Franklin D. Roosevelt — "The Great Communicator"

The Master Speech Files, 1898, 1910-1945

Series 3: "The Four Freedoms" and FDR in World War II

File No. 1464

1943 April 20

Monterrey, Mexico - Radio Address

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
OF THE UNITED STATES AT MONTERREY
APRIL 20, 1943.

Your Excellency's friendly and cordial expressions add to the very great pleasure which I feel at being here on Mexican soil.

It is an amazing thing to have to realize that nearly thirty-four years have passed since Chief Executives of our two nations have met face to face. I hope that in the days to come every Mexican and every American President will feel at liberty to visit each other just as neighbors visit each other -- just as neighbors talk things over and get to know each other better.

Our two countries owe their independence to the fact that your ancestors and mine held the same truths to be worth fighting for and dying for. Hidalgo and Juarez were men of the same stamp as Washington and Jefferson. It was, therefore, inevitable that our two countries should find themselves aligned together in the great struggle which is being fought today to determine whether this shall be a free or a slave world.

The attacks of the Axis powers, during the past few years against our common heritage as free men culminated in the unspeakable and unprovoked aggressions of December 7, 1941 and May 14, 1942, and the shedding of blood on those dates of citizens of the United States and of Mexico alike.

Those attacks did not find the Western Hemisphere unprepared. The twenty-one free republics of the Americas during the past ten years have devised a system of international cooperation which has become a great bulwark in the defense of our heritage and our future. That system, whose strength is now evident even to the most skeptical, is based primarily upon a renunciation of the use of force and the enshrining of international justice and mutual respect as the governing rule of conduct by all nations.

In the forging of that new international policy the role of Mexico has been outstanding. Mexican Presidents and Foreign Ministers have appreciated the nature of the struggle with which we are now confronted at a time when many nations much closer to the focus of infection were blind.

The wisdom of the measures which the Statesmen of Mexico and the United States and of the other American republics have adopted at inter-American gatherings during recent years has been amply demonstrated. They have succeeded because they have been placed in effect, not only by Mexico and the United States, but by all except one of the other American republics.

You and I, Mr. President, as Commanders-in-Chief of our respective armed forces, have been able to concert measures for common defense. The harmony and mutual confidence which has prevailed between our armies and navies is beyond praise. Brotherhood in arms has been established.

The determination of the Mexican people and of their leaders has led to production on an all-out basis of strategic and vital materials so necessary to the forging of the weapons destined to compass the final overthrow of our common foe. In this great city of Monterrey, I have been most impressed with the single-minded purpose with which all the forces of production are joined together in the war effort.

And Mexican farm workers, brought to the United States in accordance with an agreement between our two Governments, the terms of which are fully consonant with the social objectives we cherish together, are contributing their skill and their toil to the production of vitally-needed food.

Not less important than the military cooperation and the supplies needed for the maintenance of our respective economies, has been the exchange of those ideas and of those moral values which give life and significance to the tremendous effort of the free peoples of the world. We in the United States have listened with admiration and profit to your statements and addresses, Mr. President, and to those of your distinguished Foreign Minister. We have gained inspiration and strength from your words.

In the shaping of a common victory our peoples are finding that they have common aspirations. They can work together for a common objective. Let us never lose our hold upon that truth. It contains within it the secret of future happiness and prosperity for all of us on both sides of our unfortified border.

Let us make sure that when our victory is won, when the forces of evil surrender -- and that surrender shall be unconditional -- then we, with the same spirit and with the same united courage, will face the task of the building of a better world.

There is much work still to be done by men of good will on both sides of our border. The great Mexican people have their feet set upon a path of ever greater progress so that each citizen may enjoy the greatest possible measure of security and opportunity. The Government of the United States and my countrymen are ready to contribute to that progress.

We recognize a mutual interdependence of our joint resources. We know that Mexico's resources will be developed for the common good of humanity. We know that the day of the exploitation of the resources and the people of one country for the benefit of any group in another country is definitely over.

It is time that every citizen in every one of the American republics recognizes that the Good Neighbor policy means that harm to one republic means harm to every republic.

