

Messersmith² Resigns

Mission Completed, President Truman Announces

Aftermath of Braden's Resignation

WASHINGTON,
The State Department to-night announced the resignation of Mr. G. Messersmith as United States Ambassador to Argentina.

The Department issued this brief statement: "It is now possible for the State Department to announce that Ambassador Messersmith's mission having been completed, his resignation has been accepted and he will return to the United States."

This completed the clean sweep of two North American diplomatic officials who had been split over the proper conduct of American relations with the Government of President Peron. The Assistant Secretary of State in charge of Latin American affairs, Mr. Spruille Braden, had resigned yesterday.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Truman had announced that Mr. Messersmith's mission had been completed but he had left the question of the resignation unsettled.

ACCORD HAD BEEN REACHED ON TUESDAY

The United States and Argentina had reached an accord on Tuesday when Mr. Truman announced that the United States would proceed with the arrangements for the inter-American Defence Conference with Argentina at the present.

Mr. Messersmith has been an advocate of the "get along policy" for the United States in Argentina. Mr. Braden, on the other hand, had been a critic of the Peron Administration.

While Mr. Braden's resignation becomes effective on June 30, it was announced that Ambassador Messersmith's resignation becomes effective at once.

While Mr. Messersmith's plans have not been announced, it is expected that he will retire from the foreign service upon his return here. There is some speculation that his resignation at this time has been more or less forced.



Mr. MESSERSMITH

NEW RELATIONS WITH ARGENTINA

With Messrs. Braden and Messersmith both having left office, General Marshall is now given the opportunity to start off new relations with Argentina with a clean slate.

The resignation of Mr. Braden, meanwhile, has resulted in a new administrative line-up in the State Department. Under the plan adopted by General Marshall, Mr. Braden's job as Assistant Secretary of State in charge of Latin American affairs has been eliminated.

His functions will be transferred into the re-grouping of political divisions of the State Department. Previously, the State Department had an Assistant Secretary for Latin American and one for Europe and Asia. Under the latter Assistant Secretary, were included the European Far Eastern and Near Eastern divisions.

The Office of American Republics Affairs will now be grouped with these three divisions and all four will be headed by one Assistant Secretary of State who will report directly to the Under-Secretary of State.

NAMES MENTIONED

The men prominently mentioned now for the new post are Mr. H. Freeman Matthews and Mr. Norman Armour. The former is Director of the Office of European Affairs while the latter, now in retirement, is the former Ambas-

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sador to Chile, Argentina and Spain.

The New York "Times" in a dispatch from Washington and Drew Pearson writing in the New York "Daily Mirror," both predicted to-day that President Truman would appoint Mr. Norman Armour as Assistant Secretary to General Marshall.

U.S. NEWSPAPERS COMMENT

The morning newspapers prominently displayed the news of Mr. Braden's resignation. The "New York Times" printed a front page Washington dispatch titled "BRADEN QUILTS POST; LONG FOE OF PERON."

The "Herald Tribune" also in a first page dispatch, said: "Braden, and Messersmith to go; United States moves to an Argentine accord."

A New York "Times" editorial titled "Keeping a Bargain," said: "The conditions laid down by other Pan-American nations in 1945 for Argentina's re-admittance to good standing, were that she rid herself of Nazi influences and personalities which made Buenos Aires a centre of Axis espionage during the war."

"This, says the Peron Government, is now done. It points to schools that have been closed, former Nazi firms taken over and a list of known Nazi agents who have been expelled, fled from the country or are 'missing.'"

"There seems to be an unusual large number of the latter. But the Argentine Government says that it has made a diligent search and cannot find them."

"In the broad question whether the present Argentine Government is democratically inclined, there are probably few illusions held by informed Americans."

"The Peron regime, we fear, is still potentially a seed-bed of Fascism in this continent."

"That has been the position taken by our former Ambassador to Buenos Aires, Mr. Spruille Braden and since November 1945 assistant Secretary of Latin American Affairs."

"He felt that we would be surrendering a moral principle if we accepted less than a full loaf of democracy from Argentina. Under the circumstances it was almost automatic that Mr. Braden should resign, which he has now done."

"We trust that the course now chosen will restore that hemi-

sphere unity which has been strained by the long impasse between our Government and that of Argentina."

"WASHINGTON STAR"

EDITORIAL

The Washington "Star," in an editorial on Mr. Braden's resignation said that his "resignation as assistant Secretary of State removes the last bulwark of an adventure in foreign policy which failed to achieve its main purpose."

"It can be argued, of course that the policy has not failed. Argentina got rid of a few suspected Nazi agents or sympathisers, but the real objective of our Argentine policy has been much more fundamental, actually we have been trying for the past four or five years to play a decisive role influencing the character and composition of the Argentine Government."

"This purpose will not be found spelled out anywhere. But it is clearly explicit in things we have done and said. General Peron's position in Argentina to-day is stronger than when he won a fair election in 1946."

"Apparently we do not know the sentiments of the Argentine people. Presumably Mr. Braden's resignation and the announcement that we are ready to go forward with the programme of Pan-American solidarity means that we will take a more realistic view of our relations with Argentina."

"HERALD TRIBUNE" COMMENT

The "Herald Tribune" in an editorial titled "Argentina Settlement" said: "The long, maladroit and unhappy history of the United States policy towards Argentina has at last reached the climax which since the beginning of the year seemed increasingly inevitable."

"The celebrated feud, between Mr. Spruille Braden, assistant Secretary of State for Latin American Affairs, and Mr. George Messersmith who followed Mr. Braden as Ambassador to Argentina, has been resolved in a way which seems to represent a substantial defeat for Mr. Braden's views and he has resigned."

"President Peron has tendered at least enough 'compliance' with his two-year-old obligations under the Act of Chapultepec to save the State Department's face but he at the same time won another considerable prestige victory."

(A.P.)

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