

MESSERSMITH: Prefers Fact to Talk.

The industrious Ambassador of the United States to Argentina, whose patience and quiet correctness have raised the U. S. Embassy in Buenos Aires to a position of highest prestige, is in Washington to talk over relations between the two countries. Although Ambassador George S. Messersmith came to the U. S. ostensibly for medical treatment, conferences on the policy level have a large place in his agenda. These discussions are expected to decide whether Argentina's compliance with her anti-Nazi promises under the Act of Chapultepec is adequate.

Results of the conferences will determine, in turn, whether representatives of the American republics will meet soon in Rio de Janeiro to draft a treaty for mutual defense against aggressors.

"A review of U. S. policies toward Argentina was inevitable," Bernard S. Redmont, staff correspondent of WORLD REPORT, says in a dispatch from Buenos Aires. "From abroad, U. S. behavior toward Argentina for a long time has been viewed as confusing and vacillating. To spectators, Assistant Secretary of State Spruille Braden has appeared to represent the philosophy of the stick, and Ambassador Messersmith that of the carrot.

"Diplomats in Latin America have complained that there appeared to be two U. S. policies - one directed from Buenos Aires and the other from Washington."

If differences between Messersmith and Braden exist, Messersmith has given little public stimulus to the stories about them. His friends insist the divergent opinions of the Ambassador and Braden concern matters of tactics, not of policy or objective.

Messersmith believes the Argentine Government, if dealt with courteously and properly, will participate in any plan for defense of the Hemisphere and ultimately will cooperate in other respects. He is convinced that the need for concerted action is urgent, because of world conditions, and that past difficulties or present political and economic opinions held by the Argentine Government need not be considered pertinent now.

At 63, Messersmith has had 32 years of diplomatic experience. These years have given him a calm urbanity that Argentines have found in contrast to the speech-making flair of his predecessor, Braden.

The Ambassador

The Ambassador is a schoolmaster turned diplomat. Born in Fleetwood, Pa., he received his education at Keystone State Normal School and at Delaware College. He attained success as an educator. When he was 31, he married Miss Marion Lee Mustard. That same year he decided to enter the consular service.

It took decision to switch careers. But Messersmith had lots of it, as subordinates in the diplomatic service since have testified.

After serving as consul in Fort Erie, Ontario, and Curaçao, Netherlands West Indies, he was consul general in Antwerp, Buenos Aires and Berlin.

In Berlin Messersmith watched closely the rise of National Socialism. He was one of the first U. S. officials to warn of its potential menace.

Named Minister to Uruguay in 1934, he was sent to Austria, instead. As Minister in Vienna for three years he reported to Washington in voluminous despatches the story of Nazi aggression.

Called back to Washington in 1937, Messersmith became an Assistant Secretary of State. Three years later he went to Cuba as Ambassador. And just before Pearl Harbor he was assigned to Mexico, where he served throughout the war.

In Mexico, Messersmith helped to spark the co-operation that resulted in Mexico furnishing not only raw materials for the United Nations but also an air squadron that saw service in the Pacific.

Since his Cuban assignment Messersmith has had increasing discomfort from a chronic stomach ailment that restricts his diet and makes him a strict teetotaler. He often has wished to retire to private life, but was persuaded to take on the Mexico post as a war service. He accepted his mission to Buenos Aires reluctantly, hoping that a new approach would straighten out Argentine-U. S. relations.

Messersmith arrived in Buenos Aires last May, shortly before Brig. Gen. Juan D. Perón was inaugurated as President. At once he met Perón, and before long each had won the other's confidence.

When Messersmith passed down the Avenida de Mayo in his car on inaugural day, June 4, some followers of Perón booed him. But newspapers favoring Perón hastened to apologize

and explained