We have all of us recognized the principle of independence. It is time that we recognize also the privilege of interdependence -- one upon another.

Mr. President, it is my hope that in the expansion of our common effort in this war and in the peace to follow we will again have occasion for friendly consultation in order further to promote the closest understanding and continued unity of purpose between our two peoples.

We have achieved close understanding and unity of purpose. I am grateful to you, Mr. President, and to the Mexican people for this opportunity to meet you on Mexican soil, and -- to call you friends.

You and I are breaking another precedent. Let these meetings between Presidents of Mexico and the United States recur again and again and again.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Orig - reading copy

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT AT MONTERREY, MEXICO APRIL 20, 1943 AND NATIONALLY BROADCAST

(President Avila Camacho of Mexico spoke first, in Spanish)

THE PRESIDENT:

Senor Presidente de La Republica Mexicana, My Friends and Good Neighbors:

Your Excellency's friendly and cordial expressions add to the very great pleasure that (which) I feel at being here on Mexican soil.

It is an amazing thing to have to realize that nearly thirty-four years have passed since Chief Executives of our two countries (nations) have met face to face. I hope that in the days to come every Mexican and every American President will feel at liberty to visit each other just as neighbors visit each other -- just as neighbors talk things over and get to know each other better.

Our two countries owe their independence to the fact that your ancestors and mine held the same truths to be worth fighting for and dying for. Hidalgo and Juarez were men of the same stamp as Washington and Jefferson. It was, therefore, inevitable that our two countries should find themselves

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

This is a transcript made by the White House stenographer from his shorthand notes taken at the time the speech was made. Underlining indicates words extemporaneously added to the previously prepared reading copy text. Words in parentheses are words that were omitted when the speech was delivered, though they appear in the previously prepared reading copy text.

aligned -- aligned together in the great struggle which is being fought today to determine whether this world shall be (a) free or (a) slave (world).

The attacks of the Axis powers during the past few years against our common heritage as free men culminated in the unspeakable and unprovoked aggressions of December 7, 1941, and of May 14, 1942, and the shedding of blood on those dates of citizens of the United States and of Mexico alike.

Those attacks did not find the Western Hemisphere unprepared. The twenty-one free republics of the Americas during the past ten years have devised a system of international cooperation which has become a great bulwark in the defense of our heritage and the defense of our future. That system, whose strength is now evident even to the most skeptical, is based primarily upon a renunciation of the use of force, and is based on the enshrining of international justice and mutual respect as the governing rule of conduct by all nations everywhere.

In the forging of that new international policy the role of Mexico has been outstanding. Mexican Presidents and Foreign Ministers have appreciated the nature of the struggle with which we are now confronted at a time when many other nations much closer to the focus of infection were blind.

The wisdom of the measures which the Statesmen of Mexico and the United States and of the other American republics have adopted at inter-American gatherings during recent years has been amply demonstrated. They have succeeded

because they have been placed in effect, not only in (by) Mexico and the United States, but by all except one of the other American republics.

You and I, Mr. President, are (as) Commanders in Chief of our respective armed forces, and we have been able to concert measures for common defense. The harmony and the mutual confidence which has prevailed between our armies and navies is beyond praise. Brotherhood in arms has been established.

The determination of the Mexican people and of their leaders has led to production on an all-out basis of strategic and vital materials so necessary to the forging of the weapons destined to compass the final overthrow of our common foes. In this great city of Monterrey, I have been most impressed with the single-minded purpose with which all the forces of production are joined together in the war effort.

And too, Mexican farm workers, brought to the United States in accordance with the (an) agreement between our two Governments, the terms of which are fully consonant with the social objectives that we cherish together, are contributing their skill and their toil to the production of vitally needed food.

But not less important than the military cooperation and the production of supplies needed for the maintenance of our respective economies, has been the exchange of those ideas and of those moral values which give life and significance to the tremendous effort of the free peoples of the world. We

in the United States have listened with admiration and with profit to your statements and addresses, Mr. President, and to those of your distinguished Foreign Minister. We have gained inspiration and strength from your words.

