







A POLITICAL PORTRAIT OF CARLOS SAAVEDRA LAMAS

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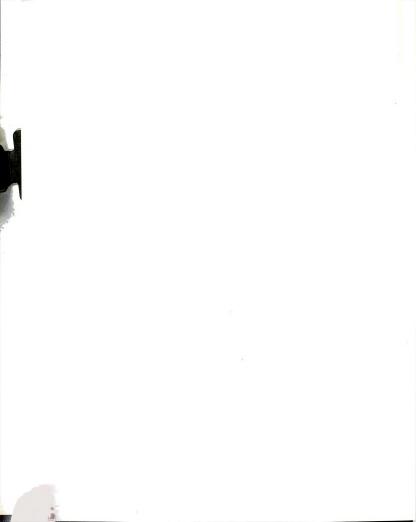
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ABSTRACT

A POLITICAL PORTRAIT
OF
CARLOS SAAVEDRA LAMAS

By

John F. Bratzel

This dissertation investigates the political life of Carlos Saavedra Lamas. It attempts to explain his back-ground, rise to a position of prominence and subsequent fall, and to define his place in Argentine history.

Saavedra Lamas was born in 1878 to a wealthy oligarchic family. At age thirty he was elected to the Argentine House of Deputies where he worked for both increased immigration from Europe and the extension of the voting franchise to the entire male population. These goals, he believed, would yield a modern Argentina in the European mold. He realized that the newly enfranchised voters would probably not immediately support a member of the oligarchy. He assumed, however, this would only be temporary, but sixteen years elapsed before another opportunity to hold public office appeared. Consequently, he agreed to be Foreign Minister in the fraudalently elected and military-dominated Justo administration.



The Argentine people have long seen themselves as a white literate, Europeanized bastion in a miscegenated, backward South America. Consequently, the nation adopted the premise that she should dominate South America and, as the leader of a continent be received into the councils of the powerful as an equal. Saavedra Lamas, as Foreign Minister of Argentina worked diligently to achieve this long cherished goal. Moreover, his efforts on behalf of his country complemented his personal desire to obtain prominence on the world stage. It is the contention of this work that Saavedra Lamas reached both of these objectives, thereby gaining an influence for himself and Argentina that was far out of proportion to the real importance of either.

Saavedra Lamas achieved his ends through deceitful, almost Machiavellian methods. Aiding him in his drive was his ability to take advantage of the disarray among the countries bordering Argentina and the Good Neighbor Policy of the United States. He also benefitted from European competition with the United States. Finally, Saavedra Lamas' ability to move quickly was enhanced by the virtual free hand given him by President Justo.

Immediately after taking office in February, 1932
Saavedra Lamas inserted himself strongly into the United
States dominated mediation effort then being conducted in

the dispute between Paraguay and Bolivia over ownership of the Chaco. To support his efforts in the contest that developed, Saavedra Lamas established an informal mediation group composed of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Peru. pitting the mediators as well as the belligerents against each other, the Argentine Chancellor controlled the situation and appeared as the peace maker while ironically insuring that Argentina's ally, Paraguay, was protected. With the exhaustion of the belligerents in mid-1935 the Argentine Chancellor arranged for a cease-fire and peace talks in Buenos Aires under his auspices. At the Conference Saavedra Lamas wanted the prestige a settlement would bring but also desired that Paraguay not make major concessions. Consequently, the negotiations moved slowly to the constant complaint of the other delegates. Consequently, no settlement was reached during his tenure.

While Saavedra Lamas was Foreign Minister two InterAmerican meetings were held. In the 1933 Conference at
Montevideo, both the Argentine Chancellor, as well as Secretary of State Cordell Hull wished to avoid a confrontation.
The latter accepted Saavedra Lamas' Anti-War Pact in exchange for cooperation and consensus politics prevailed. At the
December, 1936 Maintenance of Peace Conference, however,

conflict developed. Saavedra Lamas who had just won the Nobel Peace Prize opposed Hull on virtually every issue. The latter was infuriated and directed protest to Justo about his Foreign Minister.

These complaints coupled with those from other Foreign Ministers over the Chaco negotiations were instrumental in Justo's decision to close higher office to Saavedra Lamas. The most important reason, however, was the Chancellor's failure to give sufficient credit to Justo when he won the Nobel Prize and the fact he constantly overshadowed the President.

Following his departure from office in February, 1938, Saavedra Lamas held only one more public office, the rectorship of the University of Buenos Aires. He died in 1959.

In the preparation of this study the Argentine Foreign Ministry Archives as well as the United States National Archives were consulted. Also newspapers, periodicals, published memoirs, government publications, and pertinent secondary works were examined. Finally data was also obtained from personal interviews with individuals having direct knowledge of the man and events.



A POLITICAL PORTRAIT

OF

CARLOS SAAVEDRA LAMAS

By John F. Bratzel

A DISSERTATION

Submitted to
Michigan State University
in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of

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Department of History



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1974

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

HAPT	ER	Page
	PREFACE	1
1.	THE FIRST FIFTY-THREE YEARS	5
	Argentine Economic Development	11
	International Law	18
	Education	22
	The Voting Franchise	25
2.	THE DECLARATIONS OF AUGUST	34
	Saavedra Lamas Takes Office	34
	The Chaco Dispute	39
	The Chaco Dispute	49
3.	"UNA CONFUSIÓN GRANDE"	65
	Saavedra Lamas and the League of Nations. Saavedra Lamas and the Committee of	65
	Neutrals	68
	The Mendoza Proposal	74
	Argentina and Neutrality	86
	May to December, 1933	87
4.	"THE TWO WINGS OF THE DOVE"	91
5.	A MAN TO BE RECKONED WITH	121
	Chaco Negotiations January, 1934 to	
	February, 1935	121
	February, 1935 Final Settlement	125
	The Chaco Peace Conference	132
	Saavedra Lamas and the League	150
6.	THE PERILS OF SUCCESS	156
	The Nobel Prize	156
	Inter-American Conference for the Mainte-	160

TABLE (OF CONTENTScontinued Page	ge
		77 85
	EPILOGUE	93
	CONCLUSION	97
	BIBLIOGRAPHIC ESSAY	06
		L2 L2 L3

PREFACE

The Argentine people have long seen themselves as a white, literate, Europeanized bastion in a miscegenated, backward South America. Consequently, that nation has adopted the premise that she should dominate South America and, as the leader of a continent be received into the councils of the powerful as an equal. Carlos Saavedra Lamas, as Foreign Minister of Argentina worked diligently to achieve this goal. Moreover, his efforts on behalf of his country complemented his personal desire to obtain prominence on the world stage. Saavedra Lamas reached both of these objectives, thereby gaining an influence for himself and Argentina that was far out of proportion to the real importance of either.

Saavedra Lamas achieved his ends through deceitful, almost Machiavellian methods. That he did so, taints his achievement, but his tactics were not criticized in Argentina, where perhaps the highest compliment one can pay is to describe a person as "clever." But Saavedra Lamas was more than clever. Through opportunism he was able to sieze the moment and turn the international situation to his benefit.

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This study briefly traces the life of Saavedra Lamas from his birth to his appointment as Foreign Minister. It examines his policies and tactics in the war over the Chaco between Bolivia and Paraguay, including his maneuverings in the face of United States and League of Nations involvement in the conflict. Considerable emphasis will also be placed on the role Saavedra Lamas played during the 1933 and 1936 Inter-American meetings. The work ends with the Chancellor's loss of influence and subsequent exit from public life.

I am indebted to a number of persons and institutions for helping make this study possible. My appreciation goes to the late Charles C. Cumberland, who originally interested me in Latin American History. I wish to express my deepest gratitude and sincere thanks to my jefe supremo and mentor, Leslie B. Rout, Jr. who initiated me into the ways of academia. The other members of my guidance committee, Professors David C. Bailey, Paul A. Varg, Barbara Steidle, and Justin C. Kestenbaum also contributed greatly to the production of this work and to my historical training in general.

The librarians of <u>La Prensa</u> library in Buenos Aires were particularly helpful in allowing me access to delicate material. I am also indebted to Raul Vinuesa, an instructor at the Argentine Foreign Service Institute, for giving me new perspectives into the decision making processes of

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the Argentine foreign office. He introduced me to Señor Piñero of the Foreign Ministry library, who not only allowed me access to material available nowhere else, but additionally aided me in obtaining interviews with prominent Argentines. A special thanks goes to Capitán José Pereyra, Jefe de despacho of the Argentine Foreign Service Institute, who shepherded my application to work in the archives of the Foreign Ministry through a voracious bureaucracy. I am obliged to Señora Zeballos Aguirre, too, for her aid in helping me locate documents.

I am deeply grateful to Roaslía and Alberto Ramón who were always hospitable and kind during my stay in Argentina. Additionally, I owe thanks to my good friend Joaquím Serrano who made a number of initial contacts for me and placed his resources at my disposal. Robert A. Bishkin, the General Consul of the United States in Argentina was helpful in introducing me to a number of people. One of them was Eduardo Tomás Pardo, the head of the Argentine Foreign Service Institute who helped me obtain an interview with Miguel Angel Cárcano. Finally, I am indebted to Señoras Silvia Pueyrredón and Elsie Rivera Heado for giving me significant insights into Saavedra Lamas and taking me to a number of social functions where I could make further contacts.

Closer to home, I must thank the staff of the Michigan State University Library, particularly

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Mrs. Eleanor Boyles. Similarly, the staffs of both the United States Archives and University of Michigan Law Library proved very helpful. I acknowledge the Ford Foundation, whose grants administered by the Michigan State University Latin American Studies Center allowed me to go to both Buenos Aires and Washington, D. C. in the furtherance of this study.

Finally I owe more than I can say to my wife, Ruth, whose patience and hard work helped me immeasurably.

It goes without saying that none of the above are responsible for the shortcomings of this work. They are mine alone.

East Lansing, Michigan

J.F.B.

October, 1974

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CHAPTER 1

THE FIRST FIFTY-THREE YEARS

Argentina became an independent country in 1816 and after an abortive attempt at constitutional government, the nation fell to the control of Juan Manuel de Rosas in 1829. A classic example of a caudillo, he ruled the nation with an iron fist until 1852. Another period of unrest followed until Bartolomé Mitre assumed the presidency in 1862. Under Mitre and his successors, Argentina became one of the largest suppliers of meat in the world. Subsequently, an oligarchy of landed beef producers developed which quickly assumed a leadership role in Argentina. Money abounded and perhaps because it did, corruption became the byword of government. By 1890, conditions had become so bad that the President, Miguel Juárez Celman was forced to resign in favor of his more liberal Vice-President, Carlos Pelligrini. Although the new chief executive did bring some reforms, the oligarchy of land owners and merchants, which benefited from the established system, was still very much in control.

During the next twenty-six years, their leadership would be challenged, but the principal weapon of the

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bi: Lan Pu oligarchy, the limited franchise, prevailed. It was not until a number of their own, called "liberal tories," inured with the positivist doctrine of Auguste Comte, and a desire to modernize Argentina, came to the front that the vote was given at all. As a result, political parties which had long refused to vote in the oligarchy's sham elections, did so and won. One of the "liberal tories" who had favored open voting was Carlos Saavedra Lamas.

On November 1, 1878, when Carlos Alberto Saavedra Lamas was born, he automatically met all the requirements for membership into the oligarchy. Entrance required money, above all, but the highest social strata was open only to those who demonstrated an historically acceptable heritage. His parents were Mariano Saavedra Zabeleta, a prominent and wealthy lawyer, and Lucia Lamas, both of whom possessed distinguished Argentine names. Although the Lamas name was well known in literary circles, the apellido "Saavedra" provided the bedrock upon which his heritage lay. In 1810, his great grandfather, Cornelio Saavedra had led the provisional junta governing the Viceroyalty of La Plata from which the independence movement sprang.

ln William Belmont Parker, Argentines of To-Day originally published in 1920 (New York: Krause Reprint Corp., 1967), pp. 675-676, the author gives the year of birth as 1880. Saavedra Lamas' sister, Señora Saavedra Lamas de Pueyrredón confirmed the 1878 date, Letter, Silvia Pueyrredón to John F. Bratzel, March 4, 1974.

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His grandfather was D. Mariano Saavedra who had been governor of Buenos Aires Province during and after the presidency of Mitre.

Balancing this obvious advantage, was responsibility. There was the expectation that anyone born with such an inheritance would be highly successful and would bring added prestige to the family. The result was constant pressure on Carlos to achieve and as the only boy in a family with five children, the necessity was even more clear. His father constantly reminded Carlos of his rich heritage and urged him forward with the admonition, "Be Right, Be Good, Study!"²

During his formative years, Carlos admirably fulfilled the requirements of his class and the advice of his father. At the <u>Colegio Lacondaire</u>, a private Buenos Aires prep school, Carlos enjoyed very high grades. Perhaps because he was so accomplished in school, he preferred city life in Buenos Aires to the comparative isolation of the summers spent on the family <u>estancia</u> in Santa Fe. 3

In the city he could also enjoy the social life, and according to Julia Valentina Bunge, one of his

²Interview with Señora Silvia Saavedra Lamas de Pueyrredón, Buenos Aires, September 12, 1972.

Ibid. The family owned four <u>estancias</u> in Santa Fe Province.

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contemporaries, no party was complete without him. 4
While Saavedra Lamas was attending the Colegio, however, his father died, placing added pressure on Carlos, for he was now head of the family. Despite this added burden, Carlos was presented with a medal for scholastic achievement upon graduation.

Like many young men who aspired to high positions in government or business, Carlos chose to attend the Facultad de Derecho y Ciencias Exactas of the University of Buenos Aires. His earlier scholastic success was duplicated, as he won the gold medal for his thesis Sistema municipal en la capital de la República. His intense drive to succeed, however, had its drawbacks. A life-long friend, Jacobo Wainer, related that Carlos became ill when he received only nine of a possible ten on an examination. 6

Following the completion of his college training in 1903, Saavedra Lamas chose to lecture at the University level. He credited the newly adopted competitive examination program for his success in attaining a position as

Julia Valentina Bunge, <u>Vida</u>, <u>Época</u> <u>Maravillosa</u>, <u>1903-1911</u> (Buenos Aires: Emecé Editores, <u>1965</u>), p. 113.

⁵Carlos Saavedra Lamas, <u>Sistema municipal en la Capital de la República</u> (Buenos Aires: Compañía sudamericana de billetes de banco, 1903).

⁶La Nación, June 24, 1962.

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Professor of Sociology in the <u>Facultad de Filosofía y</u>

<u>Letras</u> at the University of Buenos Aires. Due to his scientific orientation and the fact that he was the first recipient of the chair of Sociology, his positivist views came under constant attack. He was, however, able to retain his position and continue teaching courses on labor relations and public finance.

Nevertheless, he did not stay in teaching for long. In 1906, at the age of twenty-eight, he was appointed by the Consejo Deliberante as Director of Public Credit for the City of Buenos Aires. The following year, he accepted the office of Secretary of the Municipality of Buenos Aires. He also published a short tome entitled Informe sobre la situación finaciera de la muncipalidad de la capitál detailing his views on the finances of Buenos Aires.

Saavedra Lamas left the administration of Buenos Aires in 1908 when he was elected to the Argentine House of Deputies on the Conservative Party ticket. Despite its

Miguel Cané, a Francophile author in the romantic tradition, was Saavedra Lamas' detractor. See Carlos Saavedra Lamas, <u>La personalidad universitaria del Dr. Carlos Octavio Bunge</u> (Buenos Aires: L. J. Russo y Cía., 1919), p. 11.

⁸Carlos Saavedra Lamas, <u>Informe</u> sobre la situación financiera de la municipalidad de la capitál (Buenos Aires: Casa editora de A. Grau, 1907).

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name, the party did have a liberal membership with reform-Thus, it was a perfect place for a young ing instincts. positivist. Saavedra Lamas was re-elected for a second term in 1912, but did not finish it. In 1915, he was appointed Secretary of Justice and Public Instruction in the cabinet of Victorino de la Plaza, who had assumed the presidency upon the death of Roque Sáenz Peña. The indications are he received the appointment because he was the son-in-law of Sáenz Peña and de la Plaza wanted to assuage his supporters. 9 In 1916, Saavedra Lamas left elective politics. The reason is not clear, but the extension of voting to the entire male population, which Saavedra Lamas supported, suggests that he believed that the new voters for a few years, at least, would not be positively disposed toward his class and himself.

As a private citizen, Saavedra Lamas practiced law, but because of his financial independence, he was able to devote much of his time to scholastic and research endeavors.

While a Deputy, Saavedra Lamas met and married Rosa Sáenz Peña. As a wealthy man from a good family he was eligible to court the daughter not only of a very prominent politician, but also the granddaughter of Luis Sáenz Peña, a former President of Argentina. Because Saavedra Lamas did, in fact, marry the boss's daughter, he was extremely sensitive to the cynical gossip which existed. Interview with Señora Silvia Saavedra Lamas de Pueyrredón, Buenos Aires, September 12, 1972, An interview was conducted with Rosa Sáenz Peña de Saavedra Lamas, but due to her advanced age, her memory was inaccurate.

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He published massive works in such diverse fields as labor law, analysis of social treaties, international law, and railroad legislation. He also delivered numerous speeches to scholarly groups. Through these works, and his efforts before the Chamber of Deputies, a clear picture of Saavedra Lamas' thinking emerges. His efforts fall into four major areas: Argentine economic development, international law, education and the distribution of the voting franchise.

Argentine Economic Development

Saavedra Lamas' first public pronouncement on economics appeared in his report on the financial position of Buenos Aires. The most significant assertion was that sports tickets be taxed in lieu of a small import duty. He noted that such a duty would be harmful to the economy and might cause European nations to raise their tariffs on Argentine beef. Left unstated was the assumption that a tax on imports would fall more heavily on the wealthy who bought foreign goods. An idea which was of secondary importance in his report, but one which he would develop in detail later, was his hope that future immigrants to Argentina would move to the countryside instead of remaining in Buenos Aires. In that regard, he lauded the work of the national government in improving the infrastructure and educational opportunities in the provinces in order to attract immigrants. 10

Saavedra Lamas, situación financiera., particularly pp. 6 and 28.

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The first problem, however, was to obtain the immigrants. Consequently, when Saavedra Lamas became a Deputy, he devoted considerable effort to immigration treaties. It is not strange, therefore, that while on a trip to Italy in February, 1910 he sounded out the Italian government concerning immigration. Although he had no accreditation other than that implicit in his position as Deputy, Saavedra Lamas discussed the whole matter with the Italian government. 11

¹¹ See Carlos Saavedra Lamas, Problemas de gobierno: discursos pronunciados en la cámara de diputados de la nación (Buenos Aires: Compañía sud-americana de billetes de banco, 1916), pp. 179-216. As part of the negotiations Saavedra Lamas sent a letter to Luigi Luzzati, the Italian Minister of Commerce. He began his letter by stating that Italy had the right to control emmigration and suggested she sign a pact with Argentina similar to the one signed with France in 1906. He noted that Argentine social provisions were not as modern as France's, but these could be changed to insure that the emmigrants would not suffer. Concerning the propaganda used to entice the Italians, Saavedra Lamas was very apolegetic, but concluded it was a necessary evil. On the question of traveling conditions and citizenship, Saavedra Lamas was very vague. Both of these were volitile issues and one suspects he was willing to leave these matters to others. Finally, Saavedra Lamas indicated the need for Argentine officials at embarcation points to insure no anarchists were allowed into Argentina. The "qaucho republic" had anarchist movements and movements dubbed anarchist, and even a "liberal tory" had no desire to introduce new radical elements.

The Italian reply came from two people. Luzzati stated that were Saavedra Lamas properly accredited, he would present his proposals to the cabinet, a singularly diplomatic, but meaningless response. Of much more consequence, was a letter from Professor Pasquale Fiore detailing the Italian position on citizenship. Basically, he observed that citizenship based upon geographical location was a relic of feudalism and that the method of determination by ancient Rome, parental heritage, was superior. He did indicate, however, willingness to compromise. He suggested that the Argentine system be generally accepted with the proviso that when an Italo-Argentine returned to Italy, he have the option of regaining Italian citizenship easily.

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Upon returning from Italy, Saavedra Lamas presented the results of his work regarding Italian immigration to the Chamber of Deputies. He began by pointing out that Italy was making great strides in education and industrialization. This development, according to Saavedra Lamas, boded ill for the continuation of Italian immigration since there would be little excess population available for Argentina. What made this situation very discouraging for Saavedra Lamas was that he saw Argentina on the verge of accelerated economic development with immigration as the trigger. Proof that immigration was of critical importance could be found in the economic growth of the United States, Canada, and Australia. Therefore, as he saw it, two legal instruments were needed: a treaty with Italy to obtain as many people as possible, and an internal law regulating settlement of the newly arrived foreigners. Consequently, at the next session of Congress, Saavedra Lamas presented a detailed plan for immigration settlement. Its most significant provision required that agents of the newly mandated railroads act as colonizers along its path. 12

¹² Ibid., pp. 348-497. All Saavedra Lamas' congressional statements also appear in the Diario de Sesiones de la Cámara de Diputados, which served as the record for the Argentine legislature. Complicating this situation, is the fact that Saavedra Lamas privately published a number of his congressional projects and speeches in separate volumes with different titles than those appearing in the aforementioned works. For example, his Economica Colonial appears as "ley de colonizacion" in Problemas de Gobierno....
Saavedra Lamas' tendency to publish something about virtually

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The proposed plan, however, was never accepted due to

Italy's prohibition on emmigration to Argentina in 1911-1912.

Also, since the issue of the day was the voting franchise,

little time could be devoted to the study of Saavedra Lamas'

long and detailed report.

Following his departure from the House of Deputies, Saavedra Lamas continued his interest in immigration. a book published in 1922, Tratados internacionales de tipo social..., he began by asserting that Argentina needed more people, but that there were too many people in Buenos Aires and not enough in the provinces. The situation, as he preceived it, could only be rectified by new settlement laws. According to Saavedra Lamas, the problem stemmed from the "governing classes" referring to the old oligarchy, which was wasting enormous tracts of land. Further, much of the remainder had fallen into the hands of speculators. He also noted that railroads were pushing into the wrong areas, causing further disequilibrium. The auctioning of land, he claimed, was not the answer because the immigrant seldom had much money. He concluded, therefore, that a laissez faire policy hindered settlement and that government controls must be used to give the immigrant the accessible land. Even though quite liberal sounding in his speech, Saavedra Lamas stopped well short of suggesting

everything he was involved in shows great dedication and hard work, but also demonstrates a great vanity.

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expropriation. The answer lay, according to the ex-Deputy in distributing unused land to the new arrivals with payments deferred until the newcomers were settled. 13

Still another work dealing with the economic development of Argentina was his massive volume published in 1918 entitled Los ferrocarriles ante la legislación positiva argentina. Although basically a highly legalistic treatise on railroad legislation, Saavedra Lamas did confront the question of foreign investment. In his work he expressly avoided the presumption that foreign investment was required in Argentina. The fact that he did not reject it or offer any alternatives to foreign investment leads to the inescapable conclusion that he simply could not bring himself to pronounce the unpleasant truth—Argentina needed foreign investment. In fact, the vast majority of his six hundred fifty page text dealt with how it should be controlled. 14

In the general realm of economics another major interest of Saavedra Lamas' was the changing nature of labor

¹³ Carlos Saavedra Lamas, Tratados internacionales de tipo social, las convenciones sobre emigración y trabajo, perspectivas que representan para los países sudamericanos y especialmente para la república argentina, conferencias de Wáshington y Ginebra (Buenos Aires: Facultad de derecho y chiencias sociales, 1922). A French translation was published in Paris by A. Pedone in 1924.

¹⁴ Carlos Saavedra Lamas, Los ferrocarriles ante la legislación positiva argentina (Buenos Aires: L. J. Rosso y Cía, 1918).

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relations. He detailed his views in a 1922 work entitled Los asalariados en la república argentina. In it he lamented the end of the old "patrón" system and the arrival of an adversary relationship between capital and labor. The worker, he contended, should have a close association with the owner and be able to maintain some control over working conditions. To remedy the situation Saavedra Lamas advocated a profit sharing arrangement. The employee would receive a regular salary, but it would be augmented or reduced depending upon the profits of the company. 15

In much the same liberal vain, Saavedra Lamas, in 1926, discussed the whole question of labor strikes in La huelga de la industria carbonera en inglaterra. Although avoiding a detailed discussion of the cause of the strike referred to in the title, he did maintain it was caused by management's decision to lower pay and increase hours. Socialists, he claimed, saw this event as confirmation of their fears. Saavedra Lamas, however, disagreed and pointed to the ability of England's democracy to handle the situation. Even when the Socialists called for nationalization, the ex-Deputy noted, the House of Commons was able to debate the plan calmly. Far from upholding Socialist ideas, Saavedra Lamas contended that the handling of

¹⁵ Carlos Saavedra Lamas, Los asalaridos en la república argentina (Buenos Aires: Libreria y casa editora de Jesús Menendez, 1922).

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the strike demonstrated the efficacy of democracy. 16

He then offered his views on the role of government in strikes and more specifically, walkouts involving the public interest. Saavedra Lamas believed that labor strikes were a natural right and as such were recognized by many governments. He went on to remark, however, that governments have the duty to intervene if the interests of society are affected. In determining if governments should intervene, Saavedra Lamas counseled caution and only when the work performed was absolutely essential, should the state interfere. In defining "essential," Saavedra Lamas listed workers in public security, transportation, utilities, mail and certain basic industries. In conclusion, he cautioned against quick judgments and implied, but did not state, that the workers were often right. 17 Considering that he wrote in 1926, Saavedra Lamas' ideas can only be described as forward looking.

In summarizing Saavedra Lamas' ideas on economic development, it is evident that above all he wanted an economically strong and socially modern Argentina. To achieve this end, according to Saavedra Lamas, a greater population was necessary and therefore he sought European

¹⁶ Carlos Saavedra Lamas, La huelga de la industria carbonera en inglaterra (Buenos Aires: Imprenta de la Universidad, 1926).

¹⁷ Ibid.

immigrants. Foreign investment, however, was also needed. Due to his nationalism, he was reticent about admitting that Argentina required it, but he would accept it if it were controlled. Saavedra Lamas also believed the needs of labor should be met as part of the advancement of society. Achievement of these goals, Saavedra Lamas argued, would lead to an orderly and progressive Argentina.

International Law

In July, 1909, Saavedra Lamas delivered his first major address regarding international law. It dealt with an arbitration treaty which had been negotiated with Italy in 1907, following the second Hague conference. It was subsequently presented to the Argentine congress where after a great deal of effort by Saavedra Lamas it was accepted in 1909. The arbitration agreement, however, was later proclaimed unconstitutional by the procurador general, Jaime Porter, and President Figueroa Alcorta allowed the treaty to die. In his 1909 speech Saavedra Lamas called for the resurrection of the accord and discussed some of the controversial sections. He concluded that the treaty was in the best tradition of Argentine juridical development. out for criticism was the aforementioned procurador general, who based his opposition on the grounds that the treaty would infringe on Argentine sovereignty. Saavedra Lamas contended that because the constitution disallowed acts which

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offended sovereignty, the issue need not be considered in accepting or rejecting a treaty. 18 It is reasonable to assume that Saavedra Lamas knew his reasoning was questionable, but his main goal was to obtain acceptance of the arbitration pact. To that end he was successful, as Argentina finally adopted the treaty a year later.

Saavedra Lamas delivered another address in June, 1911 on the subject or arbitration. His main purpose was to prod his fellow delegates to renew their efforts on behalf of arbitration treaties. Consequently, he began this rather lengthy speech with a stinging attack on the Argentine congress, announcing to all that it was rapidly approaching ineffectualness. He affirmed categorically that the form of the Italian accord was the culmination of all efforts in the area of arbitration and was the "definitive consecration" of the efforts of the second Hague conference. 19

More than anything else he did while a deputy, this declaration demonstrated the arrogance and vanity for which Saavedra Lamas was to become so well known.

Perhaps because of his intense interest in international arbitration in 1914 Saavedra Lamas was brought into the early negotiations pertaining to a proposed arbitration pact with France. Before its formal transmission the text

¹⁸ Saavedra Lamas, Problemas de gobierno, pp. 2-19.

^{19 &}lt;u>Ibid.</u>, pp. 123-148.

of the Arg his opinio Luis Mura be replica question (exclusion accord de exception in force against a arbitrate being con visions, interests which was Elihu Roo Saavedra

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of the Argentine proposal was sent to Saavedra Lamas for his opinion. In his letter to the Foreign Minister, José Luis Muratue, Saavedra Lamas suggested the pact with Italy be replicated as closely as possible. On the critical question of infringement upon sovereignty, he proposed the exclusionary clause which had appeared in the Italian accord designating all disputes as arbitrable "with the exception of those affecting the constitutional provisions in force in one or the other states."20 He counselled against allowing all issues, without qualification, to be arbitrated. He also opposed adding a clause which was being considered restricting not only constitutional provisions, but also those questions "affecting honor, vital interests or independence." Significantly, this clause, which was then in general use, had first been proposed by Elihu Root, the United States Secretary of State. Apparently Saavedra Lamas found it loathsome to use anything North American. He preferred to demonstrate Argentine independence even on rather small matters. Saavedra Lamas also discussed a number of other provisions and concluded with a complete formula he suggested be proposed to France. Predictably, it was a virtual duplicate of the Italian agreement. His work, however, went for naught, as no final agreement was reached between Argentina and France.

