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M E M O R A N D U M

The following item was transmitted by the UP in Buenos Aires to the UP in Washington:

The Colombian Ambassador Gustavo Santos offered a luncheon in honor of Messersmith on the occasion of his approaching departure for the United States in the Plaza Hotel. Among those present were the Foreign Minister, Dr. Bramuglia, the Under-Secretary Luis Irigoyen, and the Ambassadors of Uruguay, Brazil, Mexico, Venezuela, Chile, Ecuador, the Counselor of the U.S. Embassy and of the Colombian Embassy. Ambassador Santos toasted Messersmith at the end of the luncheon and made an unusual appreciation of Messersmith. Messersmith replied, having kind words for the Argentine authorities. Afterwards the Ambassadors of Brazil, Uruguay, Ecuador, Mexico, Chile, and Venezuela made speeches thanking Santos for the invitation and praising his success and saying they were not only his but those of the whole American family which was now definitely consolidated. The Foreign Minister had similar words of praise for Messersmith.

The UP is also sending the following dispatch:

President Perón in a gesture without precedent will give Ambassador Messersmith a luncheon on the occasion of his departure, the luncheon to take place in the Casa Rosada and will culminate a series of official and semi-official expressions tending to show how much the Government regrets his departure. Expressions of regret over the departure of Messersmith began the same day in which Washington announced he had resigned and the papers began to publish articles reflecting public opinion in the sense that his departure represented an error and was not a very friendly act of our Government. There will be an additional tribute to Messersmith, the Foreign Minister, Bramuglia, announced last night when the retiring Ambassador will be decorated with the Grand Cross of the Liberator General San Martín in a public ceremony. Messersmith said he knew nothing about the decoration but if it was offered he could not accept it following the established custom of transmitting it to the Department of State to remain there until he had retired from active service.