In the shaping of a common victory our peoples are finding that they have common aspirations. They can work together for a common objective. Let us never lose our hold upon that truth. It contains within it the secret of future happiness and prosperity for all of us on both sides of our unfortified borders. Let us make sure that when our victory is won, when the forces of evil surrender -- and that surrender shall be unconditional -- then we, with the same spirit and with the same united courage, will face the task of the building of a better world.

There is much work still to be done by men of good will on both sides of the (our) border. The great Mexican people have their feet set upon a path of ever greater progress so that each nation may enjoy and each citizen may enjoy the greatest possible measure of security and opportunity. The Government of the United States and my countrymen are ready to help (contribute) to that progress.

We recognize a mutual interdependence of our joint resources. We know that Mexico's resources will be developed for the common good of humanity. We know that the day of the exploitation of the resources and the people of one country for the benefit of any group in another country is definitely over.

It is time that every citizen in every one of the American republics recognizes that the Good Neighbor policy means that harm to one republic means harm to each and every one of the other republics. We have all of us recognized the principle of independence. It is time that we recognize also the privilege of interdependence -- one upon another.

Mr. President, it is my hope that in the expansion of our common effort in this war and in the peace to follow we will again have occasion for friendly consultation, in order further to promote the closest understanding and continued unity of purpose between our two peoples.

We have achieved close understanding and unity of purpose, and I am grateful to you, Mr. President, and to the Mexican people, for this opportunity to meet you on Mexican soil, and -- to call you friends.

You and I are breaking another precedent. Let these meetings between Presidents of Mexico and the United States recur again and again and again.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

STATEMENTS FILE

Address
Of The
President
at
Monterrey, Mexico
April 20, 1943
and
Nationally Broadcast

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

(A) (President Avila Camacho of Mexico spoke first, in Spanish.)

THE PRESIDENT:

Senor Presidente de La Republicana Mexicana, My friends and good neighbors:

The following address of the President to be delivered tonight, April 20th, at Monterrey, Mexico, MUST BE HELD IN THE STRICTEST OF CONFIDENCE UNTIL RELEASED.

RELEASE UPON DELIVERY, expected about 11:00 P.M., E.W.T.

STEPHEN T. EARLY
Secretary to the President

- -

(A)

Your Excellency's friendly and cordial expressions add to the very great pleasure ~~which~~ that I feel at being here on Mexican soil.

It is an amazing thing to have to realize that nearly thirty-four years have passed since Chief Executives of our two countries ~~nations~~ have met face to face. I hope that in the days to come every Mexican and every American President will feel at liberty to visit each other just as neighbors visit each other -- just as neighbors talk things over and get to know each other better.

Our two countries owe their independence to the fact that your ancestors and mine held the same truths to be worth fighting for and dying for. Hidalgo and Juarez were men of the same stamp as Washington and Jefferson. It was, therefore, inevitable that our two countries should find themselves aligned together in the great world struggle which is being fought today to determine whether this ~~world~~ shall be ~~a~~ free or ~~a~~ slave.

The attacks of the Axis powers during the past few years against our common heritage as free men culminated in the unspeakable and unprovoked aggressions of December 7, 1941, and May 14, 1942, and the shedding of blood on those dates of citizens of the United States and of Mexico alike.

Those attacks did not find the Western Hemisphere unprepared. The twenty-one free republics of the Americas during the past ten years have devised a system of international cooperation which has become a great bulwark in the defense of our heritage and our future. That system, whose strength is now evident even to the most skeptical, is based primarily upon a renunciation of the use of force and the enshrining of international justice and mutual respect as the governing rule of conduct by all nations everywhere.

In the forging of that new international policy the role of Mexico has been outstanding. Mexican Presidents and Foreign Ministers have appreciated the nature of the struggle with which we are now confronted at a time when many nations much closer to the focus of infection were blind.

The wisdom of the measures which the Statesmen of Mexico and the United States and of the other American republics have adopted at inter-American gatherings during recent years has been amply demonstrated. They have succeeded because they have been placed in effect, not only by Mexico and the United States, but by all except one of the other American republics.