^{20 &}lt;u>Ibid</u>., pp. 148-178

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Perhaps Saavedra Lamas was thinking of this failure, when in 1916 he delivered a speech to the American Congress of Social Science on international law and the war in Europe. He gave as the prime cause of the war the attempt by European nations to increase their territory for economic reasons. The failure of international law to prevent war was not the fault of the concept, but of the "fragile base" upon which it rested in Europe. He castigated Europe for perceiving treaties as only "transitory coordinations of interests." What was needed was international law based on openness which could prevent war.

The failure of European public law did not mean, according to Saavedra Lamas, that it was dead in the New World. He declared that the Old World was different from the Americas and that it was not necessary to create "artificial equilibriums." Imperalism, he asserted, was not required in the Americas because there was so much land. He indicated that Europe should now look to the New World for instruction in international law, including neutrality provisions. In contradistinction to his earlier stance, he held up the actions of the United States as a sterling example of impartiality. 21

Curso del presidente en la inauguración del congreso americanos; discano de ciencias sociales en Tucumán el 6 de julio de 1916 (Buenos Aires: Imprenta de Coni hermanos, 1916). This work may also be found in Por la paz de las americas (Buenos Aires: Compañía Impresora Argentina, 1937), pp.

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It is clear that Saavedra Lamas had great faith in international law and believed Argentina should lead in its development and implementation. He chided his fellow deputies when he adjudged their efforts below par and, wherever possible, refused to allow concepts of other countries to predominate. When the whole concept of international law was shaken by World War I, he declared the problem to be one of European hypocrisy. He then willingly embraced the Americas and in terms reminiscent of the Monroe Doctrine sang the praises of the New World. Although at this juncture he lauded the United States, he was not pro-American. Nor pro-European. He was pro-Argentine.

Education

The deep concern of Saavedra Lamas with education manifested itself early and he never lost interest in the subject. In 1912, while a member of the House of Deputies, he wrote an article, "Los estudios intensivos en la universidad de Buenos Aires," detailing his views on higher education. The present system of schooling in Argentina, according to Saavedra Lamas, should be abolished. It should not, however, duplicate the superior German system with its scientific orientation. Rather, the scientific orientation

^{21-40.} Another reason Saavedra Lamas gave as a cause of war was overpopulation. Predictably, he suggested emmigration as the answer.

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23_C the auth of the German system should be adopted to Argentine reality. With a new system, which he believed would continue to change due to the laws of evolution, the <u>Facultades</u> could make progress in science. This, he believed, was their duty. Scholars would come together, pool their knowledge and through joint work, move closer to perfection. He made it very clear that a large library was a prerequisite to success.

.Classes at such an institution could not consist,
Saavedra Lamas indicated, as they had previously, of students
listening to dogmatic statements. Instead study would be
intensive with heavy student involvement on a narrow issue.
Monographs, rather than textbooks, would be used and investigative techniques would be taught. Finally, he suggested there should be considerable interchange between
student and teacher.²²

In August, 1915, Saavedra Lamas had an opportunity to attempt to put his programs into action when he became Minister of Justice and Public Instruction. He produced a plan which detailed the requirements for each type of degree. ²³ The proposal, however, met with no success.

²²Carlos Saavedra Lamas, "Los estudios intensivos en la universidad de Buenos Aires," <u>Atlantida</u>, V (July, 1912), pp. 374-384.

 $^{^{23}}$ Official diagram of the program in the possession of the author.

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Saavedra Lamas' appointment was merely intended to pay old debts; he was not supposed to do anything. Also the fact that he was part of a caretaker government, which it was believed would be shortly supplanted by a new regime with a different political orientation, made his failure to achieve anything understandable.²⁴

Saavedra Lamas, however, maintained his interest in the Argentine educational structure. In a speech delivered in 1919, he stated categorically that public instruction in Argentina was incompetent. The problem was that primary education did not correlate with secondary education or secondary with superior. What was needed was vocational education. Saavedra Lamas pointed out that the Argentine economy was based upon beef and had little industry. It was, therefore, folly, as he saw it, to give people in the interior general education when technical education would be more useful.²⁵

In 1925, he returned to the problem of higher education in a short work entitled, <u>La crisis universitaria y la formación de hombres de gobierno</u>. Saavedra Lamas again

²⁴Interview with Señora Silvia Saavedra Lamas de Pueyrredón, Buenos Aires, September, 12, 1972. Señora Pueyrredón stated "political considerations" caused the plan to fail.

²⁵Saavedra Lamas, <u>La personalidad universitaria</u>.

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26 C formació chastized the higher educational system of Argentina. He was particularly upset about the independence of each Facultad, which stifled the flow of ideas from one area to another. The remedy, according to Saavedra Lamas, was the "Saxon" system in which interchange of students was possible between the various departments of the University. Since the "Saxon" system would take time to put into practice, Saavedra Lamas proposed that special courses be temporarily instituted. These courses would deal with current problems in Argentine society and draw from all the Facultades, thereby increasing the movement of ideas in the universities and also training the leaders required by Argentina. 26

In his discussion of education, Saavedra Lamas clearly demonstrated his positivist orientation. Particularly in Argentina, scientific education was an integral part of the philosophy. With his scientific orientation and perception of long term evolutionary development, Saavedra Lamas was a leader in the development of Argentine education.

The Voting Franchise

In 1905 in his professional dissertation, Saavedra Lamas first dealt with the question of extending the franchise.

²⁶ Carlos Saavedra Lamas, <u>La crisis universitaria y la formación de hombres de gobierno</u> (Buenos Aires: Jacobo Peuser, Ltd., 1925).

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Although he supported the enfranchisement of a larger segment of the citizenry, his stance was considerably less open than it would be seven years later. Perhaps he was concerned that he would be labeled radical and fail to obtain acceptance of his dissertation. He began his discussion of voting by noting that Argentina suffered from fradulent elections, but mitigated his response by charging that the nations of the western world also faced this problem. He concluded that such practices were insusceptible of extirpation, but his chief concern was that they might become the accepted norm. Regarding Argentina specifically, he indicated the major source of abuse lay in the immigrant population.

The solution, Saavedra Lamas believed, was to be found in careful study, based on the new social science discipline. Acknowledging that free elections were dangerous, he posited the need for a plan which protected minority rights (i.e., the oligarchy) but still broadened the franchise. He pointed out that votes were only counted, not weighted, and opined that they should be apportioned on the amount people contributed. Monetary wealth, he concluded, however, was not an accurate guage. Instead, he proposed the undefined criteria of efficacy and utility. His indistinct standards led to a vague final plan calling for open elections of an intermediate body which would then choose

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The luxury of being indefinite was lost by Saavedra
Lamas when in 1910 President Roque Saenz Peña proposed full
male sufferage. Perhaps more than at any other time he
demonstrated his positivist nature by supporting the proposition. The oligarchy knew when Saenz Peña was elected
that electoral reform would follow, but recalcitrant elements of the Congress still bitterly opposed it, particularly when the mass based liberal parties did extremely well
in provincial elections. It was this situation that led
Saavedra Lamas in 1912 to deliver a detailed defense of the
voting law.

Saavedra Lamas began his justification of the law before Congress by proclaiming it was a step in the natural evolution of society. Moreover, he pointed out that to oppose this act would be to oppose the positivist tenets of Auguste Comte. Failure to hold universal elections, he concluded, would be a disaster for the growth of Argentina. The law being proposed, he asserted, would bring Argentina to the level of European development and remove it from the lower levels of some (unnamed) Latin American nations. But even if it were a step in the right direction, it was only a step, an experiment, and it too would be eventually superseded as part of the natural development of society.

²⁷ Saavedra Lamas, <u>Sistema municipal</u>.

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On a more practical note, he indicated that a victory for the opposition parties would not be harmful for Argentina. It would demonstrate, he observed, even to the remotest areas, that the Argentine government could be clean. It would also stimulate the democratic, orderly impulses of the population and prevent uprisings. His conclusion was that his fellow delegates should not worry, because once the opposition controlled the government, reality would dictate a moderation of views. 28

As a member of the Argentine oligarchy, Saavedra Lamas obviously desired that it continue as a powerful and stable organization. His education, however, had brought him into contact with the doctrines of Comte and Herbert Spencer, who emphasized the orderly progression of society. For Saavedra Lamas, the ideas of these philosophers pointed the way for reform in Argentina. The success of the United States and the military and economic power of Europe were the examples of the kind of achievement he desired for Argentina. His problem was how to achieve the status and liberalism of the developed nations which universal sufferage would bring, while insuring that his own and his family's position were not significantly altered. In voting for a wider franchise, it is evident that Saavedra Lamas did not expect a radical change in Argentina or in his status, but

²⁸ Saavedra Lamas, <u>Problemas</u> <u>de gobierno</u>, pp. 690-710.

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In the 1916 presidential election, the first since the passage of the Sáenz Peña election law, Hipólito Yrigoyen of the <u>Unión Civica Radical</u> (UCR) party was chosen president. The policies he followed were not approved of by Saavedra Lamas, although his writings contain no direct reference to Yrigoyen. Yrigoyen's successor, Marcelo T. Alvear, was comparatively more palatable to Saavedra Lamas because, despite his membership in the <u>UCR</u>, he was a wealthy landed aristocrat. Saavedra Lamas, however, was vexed in 1928 when Yirgoyen again assumed the presidency, and his disdain increased when due to advanced age (seventy-six) Yrigoyen proved incapable of controlling his administration at a time of economic depression in Argentina.

In September, 1930, General José F. Uriburu overthrew the Yrigoyen government. Uriburu's goal was to establish order, particularly in the field of finance and in the trouble ridden universities. He also proposed an "institutional reorganization of the Republic by means of reforming the constitution so it could defend the country in the future [against] personalism, centralism, the oligarchy and demagoguery." Uriburu was, in essence, proposing a general restructuring of the Argentine political system.

²⁹Saavedra Lamas' view of these two men came in an interview with Señora Silvia Saavedra Lamas de Pueyrredón in Buenos Aires, September 12, 1972.

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The <u>Uriburistas</u> wanted to turn the country into a corporatist state where a national elite would be in charge.

There would be no political parties such as had traditionally existed in Argentina; personal liberties would take second place to the interests of the state. Saavedra Lamas was in general sympathy with Uriburu's intentions, but he opposed his methods (i.e., long term military control). 30

In order to legitimize and strengthen his government, Uriburu allowed a series of local elections. He assumed that the <u>UCR</u> would not be able to reorganize itself quickly enough to successfully oppose him. This miscalculation proved to be Uriburu's undoing because the <u>UCR</u> won the elections, thus discrediting his government. This development, coupled with ill health, persuaded Uriburu to step down and call a presidential election for November 1931.

P. Justo, who although a soldier, wished to maintain the basic structure of traditional Argentine government.

However, since he needed more than just the army, a coalition of political parties called the Concordancia was set up. It included members of the Conservative, Independent, Socialist, and Antipersonalist parties. Under the latter party, Justo had been the minister of war. The Radical

³⁰ Ibid.

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Party "chose" not to run a candidate, so opposition fell to a coalition of the Progressive Democrats and Socialists. Their ticket was composed of Lisandro de la Torre and Nicholás Repetto. The 1931 election was not a sterling example of the democratic process; it was in fact marked by illegality and corruption. Because the army was still in control of many important cabinet posts in the outgoing Uriburu administration, Justo's election was assured. 31

Justo and most of his cabinet were from the wealthy oligarchical families which had controlled Argentina from 1862-1916. As José Luís de Imaz put it, "one simply belonged in government by right of ascription." Consequently, as a member of a well established family, both politically and financially, Saavedra Lamas was by definition eligible for a position. He had demonstrated skill in Congress and was well known as an eloquent speaker. Moreover, he liked and disliked the proper people. According to Dr. Pablo Santos Muñoz, a foreign office employee who eventually

The discussion of Argentine events to 1932 is taken chiefly from the following work, except where otherwise noted: Alberto Ciria, Partidos y poder en la Argentina moderna (1930-1946) (Buenos Aires, 1968); Carlos Pérez, ed., La década infame (Buenos Aires, 1969); Marvin Goldwert, Democracy, Militarism, and Nationalism in Argentina, 1930-1966; An Interpretation (Austin, Texas, 1972); Robert A. Potash, The Army and Politics in Argentina, 1928-1945 (Stanford, California, 1969); Jorge Abelardo Ramos, El sexto dominio (Buenos Aires, 1972); James R. Scobie, Argentina, A City and a Nation (New York, 1964), and Arthur P. Whitaker, Argentina (Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, 1964).

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became Saavedra Lamas' assistant, the staff of the foreign office was not the least bit surprised when he was appointed Foreign Minister. Perhaps Saavedra Lamas' sister provided the clearest answer to the question, why was your brother chosen? The reply (complete with shocked look on her face), was "Why not?"

There were, however, others about which the same rhetorical question could be asked. Unfortunately no source supplies the details surrounding Saavedra Lamas' assumption of office. One point, however, is clear, family connections played a significant part. The Saavedra Lamas family was allied through marriage to the Pueyrredóns. 32 It is significant to note, therefore, that Honorio Pueyrredón had resigned as Foreign Minister a scant four years earlier. What effect this alliance had is impossible to determine, but it should not be discounted.

In retrospect, is is probable that in 1916 Saavedra
Lamas believed he would be returning relatively quickly to
an appointive or even elective position. Argentina would
realize that he was the best qualified man available for
virtually every post. The Radical Party, however, had
continued in office. Consequently, when a chance came for
Saavedra Lamas to obtain a prominent position even though
the regime had entered through election fraud, he accepted

 $^{^{32}\}mathrm{Saavedra\ Lamas'}$ sister married Carlos Pueyrredón, brother of Honorio Pueyrredón.

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it. In fact, he became a leading exponent in the Justo cabinet of fixing elections. 33 There were also other reasons why Saavedra Lamas accepted the position. Although not as evident in his first fifty-three years as it would be later, Saavedra Lamas suffered from a great vanity and an almost all-consuming drive for personal fame. He also had the pressure of the family name. Finally, Saavedra Lamas must have realized that at his age there would probably be no other opportunities to hold a high government position.

³³ Interview with Miguel Angel Carcano in Buenos Aires, September 8, 1972. Carcano was Minister of Agriculture in the last half of the Justo regime.

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CHAPTER 2

THE DECLARATIONS OF AUGUST

Saavedra Lamas Takes Office

When Saavedra Lamas walked into the Anchorena Palace (the Foreign Ministry) for the first time as the Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto (Minister of Foreign Relations and Worship) he had the benefit (or curse) of a set of well established goals and patterns for Argentine foreign policy. His predecessors had perceived of Argentina leading a Latin American coalition in counterpoise to both the United States and the Western European nations.

Saavedra Lamas continued this orientation throughout his tenure as Foreign Minister.

Besides the aforementioned goal, Saavedra Lamas had a desire to gain personal fame in Argentina and the world. Except near the end of his tenure, he was able to enjoy the fact that there was no animosity between the aims of Argentina and the aims of himself. While it is true that Saavedra Lamas had an incredible vanity, his drive for publicity was also motivated by other considerations. According to Miguel Angel Cárcano, in the first years of

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Justo's administration, Saavedra Lamas was a leading contender to succeed the General as president of the Republic.

The realization that he would have to gain some notoriety among the bourgeois element might account for some of the obsessive headline hunting. Some of his vanity may also have had its basis in his compulsive drive to succeed. In any case, Saavedra Lamas pushed too hard, because in late 1935, Justo became upset when it appeared his Foreign Minister was overshadowing him and not producing any progress in important matters.

The Chancellor's subsequent fall from grace did not deter him. He still chased headlines and attempted to make friends with elements of the Socialist Party in order to gain support for the Presidency; he failed because in the opinion of Cárcano he was "too conservative and a bad politician."

As the new Foreign Minister, one of Saavedra Lamas' initial tasks was to secure a staff. The first man he chose was Daniel Antekoletz, an expert in international law. Antekoletz's principal function was to supply his Foreign Minister with the historical and legal justification to back

¹Interview with Miguel Angel Cárcano, Buenos Aires, August 31, 1972.

²<u>Ibid.</u>, and interview with Miguel Angel Cárcano, Buenos Aires, October 13, 1972. Cárcano was referring to the Chaco Peace talks to be discussed later in this study.

³Interview with Miguel Angel Cárcano, Buenos Aires, October 13, 1972.

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up the policies Saavedra Lamas chose to follow. For example, the Anti-War Pact, to be discussed later, was virtually authored in its entirety by Antekoletz. Another of his aides, Alejandro Bunge saw to the publication of material concerning foreign office activities for which Saavedra Lamas received the credit. He wrote, for example, La conferencia interamericana de consolidación de la paz. Luís A. Podestá Costa acted as the Foreign Minister's "man Friday." He was entrusted with the important meetings and functions the Chancellor could not attend himself. In the later part of Saavedra Lamas' tenure, Dr. Pablo Santo Muñoz also became an important member of his coterie, principally as a backup man for Podestá Costa.

Although these people were important, Saavedra Lamas tightly controlled the direction and policy of the Foreign Ministry. Antekoletz might find the legal precedent, and Podestá Costa might ennunciate the Argentine position, but one could be assured that little transpired without Saavedra Lamas' prior agreement. Even Justo had little to do with

⁴Interview with Miguel Angel Cárcano, Buenos Aires, August 31, 1972.

⁵ (Buenos Aires, 1938.) This work was published twice. The first listed no author other than the Argentine Foreign Ministry. The second edition cited here was published by L. J. Rosso and proudly proclaims Saavedra Lamas as the author.

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the machinations of the foreign office. Cárcano observed that the President "gave him a free hand. No pressure was ever on him and no one influenced him." Santos Muñoz went further, stating: "Carlos Saavedra Lamas would not allow any interference, even from Justo, and was very strong, actually making all his own decisions." Edward Tomás Pardo, the head of the Argentine Foreign Service Institute, summed up the impressions others had given him of Saavedra Lamas: "He was a strongman who formed opinions himself and carried them out himself—no one was allowed to interfere."

Apparently Saavedra Lamas relished his independence, because he seldom reported what he was doing. Conceivably even when Saavedra Lamas did report, there were few who cared to challenge him. If nothing else, he was a consonant debater. Carcano used the term "fantastic" to describe his ability in this area. Because of his great facility with

⁶Interview with Miguel Angel Cárcano, Buenos Aires, August 31, 1972.

⁷ Interview with Pablo Santos Muñoz, Buenos Aires, August 31, 1972.

⁸Interview with Ambassador Eduardo Tomás Pardo, Buenos Aires, August 25, 1972. The only direct recollection of Saavedra Lamas that Ambassador Pardo has is the Foreign Minister playing "trains" with him when he was seven.

⁹Interview with Miguel Angel Cárcano, Buenos Aires, August 31, 1972.

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the spoken word, he captivated the press. He personally, and his policies, always enjoyed favorable treatment. 10

In his duties as Foreign Minister, Saavedra Lamas demonstrated the same dedication and hard work that marked his earlier endeavors. He often worked late into the night and arose early in the morning, taking only four or five hours of sleep. This practice created havoc with his staff who were often summoned to work in the middle of the night. Saavedra Lamas did have a watch which he constantly consulted, but the watch had been broken for years and did not even have hands. 11

The conduct of the office under Saavedra Lamas was characteristically very formal. Felipe Jiménez de Asua, Chargé d'Affaires for the Spanish embassy in Buenos Aires from 1936 to 1938, stated that Saavedra Lamas never relaxed, "he never forgot he was Chancellor." He noted that Saavedra Lamas, with his high starched collar, old fashioned clothing and stiff demeanor was like a figure out of the nineteenth century. At the weekly meetings with the diplomatic corps, the officials accredited to Argentina had to

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Interview with Ambassador Eduardo Tomás Pardo, Buenos Aires, August 31, 1972.

¹² Interview with Dr. Felipe Jiménez de Asua, Buenos Aires, October 4, 1972. Dr. Jiménez de Asua was Chargé d'Affaires of the Spanish government accredited to Argentina in 1936-1968.

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be careful because Saavedra Lamas was highly sensitive and easily offended. 13 At these conferences, only the Chancellor talked, everyone else listened, and questions could only be interjected while he was lighting a cigarette.

Jiménez de Asua commented, rather sardonically, that luckily the Chancellor was a chain smoker. 14

The Chaco Dispute

As Chancellor, Saavedra Lamas' first opportunity for decisive action concerned the ever worsening situation in the Chaco which had become an explosive issue between Bolivia and Paraguay. The Chaco is a pie shaped piece of land of approximately 115,000 square miles. It is bordered on the south and west by the Pilcomayo River and on the east by the Paraguay River. The northwestern boundary extends up to the Parapeti River in Bolivia. The land can be roughly divided into three regions. In the north is a tropical forest covered with quebracho trees which are very useful in the production of tannin used in the tanning industry. Further south, the forest gives way to a generally grassy plain interspersed with jungle. Finally, along the Pilcomayo, is a swampy area from sixty to one hundred and twenty miles wide. This region is subject to

^{13&}lt;sub>Ibid</sub>.

¹⁴ Ibid.

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Since the area has no precious metals, indigenous labor, or rich agricultural land, the Spanish never clearly delineated which colonial administrative unit governed the area. The same was true of the newly established nations of the revolutionary era. The question of who owned the Chaco first came up during the War of the Triple Alliance (1864-1870). At that time the conflict centered on an Argentine claim to the area around Villa Occidental (present-day Villa Hayes). President Rutherford B. Hayes arbitrated and decided in favor of Paraguay. This award would subsequently be a very important talking point for Paraguay in tense negotiations between 1927 and 1933.

With the Hayes decision, the Chaco appeared safe from Argentine encroachment, but the Bolivians began to move in from the north. Three attempts were made to arrive at a boundary between Bolivia and Paraguay: the Quijarro-Decoud Treaty of 1879; the Tamayo-Hicual Treaty of 1887; and the Benitez-Ichazo Treaty of 1894. They all failed, however, due to technicalities, rather than substantive disagreements. At this juncture, Argentina had stepped in and under the tutelage of her Foreign Minister, Estanislao Zeballos, produced the Pinilla-Soler Protocol (1907). The accord

¹⁵ Ronald S. Main, "Behind the Chaco War," Current History, 42, No. 5 (August, 1935), 468-469.

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called for the disputed area to be divided into three sections, the center one to be arbitrated by the President of Argentina. Even if Paraguay lost all of the land to be arbitrated, she would have gained more than any of the other treaties had granted her. Moreover, Bolivia would not be assured of an opening to the Paraguay River, which she desperately wanted in order to send her products to the Atlantic. Predictably enough, Paraguay ratified and Bolivia procrastinated. A subsequent rupture of diplomatic relations with Argentina destroyed any hope that the pact would be accepted by La Paz. The Argentine actions in 1906-1907 demonstrated an obvious partiality to her Paraguayan neighbor. Thirty years later this bias would still exist.

Mujía Protocol of 1913 called for both nations to maintain the status quo in the Chaco while working towards a final settlement. Failing an agreement in two years, the whole question would then be arbitrated by an unspecified party. No definite accord was reached by 1915, but the disputants did agree to extend the deadline for one more year. They did so again in 1916, 1917, and 1918. 1919 marked the end of the official policy of talk without result and a shift to the policy of no talk at all. The position of the governments and peoples of the two countries was hardening. 16

¹⁶ For the story of the early attempts at settlement, see Leslie B. Rout, Jr., Politics of the Chaco Peace

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Both now began to construct a series of <u>fortins</u> (small outposts) and to purchase arms.

Compromise became a less palatable alternative after 1920 with the discovery of oil in the Camiri region of southeastern Bolivia. It was assumed that petroleum also existed in the Chaco, and Bolivia dreamed of great wealth. To market the oil, however, Bolivia believed she had to have a port on the Paraguay River, but to attain that port would require negotiations with Paraguay which would assert her rights in the Chaco. Since Bolivia had no desire to share her unproven wealth, a resort to arms became virtually inevitable.

It was not long before a major incident between the hostile forces took place. 17 A 1927 incident brought another mediation from Argentina, but this failed due to general intransigence on the part of both principals. After this diplomatic failure, more serious fighting broke out. On December 5, 1928, the Paraguayans attacked Fortin Vanguardia

Conference, 1935-1939 (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1971), pp. 9-14. A more comprehensive discussion of events, including copies of the various treaties, can be found in Argentina, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto, La política argentina en la guerra del Chaco, I, pp. 1-115.

¹⁷ David H. Zook, Jr. The Conduct of the Chaco War (New Haven, Conn.: Bookman Associates, 1960), p. 43. On February 25, 1927 a small Paraguayan scouting party led by Second Lieutenant Rojas Silva was captured by the Bolivians when it ventured too close to Fortín Sorpresa. Silva was shot when he tried to escape.

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and the Bolivians responded with an attack on Fortín
Boquerón nine days later. 18 At the time of this incident,
the International Conference of American States on Conciliation and Arbitration was meeting in Washington. In fact,
there can be little doubt that the timing of the attack was
no coincidence. Paraguay was anxious to avoid war and
wanted the intervention of other countries. Paraguay received what it desired when, on December 17, the body
offered its good offices to the quasi-belligerents.
Paraguay accepted immediately, but Bolivia demurred.
Consequently, it was not until January, 1929, that the
Washington Conference took charge. Its duty, according to
the Protocol, was to identify the aggressor in the Boquerón
and Vanguardia incidents while the disputants maintained a
cease fire.

The Commission of Investigation and Conciliation 19 set up by the Washington Conference was originally to include Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, Uruguay and the United States.

¹⁸As a result of these two attacks, passions in both countries reached high limits. Bolivia was particularly filled with war sentiment, replete with crowds screaming, "We want war." Ibid., p. 50.

For the significant documents and correspondence relating to the "Commission," see United States, Department of State, Report of the Chairman Commission of Inquiry and Conciliation, Bolivia and Paraguay (Washington: United States Government Printing Office, 1929).

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Both Argentina and Brazil, however, declined the offer. Argentina's stated reason for refusal was that she had tendered good offices earlier with no success, and that Argentina's mission had terminated. 20 Two other factors, however, might have played key roles in this decision. First, Argentina did not wish to place herself in a position where her prestige was dependent upon the success of a group dominated by the United States; she would have much to lose and nothing to gain. Secondly, in a situation as fluid as the Chaco dispute, Argentina could exert more influence outside the strictures of a multi-lateral group. When the Commission membership was finally agreed upon it consisted of Colombia, Cuba, Mexico, Uruguay and the United States. Considering subsequent developments, it is significant that none of the countries bordering upon the contending nations were on the Commission.

From August, 1929, until its authorization expired six months later, the Commission met with no success. Its replacement, the Committee of Neutrals, did no better.

United States, Department of State, Papers Relating
to the Foreign Relations of the United States (Washington,
D.C.: United States Government Pringing Office, 1934),
I, 829-830. The proposal by Argentina had been rejected by
Bolivia, see, U. S. Dept. of State, Foreign Relations, 1928,
I, p. 684. Subsequently Irigoyen commented that Argentina
had turned down the offer to "avoid being placed in the position of seeking to accomplish by circutous means what he
had failed to do by direct offer, "U. S. Dept. of State,
Foreign Relations, 1929, I, p. 684.

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The contentious nations were simply not interested in compromise. Adding to the trouble of both mediating bodies from 1929-31 was the policy of Argentina. On two occasions she disrupted the talks, by attempting to wrest the mediation effort from the United States' dominated groups and bring them to Buenos Aires. ²¹

Saavedra Lamas when he took office also attempted to obtain control of the negotiations. Consequently, shortly after taking office on February 20, 1932 he began a series of diplomatic manuevers aimed at bringing the negotiations to the Argentine capital. His plan was to begin discussions looking toward the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between the quasi-belligerents. If he was successful, Argentine mediation of the dispute would follow in Buenos Aires. The plan was first proposed to the Paraguayan Minister to Argentina, Vicente Rivarola, on March 16, 1932. At that time, Saavedra Lamas said that joint intervention, referring to action with the Committee of Neutrals, was too difficult. Saavedra Lamas told Rivarola that he had to talk with the Bolivian Foreign Minister, José María Zalles, and

²¹For a discussion of the activities of the Committee of Neutrals prior to the time Saavedra Lamas took office, see Rout, Politics, 28-36.

²² Argentina, Min. de Rel. Ext., La política argentina, I, 261-262.

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that any success the proposal might have was based on the decision of the President of Bolivia, Daniel Salamanca. He went on to describe Salamanca as "coarse, diffident, and disagreeable" in an attempt to show Paraguay where his bias lay. Saavedra Laman must have known, nevertheless, that there was little chance that this gambit would succeed. If it did, however, he would be deemed a genius, and if it did not, he would lose nothing. In the end, his strategy failed and his proposal was not even accepted by Paraguay.

Notwithstanding this rejection, Paraguay was closely tied to Argentina, as demonstrated by Saavedra Lamas' undiplomatic statements concerning Salamanca. This relationship was historical in nature and based upon propinquity and economics. Paraguay was up the Paraguay River from Buenos Aires, so contact between the two peoples was constant. Also, the bulk of Paraguay's trade came through Argentina, creating strong economic ties. These were strengthened further by direct Argentine investments in Paraguay, particularly in the Chaco region. The wealthy

²³Vicente Rivarola, <u>Memorias diplomáticas</u> (Buenos Aires: Editorial Ayacucho, 1952-1957), II, pp. 87-88. The words used were "tosco, huraño y reconcentrado."

²⁴U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 724.3415/1758, Wheeler (Asunción) to Dept. of State, April 17, 1932.

^{25 &}lt;u>Ibid.</u>, Decimal File 710G/ll8, Bliss (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, Jan. 1, 1933.

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Argentine businessman Carlos Casado, for example, had major holdings in the Chaco, including the entire town of Puerto Casado.

