the American people which made possible this preponderant contribution to the war and it is the principles on which our Government and our life are founded that made possible the performance of our people at home and on the far flung battlefields throughout the world. Among these principles is that of individual initiative, freedom of opportunity to live and to work. It is my sincere conviction that it is this individual initiative which is the basis of our political and economic and social life which made possible the winning of the victory. It is equally my sincere conviction that this initiative has to be conserved in order that we may win the peace and carry through the great obligations which will rest on our country in the years to come.

I am
I am one of those who have always believed that while the winning of the military victory was one of the most stupendous tasks placed before any country or group of countries, that the consolidation of the peace and its maintenance are even a more difficult task. During the actual conflict there has been no sacrifice which has been too great for any of us. We have been willing to restrict our liberties in a certain measure. We have been willing to limit our income and even our diet. We have not counted the cost in blood and in treasure but now that the military victory has been won, there is a grave danger that we may forget, at least in a measure, the tremendous price which we had to pay. There is danger that we will not only in our country, but in others whose liberty was equally threatened, return to nationalistic, egotistic and exaggeratedly selfish attitudes which will create an atmosphere which can have only one inevitable result and that would be the breeding of another conflict. We have learned to live and fight together during the war. We have now got to learn to live together in the peace and this involves that we as peoples and as Governments shall have to continue to make sacrifices in the limitation of individual sovereignty and privilege which are necessary in any world order for the maintenance of peace and security.
History has shown us that from time to time one country has had to play a preponderant role in world affairs. In a relatively short period of our development as a country we have been thrust into that position. How long we will be able to maintain that position and how long we will be able to maintain our own security and way of life are intimately bound together and all will depend upon the wisdom of our statesmen and the actuation of our Government. Let us remember that no people and no Government are wiser and sounder in their actuation than the individual citizen. For this reason the individual responsibility which is incumbent upon us to think and act clearly and courageously in the years to come is all the greater.

Whether it be in the political or in the economic or in the social field, the world will look to us in the next years for leadership. It is a position which is traditionally not in accord with our desires. At the end of the first world war we were thrust in a somewhat similar position and we repudiated it, with the consequence that at least we were one of the countries responsible in a measure for the creation of the conditions which made possible this great catastrophic war from which we have just emerged as the victor. If we are not now wise, if we are not now courageous, if we do not maintain those fundamental principles which made this great victory possible, who knows how long this position will last, and who knows whether in another great world struggle we
can emerge with our liberties and our sovereignty.

I am not painting a gloomy picture because I have the profound conviction that we will know how to deal wisely with the problems which lie before us and it will not depend upon us alone for in every one of the United Nations and among all of the peoples of the United Nations there will have to be the same spirit of responsibility and understanding.

It is indeed a happy thought that so far as this Hemisphere is concerned, after over one hundred and twenty-five years of collaboration, and with our constitutions based on the same fundamental principles, we have arrived at the Agreements of Mexico City earlier this year, which in many respects pointed the way towards the basic elements in the World Charter adopted at San Francisco. The community of spirit and ideals which unites us in the Western Hemisphere is a good augury for the future.

The Good Neighbor policy is no longer a policy of an administration or of a President or of a few officers of our Government, but it is a policy of our Government and of our people which remains, no matter who may be President, and no matter what Party may be in power. It is a policy which has shown its usefulness and which is increasingly becoming part and parcel of the thinking and actuation of all
all of the Governments and all the peoples of this Hemisphere. While we in the United States will do everything in our power to make the world organization for peace and security a success, we shall not lose one iota of our interest in continuing to aid in bringing about the closest relations in the political, economic and social sphere among all the countries of this Hemisphere.

I should like to make some reference to what I believe has been the extraordinarily fine attitude of the Americans residing in Mexico during the war. It has been a constant source of satisfaction and of pride to me, as the one who has had the privilege of serving as Chief of Mission in this friendly country during the period of the war, to know the manner in which the Americans living and working in this country have given their measure of support to the various phases of the war effort. I know with what loyalty and what effectiveness our people in the Embassy have carried through their tasks. I know with what loyalty and devotion the American ladies in this community have done what they saw within their capacity to aid in the war effort. I know that our businessmen established in Mexico have been willing to make every possible contribution to the prosecution of the war. I wish particularly to express my own satisfaction that the American Society in its very brief life and during
this difficult period of the war has in every way justified its existence and has laid the foundation of enduring usefulness in the American community in this country and as a means of promoting our ever increasingly friendly and understanding contact with the people of this country among whom we live.