You and I, Mr. President, as Commanders-in-Chief of our respective armed forces, have been able to concert measures for common defense. The harmony and mutual confidence which has prevailed between our armies and navies is beyond praise. Brotherhood in arms has been established.

The determination of the Mexican people and of their leaders has led to production on an all-out basis of strategic and vital materials so necessary to the forging of the weapons destined to compass the final overthrow of our common foes. In this great city of Monterrey, I have been most impressed with the single-minded purpose with which all the forces of production are joined together in the war effort.

And Mexican farm workers, brought to the United States in accordance with an agreement between our two Governments, the terms of which are fully consonant with the social objectives we cherish together, are contributing their skill and their toil to the production of vitally needed food.

Not less important than the military cooperation and the production of supplies needed for the maintenance of our respective economies, has been the exchange of those ideas and of those moral values which give life and significance to the tremendous effort of the free peoples of the world. We in the United States have listened with admiration and profit to your statements and addresses, Mr. President, and to those of your distinguished Foreign Minister. We have gained inspiration and strength from your words.

In the shaping of a common victory our peoples are finding that they have common aspirations. They can work together for a common objective. Let us never lose our hold upon that truth. It contains within it the secret of future happiness and prosperity for all of us on both sides of our unfortified borders. Let us make sure that when our victory is won, when the forces of evil surrender -- and that surrender shall be unconditional -- then we, with the same spirit and with the same united courage, will face the task of the building of a better world.

There is much work still to be done by men of good will on both sides of our border. The great Mexican people have their feet set upon a path of ever greater progress so that each citizen may enjoy the greatest possible measure of security and opportunity. The Government of the United States and my countrymen are ready to help ~~contribute~~ to that progress.

We recognize a mutual interdependence of our joint resources. We know that Mexico's resources will be developed for the common good of humanity. We know that the day of the exploitation of the resources and the people of one country for the benefit of any group in another country is definitely over.

It is time that every citizen in every one of the American republics recognizes that the Good Neighbor policy means that harm to one republic means harm to every republic. We have all of us recognized the principle of independence. It is time that we recognize also the <u>privilege</u> of interdependence -- one upon another.

Mr. President, it is my hope that in the expansion of our common effort in this war and in the peace to follow we will again have occasion for friendly consultation, in order further to promote the closest understanding and continued unity of purpose between our two peoples.

We have achieved close understanding and unity of purpose. And I am grateful to you, Mr. President, and to the Mexican people, for this opportunity to meet you on Mexican soil, and -- to call you friends.

You and I are breaking another precedent. Let these meetings between Presidents of Mexico and the United States recur again and again and again.

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Your Excellency's friendly and cordial expressions add to the very great pleasure which I feel at being here on Mexican soil.

It is an amazing thing to have to realize that nearly thirty-four years have passed since Chief Executives of our two nations have met face to face. I believe, Mr. President, that the peoples and the Governments of our two countries will see to it that these visits ~~which you and I are now making~~ will set a permanent precedent ~~for that kind of neighborly relationship and of intimate understanding which should always have existed between us, and which I am convinced will in the future always continue to exist between our two nations.~~

Our two countries owe their independence to the fact that our ancestors held the same truths to be worth fighting for and dying for. Hidalgo and Juarez were men of the same stamp as Washington and Jefferson. It was, therefore, inevitable that our two countries should find themselves aligned together in the great struggle which is today being fought to determine whether the world shall be free or slave.

The attacks of the Axis powers, during the past few years

years against our common heritage as free men culminated in the unspeakable and unprovoked aggressions of December 7, 1941, and May 14, 1942, and the shedding of blood on those dates of citizens of the United States and of Mexico alike.

Those attacks did not find the Western Hemisphere unprepared. The twenty-one free republics of the Americas during the past ten years have devised a system of international cooperation which has made of our continent a bulwark in the defense of our heritage and our future. That system, whose strength is now evident even to the most skeptical, is based primarily upon a renunciation of the use of force and the enshrining of international ~~justice~~ justice and mutual respect ~~equity~~ as the governing rule of conduct by all nations.