Bolivia, on the other hand, had a virtual adversary relationship with Argentina. Because of geographical features western Bolivia which bordered on Argentina was oriented more toward Buenos Aires than La Paz. There was constant fear that the people in western Bolivia might join with Argentina. As a result, relations between the two countries were poor.

That Saavedra Lamas was decidedly prejudiced toward

Paraguay can be seen in a conversation he had with Rivarola
on April 14, 1932. The Argentine Chancellor, at that time,
maintained that if war came, Argentina would be neutral.

He further explained, however, that Argentina had a bias
for Paraguay, but that it "cannot be revealed for obvious
reasons." Saavedra Lamas' comment was accepted at face
value because in his report Rivarola commented that Saavedra
Lamas would work hard for Paraguay.

The bias of Argentina resulted in significant unneutral acts. On July 22, 1932 a meeting was held between Saavedra Lamas, Colonel Rodríquez, a Captain Casal of the Argentina army and Vicente Rivarola. Rivarola asked to buy weapons and ammunition. Saavedra Lamas stated that such an act would be unneutral, and left the meeting. He obviously knew what was coming next, and wanted to be able to say truthfully

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that to his knowledge, his country was not supplying arms to Paraguay. Colonel Rodríguez remained quiet, leaving the negotiations to the expendable Captain Casal. The Captain asked Rivarola for his shopping list and said that he would telephone him. A short time later he did, and announced that Argentina would fill Paraguay's order. ²⁶

Rivarola expressed no animosity in his memoirs about Saavedra Lamas' abrupt departure from the meeting. He obviously understood the Chancellor's position. In fact, Rivarola described Saavedra Lamas as a man of clear intelligence and a great capacity to work. He believed that he should have received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1936. Rivarola even observed that when Saavedra Lamas opposed Paraguay, it was because of his "profound juridical convictions." He did, however, mitigate his view commenting that

he [Saavedra Lamas] acted sometimes as if he were the only person who could inspire and dictate solutions, as if he were the only one called to make peace in order to get a diplomatic triumph for his country and above all for a personal success.

He went on to say that Saavedra Lamas was "strong and sure sometimes, fickle and unsure at other times in his decisions and words." Rivarola's conclusion was that he would never understand Saavedra Lamas.²⁷

 $^{^{26}{\}rm These}$ events are described in Rivarola, Memorias diplomáticas, II, 163-164.

²⁷Ibid., 83-85.

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The ABCP Coalition

On April 5, 1932, Saavedra Lamas attempted to once again grab the initiative from the Committee of Neutrals. He tried to organize the countries bordering upon the quasibelligerents, Argentine, Brazil, Chile, and Peru (ABCP) in order to present a proposal. Two days later, the Argentine Ambassador to the United States, Felipe Espil, was asked about the possibility of collaboration with the Committee of Neutrals. Espil replied that he thought "any joint action would be very difficult to bring about."28 That Saavedra Lamas desired to avoid Washington and keep his options open was also evidenced in his conversations with the Presidentelect of Paraguay, Eusebio Avala. The Argentine Chancellor announced it inappropriate for Argentina to associate herself in a secondary capacity in any collective movement. He affirmed he would take part in collective action only if he could do so on his own terms and at the moment he considered favorable. 29

Despite these assurances, on April 12, 1932, Saavedra

Lamas did indicate a willingness to cooperate with the

Washington based group. The shift resulted from fear he
would not be able to organize the limitrophe countries at

 $^{^{28}\}rm{U}$. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 724.3415/1723, 5/14 Conversation, White and Espil, April 7, 1932.

 $[\]frac{29}{\text{Lbid.}}$, Decimal File 724.3415/1740 Wheeler (Asunción) to Dept. of State, April 10, 1932.

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all without some sort of alliance with the Committee of Neutrals. Brazil had shown reluctance to join with Argentina, preferring to stay close to the United States. 30 Also, news had arrived that Chile was aligning herself with Bolivia, which had indicated she would "deeply regret" the intervention of the ABCP nations, 31 probably fearing the group would be dominated by Argentina.

Consequently, in early May, discussions were begun between the ABCP countries and the Committee of Neutrals, looking toward the development of a non-aggression pact between the quasi-belligerents. Saavedra Lamas, however, became upset when he learned that a provision of the non-aggression pact would re-establish diplomatic relations. It is significant that it was Bolivia who first suggested that the renewal of diplomatic relations be taken up by the Committee of Neutrals. Apparently La Paz was trying to undercut Saavedra Lamas. Ironically, Paraguay agreed to put the question on the agenda which suggests that Saavedra Lamas' early proposals had never been taken seriously. On May 11, 1932, Espil was sent to talk to Frances White,

^{30 &}lt;u>Ibid.</u>, Decimal File 724.3415/1689 Culbertson (Santiago) to Dept. of State, April 5, 1932 and Rivarola, Memorias diplomáticas, II, 88-91.

³¹ U. S. Dept. of State, Foreign Relations, 1932, V, 138-139.

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of Neutrals about the Neutrals' apparent encroachment of Saavedra Lamas' turf. As White related in the memorandum concerning this question, it was true that Argentina had made efforts in this direction, but that of late, the question "had been absolutely dormant." White commented cryptically that if Saavedra Lamas could obtain the reestablishment of diplomatic relations, it was fine with him. 32

As the negotiations concerning a non-aggression pact continued in Washington, Paraguay was becoming increasingly upset. She was afraid of the power of Bolivia and desired stronger protection. On June 5th, the outgoing President of Paraguay, José Patricio Guggiari, sent Brazil a proposal that Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro "take possession of the Chaco and impose an arbitration upon Paraguay and Bolivia." Argentina and Brazil, however, were not willing to take such a course without receiving formal requests from both countries. For too many years both countries had opposed intervention to plausibly consider it as an alternative.

Furthermore, they did not trust each other.

³²U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 724.3415/1776, 2/6 Conversation, White and Espil, May 11, 1932.

^{33&}lt;sub>U.S. Dept.</sub> of State, <u>Foreign Relations</u>, 1932, V, 141.

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Paraguay's panic was not unjustified, for heavy fighting broke out in the Chaco on June 15, 1932. On July 7, Paraguay withdrew from the non-aggression pact negotiations. With the Committee of Neutrals temporarially paralyzed, Saavedra Lamas became involved in two mediation efforts. On the 23rd of July, Brazil forwarded a proposal to Saavedra Lamas suggesting "joint action" (acción conjunto) with Argentina to halt the fighting in the Chaco. Saavedra Lamas indicated he was agreeable, but believed the most useful course would be to support continued negotiations under the auspices of the Committee of Neutrals. 34 Brazilian suggestion and Saavedra Lamas' reply were reported a scant two days later by Espil to White in Washington. reason the Argentine Chancellor sidestepped the Brazilian proposal is clear. First, Argentina did not want to be the second for a Brazilian proposal. Secondly, by rejecting Rio de Janeiro's overture for action exclusive of the Washington Committee and then "tattling" on Brazil, she could improve her standing in the eyes of the Committee of Neutrals. 35 The major reason, however, was that Saavedra Lamas had his own ideas.

³⁴ See Argentina, Min. de Rel. Ext., <u>La política argentina</u>, I, 374 and República Argentina, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto, <u>Memoria presentada al honorable congress nacional correspondiente al periodo 1932-1933 (Buenos Aires, 1933), p. 7.</u>

^{35&}lt;sub>U.</sub> S. Dept. of State, <u>Foreign Relations</u>, 1932, V, 144.

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On the 22nd of July, one day before the Brazilian proposal arrived, Chile had suggested joint action by all four limitrophe countries. Saavedra Lamas, ever ready, forwarded almost immediately a draft proposal to the ABCP nations for their opinion. The reaction was generally favorable, although Brazil asked for clarifications.

In Washington, White suggested to Espil that he recommend to Saavedra Lamas the incorporation of the Stimson Doctrine into the Argentine accord. This doctrine, first employed toward Japan, called for the non-recognition of territory acquired by other than peaceful means. White explained such a statement might have more force if it came from a limitrophe nation, adding that the United States was not looking for any credit for the proposal. Espil was reticent about making such a suggestion to Saavedra Lamas, preferring to say the idea had originated in the United States, but White did not like that idea. Finally, it was agreed to tell Saavedra Lamas that the idea "had been discussed informally by certain of the Neutrals." 37 In this mini-conspiracy, left unstated was the certain knowledge of Saavedra Lamas' egoism. By dangling an idea in front of his nose, coupled with the implicit assumption that someone

³⁶ Argentina, Min. de Rel. Ext., La política argentina, I, 376-377.

³⁷ U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 724.3415/1820, 13/15, Memorandum by White, July 26, 1932.

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else might formally suggest it, it was believed Saavedra

Lamas would include the Stimson Doctrine rather than allow
someone else to obtain the glory. It is apparent that both
Espil and White realized Saavedra Lamas would reject any
additions he did not initiate.

The proposal which surfaced in Washington on July 29, generally consisted of platitudes. What made it significant was a clause in article three which stated that the ABCP mations were

offering it [the Committee of Neutrals] the collaboration that may be needed to put into practice the emergency measures that may be considered proper to prevent war between the republics of Bolivia and Paraguay. 38

Also, since it did not contain the Stimson Doctrine,
White telephoned his ambassador to ask him to speak personally to Saavedra Lamas regarding the Doctrine. United States
Ambassador to Argentina, Robert Bliss called back shortly
thereafter, saying that a reply to White's idea was in
Espil's new instructions and that although Chile and Peru
had agreed to sign the Argentine letter, Brazil had not yet
responded.

It is probable that White must have despaired over the possibility of including the Stimson Doctrine in a proposal

³⁸An English translation is available in U. S. Dept. of State, <u>Foreign Relations</u>, 1932, V, pp. 152-152, or see the Spanish text in Argentina, Min. de Rel. Ext., <u>La política argentina</u>, 376-377.

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to the belligerents. As such, he must have been pleasantly surprised when Espil said that the Argentine government now looked with favor upon a non-recognition of land taken in conquest statement. Espil, however, went on to say Argentina was still unwilling to suggest the Doctrine without prior knowledge of acceptance by the other limitrophe nations. Such a move, unsupported by others, would put Argentina in a very difficult position vis-a-vis the Bolivian government. Bolivia was at this time conducting successful military operations in the Chaco and advancing eastward. Saavedra Lamas did not want Argentina to be the only nation supporting the loser, even if Paraguay was a friend.

On July 30, a meeting was held in Washington between the representatives of the Neutral Nations and the ABCP countries in order to draft a note to the belligerents. Espil told the meeting that his government approved of a statement "setting forth their [nineteen American nations] opposition to war and calling on Bolivia and Paraguay to desist at once from any warlike moves." Everyone at the meeting concurred with Espil and it was agreed that White would draw up a statement over the lunch break. The proposal as it subsequently appeared, however, was entirely new, having little in common with Saavedra Lamas'.

³⁹U. S. Dept. of State, <u>Foreign Relations</u>, 1932, V, 150.

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After some minor changes 40 this document became known as the Declaration of August 3, and was signed by the nineteen American Republics. 41 It was frequently cited by all parties to the dispute when it fitted their needs.

The Declaration of August 3 was a victory for White.

He had led the Americas in a solemn pronouncement against
war and had obtained acceptance of the Stimson Doctrine.

Equally important, by interjecting his proposal at the last
minute, he had seemingly undercut Saavedra Lamas and the

ABCP proposition.

Alas, he had not. Saavedra Lamas took credit for the Declaration, as if it were his own. He stated that

the principle which was the essential part, was maintained in all its force, as an initiative of our own; but we preferred to have its material consecration made jointly by all the countries of America grouped about the Neutral Commission [sic].⁴²

^{40 &}lt;u>Ibid.</u>, 182-183. Chile was afraid that the use of the Stimson Doctrine would put the recent Tacna-Arica settlement in doubt. The protocol was written in such a way as to allay Chile's fears, but Saavedra Lamas would try more than once to secure Chile's release of Bolivia's littoral, an idea favorable to both belligerents.

Al See the English text, U. S. Dept. of State, Foreign Relations, 1932, V, 159-160 or the original Spanish text in Argentina, Min. de Rel. Ext., La política argentina, I, 386-387.

⁴²U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 724.3415/2072 Bliss (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, August 5, 1932. The original Spanish can be found in La Prensa, August 4, 1932 and Argentina, Memoria, 1932-1933, 16-20. See also Decimal File 724.3415/2090, 1/14 Telephone Conversation Bliss (Buenos Aires) and White, August 17, 1932. In Argentina, Min. de Rel. Ext., La política argentina, I, 378-379, 381 published in 1937, White is given credit for the August 3 Declaration with the help of Saavedra Lamas.

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Through interviews with the press he publicized it widely and did nothing to halt the misconceptions which developed. Bliss summarized the situation very well in a letter to White.

Both in editorial comment and in a statement given out by Dr. Saavedra Lamas, the United States has been acclaimed for its "magnanimous" gesture in turning to Argentina and other South American republics to come to the rescue of the Neutral Commission sitting in Washington for a solution.

Bliss went on to note that the Argentines believed the non-recognition clause to be a "transcendental contribution to international relations by Argentina." His conclusion was, however, that Saavedra Lamas' actions had had a positive effect on Argentine-United States relations. The Argentines believed the United States was substituting legal methods for strong arm tactics. When White received the letter of August 16th, he became furious. In the margin of the document he wrote, "Argentina was offered the chance to take the initiative and refused it." On the bottom of the document he also added, "When we succeeded, she jumped in to try to take the credit." What must have angered White most, however, was Saavedra Lamas' statements to the press. Although eloquent, they can best be described as pontificatious.

U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 724.3415/2072 Bliss (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, August 5, 1932.

White could have reasonably believed that the August 3 Declaration precluded further proposals, but Saavedra Lamas had other ideas. He continued with his earlier proposal, minus the provision Brazil opposed regarding "emergency measures." The Declaration of August 6⁴⁴ which was promulgated on that date, destroyed the effectiveness either proposal might have had, were either of them the only one forwarded. The problem was that the August 3 proposal by virtue of the Stimson Doctrine required Bolivia to withdraw to the lines held on June 1. The ABCP plan called for an in-place cease-fire, which Bolivia found reasonable but to which Paraguay violently objected.

On August 8, two days after the publication of the ABCP manifesto, two conversations were held: one was between White and Espil in Washington, the other between Bliss and Saavedra Lamas in Buenos Aires. The tone of the report of the Washington meeting indicated White was quite annoyed with the actions of Saavedra Lamas. The Assistant Secretary of State began by noting that the limitrohpe nations' declaration "would definitely scrap the position taken by the hemisphere on August 3," because it failed to include a withdrawal to the June 1, 1932 line. Espil, in reply, noted that the Bolivian government might fall if that nation were forced to withdraw. White's answer was sharp and to

 $^{^{44}\}text{U. S. Dept. of State, } \underline{\text{Foreign}} \ \underline{\text{Relations}}, \ 1932, \, \text{V,} \\ 165-167.$

the point, "... which was most essential for the good of the continent—to maintain the Doctrine ennunciated on August 3 or to maintain the present individuals composing the Government of Bolivia[?]" White must have become furious when Espil showed him a telegram from Saavedra Lamas saying "that while they [ABCP] wanted to support the Neutral Commission, they [ABCP] would point out that in Argentina, they had all the background for handling this matter." Although unstated, it is obvious that the third "they" in this sentence should have read "Saavedra Lamas." White asked whether Espil was requesting that the Committee of Neutrals step aside, only to be met with a statement that Espil had no instructions on this point. White then asked Espil a critical set of questions:

Who represented the neighboring countries, where their organization was set up, whether they had a definite organization in Buenos Aires such as we have here, and whether in the event, he was to be the liaison between the two[?]

Espil could only respond lamely that he had no instructions on these points. In fact, Espil could answer none of these questions without demonstrating that Saavedra Lamas had not been specifically chosen by anyone and that no formal organization existed. What was important, however, was that these considerations did not seem to bother Saavedra Lamas, who continued to act as if he were in charge of a formal

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In the Buenos Aires conversation of August 8, the description of which was not received until the morning of the 9th, Saavedra Lamas explained to Bliss his position in the Chaco dispute. The Argentine Foreign Minister began by stating, rather incredibly, that the text of the August 6th message would prevent either of the belligerents from playing one side against the other. He went on to note, however, that Argentina's location, close to both belligerents, made it easier for Argentina (read Saavedra Lamas) to understand the situation, a statement very similar to the one Espil made in Washington. Bliss, however, did not ask the type of questions White did. Like Espil, the Chancellor also noted that Bolivia would not accept any proposal calling for withdrawal and therefore he had suggested to the belligerents a one month truce based upon the "status quo de facto." He had advised that the consuls of the neutral nations act as observers and work on an agreement (unspecified) to solve the whole problem. Saavedra Lamas emphasized that his country would not be an arbitrator but would be willing to draw up an arbitration agreement. 46

⁴⁵ U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 724.3415/1920, 2/14 Conversation Espil and White, August 8, 1932.

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Ibid., Decimal File 724.3415/1997 Bliss (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, August 8, 1932.

White, however, was not willing to hand the negotiations to Saavedra Lamas; he began an offensive of his own. On August 9, the Committee of Neutrals sent a strong note to Bolivia asking exactly what her stand was in reference to a cease fire based on positions as of June 1 and whether she would accept arbitration. ⁴⁷ Bolivia, of course, rejected a withdrawal and very candidly stated that the citizenry would not agree to it. ⁴⁸ It must be remembered, however, that Bolivia knew of Saavedra Lamas' cease-fire plan and was therefore even less likely seriously to consider withdrawal.

But what of Paraguay, the silent ally of the Foreign Minister? She was, as could be expected, extremely upset. In a letter from Rivarola to President Ayala, the Paraguayan minister castigated Saavedra Lamas. He stated that the Chancellor was "haughty with his triumph of nineteen American countries [referring to the August 3rd Declaration]" and that now, "in a desire to change the plan of the Washington Neutrals and anxious for a new triumph, wants a truce that costs us." In a subsequent meeting, Saavedra Lamas'

⁴⁷U. S. Dept. of State, Foreign Relations, 1932, V, 63-64.

⁴⁸ Ibid., 65-66.

⁴⁹ Rivarola, <u>Memorias</u> <u>diplomáticas</u>, II, 149.

attempt to calm Rivarola seemed to have failed. The Argentine Chancellor stated that in the last analysis, "he would give the problem back to the Committee of Neutrals."

Rivarola tried to remind Saavedra Lamas of the inconsistencies of his position with that of the August 3 Declaration and reported the results in rather bitter terms:

But Dr. Saavedra Lamas never hears objections, enamored of his words and of his ideas, responding always with a continuation of his discourse as if he could not hear what was said to him. 50

Even considering the stand Bolivia took, Secretary of State Henry Stimson was unwilling to concede defeat for his non-recognition proposal. Taking the lead from White, he sent two bristling letters to the ABCP countries. The first, sent on the 11th of August, talked of the need for communications between the two mediating groups and noted a number of examples where the Committee of Neutrals had made its intentions known to the ABCP nations. Then Stimson indicated that Bolivia was trying to ignore the August 3 Declaration and that "the Neutrals are not fully informed of just what Argentina has done." He continued on, defending the idea that a cease-fire should be in terms of the June 1 positions. It is worth noting that by singling out Argentina for criticism in a letter to all of the limitrophe

⁵⁰Ibid., II, 150.

^{51&}lt;sub>U.</sub> S. Dept. of State, <u>Foreign</u> <u>Relations</u>, 1932, V, 173-175.

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nations, Stimson was conceding to Saavedra Lamas the leadership White had earlier questioned. The second letter, of August 12, was even more cryptic and biting. He stated that it was definitely true that Argentina had suggested a one month truce based upon the status quo and that Paraguay had rejected it. Therefore he asked that the limitrophe countries support his plan and reminded them they had agreed to work with the Neutrals. 52

It is ironic that instead of solving the dispute, the Declarations of August 3 and August 6 produced only discord among the mediating nations. The bulk of the responsibility for this fiasco rests, of course, with Saavedra Lamas, since he promulgated the second proposal. However, in deference to the Argentine Foreign Minister, it must be remembered that White substituted his own proposal for what should have been a re-write of Saavedra Lamas'. It must also be remembered that the Committee of Neutrals had proven itself impotent in its attempts to bring about a settlement. And if Saavedra Lamas was enamoured with the idea of bringing prestige and power to himself and Argentina, Stimson and White were similarly enamoured with their concepts of of international law and the efficacy of the non-recognition doctrine. Although the motivation of the latter may be considered more altruistic, it was equally uncompromising

⁵² Ibid., 175-6.

and deliterious. Much worse, it was unrealistic. It is significant, however, that in the confrontation that developed, Argentina, a nation of considerably less power than the United States, bested the North Americans.

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CHAPTER 3

"UNA CONFUSIÓN GRANDE"

Saavedra Lamas and the League of Nations

With the resounding failure of the August Declarations, suspicion and distrust developed between the limitrophe countries, the Committee of Neutrals and among the ABCP powers themselves. Saavedra Lamas complicated the situation further when Argentina re-joined the League of Nations in September, 1932. He initially indicated he would attempt to bring that body into the negotiations. That the United States looked with deep disfavor upon this possibility can be seen in a note White sent to Hugh Robert Wilson, United States Minister to Switzerland. In it, the Assistant Secretary stated that if Saavedra Lamas "tries to start something" Wilson should tell Sir Eric Drummond, Secretary General of the League, that "the present Minister of Foreign Affairs, Saavedra Lamas ... is hunting publicity for himself." White continued by observing that "every diplomatic officer in Buenos Aires had complained that he [Saavedra Lamas] had double crossed him, misled him, and even directly

lied to him." After this rather uncomplimentary description of the Argentine Foreign Minister's character, White stated that Saavedra Lamas' motive was "to have the League use Argentina as its spokesman in Latin American affairs and to get more kudos for himself." The Assistant Secretary bitterly suggested the Argentine Chancellor would not hesitate to undercut the League, if it meant prestige for himself. So interested was White in keeping Argentina at bay, he supplemented his earlier note to Wilson with evidence that cartridges found upon Paraguayan soldiers were Argentine. 3

¹United States Archives, Record Group 59, Decimal File 724.3415/2322A, White to Wilson (Berne) September 19, 1932. Initially the League had agreed to allow the Committee of Neutrals to act as mediator when the belligerents first brought the problem to the international body. However, as the war increased in intensity, the League members lost patience and on September 20, 1932, created a three member commission to look into the matter. Although Argentina was not a member of the commission, there can be little doubt that Saavedra Lamas was behind the program.

White also chastized Saavedra Lamas for trying to bring the negotiations to Buenos Aires so he could obtain credit and for hiding when things were bad, but associating himself with success.

Ibid. The way to stop Saavedra Lamas, according to White, was through the use of Mexico, Colombia, and Cuba, which were all members of the Committee of Neutrals. Concerning the last member of the Neutrals, Uruguay, the Assistant Secretary indicated suspicion. White seems justified about Uruguay, as that country attempted to obtain the peace conference if any were to be held. See United State, Department of State, Foreign Relations of the United States (Washington, D.C.: United States Government Printing Office, 1942), 1932, Volume V, p. 197.

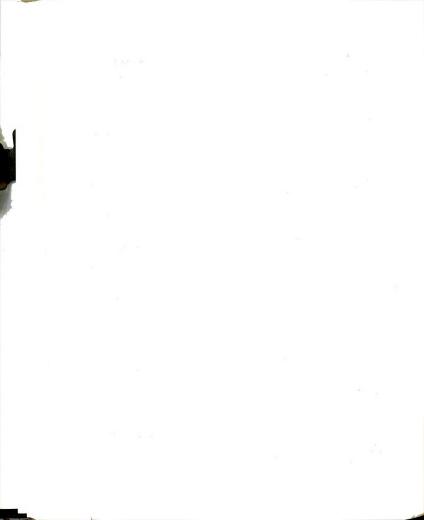
³U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 724.3415/2332B, White to Wilson (Berne) September 20, 1932.



Bliss, in a report to White, also discussed the question of the League and Saavedra Lamas, but without the degree of bitterness the Assistant Secretary had displayed. Bliss believed that the return of Argentina would please the League as a sign of "new support at a time when the League is subject to wide criticism for failure to prevent nostilities." The United States Ambassador also adjudged that Argentina would attempt to make itself the focus for all League activities dealing with Latin America. 4

In reality, both these men were correct, but neither went far enough in their analyses. Bliss should have also observed that League membership, in the absence of formal representation by the United States, would have aided saavedra Lamas in both organizing a Latin American coalicion and bringing Argentina closer to Europe. These had both been goals of Argentina for generations. White was correct when he pointed out that the Argentine Foreign dinister was only using the League for his own ends. What he failed to enunciate was that Saavedra Lamas could obtain the aforementioned benefits without surrendering his precogatives to the multi-national body. The League was willing to allow itself to be used by Saavedra Lamas because

Ibid., Decimal File 724.3415/2415, Bliss (Buenos ires) to Dept. of State, September 30, 1932. Saavedra amas also attempted to persuade Paraguay to have closer elations with the League. Ibid., Decimal File 724.3415/434, 1/2, White to Wilson (Geneva), November 5, 1932.



It is clear from his subsequent actions that Saavedra

the alternative, demonstrating impotence, was unacceptable.

Saavedra Lamas and the Committee of Neutrals

Lamas believed he did not need to use the League, at least at this time. Even while in the process of joining the League, he was attempting to mediate on his own, much to the chagrin of the Neutrals. On the morning of September 3 he called Ambassador Bliss to his office to say he was trying to establish acceptable military guarantees for a cease-fire. He indicated that if he found them, he would send his proposal to the Neutrals. Saavedra Lamas observed that it would be useless to forward proposals to the Neutrals which the belligerents would reject. He also certainly new that what he was doing was not what the Neutrals deired. White was vexed when he heard about these developents and "said it should be made clear to Saavedra [sic] hat in informing Bliss of what he is doing, he is not ooperating with the Neutrals." He also commented that aavedra Lamas' actions had caused a great deal of resentent against Argentina.⁵

The situation is described in two virtually identical emos. See U. S. Dept. of State, Foreign Relations, 1932, 195-6 and U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 724.3415/44, Conversation, Wilson and White, September 3, 1932.

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The squabble between the Neutrals and Saavedra Lamas became considerably more serious in mid-October, 1932.

Saavedra Lamas became upset when the Neutrals suggested to the belligerents that military observers be sent to the Chaco to police a cease-fire. Espil delivered a lengthy letter to the Neutrals pointing out that it was not clear what the military observers would do. When after reviewing a number of precedents, the note stated that Argentina "will not go along with ... any act which, extending beyond the limits of good offices ... might approximate an intervention." The October 18th letter went on to affirm that an action such as the one proposed had to have its basis in a treaty previously signed, which this did not. 7

Regarding this message, Espil subsequently called upon White to say that he had "considerably" altered it from the way it was received from Saavedra Lamas. He stated that major changes had been made in regards to the authorship of the August 3 Declaration, Stimson's position in Manchuria, and the Drago Doctrine. In fact, the Ambassador rewrote a significant portion of the note and toned it down considerably. In the original, Saavedra Lamas had viciously

⁶U. A. Dept. of State, <u>Foreign Relations</u>, 1932, V, 93-94.

⁷U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 724.3415/2502, Espil to White, October 18, 1932.

⁸<u>Ibid.</u>, Decimal File 724.3415/2414, 7/13, Conversation spil and White, October 22, 1932.

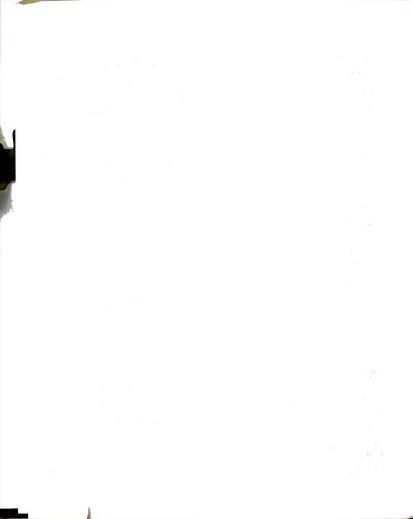
assailed those who questioned the authorship of the August

B Declaration. He stated that the doctrine contained in that Declaration could be found in the Covenant of the League of Nations and that the question of authorship would only be brought up by those "deficiently informed regarding ... the most important doctrines of international law." Saavedra Lamas continued to observe that the Drago Doctrine had been ascribed by some to Great Britain. The important consideration, according to Saavedra Lamas, was not the leavelty of the declaration, but the ability to seize the correct moment to enunciate it. 10

Jbid., Decimal File 724.3415/2576, Bliss (Buenos ires) to Dept. of State, November 18, 1932. Concerning the Drago doctrine, which stated that a nation could not collect debts from other countries through force of arms, aavedra Lamas' exact words were

I repeat, that the same thing happened with the classical announcement of the Drago Doctrine made by the Argentine Foreign Office on December 29, 1902, which was said to reproduce old theories of Lord Palmerston and of the Argentine essayist, Carlos Calvo....

