REMARKS BY GEORGE S. MESSERSMITH AT THE DINNER OFFERED BY AMERICANS RESIDENT IN MEXICO TO THE HONORABLE WALTER THURSTON ON THE EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 22, 1950, AT THE MEXICO CITY COUNTRY CLUB.

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Your fellow countrymen residing in Mexico, and more particularly in the capital, have met this evening, Mr. Ambassador, to give this expression of their affection, respect and high regard which they have for you, and as a tribute of admiration and appreciation of the distinguished service which you have consistently rendered in the high and responsible post of Ambassador of our country to Mexico during the past four and a half years.

You have, Mr. Ambassador, during this long period of duty shown a deep understanding of the importance of the political, economic and social factors which are basic in the relations between Mexico and her people, and our country and its people. We believe that you have faithfully, through your official and personal intercourse, interpreted the policies, ways of life and thinking and the traditions and aspirations of our government and people, in Mexico, and that you have equally faithfully informed and interpreted to our government the policies, ways of life and thinking and aspirations of Mexico.

You have shown the possession of that sense of understanding, equity, frankness and rectitude which experience has proved essential in the conduct of the day to day relations between two countries which are so vital to each other as these two great and close neighbors -- Mexico and the United States. Such
official and personal actuation which have characterized your duty here during the last years has, I believe, contributed significantly to the acceleration and consolidation of the happily steadily growing understanding between the two countries and peoples, to the cementing of their friendship, and to the broadening of the base of the constantly growing mutually beneficial economic relations and intercourse.

You have earned our appreciation and respect in Mexico as I am sure you have earned that of all thoughtful persons in our country. We are equally confident that you have earned the same appreciation and respect from all thoughtful people in Mexico. This is a great achievement and it can be, and I am sure will be, a source of lasting and deep satisfaction to you. A good many of us have learned over the years that the feeling of duty well and adequately done is one of the major satisfactions we get out of life.

You, Mr. Ambassador, with the vivid memory of so many years of service in other posts, will know how to forgive me if I remind our fellow countrymen here this evening that this constructive actuation of yours at this post is the fruit of long years in the Foreign Service of our country, of experience gained in many countries and among many peoples, and of long practice in a difficult and delicate career. While this has been the most important and responsible of the many posts which have been entrusted to you, you have consistently during the thirty years of service elsewhere and heretofore shown the same qualities of heart and mind that have made possible your earning our affection and esteem here, and the success of your mission. The lessons so
painfully learned at such varied posts have made possible the achievements of these crowning years of your career.

To some of us who have so long been interested in the development of our foreign policy and its implementation through the Department of State and its Foreign Service, this would seem to be an appropriate opportunity to outline how vital are the processes of formulation of policy and the implementation thereof through adequate instruments at home and abroad. The termination of your service in Mexico presents an almost unique opportunity for such observations on the practice of the delicate art and profession of representation in the field -- unique because you, Mr. Ambassador, have so well exemplified through so many years of useful, faithful, unselfish and loyal service, the best tradition of the career Foreign Service. This Service, so carefully, thoughtfully and wisely developed during the last three or four decades by successive acts of our Presidents, Secretaries of State and their associates, by understanding men in Congress, and under the stimulus of private organizations and individuals in our country, produced a group of men whose devotion, loyalty and capacity in the field was not excelled by any branch of our government and was recognized by other governments as unrivaled. The recognition of the importance of this representation was in line with, and in accord with, the growing responsibility of our government and people in the world picture.

Much as I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to make some observations on this important phase of our defense and security, I feel that I must not, on the occasion of this personal tribute by your fellow countrymen here, do this. I will
only observe that we all feel that our country cannot afford to lose the use of the experience, background, capacity and skill which you and men trained in your tradition can give.

There is much that, as the spokesman of the Americans here this evening, I could say. I feel myself deeply honored in being their spokesman this evening. I have, I believe, in the feeble and inadequate observations I have made, faithfully interpreted the thoughts and feelings of those present here this evening. I have not dwelt on the warmth of our personal affection and esteem and our deep regret on your leaving this post, for I do not have the adequate words for that and all of us individually have, I am sure, made you feel how deep are our sentiments in this respect.

We congratulate you on your actuation. We are grateful for the service you have done our people in Mexico and at home in correctly interpreting our attitudes towards this friendly and hospitable country in the future of which we all have so constant and lively an interest and to whose development we hope we may contribute. Our appreciation and good wishes for your personal welfare and happiness and that of your mother will always be with you.