In the forging of that new international ~~system~~ policy, the role of Mexico has been outstanding. ~~It must be recognized that the foreign policy which your Government has pursued over the past few years has been proved by events to have been of the highest wisdom.~~ Mexican Presidents and Foreign Ministers have appreciated the nature of the struggle with which we are now confronted at a time when many ~~who were~~ nations much closer to the focus of infection were blind.

The

The wisdom of the measures which the Statesmen of Mexico and the United States and of the other American republics have adopted at inter-American gatherings during recent years has been amply demonstrated. They have been efficacy ~~of these measures~~ because they have been placed in effect, ~~so they have been~~ naturally by Mexico and the United States, ~~as well as~~ by all but one of the other American republics, ~~must convince us of how immeasurable a contribution cooperative action made possible by an unqualified recognition of the juridical~~ They have their basis in the equality of sovereign nations, ~~can make to the future of the world.~~

~~Let us see what that cooperation has meant to our two countries in the present emergency. First of all, Mr. President,~~ You and I, Mr. President, as Commanders-in-Chief of our respective armed forces, have been able to concert measures for common defense ~~against an attack from the treacherous Japanese enemy which at one time seemed more than probable.~~ The harmony and mutual confidence which has prevailed between our armies and navies has been beyond praise. ~~I am confident that the~~ Brotherhood in arms ~~which~~ has been established ~~will meet every test to which it may be put.~~

Secondly,

~~Secondly~~, the determination ~~and the driving energy~~ of the Mexican people and of their leaders ~~have~~ has led to ~~the~~ production on an all-out basis of ~~the~~ strategic and vital materials so necessary to the forging of the weapons destined to compass the final ~~and utter~~ overthrow of our common foe. In this great city of Monterrey, I have been most impressed with the single-minded purpose with which all the forces of production are joined together in the war effort.

~~Thirdly~~, and Mexican farm workers, brought to the United States in accordance with an agreement between our two Governments, the terms of which are fully consonant with the social objectives we cherish together, are contributing their skill and their toil to the production of vitally-needed food.

Not less important ~~in our mutual relations~~ than the military cooperation and the supplies ~~exchange of vitally needed strategic materials and articles~~ needed for the maintenance of our respective economies, ~~has~~ been the exchange of those ideas and of those moral values which give life and significance to the tremendous effort of the free peoples of the world

world. We in the United States have listened with admiration and with profit to your statements and addresses, Mr. President, and to those of your distinguished Foreign Minister. We have gained new inspiration and new strength from your words.

In the shaping of a common victory our two peoples are finding that they have common aspirations, that they can work together for a common objective. Let us never lose our hold upon that truth. It contains within it the secret of future happiness and prosperity for all of us, ~~for our children~~, on both sides of our unfortified border. ~~and for our children's children~~. Let us make sure that when our victory is won, when the forces of evil have surrendered unconditionally, that then with the same spirit and with the same united courage we will face the task of the building of a better world.

~~Our two countries have gained much in the past from cooperation in the economic sense.~~ There is much work still to be done by men of good will on both sides of the border. The great Mexican people have their feet set upon a path of ever greater progress so that each citizen may enjoy the greatest possible measure of security and opportunity. My

Government

Government and my countrymen are ready to contribute to that progress. We recognize a mutual interdependence of our joint resources. We know that Mexico's resources will be developed for the common good of humanity. We know that the day of the exploitation of the resources and the people of one country for the benefit of any group in another country is definitely over.

B

The Mexican Government and people will determine to what extent they wish to obtain capital, experience and techniques from other countries for the benefit of Mexican industries. These elements from abroad will be joined with similar Mexican elements. Our technicians are ready to work side by side with your techniciane. Our investors are ready to assume the same risks and enjoy the same opportunities as your investors. This cooperation carried out under the protection and in accordance with the standards of Mexican law will insure benefits in the field of peaceful economic development similar to those we are now enjoying from our work together in these critical times.