Ibid. The Spanish text of this letter was published a La Política Argentina, I, 424-427. Bliss in his commenary, U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 724.3415/2576 liss (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, November 18, 1932, mmented that this statement sounded like a reply to de Torre. He was referring to a confrontation between the scialist Senator and Saavedra Lamas in the Senate on sptember 12. In his opening statement that gave the histry of the conflict and indicated that the Chaco dispute s subject to rapid settlement. He also stated he had t originated peace proposals out of respect for the Commite of Neutrals. This body, he concluded, should not be rsaken just because problems had developed. After damning th faint praise, the Argentine Foreign Minister went on laud Argentina's (read Saavedra Lamas') part in the



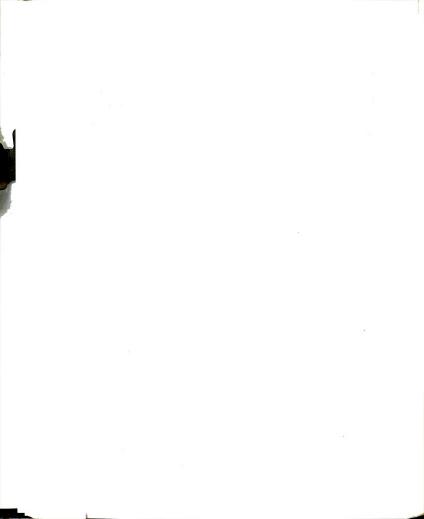
The Committee of Neutrals replied to Saavedra Lamas on November 4, 1932, pointing out that its proposal was not a threat because both sides would have to accept it before it went into force. Also the two parties would know beforehand the consequences if one of them violated the pact. 11 Before this answer became public, United States news reports were indicating it would be an "energetic but conciliatory reply." This annoyed the Argentine newspapers

August 3 Declaration. He did not go unchallenged in this regard. de la Torre alleged that the plan had originated in the United States. He went on to castigate Saavedra Lamas for failure to involve the League of Nations and, ironically, for allowing the United States to dominate the peace efforts through the Neutrals.

Saavedra Lamas did not respond to the charges concerning the United States' dominance of the peace-making

cerning the United States' dominance of the peace-making efforts, but did comment on the assertion that he was not responsible for the August 3 Declaration. He stated that the United States was searching for a country to suggest the doctrine in order to avoid "awakening feelings of distrust." Saavedra Lamas' retreat was not accepted by de la Torre, who continued the attack, citing press reports as evidence. Pressed as he was, the Argentine Chancellor adjudged the whole question insignificant when compared to the fact that two sister Republics were fighting. de la Torre, he charged, was confusing the issue. He pointed out that regardless of what was going on in Geneva and Washington, he often talked with the representatives of Bolivia and Paraguay, "feeling certain that nobody would find it wrong were I fortunate enough to produce some kind of arbitration... " Saavedra Lamas had been placed in a difficult position because he could not admit what he had actually been doing. To do so he would have to affirm that he was undercutting the work of the Committee of Neutrals and more importantly that he had so far been unsuccessful. See Ibid., RG 59, Decimal File 724.3415/2337, Bliss (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, Sept. 14, 1932.

All Ibid., Decimal File 724.3415/2502, Committee of Neutrals to Espil, November 4, 1932.

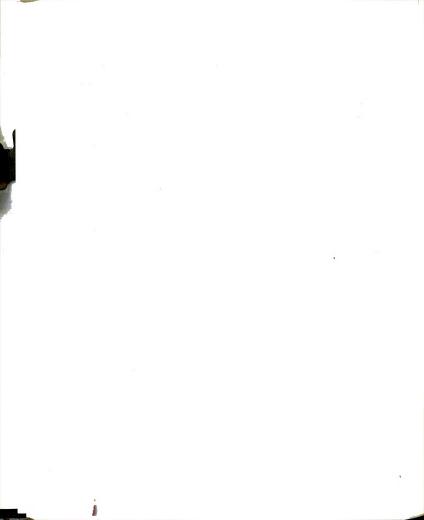


ecause they did not even know what the reply was in reference to. As a result, Saavedra Lamas suffered one of the ew cases of press criticism he ever received. The Argentane Chancellor was lectured in the papers on the necessity informing the press on what was taking place. The journalists even complained to President Justo. 12

Although the subsequent reply sent on November 19 by avedra Lamas was a superior example of circumlocution, ere can be no doubt that it rejected the Neutral's posi-The note insultingly began by observing that the on. ext of the Neutral's letter was unclear. Saayedra Lamas en pointed out that where moral suasion will not work, ercive measures must be used. But any coercive action, e note continued, must have its basis in an established gal instrument of which the August 3 Declaration was not Saavedra Lamas then announced that he was in the e. ocess of circulating an Anti-war Pact (to be discussed ter in this paper) but it had not been accepted as yet. e answer, he contended, was to utilize the Covenant of e League of Nations to which both Bolivia and Paraguay d adherred. Not content with this, he informed the Comttee of Neutrals in the most sarcastic terms that it was potent. 13 No reply was ever sent to Saavedra Lamas.

^{12 &}lt;u>Ibid.</u>, Decimal File 724.3415/2538, Letter Bliss uenos Aires) to Dept. of State, November 9, 1932.

^{13&}lt;sub>U. S. Dept.</sub> of State, <u>Foreign Relations</u>, 1932, V, 3-216.



White realized that to continue the dialogue might provoke Saavedra Lamas even more, a luxury the Committee of Neutrals could not afford.

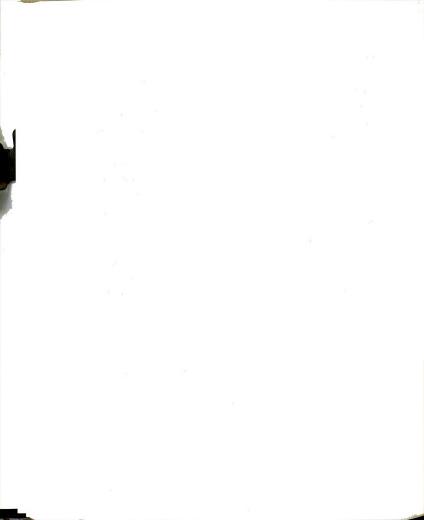
On December 15, 1932, the Committee of Neutrals sent another proposal to the belligerents. 14 Like all the others, it was rejected. This marked the effective end of the Committee of Neutrals which, after four years, had proved itself useless. 15 When the Paraguayans asked why Saavedra Lamas had supported the proposal, the Argentine Foreign Minister stated that he had "accepted [it] without consideration." According to Rivarola, "he [Saavedra Lamas] said with a certain satisfaction that he will attend to the funeral of the Commission of Neutrals [sic]. 16 Left unmentioned was a threat by White that failure to support the December 15 proposal would be reflected in the United States' attitude toward Saavedra Lamas' Anti-War Pact. 17

^{14 &}lt;u>Ibid.</u>, 126-29. The proposal included a cease-fire, beervers, and an arbitration formula.

¹⁵White virtually admitted this when he suggested on January 4, 1933, that the ABCP take unified actions. See Foreign Relations, 1933, IV, 241.

¹⁶ Rivarola, Memorias diplomáticas, II, 261, 275.

¹⁷U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 724.3415/2688, 3/11, Conversation Espil and White, Dec. 22, 1932.



The Mendoza Proposal

With the discrediting of the Committee of Neutrals, the scene was set for Saavedra Lamas to step into the vacuum. Unfortunately for the Argentine Foreign Minister, the new Chilean Foreign Minister, Miguel Cruchaga Torconal had aspirations similar to his own.

Shortly after the apparent demise of the Neutral's proposal of December 15, Saavedra Lamas sent a confidential agent, Dr. Isidoro Ruíz Moreno to Paraguay to ascertain what Asunción would consider as a basis for negotiations. The ideas put forth by Ruíz Moreno were not new, but it was significant that the proposed mediating sessions would be held in Buenos Aires. ¹⁸ According to La política Argentina en la guerra del Chaco, published in 1937, Ruíz Moreno told Ayala that discussion could be held "without obstruction [entropecer] of the negotiations of the Commission of Washington [sic]. "19 Ayala, however, in a letter written to Rivarola, stated that Saavedra Lamas' agent had castigated the Neutrals as "a precarious entity, without effective authority." Considering what has been presented

¹⁸ Rivarola, Memorias diplomáticas, II, 274.

Argentina, Min. de Rel. Ext., La política Argentina II, 4. The mission of Ruíz Moreno is described.

²⁰ Rivarola, <u>Memorias</u> <u>diplomáticas</u>, II, 272.

arlier, there can be little doubt that Ayala's version as correct.

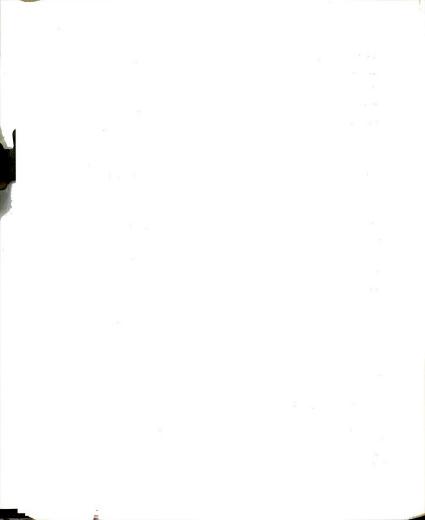
As a result of Ruíz Moreno's discussions, Saavedra

amas sent letters on January 2 directly to the Foreign inisters of Brazil, Chile and Peru. They were worded very arefully to make it appear he had talked to both belligernts, not just Paraguay, and indicated that as a result of is discussion[s], a proposal would be forwarded to the ther limitrophe nations. He also stated that Paraguay had he "evident [sensible] determination ... to withdraw her expresentative from the Committee of Neutrals, putting an and to good offices." This was followed by reference to he Buenos Aires mediation efforts of 1927-1928 and the consequent Argentine familiarity with the problem. One puld easily read in this the idea that the Argentine capital would be the best place for the projected talks. 21

Upon receipt of the letter, both Peru and Brazil indiated readiness to await developments. Cruchaga, however, no was working on a proposal himself, 22 immediately speeded

²¹ Argentina, Min. de Rel. Ext., La política Argentina, I, 8. See also U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 724. \$\frac{1}{2}\$

Apparently this was in response to a letter from the mmittee of Neutrals on December 31, 1932, asking what tion the limitrophe nations were willing to take. It is table that Saavedra Lamas' efforts were begun prior to be arrival of the letter. See U. S. Dept. of State, preign Relations, 1932, V, 218-219.



p his work and did not reply to Saavedra Lamas' letter. s justification for his actions, Cruchaga stated that aavedra Lamas was hostile toward the Committee of Neutrals and that his motive for putting forth a proposal was anity. 23 One can only wonder, however, who was the most ain.

The Chilean proposal appeared on January 9. Like ost of its predecessors, it called for a cease-fire followed by discussions looking toward arbitration. 24 The olivians, for their part, were incensed at Chile's action. The pelieved there was an implied threat to stop all arms and ammunition going to Bolivia. The Bolivians also indiated that they did not appreciate pressure from single countries and would find it agreeable only if the limitrophe countries joined the Neutrals. 25

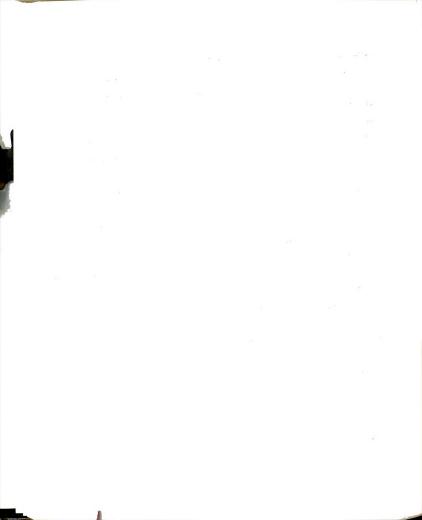
On the 9th, Saavedra Lamas also received a copy of me Chilean plan to what must have been his great dismay. ruchaga, knowing that he had undercut Saavedra Lamas, owever, sent a follow-up letter the next day which was stensibly a reply to the Argentine note of January 2.

18.

²³U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 724.3415/2812 Pweb (Santiago) to Dept. of State, January 10, 1933.

^{24&}lt;sub>U. S. Dept. of State, Foreign Relations</sub>, 1933, IV,

²⁵U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 724.3415/2804 ely (La Paz) to Dept. of State, January 10, 1933.



In it, Cruchaga indicated that both President Arturo
Alessandri and himself believed it was necessary to bring
peace to the hemisphere and toward that end, they had produced a proposal. He concluded by appealing to Saavedra
Lamas to work with him. 26 It is probable that Cruchaga
had little hope that Argentine support would be forthcoming.

Cruchaga's worst fears were realized, because Saavedra Lamas immediately set out to squelch the Chilean proposal. Rivarola saw Saavedra Lamas on the 11th of January and reported that the Chilean proposal had been received with "surprise and displeasure." This may be an understatement because the Argentine Chancellor asked his representative in Santiago, Federico M. Quintana, to ascertain the exact time Cruchaga received the Chancellor's letter and sent out his proposal. Saavedra Lamas wanted to know who had priority. Cruchaga told Quintana that he had already sent his project off before the January 2 note arrived. Rivarola commented laconically that the result of all this was "una confusión grande." 27

To aid him in his fight, Saavedra Lamas looked to an unlikely ally, White, of the Committee of Neutrals. On the 12th, Espil showed White the January 2 letter, and indicated that as far as Saavedra Lamas was concerned, his was

²⁶Argentine, Min. de Rel. Ext., <u>La política Argentina</u>, II, 10-11.

²⁷Rivarola, <u>Memorias</u> <u>diplomáticas</u>, II, 277-78.

the first proposal. In his report of the conversation, white observed that there was "grave disagreement between Saavedra Lamas and Cruchaga." Espil's task had been to inquire whether the belligerents had accepted the proposal. If White said Paraguay had accepted, Espil was to say she formally told Argentina she had not. ²⁸ Rivarola, in his memoirs, does not indicate whether or not Paraguay made such a statement before the 12th of January. Even if she had not, Saavedra Lamas, it seems, was trying to stop a non-existent lie. ²⁹ In fact, so worried was the Argentine Chancellor that he sent instructions to Espil to discuss white's now moribund December 15, 1932 plan. ³⁰

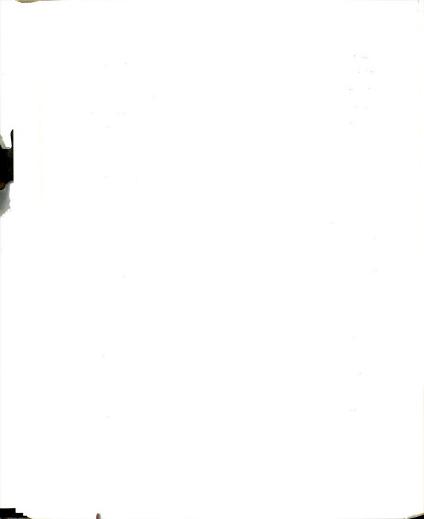
Saavedra Lamas also took action in Argentina. In a meeting with Bliss and the representatives of Brazil, Peru and Chile, he read his January 2 note. He also indicated that he was unhappy about the Chilean proposal and that it was "not acceptable to the contending parties." Naturally, he had no basis for making such a pronouncement.

Cruchaga, however, was not willing to give up without a fight. On the 14th, the Chilean Chargé d'Affaires, Sr.

²⁸U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 724.3415/2824 7/10 Conversation, Espil and White, January 12, 1932.

²⁹Rivarola, <u>Memorias</u> <u>diplomáticas</u>, II, 277-78.

³⁰ Argentina, Min. de Rel. Ext., <u>La política</u> <u>Argentina</u>, I, 13.



countries except Argentina had accepted the plan and that therefore the Committee of Neutrals should now support it. White correctly pointed out that Brazil was undecided and Peru had not yet answered. He further stated that Paraguay had not even formally received the Chilean proposal and would issue no statement until she had. Cruchaga's deception failed, but it was indicative of the extent to which both Chancellors were willing to go to achieve their ends.

It being apparent to both sides that little could be done, Cruchaga on January 17 logically suggested that the two men get together. The formal proposal, however, did not arrive until January 24. A subsequent telephone conversation the next day set the place as Mendoza, Argentina, on February 1. Bliss was told by an undisclosed person that the telephone was used "to avoid [a] possible embarrassing situation. It is probable that they settled many matters during the conversation in order to avoid repetition of discord that marked their earlier correspondence.

^{31&}lt;sub>U.</sub> S. Dept. of State, <u>Foreign Relations</u>, 1933, IV, 257-8.

Argentina, Min. de Rel. Ext., La política Argentina, II, 13-14.

³³U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 724.3415/2821 Bliss (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, January 25, 1933.

The Chaco portion of the Mendoza proposal which also dealt with Chilean-Argentine problem was not novel. It called for a cease-fire, a disengagement of forces, reduction of the armies to peace time levels, and arbitration by the Hague Court. In fact, it was actually a more detailed version of the Chilean proposal. However, where the positions of Chile and Argentina diverged, such as over who would make the arbitration decision, Saavedra Lamas got his way. Of more importance were the provisions concerning how the proposal should be presented to the belligerents. First it was to go to Brazil and Peru for concurrence, and then to the belligerents and the Committee of Neutrals together. This was not according to the procedure the Mautrals had worked hard to establish, where proposals would low through them to the belligerents. As proposed at Mendoza, the Washington-based group would simply act as a heerleader for the ABCP nations. Buoying this assertion as section V of the Mendoza accord stating that any negoiations which might take place would be in an American apital, 34 and there can be no question that Buenos Aires as the location in question. Just as significant were hose things notably missing from the proposal. The August Declaration was never mentioned in either the Mendoza roposal or in a subsequent press interview with Saavedra

³⁴U. S. Arbhives, RG 59, Decimal File 724.3415/2875 Liss (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, February 3, 1933.

Lamas, while the August 6 Declaration was put forth as the vehicle for the \underline{ABCP} unity.

At the Mendoza conference other topics were discussed besides the Chaco situation.³⁵ Although the points made did not mandate any action, they reveal much about Saavedra Lamas' orientation. The proposal spoke of "continental good will," but not pan-Americanism. Also, section XIII called for "open trade between the limitrophe countries and then, hopefully, with all of the Latin American nations."

The United States was not mentioned.³⁶

In an interview with the press on February 3, after his return from Mendoza, the Argentine Foreign Minister asserted that the August 6 Declaration was a new pan-American instrument. He attacked the Committee of Neutrals for its proposals, which had the "character of polemics," and commented rather pejoratively that study and informal discussions must precede any peace effort. He ended by announcing that the proposal would go from the ABCP nations

³⁵ For a copy of the Mendoza formula see Argentina, iin. de Rel. Ext., La política Argentina, II, 17-21.

³⁶In his analysis, Bliss observed that the proposal moded like the work of Saavedra Lamas and that the propositions were in agreement with his goals. He also stated that the Argentine Chancellor was not per se anti-American, ut rather that the United States was the prime obstacle to aavedra Lamas' goal. This analysis is similar to mine. ee U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 724.3415/2875, liss (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, February 3, 1933.

the belligerents. Saavedra Lamas did not mention that copy would go to the Committee of Neutrals. 37

The first reaction of Brazil and Peru came on the 7th f February. Peru's reply, given by Foreign Minister J. M. anzanilla, was circumspect. He had praise only for the catements which did not relate to the Chaco. The Chaco ortion of the Mendoza proposal was not even mentioned. Brazil, in its reply, made a number of observations about the Chaco ection of the Mendoza proposal. First, that no action would go beyond good offices or in any way infringe upon ther belligerent's sovereignty. Secondly, the Committee Recurses should not be left out of the negotiations. Inally, Mello Franco stated that a state of war should not proclaimed by the limitrophe nations for the sole purse of bringing into effect the available peace instrunts so the sole per such as the Kellogg-Briand Pact.

On the 22nd, when Lima finally responded after repeatrequests, Manzanilla indicated that his country had some servations. Peru would not join the Mendoza proposal as to be available to make suggestions concerning

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ Argentina, Min. de Rel. Ext., <u>La Política Argentina</u>, 23.

 $^{^{39}}$ <u>Ibid.</u>, II, 23-25. For the text of the final agreet, see <u>fibid.</u>, 27-29.

modifications. 40 Peru's motives are not clear, but in explaining why an answer had not been sent early, Manzanilla noted internal problems. 41 His country was, in fact, in an almost chaotic state during this time. Also, there was trouble with Chile over the latter's stand in the Leticia dispute. 42

Peru's response caused Saavedra Lamas to take immediate and dramatic action. Apparently fearful he would look ridiculous if his highly touted Mendoza Act did not even receive adherrence by all the limitrophe nations, he addressed a letter on February 24 to Lima, Rio de Janeiro, and Santiago suggesting a call for a cease-fire. As justification, he pointed to the fact that the Mendoza agreement was complete, but would take time to put into practice and that the fighting was increasing in intensity. A with reference to the latter consideration, Bolivia had launched a bloody but ineffective offensive in December, 1932.

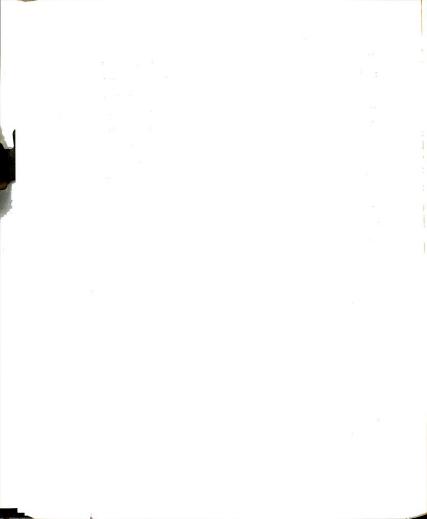
⁴⁰ Ibid., II, 25.

^{41 &}lt;u>Ibid</u>., II, 25.

⁴²U. S. Dept. of State, <u>Foreign Relations</u>, 1933, IV, 271. Leticia was nominally a <u>Colombian town</u> on the Amazon which was attacked by Peru which also claimed ownership. The resultant war was settled through the League of Nations in 1934.

⁴³ Argentina, Min. de Rel. Ext., La política Argentina, II, 25.

⁴⁴For a discussion of the military developments during this period, see David M. Zook, The Conduct of the Chaco War (New Haven, Conn.: Bookman Associates, 1960), pp. 125-153.

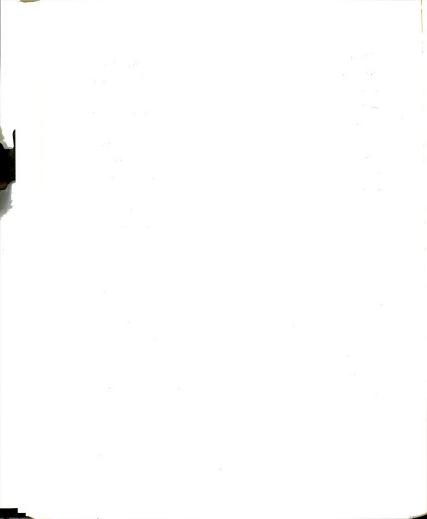


To forward his facesaving policy, Saavedra Lamas had Espil approach White on February 28 with a blunt proposal which revealed a great deal about Saavedra Lamas' view of the entire Chaco matter. After asking that White support a call for a cease-fire, the Assistant Secretary, reported Espil said, "that Argentina would deal with Paraguay if we [the United States] would deal with Bolivia." Espil also noted that aid from banking interests in the United States would be of "'uncontestible value.'" 45 The claim that Bolivia was supported by the United States, and Paraguay by the Argentines, had been mentioned before, but only in the statements of the Paraguayans. 46 This was the first time it was ever enunciated by Argentina. In many respects Saavedra Lamas saw the Chaco as a struggle between the United States and Argentina, as well as Bolivia and Paraguay. White, however, rejected the Argentine overture.

Saavedra Lamas was spared embarrassment by a second Peruvian note on the 24th of February, the day after his proposal to White was made. The letter indicated general adherence to the Mendoza proposal, but said that certain

⁴⁵U. S. Archives, RG 59 Decimal File 724.3415/2734, Conversation White and Espil, February 28, 1933.

⁴⁶ Rivarola, Memorias diplomáticas, II, 278.



changes should be made. 47 Saavedra Lamas chose to perceive Peru's note as an acceptance of the Mendoza Act and ordered it transmitted to the belligerents. Neither Paraguay or Bolivia was happy to see it. Paraguay was about to declare war and Bolivia was continuing her offensive. 48

On the same day, Peru sent a message to Saavedra Lamas pronouncing that the letter of the 24th was not an acceptance of the Mendoza Act. Modifications would have to be made. Unfortunately, there is no indication of what the Argentine Foreign Minister said in reply, or if there ever was one. In any case, he seems to have been successful with this less than ethical procedure.

The formal replies from Paraguay and Bolivia, both received on February 27, suggested changes that would make the Mendoza proposal acceptable. The alterations, however, were not of the variety to bring about peace, since they would be unacceptable to the other side. The fighting was intense and both parties believed a military victory was cossible. In those circumstances, little could be done. 51

⁴⁷Argentina, Min. de Rel. Ext., <u>La política Argentina</u>, II, 26.

⁴⁸ Ibid., II, 29-30.

⁴⁹Ibid., II, 30.

^{50 &}lt;u>Ibid</u>., II, 30-33.

⁵¹ See U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 724.3415/3005 nd U. S. Dept. of State, Foreign Relations, II, 1933,

The war continued.

In April, the Mendoza proposal was resurrected once more and presented to the belligerents. Due to pressure from Argentina, Paraguay unconditionally accepted it. Bolivia, however, remained intransigent. The <u>ABCP</u> mediation ended on May 6, 1933, when Bolivia refused once again to seriously consider the Mendoza proposal. As a result, Paraguay declared war on the 10th of May. 52

Argentina and Neutrality

Like many other neutrality policies, although equal on paper for both sides, one side was aided much more than the other. Arms transshipped up the Paraguay River from Buenos Aires to Asunción continued unmolested, while foodstuffs the Bolivians tried to buy from Argentina across the Pilcomayo River were halted. Clearly, Asunción was the beneficiary of Argentina's neutrality.

Considering that Saavedra Lamas could interpret neutrality in ways deliterious to Paraguay, it must be made clear why he did not. This was of particular importance because halting transshipment of goods through Argentina, would make it almost impossible for Paraguay to obtain arms. 53

⁵² Argentina, Min. de Rel. Ext., <u>La política Argentina</u>, II, 64-69.

⁵³On September 9, 1932, Saavedra Lamas suggested a oint declaration by Chile and Argentina. The proposal consained nothing that could be classed as unusual, but the simple statement prohibiting the transport of military

For example, on December 1, 1932 when Rivarola talked to Saavedra Lamas about the neutrality question, the latter would give him nothing definite. ⁵⁴ Justo, however, did not hesitate to tell Rivarola that Argentine neutrality would be benevolent for Paraguay and strict for Bolivia. ⁵⁵ There could be little doubt about where loyalities stood as far as the Argentine president was concerned.

May to December, 1933

With the failure of the <u>ABCP</u> mediation and the discrediting of the Committee of Neutrals, the Chaco problem was taken up by the League of Nations. The League's initial proposals, however, were rejected by Bolivia. Subsequently the Committee of Neutrals, in a last gasp effort, suggested in May, 1933, that the Neutrals and limitrophe nations

supplies across neutral territory was significant. See, ibid. I, 409-410. In the treaty of 1904 Chile had agreed to establish Arica as a free port on the Pacific for Bolivia and build a railroad to La Paz as part of the settlement from the War of the Pacific. Arms going to Bolivia would in fact transit her territory, but it was an open question whether a declaration of neutrality would require that this be stopped. Chile stated at that time she would adopt Saavedra Lamas' neutrality decree if the other limitrophe powers did, but nothing was said concerning the interpretation of the 1904 treaty. Ibid., 410-411.

⁵⁴ Vicente Rivarola, <u>Memorias</u> <u>diplomáticas</u>, II, p. 246.

⁵⁵Ibid., II, 251, 254.

⁵⁶A good summary of events in Geneva is found in U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 724.3415/3246, Gilbert (Geneva) to Dept. of State, July 14, 1933.

conduct joint discussions.⁵⁷ Saavedra Lamas refused to agree, citing the work of the League of Nations.⁵⁸ With his refusal the Argentine Chancellor sealed the fate of the Committee of Neutrals, which ceased to function on June 27, 1933.

The <u>ABCP</u> countries, however, continued to try to bring an end to the war. During this period, Brazil rather than Argentina was the generator of action, and Saavedra Lamas contented himself with torpedoing Rio de Janeiro's efforts. Apparently perceiving that fact, Mello Franco did what Cruchaga had done and joined with Saavedra Lamas in a proposal to the belligerents on October 11. Dubbed the Act of Rio, it was similar to the Mendoza proposal and met with the same response: Paraguay accepted, Bolivia did not. 59

In retrospect, it is clear that Saavedra Lamas' policy concerning the Chaco did not change significantly from the Declarations of August, 1932, to the end of 1933.

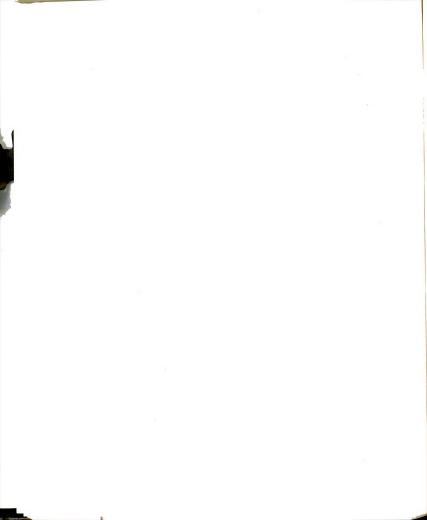
^{57 &}lt;u>Ibid.</u>, Decimal File 724.3415/3114, White to Espil, May 9, 1933.

⁵⁸ Ibid., Decimal File 724.3415/2159, Conversation White and Espil, May 23, 1933. United States sources indicate, however, that Saavedra Lamas was undermining the efforts of the League of Nations also. See, for example, U. S. Dept. of State, Foreign Relations, II, 340-41.

