

1574

Address by the Honorable George S. Messersmith,  
American Ambassador to Mexico, over Radio Station  
XEW and the National Broadcasting System at 9:30  
p.m., September 14, 1943.

I am very happy indeed to be able to take part in this program transmitted to the peoples of Mexico and the United States on the occasion of Mexico's approaching Anniversary of her Independence on September 16. It is particularly gratifying to observe the increasing interest which the people of the United States of America are taking in the annual celebration of Mexico's independence, just as I have noted with natural gratification the increasing interest which many people in Mexico are taking in the observance of our Anniversary of Independence on July 4.

This year in many of our larger cities in the United States the Anniversary of Mexico's Independence will be celebrated enthusiastically by Mexican residents and by the people of the United States.

This increasing interest in the celebration of the Anniversaries of our Independence has its roots first in the fact that the peoples of Mexico and of the United States are more than ever conscious of what their independence means and how it is threatened, and the necessity for defending it by all means in their power; and second, out of a growing knowledge in Mexico of the people of the United States and of their way of life and thinking, and out of a growing knowledge of Mexico in the United States and of the ways of living and thinking of her people.

It is impossible to say when the war in which we are engaged as Allies will end, but even the most pessimistic cannot fail to be convinced now that victory for the

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United Nations is absolutely certain. There are two objectives which we are constantly keeping in mind in both Mexico and the United States: first, to bend every possible effort towards winning the war as the most immediate and necessary step, and to subordinate all else to that objective; second, to build our relationships in the Americas on such a sound, equitable and understanding basis that the attainment of higher standards of living and a better life will be assured.

In Mexico and the United States, as in most of the other American republics and among the United Nations, there is, wisely, already much discussion of post-war problems. We all share a common desire for greater security and for a higher level in our economic life. We should not invite, and in fact provoke, disappointment and eventual resentments among peoples by assuming that there is an easy road to such progress or that by some miracle the better things for which we strive may come without the necessity for all of us in each country to make our own contribution of effort and collaboration. The primary steps toward the improvement of our ways of life and of our standards of living must be the results of continued and persistent and intelligent effort in each country, and these efforts in the individual countries will be aided by that increasing collaboration which we are so happily establishing.

In a radio address on September 12, Secretary of State Hull emphasized the sacrifices which will still have to be made in order to achieve final victory and the necessity for close collaboration in the post-war period among all of the United Nations in order to

preserve

preserve the peace which will have been so dearly won and to make it impossible for an unscrupulous aggressor to precipitate another world conflict.

The National Socialist Government of Germany frequently and insistently make known its intentions with regard to the United States and Mexico and the other American republics to which the leaders of Nazi Germany referred as territories suitable for colonization and control by the Master Race which they believed themselves to be. If there remained any doubt concerning the reality and significance of such statements, it should be completely removed by the concrete evidence of the unspeakable treatment which the Nazi bosses have meted out to the conquered peoples of Europe, and they intended to employ the same methods in this Hemisphere.

The Mexican people and the people of the United States can, I believe, look forward to a long period of peaceful and constructive economic collaboration which will be fruitful in the interests of both. It is my sincere conviction that just as the United States and Mexico can develop their economies in this fruitful manner, so all of the American Republics, through the increasingly greater collaboration established between them, not only can establish their security for long years to come, but through the establishment of this security, bring about the conditions through which trade will follow increasingly easy channels and the economic level in all of the countries of the Americas rise, bringing with it those benefits in the standard of living and in the way of life for which all of the peoples of the Americas are striving.

During

1574

During the year and a half in which I have had the privilege of serving my country in Mexico, I have learned, I believe, to understand and appreciate the people of Mexico. I have seen how, from the very beginning of the ideologic conflicts which led to the present struggle, the government and people of Mexico so clearly from the outset guided their course along with that of the other Democratic Nations.

I salute the President of Mexico, whose statesmanship and wisdom are without question and are now fully understood in my country and in the other American republics.

I salute the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Padilla, whose wise leadership in inter-American problems and whose understanding of the deep implications of the present conflict are unquestionable.

I salute the members of the Mexican Government and of that great mass of the Mexican people who have shown such full understanding of the implications of the war, and on the eve of their celebration of the Independence of Mexico, I extend to the Mexican people, as I am sure do all of my countrymen, Best Wishes for the further development of their Industry and Agriculture and their Social programs, which are the sure foundations of the better life for which all of us are striving.