Mr. President

Mr. President, it is my hope that in the expansion of our common effort in this war and in the peace to follow we will again have occasion for friendly consultation in order further to promote the closest understanding and continued unity of purpose as between our two peoples.

Mr President, our common effort in this war and in the peace to follow is based on close understanding and unity of purpose. I am grateful to you and to the Mexican people for this opportunity to meet you on Mexican soil, and to call you friends. You and I Mr. President are breaking with the precedent. Let these meetings occur often and often and often.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

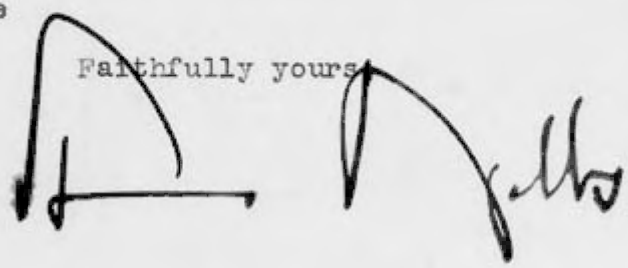
April 13, 1943

My dear Mr. President:

I am enclosing herewith a translation of a speech which the President of Mexico will deliver at the dinner in Monterrey, together with a suggested draft of your reply for your consideration.

Believe me

Faithfully yours,



Encs.

The President,

The White House.

April 13, 1943

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I am enclosing herewith a translation of a speech which the President of Mexico will deliver at the dinner in Monterrey, together with a suggested draft of your reply for your consideration.

Believe me

Faithfully yours,

SUMNER WELLES

Encs.

The President,

The White House.

TRANSLATION

of Speech to be made by President Avila Camacho

Mr. President:

Because of the fundamental virtues which distinguish you and because of the significance of the solemn moment in which your visit to Mexico is being carried out, this occasion is not only a motive of deep satisfaction for my country, but also an incontrovertible proof of the progress attained by our two peoples in their desire to know each other, to understand each other, and to collaborate, without interruptions or falterings, in order to achieve the democratic aspirations which unite them.

Mexico has not been obliged to alter in the slightest degree her basic policy in order to find herself at the side of those nations which are fighting for the civilization of the world and for the good of humanity. Our true path has not varied. Our historic sense of honor continues the same as that to which we gave expression in the past with our arms in order to defend our territory and to sustain our institutions. If our position of solidarity with your country in the present emergency had implied for us some unforeseen change in our course, our cooperation would not enjoy the unanimous support which it has been granted by Mexican public opinion.

What

What then are the causes of our firm and sincere cordiality? Your Excellency personally is giving me the best reply to this inquiry.

In effect, neither Your Excellency nor I believe in negative memories because we both place our hope in the soundness of principles, in the perfectibility of men, and in the constructive capacity of ideals.

You furnish us with an eloquent witness of a similar capacity of the spirit which for some years has guided your country and which has led it to strengthen by all possible means the generous systems of equality and independence. In this process--which owes so much to your ability as a leader--the United States has not been obliged to seek a foreign model. In order to feel that your true greatness is not based upon dominance but rather upon the respect of sovereignties and on harmony under the law, it was sufficient for you to return with precision to the lesson of your greatest heroes. Washington, Jefferson, and Lincoln are present in the current decisions of your country. And, among your other claims to fame, Your Excellency undoubtedly possesses that of having inflexibly fought to apply to the relations between the

countries

countries of this hemisphere the teachings of the famous liberators.

Mexico will never forget your participation in the structure of that new American policy which, because it is so much in agreement with our national purpose, we could without boastfulness proclaim as ours. Good Neighbors. Good friends. That is what we have always wished to be for all the peoples of the earth.

It was certainly not hatred which caused us to enter the war in which we find ourselves. Nor was it a petty interest in possible practical advantages. We know perfectly well that any struggle is strenuous and that nothing durable can be created without constancy in privations and without steadfastness and severity in sacrifice. With the same clarity we know the only conquests which the United Nations will obtain will be the moral conquests of dignity in thought, of autonomy in conduct, and of the overthrowing of might by right. And Your Excellency understands all this especially well, you to whom--as the champion of the Atlantic Charter--there is reserved a transcendental role in this time of unprecedented importance.