⁵⁹A full discussion of the Act of Rio, including responses, can be found in Argentina, Min. de Rel. Ext., La política Argentina, II, 140-157.

Lamas would accept nothing which was not his own. The quickly formed alliances and the quickly broken ones, the undercutting of other mediating efforts, the spat over the authorship of the August 3 Declaration, all indicate the evel of action the Foreign Minister was willing to stoop o in order to achieve prestige for himself and for rgentina.

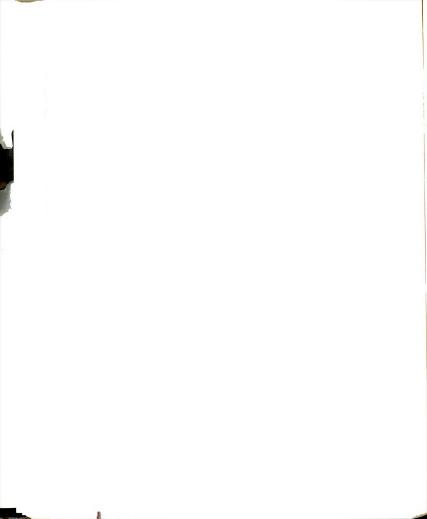
The most important question is why was Saavedra Lamas llowed to carry on the antics he did. The answer is that he tactics used by the Foreign Minister were never clearly elineated to the Argentine public. Even if they had been t is doubtful that there would have been a general outcry ecause Saavedra Lamas had to date been successful in gainng a significant position for Argentina. Furthermore no ountry was in a position to call his bluff. Economically, ne United States was not in a dominant position as regards gentina, and a refusal to sell to that nation would have aly meant that her purchases would be made in Europe. rthermore, the Argentines sold relatively little to the ited States. Consequently, an embargo on Argentine goods uld have had almost no effect. Moreover, it might have creased the popularity of Saavedra Lamas in the eyes of e populace, which saw little wrong with annoying the nkees. The possibility of using military force was probly never considered by Washington. The result in all



ikelihood would have been war with a country seven thousand liles away on the ironic grounds that Argentina had not done nough for peace. Without these methods of coercion, the nited States could only utilize talk and ineffectual intermerican devices.

The inability of the limitrophe countries to bring any percion to bear stymied their efforts. As with the United tates, war over the issue was unthinkable and the prevailing economic dependency among neighbors made sanctions appracticable. Another factor which circumscribed the ctivity of the North Americans as well as Brazil, Chile and aru was the hold Argentina had over Paraguay. This is not a say that Saavedra Lamas was ever in a position to force settlement upon his neighbors up river.

The army which controlled Argentina, was solidly behind raguay. Saavedra Lamas could, however, use his influence short circuit another country's proposal. Saavedra Lamas d the power to insure his control of the mediating effort, the lacked the power to force a settlement. The result una confusión grande.

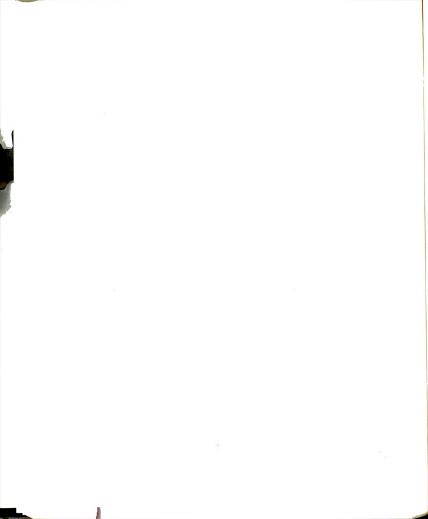


CHAPTER 4

"THE TWO WINGS OF THE DOVE"

In December, 1933 the Seventh Inter-American Conference took place in Montevideo, Uruquay. This meeting provided a vehicle by which Saavedra Lamas was able to gain the appearance of successfully achieving some of his country's cherished goals in world politics. Chief among them was Argentina's determination to be the diplomatic and cultural leader in South America. At Montevideo, Argentina seemingly achieved this goal at the expense of her traditional rival, the United States, which adherred to, albeit with reservations, an Argentine inspired treaty which specifically renounced intervention. Argentina also obtained the United States' sanction for League of Nations activities in the Chaco. These events brought Argentina into the hemispheric spotlight and the architect of these events, Carlos Saavedra Lamas, basked in its glow. More honors and success ould follow, but the transition from being just another Secalcitrant Argentine Foreign Minister to a position of emispheric and world importance had begun.

The success of Saavedra Lamas was shared by Cordell ull, the United States Secretary of State. In keeping with

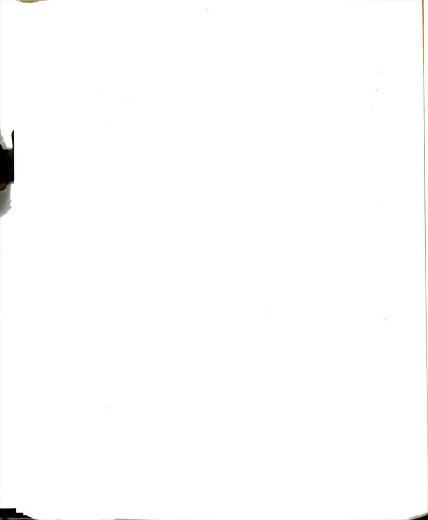


President Franklin D. Roosevelt's policy of the Good
Neighbor, Hull wanted to allievate many of the troubles
that had plagued inter-American relations. Significantly,
Argentina, and specifically, Saavedra Lamas, was the beneficiary of the Yankee policy shift. That such was the
case, was a tribute to Saavedra Lamas' diplomatic skill and
to his consonant opportunism.

In order to understand the Montevideo Conference, a brief description of the earlier meetings is necessary. Beginning with the First Pan American Conference held in Washington D. C. in 1889 and extending through the Fifth Conference in Santiago, Chile, in 1923 relations between the United States and Latin America were marked by increasing suspicion. Following the 1923 meeting, "anti-American entiment mounted during the next five years and reached a limax at the Sixth Pan American Conference held in Havana in 1928."

There the Latin American nations, led by regentina's representative, Honorio Pueyrredón, demanded in end to the interventionist policies of the United States. Desyrredón also strongly attacked the tariff policy and anitary conventions of the United States, which severely limited Argentine beef sales there.

lFederico G. Gil, Latin American--United States Relaons (New York: Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, Inc., 1971), 152.

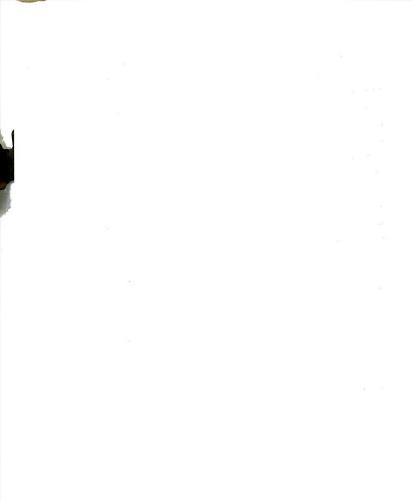


On the question of intervention, the North American representative, Charles Evans Hughes, was given instructions that any alteration of the policy "would be likely to encounter opposition in this country ... and thus would give rise to unnecessary controversy." In accordance with his instructions, Hughes defended intervention as bringing stability to otherwise chaotic circumstances. On the economic question, Pueyrredón was rebuffed by the United States along with the other delegates both within his delegation and from other countries. As a result, Pueyrredón left the Conference and resigned his ambassadorship in the United States. Argentina had tried and failed to bring about a change in United States policy. Before she could be credible as a leader in Latin America, she would have to do better.

The Seventh Pan American Conference was scheduled for December, 1932 or January, 1933, but in February, 1932 steps were taken to postpone the meeting. The drive was led principally by Brazil, which was concerned that the Permanent Committee on Public Law, then meeting in Rio de Janeiro,

United States, Department of State, Foreign Relations pf the United States (Washington: United States Government Printing Office, 1942), 1928, Volume 1, p. 577.

³ Samuel Flagg Bemis, The Latin American Policy of the Jnited States (New York: W. W. Norton Co., 1967), p. 299.



would not have its report ready. Saavedra Lamas, however, opposed postponement because he believed something must be done about the troubles in the Chaco. When White asked Espil about what the Conference could do about the Chaco situation, the latter vaguely mentioned the Pan American Conference for Arbitration and Conciliation which had set up the Commission of Neutrals. White countered by noting that the Commission of Neutrals was still functioning. It can be surmised, albeit with little evidence, that Saavedra Lamas was considering some type of action at the Conference as regards the Chaco. Perhaps he hoped to form a new commission, or to put forth his own proposal. What he planned to do at this time, if anything, never was revealed because in early April, 1932, the Montevideo Conference was postponed until December, 1933.

Shortly after the postponement, Saavedra Lamas began a project that was to play an important part in the newly-scheduled Pan American meeting. He proposed, on August 20,

⁴See United States Archives, Record Group 59, Decimal File 710.G/64, Conversation Espil and White, February 23, 1932 and U. S. Dept. of State, Foreign Relations, 1932, V, 1.

⁵U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 710.G/98 1/2 Conversation Espil and White, April 7, 1932.

⁶U. S. Dept. of State, Foreign Relations, V, 1932, 4-7.

August 3 for which, at that time, he was still taking credit. The proposal contained little that was new or imaginative, although it did attempt to raise the August 3 Declaration (Hoover-Stimson Doctrine) to the level of an international accord. Most of its other provisions were already to be found in other international agreements, a point Saavedra Lamas readily conceded in his pamphlet, broject de Traite Sud American pour provenir la guerre con-Agression et conciliation (1932). This work contained oth the proposed instrument and an explanation of each rticle.

That Saavedra Lamas should have proposed such a pact as not surprising. As a national of a country with little conomic and military power, he looked to international law

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⁷ de la Torre's attacks did not begin until September

Paris, Les Editions Internationales, Paris. For the canish text of the same thing, see Argentina, Ministerio e Relaciones Exteriores y Culto, Memoria presentado al concrable Congreso Nacional correspondiente al período 1932-233 (Buenos Aires, 1933), Tomo I, pp. 148-244. For an aglish text see U. S. Dept. of State, Foreign Relations, 22 V 261-266. In Saavedra Lamas' work Por la paz de las méricas (Buenos Aires: M. Gleizer, 1937), he includes an ticle dealing with the Anti-War Pact. Unfortunately he ly states that it is the essence of a publication appearg in Washington. It is, needless to say, very favorable the Argentine Foreign Minister. A good analytical dission of the proposal can be found in Philip C. Jessup he Saavedra Lamas Anti-War Draft Treaty, American urnal of International Law, XXVII (January, 1933), 109-115.

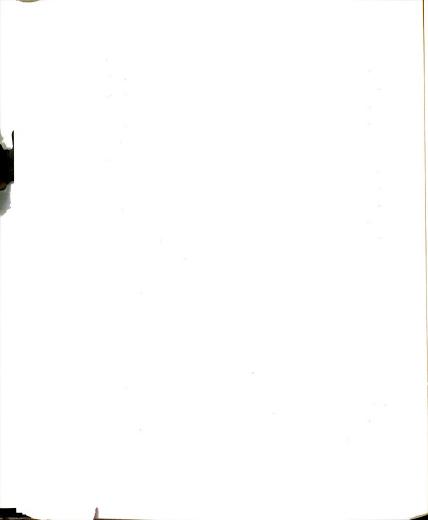


to control relations with world powers. Also, just prior to his accession to Foreign Minister, he wrote and published two works dealing with international law, La conception Argentine de l'Arbitrage et de l'intervention a l'ouverture de la Conférence de Wáshington, 1928 (1928) and La Crise de la codification et la doctrine Argentine du droit international (1931).

The first news of the proposed treaty came to the United States in a conversation between White and Espil on August 22, 1932. At that time, Espil stated that Saavedra Lamas was sending an outline of a proposal to supplement the Kellogg-Briand Pact. Within a week, Espil was back, announcing that since the United States had learned about the proposed treaty through Chile, he had instructions to give the text of it to White. It was at that time that he explained to White that Saavedra Lamas had intended to submit it first to the limitrophe countries and then, after obtaining their assent, to the United States. By so doing, generalized hemispheric pressure would fall on the United States, putting her in a position where it would be difficult to refuse. Even though his hoped for secrecy was breached, Saavedra Lamas continued to work for his original He now, however, also pushed his project in the United States. 10

⁹U. S. Dept. of State, Foreign Relations, 1932, V, 260.

¹⁰ U. S. Archies, RG 59, Decimal File 724.3415/2158 5/6, Conversation Espil and White, August 30, 1932.



The initial response, however, was generally unfavorable. Fred Morris Dearing, the United States Ambassador to Peru, stated on September 5 that "in spite of the urgency with which the Argentine [sic] is pushing the matter ... the Argentine treaty [has] not yet [been] agreed to by the other neighboring powers." 11 At a diplomatic reception in Buenos Aires, Bliss learned that the Chilean and Peruvian Ambassadors approved of the treaty, but that the Mexican and Colombian ministers opposed it. The Brazilian representative remained non-committal. 12 Bliss also reported that a colleague, unnamed, believed the treaty was an attempt by the Argentine Chancellor "to form a Latin American group, headed by Argentina, in opposition to the United States in this hemisphere." This anonymous minister went on to state that he would not recommend that his government agree to the proposal, but was in favor of following the

¹¹U. S. Archives RG 59, Decimal File 710.1012-Anti-War/4 Dearing (Lima) to Dept. of State, Sept. 11, 1932.

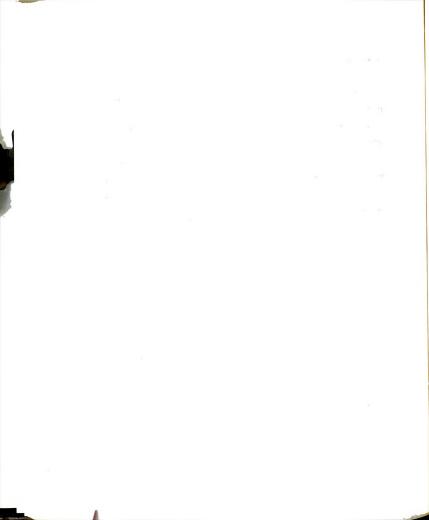
¹² U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 710.1012-Anti-War/6, Bliss (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, Sept. 2, 1932, and U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 710.1012-Anti-War/9, Bliss (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, Sept. 9, 1932 and U. S. Dept. of State, RG 59, Decimal File 710.1012 Anti-War/10, Cafferty (Bogotá) to Dept. of State, Sept. 1012 Anti-War/10, Cafferty (Bogotá) to Dept. of State, Sept. 17, 1932. At this same dinner party Bliss asked Saavedra Lamas why he had not sent a copy of his plan to the United States. The Argentine Chancellor said it "had slipped his mind." These were all the countries that the treaty had been submitted to.

same line as the United States. 13

Bliss's perceptive confidant obviously believed the United States would not be overjoyed about Saavedra Lamas' proposal. Neither was Espil. This was revealed in his talk with White even before the project was formally presented. While handing the Assistant Secretary a copy of the pact for his personal use, the Ambassador showed him a letter he had written to Saavedra Lamas. In it Espil told Saavedra Lamas that the United States would not accept the pact with the title "South American Anti-War Pact", that "Pan American" should be substituted. He also said that an attempt should be made to get the United States to become one of the "original signatories" of the pact. In his response, Saavedra Lamas said that "South American" was only an attempt to indicate the origin of the treaty and that Espil could tear off the old cover of the treaty and have a new one printed with the words "Pan American." Neither Espil, nor by inference, White believed Saavedra Lamas on this point. 14 It is probable they both thought,

¹³U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 710.1012 Anti-War/6, Bliss (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, Sept. 2, 1932.

¹⁴U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 710.1012 Anti-War/22, Conversation Espil and Wilson, September 12, 1932. Espil also noted that the name Saavedra Lamas would be linked inevitably to the treaty.

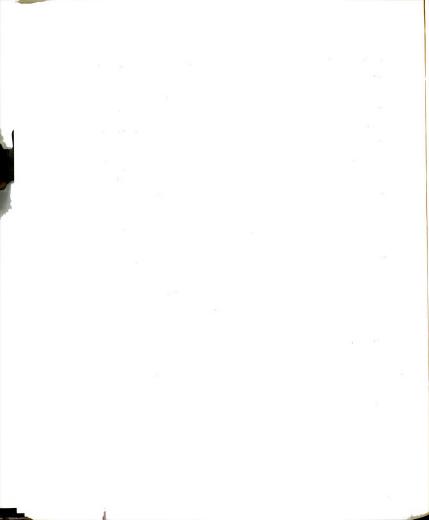


with some justification, that the initial strategy had dictated the name.

Inexplicably, however, when the treaty was formally presented by Espil to Secretary of State Henry L. Stimson, it still bore the epithet "South American." The North American Secretary wasted no time in this September 22, 1932, meeting indicating he did not think Saavedra Lamas' endeavors were particularly useful. Stimson observed that the Anti-War Treaty was similar to the Kellogg-Briand Pact and that instead of suggesting new proposals, Argentina would be better advised to adhere to the existing international instrument. He pointed out that Argentina was one of a handful of countries that had not yet accepted the Pact. 15

Some two weeks after the meeting with Stimson, Espil approached White to find out if there were any developments concerning the treaty. The Assistant Secretary replied that the proposal had to go through regular channels and that he probably would not hear anything for "the next couple of months." Espil then asked for his informal views on the Pact. The American indicated that he was "not inhospitable to the idea" but he believed the treaty was "hastily drawn up" and many modifications would be needed.

¹⁵U. S. Dept. of State, Foreign Relations, 1932, V, 266-268.



Delay, coupled with a wait and see attitude, was the apparent United States' response. 16

What the State Department was waiting for became crystal clear at a subsequent meeting. To the inevitable question concerning the status of the Anti-War Pact, White reported his reply to Stimson as follows:

if Argentina plays the game and supports this project [the December 15 note from the Committee of Neutrals] all the way through so that we get a settlement, we will then discuss with him ways in which the pact could be modified in order to make it worthwhile signing. Espil wanted some action right away and I told him that would be impossible and that if he wanted to keep Saavedra Lamas playing along with us he could say that the pact had been examined by the Treaty Division and would now have to be examined by the Legal Office. 17

Whether White was actually proposing a deal, or simply serving notice on Saavedra Lamas that as long as Argentina appeared intransigent red tape would surround his Anti-War Pact, is not clear. What is clear is that Saavedra Lamas publicly supported the December 15 Committee of Neutrals proposal. 18

¹⁶U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 710.1012 Anti-War/10½, Conversation White and Espil, October 5, 1932.

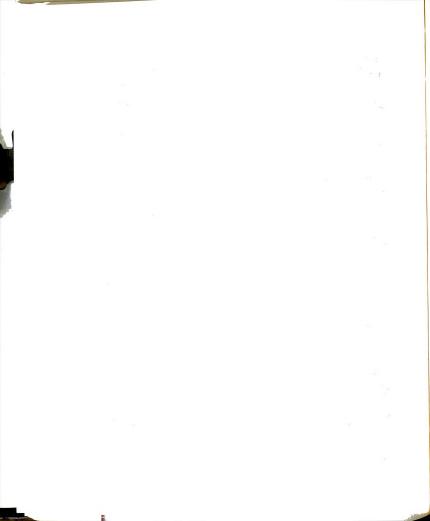
¹⁷U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 724.3412/2683 8/11, Conversation Espil and White, December 22, 1932.

¹⁸U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 724.3415/2538, Bliss (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, November 9, 1932, p. 6.

It is worth commenting here on the use of "us" in the preceding quote. It refers to Espil and White. The former, although dutifully carrying out his orders, commiserated with the Assistant Secretary over the difficulties he had in dealing with the Argentine Chancellor. Occasionally he agreed that certain proposals did more harm than good or that Saavedra Lamas' actions delayed peace efforts. By so doing, he increased his credibility and avoided sharp breaks with the United States which might have ruined the schemes of his boss.

Since Saavedra Lamas' overall strategy had originally been to obtain acceptance by Latin American countries before presenting his proposal to the United States, 19 the delaying tactics of the North Americans did not seriously affect the general strategy. While it is true that the failure of the United States to embrace the treaty would have had a chilling effect on the other hemispheric nations, there is no evidence of a concerted North American campaign against the Argentine proposal. As a result, Saavedra Lamas continued to advocate his treaty. Uruguay provides a good example of the tactics used. In November, 1932, Saavedra Lamas sent the Uruguayan Minister for Foreign Affairs, Juan Carlos Blanco, a letter "couched in rather intimate terms of friendship" requesting the latter's views

¹⁹ Vicente Rivarola, Memorias diplomáticos, II, p. 261.



on the treaty. 20 What makes this unusual is that from July 14 to September 12, 1932, relations had been severed between the two countries over a trivial protocol matter. The dispute had been marked by acrimony and stubbornness for which both countries had refused to apologize. 21 The point is that Saavedra Lamas was willing to overlook the past to get what he wanted. His behavior can best be ascribed to singlemindedness rather than to the cause of peace.

His dedication, however, began to pay off at the end of the year. The Brazilian Minister for Foreign Relations, Afranio de Mello Franco, on December 20, 1932, agreed to accept the treaty in principle, subject to reservations.

Mello Franco sent a long letter to Saavedra Lamas detailing forty-three defects in the Anti-War Pact, most of which were small technical points. When Saavedra Lamas formally announced the receipt of Mello Franco's letter to the diplomats accredited to Argentina, he only observed that

²⁰U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 710.1012 Anti-War/18 Butler (Montevideo) to Dept. of State, January 12, 1933.

²¹For a good portion of the documents having reference to this incident see U. S. Dept. of State, <u>Foreign Relations</u>, 1932, V, 316-329.

²²For a copy of the letter, see Argentina, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto, <u>Memorias</u>, <u>1932-1933</u>, pp. 199-208.

Mello Franco had objected to the "South American" in the title. He went on to state that this would be changed and recounted his instructions to Espil. He finished by exclaiming the need for United States adherence. 23

The Anti-War Pact received another boost at the Mendoza meeting in February, 1933. At that time, the Chilean Foreign Minister, Miguel Cruchaga Tocornal, agreed to accept the concept of the treaty. What made this significant was that now Saavedra Lamas had the power and prestige of the ABC block. Also the proposed treaty had been put on the agenda of the upcoming Pan American Conference. Things appeared to be going well for the Argentine Chancellor.

Unfortunately, on March 4, Stimson addressed a letter to Espil indicating that the United States would not sign the Anti-War Pact. The Secretary of State's first objection

²³U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 710.1012/16, Bliss (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, January 5, 1933.

²⁴U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 724.3415/2875, Bliss (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, February 3, 1933.

²⁵Commenting on this point the Uruguayan Foreign Minister, Blanco, stated that ABC action was actually "considerable of A, some of C and a little of B." See U. S. Dept. of State, RG 59, Decimal File 710.G/129 Wright (Montevideo) to Dept. of State, February 8, 1933.

²⁶U. S. Archives RG 59, Decimal File 710.1012/16, Bliss (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, January 5, 1933.

was that the "peace structure" was already too "cumbersome" and that existing instruments should be ratified before new instruments were introduced. His second demurrer was that the similarity of the Anti-War and Kellogg-Briand Pacts might cause conflicts in the interpretation of the latter. He suggested Argentina sign the Kellogg-Briand agreement. 27

Neither of Stimson's statements stand up to even cursory examination. The Kellogg-Briand Pact was of the character of a nice thought, and one doubts that it could ever be misinterpreted. The State Department realized that, like the aforementioned accord, the Anti-War Treaty was essentially harmless. The opposition can be best understood as an unwillingness to give its Argentine rival and particularly, Saavedra Lamas, a victory. Supporting this assertion is the fact that Stimson told Espil of his decision on March 3, the day before he left office. Saavedra Lamas did not broadcast the United States' response or act as if it even existed. There was, of course, the obvious

²⁷U. S. Dept. of State, Foreign Relations, 1933, IV, 228-231.

The report of the Treaty Division stated that the Anti-War Pact "though useless might not be seriously harmful."

See U.S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 710.1012 Anti-War/11½,

Treaty Division to Dept. of State, December 6, 1932.

Ambassador to Brazil, would report that, "There is nothing on the record here to show that the substance of Mr. Stimson's note was ever communicated to the Brazilian Government."

U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 710.1012 Anti-War/25
Gibson (Rio de Janeiro) to Dept. of STate, October 4, 1933.

possibility that the incoming Secretary of State, Cordell Hull, asked Stimson to perform this service so as to avoid starting off on a hostile note. There is, however, no evidence to this effect, and Hull's positive orientation toward Latin America is well-known. Coupled with the fact that ten months later Hull would sign the treaty, this position loses much of its credibility.

It was during October that Saavedra Lamas and the President of Argentina, Agustín P. Justo, journeyed to Rio de Janeiro for a conference with their <u>Carioca</u> counterparts. Although Saavedra Lamas gave the reason for the conference as "cementing relationships," there can be no doubt that the prime purpose was to dramatize Brazilian adherence to the Anti-War Pact. The new United States Ambassador to Argentina, Alexander Weddell, stated that he could not fathom any reason for the costly excursion to Rio de Janeiro. He believed that the trip was Saavedra Lamas' idea and "is a further manifestation of the Minister's desire to give himself international prominence in this part of South America." Weddell concluded that Saavedra Lamas' goal was to form the <u>ABCP</u> into a block under Argentine control to oppose the United States. 30

Besides Brazil and Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, Mexico, and Uruquay also signed the Anti-War Pact. Apparently Chile

³⁰ U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 835.001 Justo Agustín P./28, Weddell (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, October 11, 1933.

was worried that the United States would be irritated because she went to unusual lengths to demonstrate that Argentina had pressured her into signing. She supplied the United States with the chronology of events leading up to Chilean adherence, apparently terrified the United States might block nitrate sales. According to the chronology, until the eve of the Rio de Janeiro Conference, Chile had no intentions of signing. On October 4, however, while in route to Brazil, Saavedra Lamas sent a letter to Cruchaga suggesting he adhere "in a private character." What Saavedra Lamas meant is not clear. Cruchaga did not understand either, but although provoked by Saavedra Lamas' attitude, he sent a courteous reply declining the offer. Mello Franco then sent Cruchaga a letter urging adherrence to uphold the "ABC ideal." He followed up his letter with a telephone call to his ambassador to be relayed to Cruchaga. Mello Franco pointed out that Saavedra Lamas had not asked earlier for Chilean concurrence because he knew Chile would not agree to a solely South American treaty excluding the United States. Since Mello Franco also opposed an anti-United States pact, he stated he had insisted Saavedra Lamas open the treaty to all nations and Saavedra Lamas had agreed. 31 Cruchaga, with his prime objection disposed of and faced with pressure from Brazil and Argentina, signed.

³¹U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 710.1012 Anti-War/32 Norweb (Santiago) to Dept. of State, October 11, 1933.

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Saavedra Lamas kept his word, for not only did he open the treaty to nations outside South America, he actively sought their adherence. In making his overtures, the Argentine Foreign Minister indicated that the United States would sign, although at that time he had no basis for making such a judgment. It was apparent that Saavedra Lamas had modified his general strategy. The hope of a South American block was gone, but a world wide treaty would be almost as good. Prestige would still accrue to Argentina, and moreover, the United States would be faced with considerably more pressure to adhere, lest she be the only important nation not to sign. 33

At the October meeting at Rio de Janeiro, another important subject came up-postponement of the Inter-American Conference. By October 13, it became known that Brazil desired a postponement and Argentina did not. Mello Franco believed it would be a mistake to hold the conference at a time when problem areas like Leticia, the Chaco and Cuba existed, but also said no one wanted the "onus" of suggesting

³²U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 710.1012 Anti-War/46 Weddell (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, November 17,1933.

³³ Some of the European countries which did eventually adhere included Italy, Spain, Austria, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Portugal, Romania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Norway. Great Britain, France, and Germany were notable in their absence. For a complete list of ratifications and signings see Saavedra Lamas, Por la Paz., 124.

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postponement.³⁴ A week and a half later, at a diplomatic reception, Saavedra Lamas indicated he did not want to postpone the Conference, but asked twice if the United States did. The Peruvian Ambassador told Weddell in a subsequent meeting that he thought both Brazil and Argentina favored a delay.³⁵

Hull was so worried that the Conference would not take place that he told Weddell to check with Saavedra Lamas again. To Weddell's question, Saavedra Lamas replied he was "very convinced" of the advisability of the Conference. He did, however, mention the need for preliminary talks and noted that the upcoming meeting of the American Institute of International Law would provide an excellent vehicle. Because Saavedra Lamas appeared to be hedging, Weddell asked once more if Argentina favored postponement. The Argentine Foreign Minister then stated that ideally postponement would be advisable, but that no nation wished to formally make the suggestion. Only Hull, he concluded, could take the lead in deferring the Conference. 36

The telegram referred to was apparently garbled in transmission but his intent is clear. See U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 710.G/275, Gibson (Rio de Janeiro) to Dept. of State, October 13, 1932. Cuba was in precarious state due to the United States supported removal of dictator, Gerardo Machado.

^{35&}lt;sub>U.</sub> S. Dept. of State, <u>Foreign Relations</u>, 1933, IV, 33.

³⁶U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 710.G/299 Weddell (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, October 27, 1933.

