George Messersmith, a veteran of more than 30 years in the United States Foreign Service, died yesterday at Methodist Hospital in Chicago. He had lived in Mexico City for the last 12 years.

He began his diplomatic career in 1914, after teaching school for several years, as consul in Fort Erie, Ontario, Canada.

In 1933, when Adolf Hitler came to power, he reported, to Washington, the danger to peace embodied in the Nazi rise. The following year, Mr. Messersmith was promoted to minister to Austria, where he remained for three years in forming his State Department superiors of the growing Nazi threat to that country's independence.

He was named Assistant Secretary of State in 1937. In 1939, when he became ambassador to Cuba and later served as ambassador to Mexico and Argentina.

As consul general in Berlin, he first was assigned as a school for several years, as consul in Fort Erie, Ontario, Canada.

In 1937, Mr. Messersmith was elected chairman of the board of directors and chief executive officer of the Mexican Light & Power Co. He resigned as chief executive in 1954, but continued to head the power company's board. His body was being flown to Lewes, Del. for burial.

G. S. Messersmith, Diplomat, Dies
George S. Messersmith Dies; Long a Diplomat

A Former Assistant Secretary of State; Was Envoy to Mexico, Argentina, Cuba

HOUSTON, Jan. 29 (AP)—George S. Messersmith, seventy-six, former Assistant Secretary of State, died today. Death came at Methodist Hospital in the Texas Medical Center here. Mr. Messersmith had been confined to the hospital for treatment, the nature of which was not immediately known.

He had lived in Mexico City in retirement in recent years.

Long a Diplomat

George Strauss Messersmith was the correct diplomat whose only vagary during a career that spanned a third of a century was to wear the United States colors—red carnation, white shirt and blue tie—every day while Ambassador to Mexico during World War II.

His associates considered him cold and formal. One, commenting on the fact that Mr. Messersmith had been a school teacher, said, "He couldn't help talking to you as though you hadn't done your homework."

Helped Realize State Dept.

Impatient with sloppy staff work, Mr. Messersmith used to describe himself as a man with "a serious attitude toward my work and toward the situation." His seriousness and the painstaking way he fulfilled every job, whether as consul general in Berlin when Hitler came to power, as Assistant Secretary of State directing the internal reorganization of the State Department, or as Ambassador to Cuba, Argentina and Mexico, was always evident.

Mr. Messersmith was one of the first Americans to warn the world about Nazism. Three months after Hitler took over the reins of Germany's government in 1933, Mr. Messersmith reported back to Washington that the dictator was bent on war, contrary to the reports of most foreign observers who thought that the excesses of the Nazis were merely the result of an exuberant nationalism.

President Roosevelt was so impressed by him that he was promoted in 1934 as Minister to Austria. Three years later, Mr. Messersmith returned to Washington. As Assistant Secretary of State he carried out the co-ordination of the foreign work of the Commerce, Treasury and Agriculture Departments with that of State.

His first ambassadorship was to Cuba in 1940. The next year, he was transferred to Mexico. Among his many tasks during those war years was to help settle the ticklish questions of expropriated United States oil properties and he arranged for President Roosevelt's trip to that country in 1943.

Headed Mexico Utility

His last foreign service assignment was in Buenos Aires, where his primary job was to persuade the Argentine government to curb pro-Nazi activities. Before he left Argentina in 1947, President Peron awarded him the Argentine Order of the Grand Cross of the Liberator General Jose San Martin.

After his retirement, Mr. Messersmith was elected chairman of the board and chief executive officer of the Mexican Light and Power Co., with headquarters in Mexico City. He resigned as chief executive officer in 1954 but continued as board chairman.

Born in Fleetwood, Pa., of Pennsylvania Dutch stock, Mr. Messersmith was graduated from the Keystone State Normal School in 1900 and began his teaching career in Delaware. There he served as superintendent of schools in various towns and then became secretary of the state Board of Examiners for Teachers and