

Messersmith In Mexico to Assume Duties

**Ambassador Hints
At New Co-operation
Between Two Nations**

By EDWARD P. MORGAN

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 15 (U.P.).

George S. Messersmith, the United States' first new ambassador to Mexico in nearly nine years, arrived quietly today to take over amid the portentous developments of the war one of the most important diplomatic jobs in Latin America.

Messersmith applauded the Avila Camacho administration for its forthright anti-Axis attitude and warned that the Axis threat to the freedom of the hemisphere was real and dangerous.

Succeeded Daniels

He and Mrs. Messersmith came by plane and train from Havana where he had been Ambassador until President Roosevelt named him to succeed Josephus Daniels, who resigned last November after serving here since April, 1933.

The ambassador arrived to find the American embassy with the largest staff in its history—more than 150 persons—one of the largest missions in the American foreign service, working on a war-time schedule.

In a press conference Messersmith hinted that "new and important developments in the economic co-operation between Mexico and the United States were under way, but explained we would have more to say on that score "in a couple of weeks."

Important Diplomatic Key

Observers were quick to point out that developments in American-Mexican relations, particularly since the Rio de Janeiro conference of foreign ministers in which Mexico took a leading part, would be an important key in Washington's diplomacy with the rest of the hemisphere.

Messersmith told reporters of the time in Germany when Field Marshal Hermann Goering asked him to explain the Monroe Doctrine and then brushed it aside with the reply "That's not important. All the land south of the Rio Grande will belong to Germany."

He paid high tribute to Mexico's role at Rio in which Foreign Minister Ezequiel Padilla eloquently pleaded for a clean diplomatic and economic break with the Axis powers, against Argentina's and Chile's qualified opposition.

Messersmith declined to discuss the oil question. Later he said that in the friendly "atmosphere that exists there are no problems which cannot be settled with equity and with mutual and lasting advantage to both countries."