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The next day Saavedra Lamas told Weddell that because of the general unstable situation, a three to four month delay was advisable. He also said that Uruquay, where the Conference was to meet, was in an unsettled condition. the same report, the United States Ambassador to Uruquay, J. Butler Wright, indicated the political situation in Montevideo was "unchanged" and that Uruguay was annoyed by the actions of Saavedra Lamas. The Argentine Foreign Minister also indicated once again the utility of preliminary talks during the American Institute of International Law meeting and added that he had been asked to preside. The delaying tactics used can not wholly be ascribed to Saavedra Lamas' desire to head an international law conference in Buenos Aires, 37 although guite possibly it was this eventuality which stirred him to action. More likely, it was the fear that the Montevideo Conference would end as the previous Inter-American Conference had, with a general failure of Argentine leadership and the spectre of resignation in disgrace. Buoying this assertion is a note Saavedra Lamas directed to Washington suggesting that "the duration of the Conference [be made] briefer and revising and reducing the agenda to a smaller number of subjects, not too controversial." The preliminary talks would provide a

³⁷U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 710.0/307 Weddell (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, October 28, 1933.

vehicle by which Saavedra Lamas could quietly dicker and avoid appearing to be either recalcitrant or a lacky of the United States.

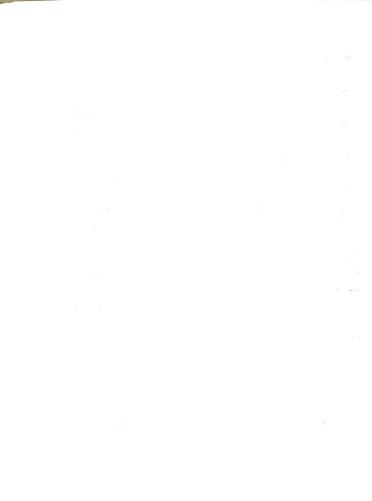
Saavedra Lamas immediately began a campaign to persuade the rest of the <u>ABCP</u> nations to also ask for a postponement. The met with little success because preparations were simply too far advanced to call for a delay. Perhaps that was why, in a telephone conversation with Espil in Washington on October 31, he agreed to go ahead with the meeting. On November 4, Saavedra Lamas announced that he would attend the Conference as scheduled. Saavedra Lamas, however, was still worried lest the Conference turn into a brawl. In a talk with Weddell on November 7, he emphasized the need for "harmony and good will." He also stated that the preparation for the Conference had not been handled well and that only juridical rather than political subjects should be discussed. He wanted desperately, it appears,

³⁸U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 710.G/309 Norweb (Santiago) to Dept. of State, October 30, 1933.

³⁹U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 710.G/338 Conversation Espil and Cafferty, October 31, 1933.

 $^{^{40}}$ U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 710.G/327 Wright (Montevideo) to Dept. of State, November 4, 1933.

⁴¹U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 710.G/357 Weddell (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, November 4, 1933. In this letter, Weddell also noted that Saavedra Lamas had had the American Institute of International Law meeting Postponed.



to avoid difficult subjects.

If Saavedra Lamas was concerned about a failure, so was Cordell Hull. The London Economic Conference held earlier in the year had been a personal as well as general fiasco. The United States delegation had been poorly organized and the members argued among themselves. Meanwhile, back in Washington D. C., President Roosevelt refused to agree to the innocuous resolution supported by his own delegation. Hull could not afford another blow to his prestige and he hoped the world would not have to view another failure of international cooperation. The easy road would have been to delay the Conference and avoid what appeared to be an inevitable clash. Hull's friends suggested he not risk "two failures." Also, a member of the presidential staff suggested that he discuss only the Pan American Highway. Hull went anyway, determined to succeed.

He expected, and with much justification, that the Argentine Chancellor would probably be the leader of the general opposition to the United States. In describing his thoughts about the Argentine Foreign Minister, Hull indicated that "Saavedra Lamas had long been one of the most outstanding and irrepressible opponents of the United States."

States."

To enjoy a meaningful and successful Conference,

⁴² Cordell Hull, The Memoirs of Cordell Hull (New York: Macmillan Co., 1948), $\frac{1}{2}$ volumes, $\frac{1}{2}$ Vol. I, p. $\frac{1}{317}$.

⁴³Ibid., 319.

^{44&}lt;u>Ibid.</u>, 322.

			A Comment

Hull would have to find some way to deal with his gaucho counterpart. He was aided in this quest by two unlikely sources, the Argentine ambassadors in Washington D. C. and Bogotá, Colombia. Both suggested to United States representatives that if Hull signed the Anti-War Pact, Saavedra Lamas could be won over. Subsequently, Espil said the same thing directly to Hull. It is interesting to note that this suggestion was put forward on the same day, in much the same words (both talked of "winning Saavedra Lamas over") but in two separate locations. Although there is no evidence other than what is cited above, it is probable that the suggestion was not spontaneous.

In any case, Hull followed it. Concerning the Anti-War Pact, the instructions to the United States delegates read as follows:

However, largely as a matter of expediency it may appear advisable for the United States to consider signing this treaty.... It is possible that if the United States should be willing to sign the Argentine Anti-War Pact, Argentina would consider favorably adherence to the Briand-Kellogg Pact.... Furthermore, an expressed willingness on our part to sign Señor Saavedra Lamas' Anti-War Treaty might conceivably be of considerable assistance to our delegation in working for cooperation and harmony at the Conference and avoiding the creation of embarrassing incidents arising through an attempt on the part of the other

⁴⁵ See U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 710.G/338 Conversation Espil and Cafferty, October 31, 1933 and 710. 1012 Anti-War/42 Whitehouse (Bogotá) to Dept. of State, October 31, 1933.

⁴⁶ Hull, <u>Memoirs</u>, I, 322.

delegations to raise controversial questions, involving the United States. 47

If Saavedra Lamas had known this, he undoubtedly would have felt much better. Since he did not, he remained recalcitrant. Hull was shocked when he learned that although Saavedra Lamas had accepted Uruguay's invitation to the Conference on October 31, a delegation was not named until the last minute. He noted that Saavedra Lamas had planned to conduct business from across the river. If the Argentine Foreign Minister had continued with the plan, the Conference would certainly have been destroyed.

Happily, this did not happen. Hull prevented castatrophe by courting his Argentine counterpart. Almost immediately upon hearing of the arrival of Saavedra Lamas, he went to visit him. The United States Secretary of State described his reception by Saavedra Lamas as courteous, but reserved and aloof. After assuring Saavedra Lamas that his only goal was to put into practice the concepts of the Good Neighbor Policy, he asked for the counsel of the Argentine Foreign Minister. Continuing to play on the vanity of Saavedra Lamas, Hull said, "I know from your record that you will help us take the right direction and do so in a thoroughly practical and efficient manner." 49

⁴⁷U. S. Dept. of State, <u>Foreign Relations</u>, 1933, IV, p. 54.

⁴⁸Hull, <u>Memoirs</u>, I, 327.

^{49 &}lt;u>Ibid.</u>, 327-8.

Hull then put forward his proposition. He noted that strong policy stands were needed in the economic area and asserted the need for the nations present at the Conference to sign the available peace machinery. Then he dropped a bombshell by stating the United States would sign the Anti-War Pact. Saavedra Lamas "sat up straighter." Subsequently he suggested that since Saavedra Lamas was known for his work in the area of peace, the Argentine Chancellor should introduce the peace resolution, while he handled the economic side. According to the Secretary of State, Saavedra Lamas sat silently until he indicated that, if the Argentine Chancellor did not wish to do this maybe Mello Franco would. Saavedra Lamas asked for twenty-four hours to consider the proposition and indicated that a reply would be forthcoming. 50 What Hull was suggesting was indeed revolutionary. He was literally offering Saavedra Lamas a United States supported leadership role. Shortly thereafter, Saavedra Lamas returned and agreed to the deal. According to the Secretary of State, he said, "we shall be the two wings of the dove of peace, you the economic and I the political."51

In the meetings which followed, the details of the agreement were worked out. Saavedra Lamas found Hull's

^{50&}lt;sub>1bid</sub>., 328-9.

⁵¹Ibid., 329.

economic proposal to be deficient only in proper Spanish phraseology and requested that he be allowed to redraft it. ⁵² When he returned with the document, however, the United States delegation found it to be "inferior in phraseology, intent and vigor." Confronted with this view, Saavedra Lamas, after a great deal of discussion, agreed to allow still a third draft. Wright, in his memorandum concerning this event, described the problem as "pride of

⁵² Hull's program grew out of the failure of the London Economic Conference in the summer of 1933. At that time the United States gave up the idea of general tariff reduction and shifted to reciprocal most-favored-nation agree-In the case of Argentina this policy foundered because the United States would not significantly lower her tariffs or end her sanitary restrictions on beef. Saavedra Lamas, himself did not become seriously involved in the negotiation. At the suggestion of the Foreign Minister, Tomás LeBreton handled discussions concerning trade. At other times the Minister of Finance dealt with economic issues. See William Grant Cooper, "New Light on the Good Neighbor Policy: The United States and Argentina, 1933-1939" (unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, University of Pennsylvania, 1972). In Chapter IV (pp. 50-83), dealing with the reciprocal trade program, Saavedra Lamas is never mentioned. See also U. S. Dept. of State, Foreign Relations, 1933, IV, pp. 650-653; 1935, IV, p. 273; 1936, V, p. 200; and 1937, V, p. 222.

During the 1933 Montevideo Conference one of the concessions Saavedra Lamas obtained from Cordell Hull was acceptance of a Pan American Commercial Conference to be held in Buenos Aires. Scheduled from May 26 to June 19, 1935 it was not expected to produce much of a transendental nature and fulfilled those expectations. It did, however, provide an opportunity for Saavedra Lamas and Argentina to once again gain the hemispheric spotlight. He used it to attack the economic policy of the United States. For the text of this address see Carlos Saavedra Lamas, Por la paz de los americas (Buenos Aires: Compañía impresora Argentina, 1937), pp. 307-346.

authorship."⁵³ Conceit, also, probably caused Saavedra Lamas to read his peace proposal only once in English to Hull and not leave a copy.

During the remainder of the Conference, even Saavedra Lamas' well-known vanity did not disrupt the agreement between himself and Hull. They worked together in harmony. When the question of intervention came up, Saavedra Lamas, whom one would expect to be the loudest in his denunciations, said only enough to escape the charge of subservience to the United States. After Saavedra Lamas finished his statement, Hull went to him and indicated that he understood. When the Mexican program on debt settlement was proposed, Saavedra Lamas helped Hull squelch it.

Saavedra Lamas also worked closely with Hull on the Chaco dispute, supporting his efforts to bring about a resolution calling for peace. On December 18 a resolution was passed, urging a settlement of the Chaco conflict. 55 On the same day, the League of Nations Peace Commission received a letter from President Eusebío Ayala of Paraguay, calling for a truce. Washington immediately cabled "warm

 $^{^{53}}$ U. S. Dept. of State, <u>Foreign</u> <u>Relations</u>, 1933, IV, 178-185.

⁵⁴Hull, <u>Memoirs</u>, I, p. 335.

⁵⁵U. S. Dept. of State, Foreign Relations, 1933, IV, 377.

congratulations" to Hull. ⁵⁶ The congratulations were, however, justified only in the most indirect way. Other events had actually determined Paraguay's policy. On the eleventh of December, a general offensive by the Paraguayans paid off with a victory at Campo Vía. Some 8,000 prisoners and a large arsenal of weapons fell to the Paraguayan troops. For the Bolivians, this was a crushing blow which left them in general disarray. Furthermore, the way was still open for another Paraguayan drive. ⁵⁷

Ayala chose to propose an armistice because the victory gave him the power to deal from a position of strength.

Ayala probably hoped that the power of the League, coupled with the strong support of the delegates in Montevideo, would stampede Bolivia into a settlement. In that regard, it can reasonably be argued that neither Saavedra Lamas nor Hull nor even the League Commission played a direct role in the cease fire.

When the Bolivians accepted the truce rather than risk the distruction of her army the Conference wasted no time calling for general support of the League of Nations

⁵⁶<u>Ibid</u>., 379.

⁵⁷ For the story of the Campo Via offensive see Zook, Chaco War, 158-184. It is notable that after the Paraguayan victory Leopoldo Melo, acting Chancellor in the absence of Saavedra Lamas, sent Ayala congratulations, as did the Minister of War, Rodriguez. See Rivarola, Memoria, III, 43.

mediation efforts. Unfortunately, the scene had quickly been sullied by a Bolivian charge, made on December 20, that Paraguay had already violated the truce. Furthermore, the Paraguayan army indicated its disapproval of being leashed by not sending the necessary military observer to the negotiations in Montevideo until the day before the truce was to expire on December 20. The League Commission therefore had to seek an extension of the truce. Ayala was only able to give eight more days due to pressure from the military, on which apparently saw its golden opportunity escaping.

After Saavedra Lamas returned to Buenos Aires, a general meeting was held of cabinet level officials, including President Justo. It was agreed there, apparently with the concurrence of Saavedra Lamas, that the League had no place in a purely American affair. 61 Perhaps that is why

⁵⁸ Argentina, Min. de Rel. Ext., La política argentina, III, 175.

⁵⁹ Margaret La Foy, The Chaco Dispute and the League of Nations, p. 75.

⁶⁰U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 724.3415/3465 Nicholson (Asunción) to Dept. of State, December 29, 1933.

This account was given by Interior Minister Leopold Melo to Spruille Braden. See U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 724.3415/3537, Braden to Dept. of State, January 1, 1934.

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Saavedra Lamas suggested to Hull an economic conference in Buenos Aires to handle the financial aspects which the Argentine Chancellor had often suggested were a prime cause of the war. Earlier, during the Conference, he had proposed a similar step, under ABCP auspices. Either of these proposals, had they been accepted, would have once again pushed Argentina and her Foreign Minister to the forefront. But such was not to be the case, for on January 6, 1934 the truce ended and the fighting began again. There would be no point in discussing economics while the decision remained on the battlefield.

In summing up the events at Montevideo in his <u>Informe</u> to President Justo, Saavedra Lamas never mentioned the early agreement with Hull. He did, however, mention that it was a happy coincidence when his economic proposal turned out to be similar to Hull's. 64 It is questionable, however,

⁶²U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 724.3415/3491, Weddell (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, January 4, 1934. At this Buenos Aires meeting were Weddell, Hull, Justo and Saavedra Lamas.

America to the Seventh International Conference of American States (Washington: U. S. Government Printing Office, 1934), p. 14.

⁶⁴ Carlos Saavedra Lamas, "Informe presentado por el presidente de la delegación Argentina." In Republica Argentina, Archivo del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto, VII Conferencia International Americana, Box 1, Lejado 1, p. 3.

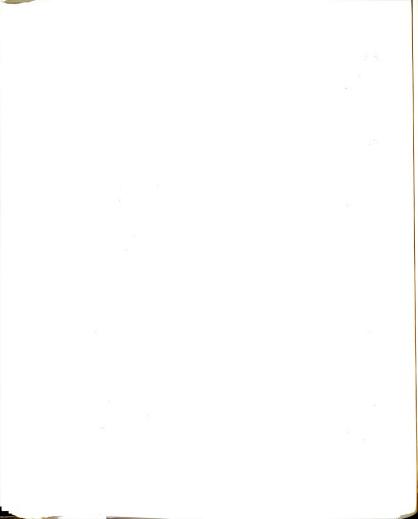
whether Saavedra Lamas ever had a firm set of economic proposals. Perhaps he would have supported Mexico's Anti-United States position. In any case, the cast Saavedra Lamas chose to put on the events sounded much better than indicating Hull had made a deal with him to accept the Anti-War Pact.

In that regard, Saavedra Lamas lauded Hull for his
Pan American spirit. He noted that the concept of
sovereignity was now secure and that his Anti-War Pact was
now well on its way to general acceptance. He took particular delight in noting that the United States no longer
appeared to be anti-League. 65

Saavedra Lamas must have been delighted with the Montevideo Conference. He had been courted by Hull, an honor which he might have been the last to admit was an honor. He received the leadership role so many of his predecessors had desired, and had placed himself in the forefront of Pan Americanism and international affairs in general. He achieved this goal at a time when an objective appraisal of Argentine power indicated it was not justified. Moreover, "Argentina yielded no principles and sacrificed no goals." 66

⁶⁵ Ibid., pp. 3-4, 7-8.

⁶⁶Harold F. Peterson, Argentina and the United States,
1810-1960 (New York: Macmillan Co., 1964), p. 384.



CHAPTER 5

A MAN TO BE RECKONED WITH

Chaco Negotiations January, 1934 to February, 1935

Despite the end of the truce arranged during the Montevideo Conference, the League continued its efforts to find an acceptable peace formula. On February 22, 1934, it proposed a plan to the belligerents. It differed from the multitude of earlier projects solely in that the disputants would renounce previous reservations regarding arbitration. In order to obtain agreement, and with knowledge of Saavedra Lamas' previous actions, the League did not consult him on the formula.

This proved to be a fatal mistake. Because the basic outline of the proposal was available before it was actually presented, Rivarola was able to report on February 10 that Saavedra Lamas did not approve of the League project. 2

United States, Department of State, Foreign Relations of the United States (Washington D.C.: United States Government Printing Office, 1951), 1934, Volume IV, pp. 52-53.

²Vicente Rivarola, <u>Memorias</u> <u>Diplomáticas</u> (Buenos Aires: Editorial Ayacucho, 1957), Volume III, pp. 69-70.

That the reason was lack of consultation was shown clearly in two conversations with Weddell on February 26 and 27. In both the Argentine Chancellor emphasized the fact that the League Commission had not talked with him before presenting the formula. In the second conversation, the Argentine Foreign Minister belittled the League plan as "defective" and announced he would not support it. To avoid being publicly accused of opposing peace, however, Saavedra Lamas added that he hoped the belligerents would accept, although he was pessimistic. 3

Bolivia accepted the League proposal, but the Paraguayans, assured of Argentine backing, refused. As a result, the United States, as well as the League Commission, became irritated by Saavedra Lamas' actions. Rivarola reported that the members of the League Commission were particularly critical of the Argentine Chancellor. There was even talk of going over Saavedra Lamas' head to Justo

The first conversation referred to was United States Archives, Record Group 59, Decimal File 724.3415/3564, Weddell (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, February 26, 1934. For the second, see <u>ibid</u>., Decimal File 724.3415/3569, Weddell (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, February 27, 1934.

For a summary of the Bolivian response, see U. S. Dept. of State, Foreign Relations, 1934, IV, p. 64, for Paraguay see, <u>ibid.</u>, p. 63.

⁵Rivarola, <u>Memorias</u>, III, 94-95.

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in order to have him place pressure on Paraguay. 6
Characteristically, no action was taken and the League
Commission went home. 7

Bolivia, however, did not give up so easily. As a result of a desparate military situation in May, 1934, she asked for League sanctions (i.e., an embargo) under Article 158 of the League of Nations Covenant. In order to forestall any action, Saavedra Lamas initiated a new peace proposal on July 12. It differed from other peace formulas in that it relied on the Anti-War Pact for its authority. At the same time he made news of the project known, he asked Brazil and the United States to join him in a tripartite effort. Both agreed after Saavedra Lamas informed them that Paraguay had already accepted without reservations. 10

⁶<u>Ibid.</u>, p. 80 and U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 724.3415/3626, Weddell (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, March 15, 1934. What makes this absurd is that during this period Justo was negotiating a new loan for Paraguay. See Rivarola, Memorias, III, 82-92.

⁷The final Commission report, League of Nations,
Dispute between Bolivia and Paraguay: Report of the Chaco
Commission, May 11, 1934, Political, C. 154.M.64 VII
(1934), says nothing unfavorable about Saavedra Lamas.

⁸Article 15 allowed action by the General Assembly if the Council was unable to stop a war between two members.

⁹U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 724.3415/3946 Weddell (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, July 13, 1934.

¹⁰ U. S. Dept. of State, Foreign Relations, 1934, IV, 142-143.

Subsequently, both Brazil and the United States began pressuring Bolivia to accept. La Paz, ever suspicious of anything engineered by Saavedra Lamas, initially demurred and then conditionally accepted on September 7. 11 Much to the other mediators' surprise, Saavedra Lamas immediately lost interest in the proposal. On September 11 he indicated pessimism about the proposal 12 and on the 12th, the Argentine representative at the League observed that the League should once again begin mediation. 13 Lest they be left in a difficult position, Brazil and the United States ended their efforts.

The reason for Saavedra Lamas' change of heart is not absolutely clear. The stated justification, pessimism over Paraguayan acceptance of the Bolivian counter offer, is unconvincing. Another theme superficially alluded to, that the time was not "ripe" for a settlement, seems to supply the answer. Paraguay was on the offensive and delay meant more territory for Asunción. Also, since Bolivia

¹¹ Ibid., pp. 193-195.

¹² U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 724.3415/4117 Gibson (Rio de Janeiro) to Dept. of State, September 13, 1934.

 $[\]begin{array}{c} {\rm 13}_{\rm Argentina,\ Ministerio\ de\ Relaciones\ Exteriores\ y}\\ {\rm Culto,\ } \underline{\rm La\ politica\ argentina\ en\ } \underline{\rm la\ guerra\ } \underline{\rm del\ } \underline{\rm Chaco\ } \\ {\rm Aires:\ } \underline{\rm Guillermo\ Kraft,\ 1937),\ p.\ 236.} \end{array}$

¹⁴ Ibid., The Argentine version stresses this point.

conditionally accepted the tripartite proposal, pressure to modify her position would fall upon Paraguay rather than Bolivia. It is likely that because the negotiations were hurting Argentina's ally, Saavedra Lamas decided, or possibly was ordered, to scuttle them.

It was not until November, 1934, that the League was able to produce another peace formula. It was not materially different from early plans. On December 10 Bolivia accepted. Paraguay, still advancing on the battlefield, delayed sending a response until January 16, 1935, when she rejected the proposal. In retaliation, the League lifted the military arms embargo on Bolivia which it had placed upon both belligerents on December 1, 1934. By so doing, the Geneva-based body dubbed Paraguay the aggressor. Paraguay therefore quit the League, but because Argentina continued to ship arms to Asunción, the embargo was not fatal. 16

Final Settlement

The League, however, was considering stronger sanctions

¹⁵ In the summer of 1934, thirty-nine nations prohibited sales of arms to the belligerents. Sales, however, continued. For a closer examination of the embargo see U. S. Dept. of State, Foreign Relations, 1934, IV, pp. 247-299.

¹⁶ For the details on the last efforts of the League, see Leslie B. Rout, Jr., Politics of the Chaco Peace Conference, 1935-1939 (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1970), pp. 92-94.

against Paraguay and although the idea never went beyond the talking stage, it did provide the impetus which brought a final peace plan. It did so by placing Saavedra Lamas in a difficult position; he did not want increased sanctions, 17 but also he did not want to appear anti-League. Consequently, in order to stop the League, another mediation effort was begun by Saavedra Lamas in alliance with Chile. Envoys were secretly sent to the contentious powers. Saavedra Lamas dispatched Podestá Costa to Paraguay and Cruchaga sent Félix Nieto del Río to Bolivia. 18

On March 14, Chile and Argentina jointly announced that efforts were being undertaken. In order to demonstrate they were serious, Espil approached Assistant Secretary of State Sumner Welles asking for United States cooperation. Welles foiled Saavedra Lamas' attempt at recruitment by saying he would have to have more information before he could give direct support. 19 Undaunted, Saavedra Lamas instructed his minister at the League to announce that Brazil had agreed to cooperate with Chile and Argentina in

¹⁷ Argentina, Min. de Rel. Ext., La política argentina, pp. 261-262 gave a very negative account of the League action and dubbed it "unjust."

 $^{^{18}\}text{U.}$ S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 724.3415/4590, Cox (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, March 14, 1935 details the early developments.

¹⁹U. S. Dept. of State, Foreign Relations, 1935, IV,
pp. 14-16.

this new attempt at peace. The Brazilians were aghast at this, and lost little time in informing both the United States and the League that the Argentine statement was in error. 20

On April 1, 1935, after the transmittal of a vague outline of the proposed plan, Chile formally asked Peru, the United States and Brazil to join with herself and Argentina in Buenos Aires to look for a solution to the Chaco war. The United States and Peru both accepted by April 7, 21 but Brazil did not immediately respond. The problem was that she did not receive an invitation to a proposed economic part of the conference relative to the Chaco. Adding to Brazil's anger was the absurdity of Saavedra Lamas' statement that the reason she was not invited was due to a typographical error. 22 The Argentine Chancellor was actually attempting to halt competition from Brazil. 23 Finally, an apology was sent, and on May 2 Brazil agreed to join in the mediation effort.

²⁰Ibid., 19.

²¹U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 724.3415/4731B, Hull to United States Embassy in Argentina, April 6, 1935.

^{22 &}lt;u>Ibid.</u>, Decimal File 724.3415/4733, Hull to United States <u>Embassy</u> in Brazil, April 9, 1935.

²³See U. S. Dept. of State, <u>Foreign Relations</u>., 1935, IV, pp. 28-30. The Brazilians indicated this could very possibly be the reason.

A week later the mediation group composed of Saavedra Lamas (Argentina), Nieto del Río (Chile), José Bonifacio de Andrade e Silva (Brazil), and Felipe Barreda Loas (Peru) began work. The interim representative of the United States was Raymond Cox, who was supplanted in mid-June by Hugh Gibson. The goal was to find a peace formula acceptable to the belligerents, but their first act was to invite Uruguay to participate. Montevideo accepted and sent Eugenio Martínez Thédy as its representative. The mediation group then formally requested that Bolivia and Paraguay send representatives.

Both groups agreed by May 14 to send delegates. Both Paraguay and Bolivia were represented by their Foreign Ministers, Luis A. Riart and Tomás Elfo. The principal reason the belligerents accepted was the stalemate which resulted from their inability to successfully carry on military operations. Paraguay's victories had taken her army far into the Chaco and she could no longer adequately supply her troops. Bolivian defeats had left her army in disarray, but because the front line was now closer to the population centers her logistical problems were less pressing.

The serious work of the mediation group began with the arrival in Buenos Aires of the President of Brazil, Getúlio Vargas, and his foreign minister, José Carlos de Macedo

Soares on May 26.²⁴ The trip had been planned much earlier as a return visit for the 1933 excursion by Justo and Saavedra Lamas. Macedo Soares, however, lost little time in entering into the negotiations. He suggested a number of plans to the belligerents, but Paraguay raised objections to all of them. Meanwhile, Saavedra Lamas was growing increasingly perplexed at his guest's presumptuousness. Not only was the Brazilian stealing the show, but he was conducting the negotiations in his residence. The Argentine Chancellor quickly put a stop to this by insisting that all negotiations take place in the Anchorena Palace, where he could control matters.²⁵ According to Bautista Saavedra, a Bolivian delegate, this was "a jar of cold water flung directly into [Macedo] Soares' face."²⁶

At issue in the negotiations were the same points that had plagued the mediation efforts for years. Paraguay wanted guarantees against renewed fighting, including international inspection of the reduction of both armies to peace time levels. For her part, Bolivia wanted a time limit on mediation and pre-agreement on the nature of

²⁴ Macedo Soares had replaced Mello Franco in July, 1934.

²⁵U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 724.3415/4930, Gordon (Rio de Janeiro) to Dept. of State, June 4, 1935.

Bautista Saavedra, <u>El Chaco y la conferencia de paz</u> <u>de Buenos Aires</u> (Santiago: <u>Editorial Nacimiento, 1939</u>), p. 63.

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arbitration before a cease-fire would be accepted. A number of formulas were forwarded, but it was not until June 3 that the first significant compromise took place. Paraguay agreed to an arbitration formula in exchange for Bolivian guarantees. 27

The final problem, that of setting a limit on the duration of the conference, was more difficult. Paraguay was willing to talk forever since she controlled the Chaco. Bolivia, of course, wanted a quick decision because the longer Paraguay occupied the Chaco, the more difficult it would be to force her out. Again, a number of proposals were forwarded, only to be rejected. The Paraguayan, Riart, on June 8 suggested that the mediators decide when their efforts would end and arbitration would begin. Bolivia would have rejected this proposal, but Saavedra Lamas gave his personal assurance that the negotiations would continue until a settlement was reached. Elío of Bolivia tried to ignore the statement, but Macedo Soares backed his Argentine: counterpart. Elío was trapped between insulting the Foreign Ministers of Brazil and Argentina or accepting the formula. At 1:15 AM., June 9, he accepted the latter. 28 What makes

²⁷U. S. Dept. of State, <u>Foreign Relations</u>, 1935, IV, pp. 68-71.

²⁸Argentina, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto, Archivo, <u>La Conferencia de la paz del Chaco</u>, Box 4 Expedinete II, "Actos Originales del Grupo Mediadores," pp. 12-19. Elío was able to obtain one more concession. Any arbitration would be done by the Hague Court.

this ironic is that Bolivia accepted a peace formula based upon assurances by the man whose government had supplied the arms which allowed Paraguay to win.

The final protocol was signed at noon on June 12, 1935, but not without the usual antics by Saavedra Lamas. The Foreign Ministers of Chile and Peru were due to arrive in Buenos Aires at 2:00 P.M. Saavedra Lamas refused to allow a delay and went ahead with the formal signing. He was serving notice early and to all that this was his Conference.

Unfortunately, the June 12 Protocol was drawn up hastily and as a result there were serious defects. The most glaring was in regards to the boundary separating the armies. In Article II, clauses a and c, "line" singular was used, while the plural "lines" was utilized in clause d. It is probable that this was not accidental. There was also no enforcement provision as regards demobilization. 30 These points caused delays and confusion in reaching a final definitive settlement.

It is evident that during the last year and one-half of fighting, Saavedra Lamas pursued the same policy and tactics he had earlier. By constantly shifting the peace

Per a copy of the June 12 Protocol see United States
Department of State, Report of the Delegation of the United
States of America to the Peace Conference Held at Buenos
Aires July 1, 1935-January 23, 1939. Conference Series 46
(Washington D.C.: United States Government Printing Office, 1940), pp. 49-52.