Nothing

of equity and of understanding. Our countries do not wish for a mere strategic truce obtained simply so that the world may again tomorrow fall into the same old faults of ambition, of imperialism, of iniquity and of sordid privilege.

We desire a living together free of the perpetual threats which derive from those who seek supremacy. Free from the supremacy in the domestic field which - as we were able to note during the period in which this war was prepared - led certain elements to place their class interests above the interest of the whole group. And free from the supremacy in the foreign field, the constant results of which are violence, death and the ruin of culture.

In order to bring about such a living together, we must above all destroy the machinery of barbarism constructed by the dictators. Circumstances will determine for each one of us the degree of direct participation in active combat which this obligation may warrant. But there is one thing which is in reach of all: the carrying on the fight immediately at home against those evils which offend and concern us in others. A campaign of such universal extension is not won alone in the trenches of the enemy. It is also won at home through greater unity, through more work, through greater production and through the benefit of pure democracy in which our brothers, our comrades, and even our enemies may discover a promise capable of giving to their lives a better content.

The

The difficulties with which we will be confronted will be very great. I recognize it. However, the energies of the people who are fighting against Nazi-fascism and the honesty of the statesmen who direct them are high pledges that the faith of which I speak will not be destroyed in the deliberations over the peace.

In order to contribute to the work of the post-war period the United States and Mexico are placed in a situation of undeniable possibilities and obligations. Geography has made of us a natural bridge of conciliation between the Latin and the Saxon cultures of the continent. If there is any place where the thesis of the Good Neighborhood may be proved with efficacy, it is right here in the juxtaposition of these lands. Our successes and our errors will have in the future a tremendous significance because they will not represent only the successes or failures of Mexico and the United States but rather an example, a stimulus or a deception for all America. There is our primary responsibility. And thus there can best be appreciated the usefulness of these interviews which permit us to consider at close range our problems and to try to solve them with the best and clearest understanding.

You

You have been witness of the enthusiasm with which my fellow countrymen have assumed the burden assigned to them by these virile times both in the carrying out of military service and in the multiple activities required by the industrial and agricultural mobilization of the country. At this table you see gathered together divers representatives of a particularly enthusiastic and hard-working region. The other regions of the Republic of Mexico have also united in the rhythm of a production which is continually furnishing a quantity of aid to the arsenal of Allied production.

Within the same spirit a number every day greater of our workmen are going to the fields of the United States to lend their assistance in tasks which for the time being have had to be abandoned by farmers who have been drafted. This assistance which is being coordinated with North American mobilization is - in addition to a symbol in which we understand the duties of reciprocal aid between peoples - a demonstration of the strong will which animates us.

For my part I am glad to express to you the admiration with which we in Mexico observe the prodigious effort being made by your country to hasten the end of the war. The enthusiasm with which your young men have rushed to battle areas and their bravery in offering their lives for the

redemption

redemption of the oppressed awake in us an austere and continental pride. At the same time that I congratulate myself on this opportunity of shaking the hand of a loyal friend, I repeat to you, Mr. President, together with the sentiments of solidarity of my country and our wish for the success of our common cause the desire that the relations between Mexico and the United States of America may develop - always - along the channels of mutual esteem and unceasing devotion to liberty.

SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT of the United States
at Monterrey - April 20, 1943.

Your Excellency's friendly and cordial expressions add to the very great pleasure which I feel at being here on Mexican soil.

It is an amazing thing to have to realize that nearly thirty-four years have passed since Chief Executives of our two nations have met face to face. ~~I believe, Mr. President, that the peoples and the Governments of our two countries will see to it that our visits will see a permanent precedent.~~ I hope that in the days to come every Mexican and every American President will feel at liberty to visit each other ~~without much formality~~ just as neighbors visit each other ~~in a community to~~ talk things over and ~~to~~ get to know each other better.

