

The Ambassador

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Buenos Aires, Argentina, June 19, 1947

No. 2706

Subject: Luncheon by President of Argentina for
Ambassador Messersmith

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that on June 18, Ambassador Messersmith was tendered a formal luncheon by the President of the Argentine Republic in the Casa Rosada, as a tribute to him on the eve of his departure for the United States. There were approximately one hundred and fifty persons present, including the members of the President's Cabinet, the Vice President, the Cardinal-Archbishop, heads of the Armed Forces, and the leaders of the two Houses of Congress as well as the Chiefs of the Diplomatic Missions. All of the latter were present excepting the Russian Ambassador.

Following the luncheon warm tribute was paid to Ambassador Messersmith by Foreign Minister Bramuglia and President Perón, both of whom expressed the deep appreciation which the Argentine Government and people have for him as an outstanding representative of the Government of the United States and a friend of Argentina. Texts of the speeches delivered by the President and the Foreign Minister are transmitted herewith. A copy of the Ambassador's speech has already been sent to the Department.

There can be no doubt as to the high esteem in which Mr. Messersmith is held by officials of the Argentine Government as well as by the Chiefs of the foreign Diplomatic Missions in this Capital. Practically all of the latter have expressed their deep regret that Mr. Messersmith is leaving the Argentine, and in personal conversations with members of the Embassy staff have been critical of our Government's policy in replacing him. They feel that the Ambassador has had an extremely beneficial influence on the highest officials of the Argentine Government and that this influence, which has been a moderating one, is one which can be ill-dispensed with at the present time, not only as concerns relations between the United States and Argentina but as well as relations with the other Americas.

Respectfully yours,

For the Ambassador:

Sidney E. O'Donoghue
Counselor of Embassy

Enclosure:
Clippings from La Nación
To the Department in quadruplicate.
Copy to Chief, Division of River Plate Affairs.
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of the signed
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