³⁰ See <u>Ibid</u>., pp. 9-11.

efforts between himself and other mediating groups he controlled the situation. By this means he was able to insure a preeminent position for himself and Argentina and at the same time protect the Paraguayans. When a peace effort finally did succeed after so many had failed, the reason was the inability of both belligerents to maintain effective military operations. It is to Saavedra Lamas' credit that he supplied the vehicle for the mutual standdown. His motive, however, that of forestalling the League, detracts from any distinction he is due. In that regard, his statement to the Bolivians announcing his attention to keep the Conference in session probably would have remained only a passing comment had not Macedo Soares seized upon it.

The Chaco Peace Conference

The first meeting of the Chaco Peace Conference was held on July 1, 1935, and it became obvious that the same type of acrimony and distrust that had marked the endeavors to end the fighting would continue. After Saavedra Lamas was chosen President of the Conference, he insisted that when he was absent the Vice-Presidency rotate among the delegates. The Argentine Chancellor wanted to avoid sanctioning a competition for leadership. In his actions, however, Saavedra Lamas double crossed Macedo Soares, to whom he had promised that the Brazilian delegate to the

Conference would be Vice-President. 31

In Saavedra Lamas' letter to his Ambassador in Brazil, Ramón J. Cárcano, telling him to make amends, he appended his letter with the statement, "Argentina [that is, Saavedra Lamas] has to be the center of the Conference." That the Argentine Chancellor was serious in this statement is borne out by his demand that all discussions would be held by the full conference rather than in committee. To tactical reasons, he was determined to retain control of the Conference.

The first policy Saavedra Lamas followed was that of delaying the Conference. The only open and consistently enunciated justification for waiting was that demobilization would continually decrease the chances of renewed fighting. 34 Moreover, it would also allow him time to

³¹ Argentina, Archives, Box 4, Expediente 1, "Asuntos Varios," Telegram Cifrado 458, Saavedra Lamas to Cárcano (Rio de Janeiro), July 6, 1935. In revenge the Brazilian attempted to replace Saavedra Lamas' choice for Secretary of the Conference, Podestá Costa, with the North American, Allen Dawson. He was, however, unsuccessful.

³² Ibid.

³³U. S. Dept. of State, Foreign Relations, 1935, IV, pp. 92-93.

³⁴U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 724.34119/35, Weddell (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, July 12, 1935.

collect information and precedents from past conferences, ³⁵ and provide time for the other Foreign Ministers who had arrived for the opening of the Conference to go home. ³⁶ The most important reason for delay, however, was that it would work to the benefit of Paraguay.

Saavedra Lamas' general orientation, nevertheless, did not stop him from trying to obtain a quick final settlement during July, 1935 in terms eminently favorable to Argentina and Paraguay. He did this by dropping none too subtle hints on numerous occasions. In his plan, the United States would give, or convince banks to loan, money to Bolivia which she would then use to pay reparations to Paraguay. At one point, on July 29, he even suggested that concessions could be purchased from Asunción. The Bolivia would be assuaged further by Chile, which would return Bolivia's lost littoral. Bolivia was to be accomplished

³⁵Argentina, Archives, Box 4, Expediente I, "Asuntos Varios," Telegram Cifrado 478, Saavedra Lamas to Argentine Embassy in Paris, July 11, 1935 and <u>ibid</u>., Box 4, Expediente I, "Asuntos Varios," Telegram ordinario 1226, Le Breton (Paris) to Saavedra Lamas, July 13, indicated that five volumes on prisoners and their disposition, would be sent. A large volume of material relative to other topics to be discussed by the Conference was also forwarded.

³⁶U. S. Dept. of State, Foreign Relations, 1935, IV, p. 95.

³⁷ Ibid., p. 95.

³⁸ For the basic outline of this plan, see <u>ibid.</u>, 98, 100-101, 106-107, 111-112. In mentioning Chile's role, Saavedra Lamas said that surrendering the sea coast would be a "noble gesture."

was not clear, but presumably, the United States was expected in some way to cooperate. Never mentioned was the fact that the money Bolivia would receive would eventually end up in Buenos Aires to pay off Argentina's loans to Paraguay. The beauty of the plan as far as Saavedra Lamas was concerned was that it would bring in always needed money and satisfy the belligerents at the expense of the United States and Chile. Moreover, the credit for the settlement would rebound upon Saavedra Lamas. Predictably, Santiago and Washington D.C. quickly and vociferously rejected the program. 39

In early August, another scheme manifested itself, that of bringing together the presidents of Bolivia and Paraguay. There is not concrete proof, but it appears that Saavedra Lamas was behind this gambit. The idea went for naught, but did result in an embarrassing situation for the Argentine Foreign Minister. On August 16, Macedo Soares

³⁹For the United States view, see U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 724.34119/45 Philips to Gibson (Buenos Aires) July 18, 1935. The Chilean opinion can be found in Argentina, Archives, Box 5, Expediente 1. "Asuntos Varios' Confidential letter 200, Quintana (Santiago) to Saavedra Lamas, July 21, 1935.

¹⁰ Ibid., Box 7 Expediente 1, "cuestiones de fondo," Telegram Cifrado 904 (Muy Reservado), Freyre (Asunción) to Saavedra Lamas, July 12, 1935. In this telegram there is a strong indication that Saavedra Lamas ordered Freyre to look into this matter.

called in the Argentine Ambassador, Cárcano, and said he believed any meeting was premature and indicated opposition. The Argentine Chancellor, upon receipt of the note, told Cárcano to tell Macedo Soares he had nothing to do with the proposal. When he heard Saavedra Lamas' answer, the Brazilian Foreign Minister became furious and produced letters he had received from his representative in La Paz reporting that the Argentine government was putting pressure upon the Bolivians to have such a parly. There is no evidence of a response from Buenos Aires.

Saavedra Lamas' delaying tactics were more successful than his larger plans. Unfortunately, progress had to be demonstrated or criticism would fall on the President of the Conference. Moreover, Saavedra Lamas' plans were not public knowledge. Consequently, the Argentine Chancellor had to show that the Conference was moving forward while delaying any definite action. As a result, on July 19, when the delegates of the United States, Chile and Brazil

⁴¹ Ibid., Box 4, Expediente 1, "Asuntos VArios,"
Telegram Cifrado 1011, Cárcano (Rio de Janeiro) to Saavedra
Lamas, August 16, 1935.

⁴²<u>Ibid.</u>, Box 4, Expediente 1, "Asuntos Varios" Telegram Cifrado 532, Saavedra Lamas to Cárcano (Rio de Janeiro), August 17, 1935.

^{43 &}lt;u>Ibid.</u>, Box 4, Expediente 1, "Asuntos Varios," Telegram Cifrado 1023, Cárcano (Rio de Janeiro) to Saavedra Lamas, August 20, 1935.

suggested committees be set up to study the questions of prisoners, Saavedra Lamas agreed. 44

Ten days later, Saavedra Lamas completely reversed himself, and in what Hugh Gibson, the United States' delegate, described as a "violent tirade" announced that subsidiary issues, such as the disposition of prisoners would have to wait. The captives, he asserted would be bargaining points for the more important issue of territorial settlement. Paraguay had approximately 17,000 Bolivians, while Bolivia had only 2,500 Paraguayans. 45 Saavedra Lamas went on to state that Paraguay had won the war and La Paz would have to pay reparations. The next day, apparently calmed, he reversed himself and indicated that the prisoner committee could continue. 46 The minutes of the subsequent meeting, however, which were prepared under the auspices of Saavedra Lamas, referred to the delegates working on the prisoners problem as a "special" committee which would study the question in its "juridical aspects." 47

⁴⁴ U. S. Dept. of State, <u>Foreign Relations</u>, 1935, IV, p. 101.

⁴⁵ There was considerable disagreement over the number of prisoners that were held by both sides. In round figures, Bolivia had 2,500 Paraguayans and Paraguay had 17,000 Bolivians. For a full discussion of numbers see Rout, Politics, 134-139.

⁴⁶U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 724.34119/80 Gibson (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, July 29, 1935.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

Eventually, after a few more gyrations, the prisoner committee was finally established. By August 6 it presented the belligerents with a draft agreement following lengthy discussions with Paraguay and Bolivia. Lamas had originally countenanced an effort at this time because if the Paraguayan and Bolivian presidents met 48 they would have to be supplied with something to sign. After it became clear that the presidential conference would not take place, the Argentine Foreign Minister torpedoed the plan. He did this by informing Paraguay that it was a United States proposal. 49 Moreover, in subsequent discussions, he constantly referred to the plan as "Gibson's proposal." Since the formula tended toward the Bolivian view that the prisoners held should simply be repatriated, Paraguay found it objectionable because she held far more prisoners and it was a valuable bargaining tool.⁵¹

⁴⁸ Ibid., Decimal File 724.34119/84, Gibson (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, August 3, 1935.

Aires) to Dept. of State, August 11, 1935.

^{50 &}lt;u>Ibid.</u>, Decimal File 724.34119/111, Gibson (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, August 14, 1935.

⁵¹U. S. Dept. of State, Chaco Peace Conference, p. 20.

Approximately a week after it was decided to study the prisoner question, the Conference took up the problem of determining war responsibility, which the June 12 protocol had mandated be dealt with. On July 26, at the seventh plenary session of the Conference, a committee composed of representatives from Peru, Brazil, Uruquay and the belligerents was set up to deal with the subject. The Peruvian delegate, Barreda Laos, who did not attend the meeting, suddenly found he was a member of the committee. Perhaps because he was annoyed, he tried to stop the committee from taking any action. He objected to separating the territorial settlement from the responsibility question. Saavedra Lamas' willingness to discuss this issue as opposed to prisoners was probably due to the fact he believed that it would be years before a decision could be made and by that time, it would be irrelevant. Eventually, on August 2, a program calling for a three judge panel, one from each belligerent and a third from an American state, was drawn up. Both belligerents agreed to take the proposal under advisement, but internal difficulties within the Bolivian delegation caused a rejection on August 13.

On the territorial question, Saavedra Lamas had to do
very little to cause an impasse and its resultant delay.

Both belligerents proferred extreme positions. Nevertheless,
the Argentine Chancellor took the opportunity to berate the

Bolivians for their intransigence.⁵² In an August 3 conversation, Saavedra Lamas detailed his views on the territorial issue in terms reminiscent of those used in his earlier discussion in regard to prisoners. He stated the answer was to declare that Bolivia was the aggressor and that she would have to buy access to the Paraguay River.⁵³ Subsequently, he observed it might take two years to reach a land settlement.⁵⁴

With the important issues of the final territorial agreement and prisoner repatriation bottled up, Saavedra Lamas had to find an explanation. The Peruvian, Barreda Laos, with his continuing opposition to dealing with the responsibility question separately from the territorial issue, supplied the Argentine Foreign Minister with a scapegoat. Following representations made to Lima, 55 Saavedra Lamas sent letters to Santiago, 56 Rio de Janeiro, 57

⁵²U. S. Dept. of State, <u>Foreign Relations</u>, 1935, p. 109.

⁵³U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 724.34119/84 Gibson (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, August 3, 1935.

⁵⁴ Ibid., Decimal File 724.34119/96, Gibson (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, August 11, 1935.

^{55 &}lt;u>Ibid.</u>, Decumal File 724.34119/84, Gibson (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, August 3, 1935.

⁵⁶Argentina, Archives, Box 4, Expediente II, "Asuntos Varios," Telegram Cifrado 543, Saavedra Lamas to Argentine Embassy (Santiago), August 23, 1935.

⁵⁷ Ibid., Box 4, Expediente II, "Asuntos Varios," Telegram Cifrado 542, Saavedra Lamas to Argentine Embassy (Rio de Janeiro), August 23, 1935. In this letter Saavedra Lamas

and Washington D. C. denouncing Barreda Laos for causing delays. In his letter to Espil for transmittal to Welles, he stated that "the Conference is obstructed in its work [marcha] by personnel factors principally radiating from the Peruvian Ambassador, Barreda [Laos]." 58

With the Conference deadlocked, Saavedra Lamas announced that he was going to take a vacation. He did this for his own health and in order to slow the negotiations. At about the same time, however, the Argentine Chancellor apparently became worried that nothing was being accomplished and commented to that effect in a conversation with Gibson on August 28. The next day he reiterated his fears and indicated that the Conference would continue the search for a settlement in his absence. 60

While on vacation, Saavedra Lamas definitely decided progress must be made. Spurring his activity was the necessity for assuaging the other delegates who demanded action. He wanted to nip any independent negotiating.

Moreover, demobilization was progressing rapidly and when

suggested Cárcano talk to the Peruvian Ambassador about Barreda Laos.

^{58 &}lt;u>Ibid.</u>, Box 4, Expediente II, "Asuntos Varios," Telegram Cifrado 544, Saavedra Lamas to Argentine Embassy (Washington D.C.) August 24, 1935.

⁵⁹U. S. Dept. of State, <u>Foreign Relations</u>, 1935, IV, pp. 130-131.

^{60 &}lt;u>Ibid</u>., p. 131.

it was completed, the June 12 protocol mandated an end to It would be difficult to explain why Asunción still retained the Bolivian captives. The Paraguayans, however, continued to favor delay and as a result a rift developed between Buenos Aires and Asunción. While Saavedra Lamas was away, a telegram arrived on September 6 from the Argentine Ambassador in Asunción stating that Paraguay believed the Conference should recess until the political situation in Bolivia settled down. 61 When Saavedra Lamas returned, he informed the other mediators of Paraguay's position and indicated he opposed a recess. He announced he had informed Asunción that a declaration ending the war would have to be made and therefore Paraguay should modify its position concerning prisoner exchange. 62 Paraguay became upset. The Argentine Foreign Minister was considerably more blunt with the new Paraguayan delegate, Gerónimo Zubizarreta. He told him that on September 17 the prisoner question would be decided "with or without his cooperation," and that talk of a new suspension of activity was absurd. 63 It was just this type of action that prompted

Argentina, Archives, Box 4, Expediente II, "Asuntos Varios," Telegram Cifrado 1091, Freyre (Asunción) to Saavedra Lamas September 6, 1935.

⁶²U. S. Dept. of State, Foreign Relations, 1935, IV, pp. 140-141.

Argentina, Archives, Box 5, Expediente 1, "Asuntos Varios," Telegram Cifrado 599, Saavedra Lamas to Martinez Pita (Asunción) September 17, 1935.

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Gibson to report that "both parties manifest growing suspicion of Saavedra Lamas." 64

Saavedra Lamas also attempted to obtain acceptance of a new responsibilities formula which had been proposed by Barreda Laos on September 14. It called for a three judge panel, the first two chosen by the belligerents, the third to be a member of the United States Supreme Court. After the United States indicated it might be difficult to obtain a presiding Justice, the proposal was modified to include other Federal judges. On October 2, it was signed, but no significant progress was made toward implementation.

The major issues of prisoners and a final territorial settlement remained. With the end of the war imminent, the former had to be disposed of. Gibson, with the help of the Brazilian delegate, José de Paula Rodriguez Alves, and the Argentine, Podestá Costa, decided to link the problems and suggest a solution. Saavedra Lamas indicated initial agreement but, apparently fearful that the whole Conference would fail, subsequently cautioned delay. Podestá Costa,

⁶⁴U. S. Dept. of State, <u>Foreign Relations</u>, 1935, IV, p. 145.

^{65&}lt;u>Ibid.</u>, pp. 140, 143.

⁶⁶ For a copy see, U. S. Dept. of State, Chaco Peace Conference, pp. 95-98.

however, continued to work on the inclusive formula. 67

There is no evidence indicating whether or not Saavedra

Lamas found out about his aide's finagling, but Gibson reported later the same day, October 4, that the Argentine

Foreign Minister was worried that he was losing control of the Conference. 68

The work toward finalizing the inclusive plan went quickly, and it was ready by October 11. The next day, prior to the forwarding of the plan to the belligerents, Saavedra Lamas indicated he thought it would not succeed, and rather than "'admit failure'" he suggested that the Chaco matter be shifted to the upcoming conference of American states scheduled for December, 1936. He stated that it was necessary to "'make them [all the American states] shoulder their share of the blame.'" In his letter to Espil asking him to bring the matter before Welles, he wrote that the Conference would collapse because the end of the war would shortly be proclaimed and the prisoner question was locked in an "insolvable contradiction." Settlement, he contended, was impossible because

⁶⁷U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 724.34119/214, Gibson (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, October 4, 1935.

¹bid., Decimal File 724.34119/215, Gibson (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, October 4, 1935.

¹bid., Decimal File 724.3415/5111, Gibson (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, October 12, 1935.

of the internal situation in both Bolivia and Paraguay. 70 On October 16, Espil sent Saavedra Lamas a negative response by the United States to his suggestion. 71 On the 18th, Gibson reported that the Argentine Chancellor had completely given up the idea and acted as if the suggestion was never made. 72

The inclusive plan had been submitted on October 15, and three days later Paraguay rejected it, deeming the proposal "preposterous." Bolivia's reply was less vociferous, but required modifications Paraguay could not have reasonably been expected to consider. Following the declaration ending the war on October 25, 1935, 4 the stalemate Saavedra Lamas feared came about. There was serious talk on the part of the other delegates, as well as Saavedra Lamas, of adjourning for a few months in the hope

⁷⁰ Argentina, Archives, Box 7, Expediente I, "Cuestiones de fondo," Telegram Cifrado 664, Saavedra Lamas to Espil (Washington D.C.), October 14, 1935.

^{71 &}lt;u>Ibid.</u>, Box 7, Expediente I, "Cuestiones de Fondo," Telegram Cifrado 1267, Espil (Washington D.C.) to Saavedra Lamas.

⁷²U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 724.34119/240, Gibson (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, October 18, 1935.

^{73&}lt;sub>U. S. Dept. of State, Foreign Relations, 1935, IV, p. 165.</sub>

⁷⁴U. S. Dept. of State, Chaco Peace Conference, pp. 67-68.

that time would make one of the belligerents more reasonable. 75

Adjournment as a possibility lost credence when a breakthrough occurred on the prisoner issue. Paraguay had found that the support of approximately 17,000 Bolivian prisoners was very expensive, even though they were used as general laborers. Consequently, in early November, Asunción indicated she would consider returning the captives if Bolivia reinbursed her for their maintenance. In mid-November Spruille Braden replaced Gibson as the United States delegate. Saavedra Lamas, in filling him in on events to date, discussed the prisoner question. It was the Argentine Foreign Minister's opinion that it would be settled in ten days but that the Paraguayans were "tricky" and had to be watched. He observed that the Paraguayans had always assumed they could control the conference, but that his unbiased treatment had stopped Asunción. 76

Saavedra Lamas was wrong about the ease of obtaining a settlement and right about the trickiness of the Paraguayans. Initially it looked as if the only problem would involve haggling over how much money was to be paid.

⁷⁵U. S. Dept. of State, <u>Foreign Relations</u>, 1935, IV, pp. 176-182.

⁷⁶U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 724.34119/295½, Braden (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, November 20, 1935. The conversation took place on November 18.

On December 2, however, Paraguay complicated matters by insisting upon retaining the current cease-fire lines until a definitive peace could be established. Bolivia realized any such agreement would make dislodging the Paraguayans virtually impossible and therefore opposed it. A second factor causing trouble was a split in the Paraguayan delegation. Gerónimo Zubizarreta, who had replaced Riart, had presidential ambitions. As a result, he refused to compomise. 77

To break the impasse, Saavedra Lamas acceded to a suggestion of Braden's that he lead a delegation to explain the situation directly to the Paraguayan President.

According to Braden, he had little trouble with Ayala. 78

Asunción agreed to an acceptable prisoner accord and also was willing to drop the question of responsibilities, which Bolivia had indicated she was not particularly interested in pursuing.

Translating the general agreement to a specific written statement proved to be an ordeal. Braden, in his memoirs, discussed how he engineered the final settlement although there is no documentary evidence, including reports to the State Department, to directly support his account.

⁷⁷U. S. Dept. of State, <u>Foreign Relations</u>, 1935, IV, pp. 192-195.

⁷⁸ Spruille Braden, Diplomats and Demogogues (New Rochelle, New York: Arlington House, 1971), pp. 163-165.

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According to the United States Delegate, Zubizarreta continued to oppose the prisoner accord, even after his president had agreed. At a meeting to finalize the proposed act, Saavedra Lamas was "coached" by the other delegates to state that the Paraguayan delegate had accepted the basic outline earlier. The Argentine Chancellor, however, began to discuss the territorial issue. Since the issue was a volatile one, Braden stated that both he and Podestá Costa tried to stop Saavedra Lamas from making Zubizarreta even more recalcitrant. When attempts to interrupt the Argentine Foreign Minister failed, according to Braden, he flipped a wicker table full of coffee into Saavedra Lamas' lap. The Argentine Foreign Minister leaped up and while he was changing his trousers Zubizarreta agreed to the accord.

The formal signing of the protocol did not take place until January 20, 1936. For the remainder of the year very little was accomplished due to changes in the governments of Paraguay and Bolivia. In February Rafael Franco seized the government in Paraguay. Shortly after the renewal of

⁷⁹Braden, <u>Diplomats</u>, 165-169. In his work, Braden describes Saavedra Lamas as "vain, pathologically ambitious, essentially a stupid and wicked man" (p. 152). Lest too much credence be given Braden, it must be noted that Braden described everyone who disagreed with him as stupid, facist or communist and in the case of Juan Perón, all three epithets were utilized.

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serious negotiations, Colonel David Toro on May 31 led a successful coup d'état in Bolivia. As a result a good portion of the Conference members' time and energy were devoted to how and when these governments should be recognized, and to insuring the acceptance of the proposals agreed to by their predecessors. The only substantial accomplishment of the Conference during 1936 was overcoming Paraguayan recalcitrance and achieving the actual repatriation of the prisoners by August 21, 1936. Ironically, Bolivia took this opportunity to award Saavedra Lamas with a medal the Cóndor de los Andes, for his work on the prisoner exchange.

It is evident that Saavedra Lamas' main goals were to control the Conference in order to gain whatever credit was produced and also to support Paraguay's desire to retain the Chaco. Gaining honors, however, required a show of progress which unfortunately was inimical to Paraguay's aspirations. The result was a constantly shifting policy which dissatisfied both of the belligerents as well as the other delegates. When, however, Saavedra Lamas had to choose between his own prestige or the Paraguayans, Asunción took second place. It is reasonable to assume that the Argentine military allowed Saavedra Lamas more latitude than it had earlier. Also, issues in question were probably perceived as tertiary since the territorial settlement was not directly involved.

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It is, of course, impossible to determine if Saavedra Lamas' behavior precluded a quick settlement. Certainly his plans did not help the situation. What is more evident is that the Argentine Foreign Minister did not have the confidence of the delegates. Gibson certainly distrusted him. Detest might be the best word to describe Braden's opinion. Nieto del Rio is reputed to have said, "'When the Foreign Minister uses his voice, he loses the use of his head.'" Significantly, however, the distaste for Saavedra Lamas was not public knowledge.

Saavedra Lamas and the League

Besides the Peace Conference, in 1936 Saavedra Lamas was also involved with the League of Nations and its principal issue, the Italian invasion of Ethiopia in October, 1935. Immediately following the attack, Argentina voted in the League for sanctions against Rome. Buenos Aires, however, in approving sanctions stated that the embargo would only be respected in areas non-prejudicial to her economic and commercial interests. Although the reservation negates what slight effect Argentina's actions might have had, it must be noted that at that time Argentina had a huge population of first and second generation Italians. According

⁸⁰ Ibid., 168.

⁸¹ New York Times, October 13, 1935.

to Cárcano, the Cabinet was aghast when it heard what Saavedra Lamas had done. No one, however, was willing to challenge him out of fear he would belittle them. 82

Four months later, after the Italians had conquered Ethiopia, the League was left in a quandry over what action The major powers, fearful of driving should be taken. Italy into Germany's arms, wanted to avoid decisive action and generally delay activity. Saavedra Lamas had other He announced he was considering calling an early ideas. meeting of the Assembly of the League to discuss the problem of sanctions and recognition of the new Italian-Ethiopian state. Subsequently, he threatened that if his call in the Council of the League for an Assembly session was not granted, "Argentina would refuse to vote there [the Council] and would make its reasons known." In subsequent conversations, Saavedra Lamas' representative observed that his boss was looking for "broad support" for the non-recognition section of the Anti-War Pact. 83

Saavedra Lamas wanted a meeting on June 30, 1936, but on June 19 it was learned by the United States that the British were putting pressure on Saavedra Lamas to modify his position. 84 British influence, presumably of an

⁸² Interview with Miguel Angel Cárcano, Buenos Aires, September 8, 1972.

⁸³U. S. Dept. of State, Foreign Relations, 1936, III, pp. 145-158. The quoted material is on pages 148 and 156.

⁸⁴ Ibid., p. 160.

economic nature, bore fruit quickly. Argentina made it known that although the doctrine of non-recognition was absolute, it did not have to be applied to the Ethiopian situation. The other Latin Americans were also irritated with Argentina. As she retreated from her position, many American states were left in a difficult situation. There was serious talk of deserting the self-proclaimed leader of their coalition. 86

At the June meeting the Argentine delegate, José María Cantilo, began by lauding the non-recognition doctrine as enunciated in the August 3 Declaration. He went on to say that the League should once again indicate its fealty to the doctrine and noted that it was contained in the Covenant. If the League of Nations, Cantilo continued, did not re-affirm non-recognition, Argentina might be forced to withdraw. Although the statement appeared to be strong, in reality it was not since Ethiopia was never mentioned. Consequently, the Assembly was able to assuage Argentina's demand with a simple statement of reaffirmation. 87

Even though the action the Assembly took fell considerably short of an Argentine victory, Saavedra Lamas did not

⁸⁵ Ibid., pp. 160-161.

⁸⁶<u>Ibid</u>., pp. 171-172, 175-176.

Nations, XVI (June, 1936), Monthly Summary of the League of Nations, XVI (June, 1936), 154-155, 181.

forsake the League. In fact, he realized that after the Ethiopian debacle, the League would welcome anyone who demonstrated faith in the multi-national body. Consequently, in September, 1936 Saavedra Lamas journeyed to Geneva with the safe assurance he would be elected President of the Assembly and be praised for his work. After all, as far as the League was concerned he was now the leader of the Latin American bloc. What he hoped for came true and while little of substance was accomplished, Saavedra Lamas enjoyed exposure before a world-wide audience. 88 He also wanted to establish strong ties with the League delegates and demonstrate that he appreciated the honor accorded him. To this end he held the largest and most lavish party in League history reportedly costing 100,000 Swiss Francs (30,000 dollars). Whether this monstorous demonstration of ostentation increased his prestige or not is impossible to determine, but for years it was the most talked about social event.89

The motives underlying Saavedra Lamas' actions at the League were summed up by the French Foreign Office, which

⁸⁸ Ibid. (September, 1936), 250-282. His speech is summarized on page 252.

⁸⁹The source for these assertions is Eduardo Tómas Pardo, interview conducted in Buenos Aires, August 25, 1972. He was told this information by his father, who was a representative in Geneva.

believed they were dictated by his "well-known desire to play a great role in the international scene." There is little doubt that the Franch were correct. There can also be little doubt that as Foreign Minister of a secondline power, Saavedra Lamas had made the most of his opportunities. 91

As a result, Justo sent a delegation led by Vice-President Julio A. Roca and including Miguel Angel Cárcano to London in an attempt to halt a drastic narrowing of Argentina's most important market. The South American negotiators, however, were in a poor bargaining position because England could buy in many markets. In the final accord London agreed not to reduce the quota for Argentina beef unless the quota was reduced for the Dominions. More disturbing for the Argentines was a provision which gave Buenos Aires only fifteen percent of the meat-packing business at a time when she coveted much more. See Peter H. Smith, Politics and Beef in Argentina (New York: Columbia University Press, 1969), pp. 143-147. The text of the agreement is available in, Daniel Drosdoff, El gobierno de las vacas; 1933-1956 (Buenos Aires: Editorial Astrea de Rodolfo Depalma y Hnos., 1972), pp. 169-183.

While the negotiations were going on Saavedra Lamas and the Ministro de Hacienda, Alberto Hueyo indicated that they opposed major concessions to the British. They could, however, exert little pressure against the Argentine Vice-President. It is ironic therefore that in the Senate, de la Torre attacked Saavedra Lamas for the treaty, For an

⁹⁰ U. S. Dept. of State, <u>Foreign Relations</u>, 1936, III, p. 152.

⁹¹ Following the stint at the League Saavedra Lamas made a quick trip to London. He went to look into the renegotiation of the Roca-Runciman treaty, which had been signed three years earlier. The 1933 accord had grown out of the Ottawa Conference in August, 1932, at which the British had adopted a strong Dominion preference system. Consequently, the quota for Argentine chilled beef would be held at the level for the year ending June 30, 1932, one of the lowest in history. Furthermore, imports of frozen beef would be reduced in stages to 65% of what they had been in the same base year.

During the three year period 1934-1936 Saavedra Lamas slowly amassed prestige and influence. He received the credit for bringing about a cease-fire in the Chaco and became head of the mediating body charged with bringing about a definitive end to the war. Since his methods and motives were not public knowledge, he could readily adopt the title of peace maker of the Chaco. His stand on the Italo-Ethiopian dispute and his Presidency of the League Assembly elevated Saavedra Lamas to the center of the world stage. That he accomplished nothing and indeed only caused trouble regarding Italy and Ethiopia was irrelavant. He was serving notice to the world as he had done earlier in the Americas, that Saavedra Lamas was a man to be reckoned with.

account of the debate see República Argentina, Cámara de Diputados, Diario de sesiones, 1933, II, pp. 335-380, and Lisandor de la Torre, Escritos y Discursos (Buenos Aires: Colegio libre de estudios superiores, 1947), pp. 13-62.