Our two countries owe their independence to the fact that your ancestors and mine held the same truths to be worth fighting for and dying for. Hidalgo and Juarez were men of the same stamp as Washington and Jefferson. It was, therefore, inevitable that our two countries should find themselves aligned together in the great struggle which is ~~today~~ being fought to determine whether ~~the world~~ shall be free or slave.

The attacks of the Axis powers, during the past few years against our common heritage as free men culminated in the unspeakable and unprovoked aggressions of December 7, 1941 and May 14, 1942,

and the shedding of blood on those dates of citizens of the United States and of Mexico alike.

Those attacks did not find the Western Hemisphere unprepared. The twenty-one free republics of the Americas during the past ten years have devised a system of international cooperation which has ~~made of our continent a~~ became a great bulwark in the defense of our heritage and our future. That system, whose strength is now evident even to the most skeptical, is based primarily upon a renunciation of the use of force and the enshrining of international justice and mutual respect as the governing rule of conduct by all nations.

In the forging of that new international policy the role of Mexico has been outstanding. Mexican Presidents and Foreign Ministers have appreciated the nature of the struggle with which we are now confronted at a time when many nations much closer to the focus of infection were blind.

The wisdom of the measures which the Statesmen of Mexico and the United States and of the other American republics have adopted at inter-American gatherings during recent years has been amply demonstrated. They have ~~been efficacious~~ succeeded because they have been placed in effect, not only by Mexico and the United States, but by all ~~but~~ except one of the other American republics. ~~They have their basis in the equality of sovereign nations.~~

You and I, Mr. President, as Commanders-in-Chief of our respective armed forces, have been able to concert measures for common defense. The harmony and mutual confidence which has prevailed between our armies and navies is beyond praise. Brotherhood in arms has been established.

The determination of the Mexican people and of their leaders has led to production on an all-out basis of strategic and vital materials so necessary to the forging of the weapons destined to compass the final overthrow of our common foe. In this great city of Monterrey, I have been most impressed with the single-minded purpose with which all the forces of production are joined together in the war effort.

And Mexican farm workers, brought to the United States in accordance with an agreement between our two Governments, the terms of which are fully consonant with the social objectives we cherish together, are contributing their skill and their toil to the production of vitally-needed food.

Not less important than the military cooperation and the supplies needed for the maintenance of our respective economies, has been the exchange of those ideas and of those moral values which give life and significance to the tremendous effort of the free peoples of

the world. We in the United States have listened with admiration and profit to your statements and addresses, Mr. President, and to those of your distinguished Foreign Minister. We have gained inspiration and strength from your words.

In the shaping of a common victory our peoples are finding that they have common aspirations, that they can work together for a common objective. Let us never lose our hold upon that truth. It contains within it the secret of future happiness and prosperity for all of us on both sides of our unfortified border. Let us make sure that when our victory is won, when the forces of evil surrender — and that surrender shall be unconditional — then with the same spirit and with the same united courage, we will face the task of the building of a better world.

There is much work still to be done by men of good will on both sides of our border. The great Mexican people have their feet set upon a path of ever greater progress so that each citizen may enjoy the greatest possible measure of security and opportunity. The Government of the United States and my countrymen are ready to contribute to that progress. We recognize a mutual interdependence of our joint resources. We know that Mexico's resources will be developed for the common good of humanity. We know that the day of the exploitation of the resources and the people of one country for the benefit of any group in another country is definitely over.

It is time that every citizen in every one of the American republics recognize that the Good Neighbor policy means that harm to one republic means harm to every republic. We have all of us recognized the principle of ~~inter~~interdependence. It is time that we recognize also the privilege of interdependence -- one upon another.

Mr. President, it is my hope that in the expansion of our common effort in this war and in the peace to follow we will again have occasion for friendly consultation in order further to promote the closest understanding and continued unity of purpose between our two peoples.

~~Mr. President, our common effort in this war and in the peace to follow is based on~~ We have achieved close understanding and unity of purpose.

I am grateful to you, Mr President, and to the Mexican people for this opportunity to meet you on Mexican soil, and to call you friends. You and I, ~~Mr. President~~, are breaking another precedent. Let these meetings between Presidents of Mexico and the United States recur again and again and again.

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