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Enclosure No. 1 to despatch No. of June 10th,
1942, from the American Embassy at Mexico City.

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Mexico, June 5, 1942.

My dear Mr. Minister:

I am confident that President Roosevelt and Secretary Hull have already conveyed to President Avila Camacho and to the Mexican Government their personal sentiments and those of my Government and people on the occasion of the declaration of a state of war by Mexico. I feel that I must take this opportunity to send you this personal word.

The action of the Government and people of Mexico in declaring a state of war with the Axis powers after the unprovoked and dastardly attacks, contrary to all international law and practice, on two Mexican merchant vessels, is in accord with the high traditions of your Government and people and consistent with the policy which the Mexican Government has definitely followed in the face of developing events in other parts of the world and in this hemisphere. The leadership of the Mexican Government in matters relating to interamerican solidarity and cooperation has been a precious thing in these difficult days which my country and people know how to value, and which history will record in golden letters.

May I take the liberty of saying that I am one of many who consider that Mexico, as well as the peoples of the Americas, and of the democracies of the world, are fortunate in that men of the vision, understanding, capacity and courage of President Avila Camacho and yourself are guiding the destinies of your country in these difficult times? May I say, too, what a privilege I esteem it to be serving my country among you in these historic days?

With assurances of my high regard and sincere friendship, believe me,

Faithfully yours,

G. S. Messersmith

His Excellency
Señor Licenciado Ezequiel Padilla,
Minister of Foreign Relations,
Mexico.

GSM/HH