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(TRANSLATION)

DEMOCRACIA

Buenos Aires, August 5, 1946

THERE IS NO SOUTHERN BLOC , THERE IS ONLY CONTINENTAL
SOLIDARITY

MESSERSMITH IS THE AMBASSADOR WHO DISCOVERED PERON

George Messersmith is not what may be called a popular diplomatist. Thus far only a few Argentines know him. On June 4 last, the people who stood on Avenida de Mayo waiting to see President Perón go by, hissed when they saw the Ambassador's carriage coming along. George Messersmith was in it, but the hissing was not meant for him. The people hissed instinctively, thinking of Spruille Braden, or perhaps of Mr. Cabot. George Messersmith did not complain to the Foreign Office and neither did he make special statements to the press. He remained silent and smiled... He too was thinking of Spruille Braden.

A COUNTRY OF NAZIS

George Messersmith came to Argentina to gather bitter fruit. "You are going to a country of Nazis", he was told by his Yankee friends. Perón had just triumphed in the elections the faultlessness of which was hitherto unknown in Latin America. It meant that Braden had been definitively defeated. The new Ambassador was aware of what Nazism signifies. He had been consul general in Berlin; he knew the shape of the swastika, gnarled like a claw; he also knew Hitler's sentiments, likewise gnarled. From the balconies of his Consulate Mr. Messersmith had seen the incessant parading of Hitlerite youth, Hitlerite veterans, Hitlerite children. He had been in the Chancellery of the Reich, with its great spread-eagles, its nude muscular statues, its uniformed guardians and its perfumed secretaries. When he presented his credentials to General Farrell, George Messersmith smiled inwardly. So this unpretentious man, who had not even donned his gala uniform, was compared to Goering! That minute was enough for George Messersmith to grasp the reality of the Argentine situation. He forthwith understood that Nazism was nothing but fiction here, that our revolution was not of rightist but rather of leftist tendency. He then became acquainted with Perón and dealt also with prominent oligarchic personalities. From this comparison, perhaps involuntary, but inevitable, there sprang the friendship of George Messersmith and Juan Perón.

TWO FRIENDS

Only a few weeks ago a group of American journalists called on President Perón, at his office in Government House. On that occasion the President praised George Messersmith, calling him his friend. It was tantamount to calling him a friend of Argentina. Indeed, George Messersmith is a friend of our country. Many may find it difficult to imagine such a friendship. There has been so much talk of imperialism, the official and unofficial action of Messersmith's olympic predecessor has been so disagreeable, the difference brought about by the unforgettable "Perón or Braden" dilemma was so serious, that many Argentines had lost faith in the good neighbor policy advocated with apostolic zeal by Franklin Roosevelt. That is why the presence in Avenida de Mayo of the American Embassy carriage was hissed at by the people. Quietly, perseveringly, with sound American judgment, George Messersmith settled the difference amicably. Now we believe in Yankee friendship, we believe in the good neighborship created by Roosevelt, thrice destroyed - in Guatemala, in Cuba and in Argentina - by Spruille Braden.

NOTHING SEPARATES US

When we announce the advent of a new period of good neighborship we do not speak for ourselves alone. Our Foreign Minister Bramuglia was recently interviewed by the vivacious Inez Robb. He expressed once more the unvarying Americanist sentiment of our country. His words were a categorical and final denial of all the absurd rumors spread by libellous oligarchic papers regarding a proposed formation of a bloc of Spanish-American nations, destined to serve as a rampart against Yankee imperialism. "There is nothing that might justify the thought that General Perón's régime is against the United States. We practice Americanism sincerely and we want a genuine, humane and Christian democracy". Bramuglia said this, but it might also have been said by Franklin Roosevelt.

We have just received from abroad an interpretation of this interview, which is not inaccurate. "That is the work of Messersmith", we are told. The revival of Yankee-Argentine friendship is indeed the Ambassador's work. This was said also - although implicitly - by General Perón to the American journalist who spoke with him during an interview, an account of which is published by newspapers practically throughout the world. The President declared on this occasion that in the event of another war, Argentina and the United States would stand together. And with reference to the problem of Nazi residents, a subject of so much insidiousness on the part of Mr. Braden, the President said that he was studying the question with Mr. Messersmith. Indeed, with Mr. Messersmith it is possible to study and discuss matters. He is a diplomatist. He is a man capable of understanding. That is why he has understood Perón.

Yet let

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Yet, let no one believe that George Messersmith is accomodating, or that he is a more or less revised version of Avra Warren.

When Mr. Messersmith was in Berlin, he informed his Government that the Nazi régime "was capable of action which banned it from the ordinary treatment of nations". He would have said the same of us had he believed it. But George Messersmith - who is a diplomatist - was able to see what others failed to see, and he reported thereon earnestly and dispassionately. This made him somewhat unpopular in oligarchic circles. The big-wigs of oligarchy do not give banquets in his honor and the ladies of Plaza San Martín do not call him "papi" (Daddy), as they did Mr. Braden. That is the price of sincerity! For this reason, the highest praise that may probably be rendered to George Messersmith, is to say that he is not a popular diplomatist.

Tr.:AA:epv