One of the provisions of the original treaty called for an investigation of the British controlled meat-packing business. The British did not cooperate which prompted numerous representations from Saavedra Lamas. During his 1936 trip the Argentine Foreign Minister was able to obtain more control over beef marketing. See Drosdoff, Gobierno, pp. 55-77, passim.

CHAPTER 6

THE PERILS OF SUCCESS

In December 1936, Saavedra Lamas reached the apogee of his fame and influence. Not only was he involved with the Chaco Peace Conference but he was also to preside at the Inter-American Conference for the Maintenance of Peace. Moreover, in November, 1936, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Price. December, 1936, marked, however, the beginning of Saavedra Lamas' decline in prestige and power. Although he attempted to reverse this situation throughout 1937 and part of 1938 he was unable to do so and consequently was retired at the end of the Justo administration.

The Nobel Prize

It is difficult to know whether Saavedra Lamas had the Nobel Peace Prize in mind when the Anti-War Pact was drawn up in 1932. He certainly knew that Frank B. Kellogg had received the prize in 1929 for a similar effort.

Saavedra Lamas, however, did not begin a concerted drive to garner the award until early 1936, following the settlement of the prisoner repatriation issue. At that time, he asked Braden to request of Roosevelt and Hull their support in

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securing the Nobel Prize. He stated that he already had the backing of the Balkan countries, and United States support was all that was needed to insure him receipt of the award. Braden gave an evasive reply and assumed that Washington would demur. Much to his surprise, Washington agreed to back the Argentine Foreign Minister. In his memoirs, Hull stated that he "virtually managed the movement in his [Saavedra Lamas'] behalf ... because of his outstanding services for the cause of peace." Actually Hull probably should have said that up to that time his Argentine counterpart had not done anything publicly to seriously disrupt the Good Neighbor Policy.

The efforts of Hull paid off, and on November 24, 1936, it was announced that Saavedra Lamas would soon become the first South American recipient of the coveted Peace Prize. The decision of the Nobel Prize Committee met with general approbation in Buenos Aires. Both the major newspapers of the Argentine capital devoted considerable

¹Spruille Braden, <u>Diplomats and Demagogues</u> (New Rochelle, New York: Arlington House, 1971), pp. 153-154. Braden said that while Saavedra Lamas was making his request he put on "all his charm."

²Cordell Hull, <u>The Memoirs of Cordell Hull</u> (New Rochelle, New York: Macmillan Co., 1948), ²Volumes, Vol. I, p. 497.
See also United States Archives, Record Group 59, Decimal File 093.57N66/277, Hull to Braden (Buenos Aires), January 30, 1936 and <u>ibid</u>. RG 59, Decimal File 093.57N66/280, Braden (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, January 31, 1936.

space to the event. Secretary of State Hull's comment that the award was merited was reported, along with statements that the news was well received in Rio de Janeiro and Geneva. On the 25th of November, La Nación published an editorial that was so laudatory to the Argentine Foreign Minister it can reasonably be said he could not have written a better one himself. In it he was given credit for introducing a major new international instrument, the Anti-War Pact, bringing the fighting to a close in the Chaco, and blunting the interventionist predelections of the United States.

Saavedra Lamas was, of course, delighted to receive the Prize and the \$32,000 that went along with it. The money, however, probably was not as important to him as the prestige. In his statement to the press, the Argentine Chancellor explained that although he would not be able to go to Europe to accept the distinction due to the demands of his office, he was deeply honored. He contended that although the award bore his name, it should actually have been given to the Argentine people. Saavedra Lamas, in response to a question, added that he had not let any of

³See La <u>Nación</u> and <u>La Prensa</u> for November 25, 1936.

 $^{^4}$ La Nación, November 28, 1936.

his friends campaign on his behalf for the Nobel Prize. 5
As usual he deemed it impolitic to tell the truth.

As is common following such events, a reception was held to honor the Argentine Foreign Minister, on November 27. The best of Argentine society, and government, plus the diplomatic corps was invited and everyone came with one exception; noticeably absent was President Justo. Both Cárcano and Braden stated that Justo was incensed that Saavedra Lamas had not mentioned him in connection with the Anti-War Pact or Chaco Peace Conference. Cárcano also indicated that the Argentine President was enraged that his Foreign Minister was constantly upstaging him. 7

That Saavedra Lamas committed a grave error when he snubbed Justo is unquestionable. It is possible that the Foreign Minister had no respect for him. Braden related that Saavedra Lamas referred to Justo as the "little fatty."

It is more plausible to assume, however, that the Argentine Chancellor simply wanted the available kudos for himself.

Alas, Saavedra Lamas would discover much to his displeasure that his lack of charity engendered revenge. "Little fatty,"

⁵New York Times, November 29, 1936.

⁶La Nación, November 28, 1936.

⁷ Interview with Miguel Angel Cárcano, Buenos Aires, October 13, 1972; Braden, <u>Diplomats</u>, p. 154.

⁸Braden, <u>Diplomats</u>, p. 152.

it developed, was both willing and able to take action against his Foreign Minister.

Inter-American Conference for the Maintenance of Peace

Early in 1935 discussions began within the United
States Department of State relative to the possibility of
convoking a special inter-American meeting following the
end of the Chaco War. The purpose would be to provide
machinery within the Western Hemisphere in order to prevent
wars among the American nations and take joint action should
war threaten or begin elsewhere. Washington planners were
convinced that a bulwark of continental solidarity was
needed in the face of world wide unrest. In Europe, the
Italians were contemplating an invasion of Ethiopia, and
the situation in Germany was precarious. Moreover, in the
Pacific, Japan's aggressive actions foretold future problems.
Internal American disputes would serve to weaken the Hemisphere and provide the gaps through which elements unfriendly
to the United States could move.

The first diplomatic overtures concerning the proposed conference were made only six weeks after the signing of the June 12, 1935 Protocol, which ended the fighting but not the war. Almost immediately problems developed with the Peruvians. Lima was slated as the site for the as yet unscheduled Eighth Pan American meeting. Although Peru

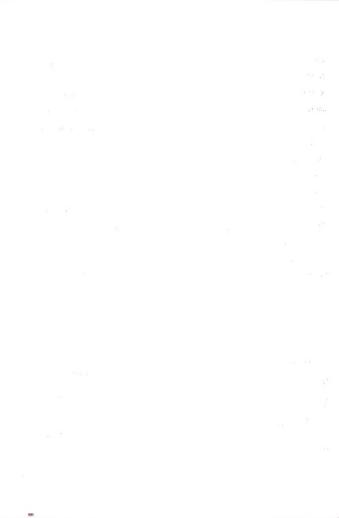
did not object to the United States' suggestions to alter the usual format, her Foreign Minister, Carlos Concha, was deeply concerned about the possibility he would have to play "second fiddle" to Saavedra Lamas. He also added parenthetically that his counterpart in Argentina would consider the United States' plan as an indication that the North Americans believed the Chaco Peace Conference would fail. The United States Ambassador in Peru, Fred Morris Dearing, in his analysis of the Peruvian response, believed that fear of Saavedra Lamas was the prime motive, and that the other reason given was merely a smoke screen. 10

Dearing was probably correct about Concha's real purpose, but it is interesting that Saavedra Lamas took a position akin to the Peruvian Foreign Minister's second point. The Argentine Chancellor observed that planning a general conference on peace would be a mistake at that time. Any such event would have to wait until the end of the Chaco negotiations. Saavedra Lamas also stated that if the

⁹United States, Department of State, <u>Foreign Relations</u>
of the <u>United States</u> (Washington D.C.: <u>United States Government Printing Office</u>, 1953), 1935, Volume IV, p. 3. Concha mentioned that Saavedra Lamas was after the Nobel Peace Prize.

¹⁰U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 710.Peace/7, Dearing (Lima) to Dept. of State, August 13, 1935.

ll Ibid., RG 59, Decimal File 724.34119/84, Gibson (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, August 3, 1935.



United States did not ratify the newly negotiated Sanitary Treaty, which lowered the requirements for many Argentine products including beef, the Argentine view of Pan Americanism would change. 12 That is, she would stop any conference. Apparently, the complications with Peru and Argentina were too much for the United States. The State Department announced it was going to "re-examine" the situation. 13 The Mexican Undersecretary of Foreign Relations, upon hearing of the North American decision, commented sardonically that "Saavedra Lamas would never become enthusiastic over someone else's idea." 14

Saavedra Lamas, however, changed his mind in October, 1935, when he thought the Chaco Peace Conference was collapsing. As reported in Chapter 5, he wanted to shift the blame to the other American nations. The United States did not agree and the whole matter was quickly dropped. 15

It was a scant ten days after the January 20, 1936

Protocol was signed that President Roosevelt addressed a

¹² Ibid., RG 59, Decimal File 710.Peace/ll, Braden (Buenos Aires) to Welles, February 6, 1936.

¹³U. S. Dept. of State, Foreign Relations, 1935, IV, pp. 4-5.

^{14&}lt;u>Ibid</u>., p. 6.

¹⁵ See U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 724.3415/511, Gibson (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, October 12, 1935.

letter to Justo regarding the proposed Conference. In his message, the North American president proposed the same thing he had earlier, with one major change. Significantly, he asked that Buenos Aires be the site for the conclave if Justo was agreeable. He also alluded to a problem which was to surface later, the relationship of the Conference to the work of the League of Nations. Roosevelt contended that the proposed Buenos Aires meeting would "supplement and reinforce" League efforts. 16

The initial reaction to Roosevelt's letter on February 6, 1936, by Saavedra Lamas was very positive. He indicated that the time was "propitious" for a general conference on peace. Furthermore, he agreed that there was a need to establish a system of neutral mediation. The critical question of whether or not Buenos Aires was acceptable as the location was never brought up. Saavedra Lamas simply acted as if there could be no question. When Braden broached the subject of Saavedra Lamas' negative response seven months earlier, the Argentine Chancellor noted that his answer was dictated by fear that Paraguay would desert the Chaco Conference if there was another alternative. On the

¹⁶ United States, Department of State, Report of the Delegation of the United States of America to the Inter-American Conference for the Maintenance of Peace (Washington D.C.: United States Government Printing Office, 1937), pp. 45-46.

matter of the Sanitary Treaty, Saavedra Lamas observed that this had been simply a tactic to assure postponement of the Maintenance of Peace Conference. 17

A week later, on February 13, Saavedra Lamas indicated he was having second thoughts about the Conference. In an informal meeting of the Chaco Peace Conference delegates, he declared that a discussion of economic questions would be more useful than a peace meeting. He went on to say that he was worried about Argentine beef sales to Europe and suggested that with the economic upturn in the United States, the North Americans could now take three percent of Argentina's meat production. Actually, the United States was talking in terms of two percent at that time. Lamas also contradicted his earlier statement, observing that a conference on peace would be useless because there were already adequate treaties. He opined that what was needed was ratification of those instruments. Unmentioned was the fact that Artentina had the worst record in that regard, save Bolivia. 18

One of the few positive purposes that the Conference could serve, as the Argentine Chancellor perceived it, was

¹⁷ United States, Department of State, Foreign Relations
of the United States (Washington D.C.: United States Government Printing Office, 1954), 1936, Volume V, pp. 5-6.

¹⁸U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 710.Peace/147, Dawson (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, February 14, 1936.

to supply a place to "unload" the Chaco dispute. In that regard, however, he quickly asserted that such a move would be "dishonorable." It could also, he added, provide a general embargo system, including not only arms and munitions, but petroleum products, should war develop. Foodstuffs, however, should not be declared contraband for "humanitarian" purposes. Again, he failed, as he had previously, to note that since food was Argentina's prime export, his proposal was in his country's self-interest. Finally, he indicated that it would be desirable to examine the letter Roosevelt sent to Justo. Allen Dawson, a United States Conference delegate, in analyzing this point, observed that Saavedra Lamas, had not seen the letter and had only Espil's assurances that the meeting would be held in Buenos Aires, and that current press stories were suggesting the location would be Washington D.C. This, he believed, caused Saavedra Lamas to shift his position. 19

Although the official response of the majority of American states was favorable, Bolivia did make known her fear that the Chaco dispute would be brought under the auspices of the Maintenance of Peace Conference. Such a move, she reasoned, would cause delay and thereby improve Paraguay's position. The delegates to the Chaco Peace Conference were also concerned about the proposed

¹⁹ Ibid.

inter-American gathering. Both Nieto del Río (Chile) and Rodriguez Alves (Brazil) were opposed to locating the meeting in Buenos Aires because Saavedra Lamas would be the chairman. The United States delegate, Braden, informed Washington that he was also against the idea for the same reason. He added that since Podestá Costa had been sent to the League as the Argentine representative, there would be no one who could handle the details of the Conference. 20

Washington also heard discouraging words from Mexico
City and Lima. Concha indicated he considered Washington
D.C. to be the best location and was against Buenos Aires
as the site. The Mexican Undersecretary stated that
"propinquity might afford Saavedra Lamas influence undesired by Mexico." These internal and unofficial comments,
however, were not public knowledge. Consequently, when
General Justo sent a formal acceptance to the United States,

²⁰ Ibid., RG 59, Decimal File 710.Peace/76, Braden
(Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, February 16, 1936.

^{21 &}lt;u>Ibid.</u>, RG 59, Decimal File 710.Peace/73, Dearing (Lima) to Dept. of State, February 15, 1936. In the document Nieto del Río was incorrectly referred to as "Vieto."

^{22 &}lt;u>Ibid.</u>, RG 59, Decimal File 710.Peace/83, Norweb (Mexico City) to Dept. of State, February 17, 1936. In a subsequent telegram, RG 59, Decimal File 710.Peace/118, Norweb (Mexico City) to Dept. of State, February 17, 1936, the Mexican Undersecretary indicated that the "Anti-War Pact [was] a piece of showmanship and ... Mexico was in no hurry to ratify it."

it appeared as if everything was going well and that only the exact agenda and date were undecided.

On the latter issue, Saavedra Lamas in mid-March, 1936, suggested that the conference be held in June because he was planning to attend the Assembly of the League of Nations in July. Washington, however, did not like the idea of holding the Conference that soon because much of the preliminary work was still unfinished. Saavedra Lamas did not accept the first refusal and subsequently informed the United States that President Justo had accepted a July 15 date. Apparently, he was willing to shift the time and delay his departure, but he definitely wanted an early meeting. Saavedra Lamas' attempt to make the date he wanted unassailable by attaching Justo's name to it failed as the North Americans continued to demand a later date. The Conference was finally fixed for December 1, 1936.

Besides his trip to the League, Saavedra Lamas' insistence upon an early meeting was probably motivated by the fact that he had already drawn up a full set of proposals.

A quick meeting could have conceivably resulted in his program forming the basic blueprint for the Conference. On March 31, the Argentine Foreign Minister supplied Braden

For the correspondence see U. S. Dept. of State, Foreign Relations, 1936, V, pp. 10-12. Another reason the North Americans opposed the early date was due to the fact it conflicted with the Democratic Party Convention, which Hull was to attend.

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with copies of his proposal and in May published it in English in Washington D.C. In his <u>Draft of a Convention</u> for the <u>Maintenance of Peace</u>, Saavedra Lamas predictably raised the August 3 Declaration, non-recognition of territory acquired by other than peaceful means, to a prominent position. He also proposed that an embargo be used as a sanction should conciliation fail under neutral auspices. As he had hinted earlier, fuel was to be embargoed, but foodstuffs could still be exported. The Argentine Chancellor also took a slap at the United States by adding a provision against intervention. He even went so far as to include "excessive diplomatic protection" of nationals living in another country.

A stipulation Saavedra Lamas must have realized was anathema to the United States required signatories of either the Kellogg-Briand and/or the Saavedra Lamas Anti-War Pact to cooperate in sanctions imposed by the League of Nations. In other words, the United States would enjoy none of the benefits and all of the responsibilities of League membership. In a similar vein, Saavedra Lamas also desired to open up a number of solely American treaties to world wide adherrence. Finally, in the economic section of his proposed convention, he included an article requiring a gradual reduction in tariffs and documentary proof of

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contamination before sanitary provisions could be applied.²⁴

If what Saavedra Lamas proposed was antithetical to the

United States, so was what he failed to say. Conspicuously

absent were "any provisions to protect the common interest

of the Americs against overseas emergencies."²⁵

The initial response in Argentina to Saavedra Lamas' project was favorable. La Prensa, in a May 30 editorial, after lauding the work of the Foreign Minister, attacked the United States. Economics, the paper asserted, brought countries together and therefore the United States should modify her policies. Furthermore, La Prensa continued, the North Americans should do more to prevent wars, such as working with the League of Nations, rather than trying to seal off the New World from the Old. 26

Following the presentation of the Argentine program, a problem developed which demonstrated the polarization taking place. While at the League of Nations in August, Saavedra Lamas learned that the Geneva based organization was very concerned that it would be shunted aside at Buenos

 $[\]frac{24}{\text{Carlos Saavedra Lamas, } \underline{\text{Draft of }} \underline{\text{a Convention for the }} \underline{\text{Maintenance of Peace (Washington D.C.: No publisher listed, }} \underline{\text{May, 1936).}}$

^{25&}lt;sub>J</sub>. Lloyd Mecham, <u>The United States and Inter-American</u>
Security, 1889-1960 (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1961), p. 128.

²⁶La Prensa, May 30, 1936.

Aires. To calm the concern, Saavedra Lamas implied that an observer from the League would be welcome. Subsequently, the United States was forced to inform the League of North American opposition to a representative attending.²⁷

In much the same regard, the Argentine Chancellor moved quickly to squelch a Colombian proposal for an American League of Nations. When the subject was brought before the agenda Committee in Washington, the Argentine representative, Espil, announced that in any such organization, the small Central American states should not have equal voting status with Argentina. This comment not only irritated the Central American nations, but it also made them leary of the whole Colombian idea. 28 It is probable that Espil was ordered to do what he did, since he was too skilled a diplomat to make such a gaffe with no purpose in mind. Saavedra Lamas had sullied the entire project by putting the fear of diminished status into the minds of the smaller states. By the same action, he also demonstrated his friendship for the Geneva based League. Finally, he won praise at home for his opposition. 29

²⁷ See U. S. Dept. of State, <u>Foreign Relations</u>, 1936, V, pp. 18-20, 25-26, and 31-32.

²⁸U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 710.Peace/601 Braden (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, May 27, 1936.

See editorials, <u>La Prensa</u>, June 7, 1936 and <u>La Nación</u>, Julh 7, 1936.

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The Inter-American Peace Conference actually began on November 30, 1936, the date Roosevelt arrived in Buenos Aires. He had decided in late August that his presence would be helpful in achieving acceptance of the United States program. Along with a huge crowd, Saavedra Lamas was at the pier to greet the President. Time magazine stated that the Argentine Foreign Minister "franticly waved his hat" and commented sarcastically that this was a "triumph of U. S. diplomacy." The newsweekly went on to indicate that the reason he was so excited was he had received the Nobel Peace Prize the day before and could not wait to be congratulated. 30

The next day the Conference began its work, with speeches by Justo and Roosevelt which revealed a clear dichotomy of purpose. The Argentine President, after noting the debt the New World owed to the Old stated:

It is impossible to suppose that the work today beginning would fail to recognize the world interdependence which governs the economic and political life of these nations or to think that the action to be taken could alter age-old connections with countries of the Old world. 31

Roosevelt responded with

In this determination to live at peace among ourselves we in the Americas make it at the same time clear that we stand shoulder to shoulder in our final determination that others driven by war madness or land hunger,

³⁰ Time, "Pan American Party," XXVIII (December 7, 1936), 12-14.

 $³¹_{U.}$ S. Dept. of State, Report of the Delegates, pp. 73-76.

might seek to commit acts of aggression against us, will find a hemisphere wholly prepared to consult together for our national safety and our national good. I repeat what I said in speaking before the Congress and the Supreme Court of Brazil. 'Each one of us has learned the glories of independence. Let each one of us learn the glories of interdependence.' 32

It became clear very quickly that while the Argentines might applaud Roosevelt's words, they had no intention of adopting the program of the United States. Hull believed there were enough peace instruments available in the Americas, and that the major problem was coordinating their use. As such, he proposed the creation of a permanent consulting body of Foreign Ministers. If a war was threatened or broke out, the body could quickly meet to plan a joint response. The second proposal of Hull was an attempt, in essence, to extend the 1935 United States neutrality legislation requiring an embargo on both combatants to a dispute by all the countries in the Western Hemisphere. Saavedra Lamas' proposal allowed for the lifting of an embargo after the aggressor was determined.

Conflict between Saavedra Lamas and Hull began very quickly. Hull described the situation in his memoirs:

I had several conferences alone with Saavedra Lamas and several in company with Welles and one or two other members of the delegation. These discussions became increasingly animated. Our last conference was heated, some sharp words were exchanged at least on my side, and we parted with no signs of complete

³²Ibid., pp. 77-81.



agreement. I saw no more of Saavedra Lamas before leaving Buenos Aires. He did not extend the usual courtesy of seeing me off. 33

Actually, Hull had been informed earlier by Braden that Saavedra Lamas would not see him to the ship. Hull commented, according to Braden, "that he was damn glad and that he would refuse to shake hands with Saavedra [Lamas] if he did show up." Hull added, as Braden related in his memoirs, "We should let President Justo know ... that as long as Saavedra Lamas was his Foreign Minister, it would be impossible for us to get along with the blankety blank (here he used his best cuss words)." 34

In fact, Hull did make his views on Saavedra Lamas well known. In a conversation with Miguel Angel Cárcano, who had become Minister of Agriculture in 1935, he attacked the Argentine Foreign Minister viciously, calling him "disloyal" because Hull, had helped him obtain the Nobel Prize. He became so agitated, in fact, that Cárcano eventually had to ask the United States Secretary of State to stop because Saavedra Lamas was a fellow cabinet minister. 35

³³Hull, <u>Memoirs</u>, Vol. I, p. 499.

³⁴ Braden, <u>Diplomats</u>, p. 175. The treaties referred to would include the General Treaty of Inter-American Arbitration as well as many of the protocols adopted by Inter-American Conferences. The parentheses are Braden's.

³⁵ Interview with Miguel Angel Cárcano, Buenos Aires, August 31, 1972.

Even though he cut Hull short, Cárcano stated that he was in sympathy with what was being said. Hull also went further than venting his frustration to the Agriculture Minister. Apparently, he ordered Welles, through Braden, to arrange a meeting between Leopoldo Melo, the Argentine Minister of Interior and head of the Cabinet, and Welles. The North American Undersecretary apparently had little good to say about Saavedra Lamas because, according to Braden, Melo "went to President Justo and demanded that Saavedra [Lamas] be restrained." Braden stated that the Argentine Chancellor "improved for a few days." 36

As can be adduced from the quantity and quality of the discord produced, the Conference achieved little of substance. The Convention to Coordinate, Extend and Assure Fulfillment of the Existing Treaties Between the American States, which represented Hull's attempt to set up a permanent organization of Foreign Ministers to determine action should trouble arise, was watered down to such an extent that it became meaningless. Article II, for example, stated that in case of emergency, the American Republics would "take counsel together with full recognition of their judicial equality, as sovereign and independent states, and of their general right of individual liberty of action." 37

³⁶ Braden, <u>Diplomats</u>, p. 175.

³⁷U. S. Dept. of State, Report of the Delegation, p. 136.

It was hardly a warrant for close cooperation, and in fact, according to Harold F. Peterson, "mandated no action, created no permanent organ, and referred to a common neutrality policy only as a desirable objective." 38

In another treaty, called the Convention for the Maintenance, Preservation and Re-establishment of Peace and Declaration of Principals of Inter-American Solidarity and Cooperation, Saavedra Lamas effectively took the teeth out of Hull's desire for consultative machinery. A portion of the accord stipulated that "in the event of an international war outside America which might menace the peace of the American Republics, such consultation shall ... take place to determine the proper time and manner in which the signatory states, if they so desire, may eventually cooperate in some action." The key phrase, "if they so desired," was demanded by the Argentine Foreign Minister. Moreover, Saavedra Lamas insisted successfully that a statement of non-intervention also be accepted at the Conference. 40 Although Hull had appended a reservation to the protocol

This statement was made by Harold F. Peterson, Argentina and the United States, 1810-1960 (New York: State University of New York, 1964), p. 392.

³⁹U. S. Dept. of State, <u>Report of the Delegation</u>, p. 120.

⁴⁰ Ibid., pp. 127-128.

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adopted at Montevideo, there can be little doubt that the North American Secretary found the whole affair insulting.

In his memoirs, Hull commented that because both his and Saavedra Lamas' goals were so well known, he could not employ the same tactics that had worked in Montevideo, allowing the Argentine Chancellor to introduce the United States proposals and generally giving him the credit. In actuality, the Montevideo ploy would not have worked out in any case, because the situation was different. In 1933 Saavedra Lamas was not well known. He had to his credit only the Anti-War Pact and even that would account for little if the United States did not sign it. Consequently, when Saavedra Lamas cooperated, he was establishing a name for himself. In 1936 this was not necessary. He had been President of the Assembly of the League of Nations and won the Nobel Peace Prize. Cooperation was not required.

In defense of Saavedra Lamas it must be noted that Hull was trying to establish a mild form of hemispheric isolationism. The refusal of Saavedra Lamas to agree was consistent with Argentina's past policies as well as with those fostered by the Foreign Minister. The problem was that in stopping Hull, Saavedra Lamas would not compromise at all and even demanded provisions anathema to the United States.

⁴¹U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 724.34119/713, Braden (Buenos Aires) to Welles (Buenos Aires), December 4, 1936.

This incensed Hull but what especially infuriated the North American Secretary of State was the failure of Saavedra Lamas to keep the unwritten and probably undiscussed agreement. In exchange for the Nobel Prize, Saavedra Lamas was expected to cooperate with the United States. That Saavedra Lamas did not understand the arrangement is unlikely. What is probable is that he decided to ignore it after he had received the award. Apparently Saavedra Lamas did not consider that his double-cross would result in a representation to Justo and the possible ruination of his career.

The Chaco Dispute, December, 1936

As in the 1933 Montevideo Conference, the Chaco dispute was not on the agenda of the Maintenance of Peace Conference, but much to the chagrin of Saavedra Lamas, it received a great deal of attention. It became apparent very early that the Argentine Chancellor had absolutely no intention of calling a meeting of the Chaco Conference while the larger conference was in Buenos Aires. In order to retain what little momentum the Chaco Conference had, Braden suggested to Saavedra Lamas that meetings continue, with the Vice-President in charge. The Argentine Chancellor replied:

"Oh, no. I have ample time whenever you want." Braden, in his report, commented that despite what Saavedra Lamas had

said, he believed there would still be delay. 42

Braden was incorrect. Saavedra Lamas did call meetings, but it was clearly his intention that nothing substantial would be discussed. He was, however, annoyed that the Brazilian and Chilean Foreign Ministers, Macedo Soares and Cruchaga, insisted on attending the sessions. In fact, nasty remarks were exchanged between the South American Chancellors. Indeed, at one point, the Bolivian Foreign Minister commented to the Bolivian delegate that "we should offer our mediating services to the mediatory Foreign Ministers."

At a December 9 meeting, which had been called to draw up a statement describing the accomplishments of the Conference, Saavedra Lamas was outmanuevered by his Brazilian and Chilean counterparts. Saavedra Lamas continually attempted to cut the session short by announcing over and over again that he had to attend a reception at the United States Embassy. Each time he brought the subject up, Macedo Soares was able to keep the meeting going by reference to its high purpose. Finally, apparently without thinking, the Argentine Chancellor proposed that a committee of representatives from three nations carry on the negotiations during the Maintenance of Peace Conference. According

⁴² Hull, <u>Memoirs</u>, Vol. I, p. 499.

⁴³Braden, <u>Diplomats</u>, p. 176.

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to Braden, he wanted to leave the Chaco dispute in the hands of Barreda Laos (Peru), Martinez Thédy (Uruguay), and an Argentine representative. From the past records of these two men, he knew that no progress would be made. There can be no doubt that he did not expect Macedo Soares suddenly to volunteer to be on the committee. He must have been even more irritated when Cruchaga followed suit. Since Saavedra Lamas had suggested the plan in the first place, to facilitate his work as President of the Maintenance of Peace Conference, he could not volunteer himself. Consequently, Braden was chosen as the third member, representing Hull. In essence, within the space of a few minutes, Saavedra Lamas not only lost direct control of the Chaco negotiations, but without even a representative, he lost indirect control.

Braden, with some justification, was frightened about what Saavedra Lamas would do. In fact, immediately after the usurpation by Macedo Soares he told the Argentine Chancellor he would keep him informed of all developments.

The North American delegate, however, indicated that Saavedra Lamas' suspicions were not allayed. At the afternoon meeting the next day, the Argentine Chancellor appeared, although he had no formal standing. The session was going

⁴⁴ See <u>ibid.</u>, pp. 176-177 and U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 724.34119/715 Barden (Buenos Aires) to Welles (Buenos Aires), December 10, 1936.

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well (even though Saavedra Lamas was there) when a fifteen minute recess was agreed upon. Suddenly, as Braden related it, he noticed that Saavedra Lamas and the Foreign Ministers of Paraguay and Bolivia, Stefanich and Finot, were missing. He ran outside, only to see the three men get into a car. Braden called on them to wait but "Saavedra Lamas waved me aside, jumped into the car, slammed the door and off they rode." Macedo Soares was outraged. It must have been particularly galling that Saavedra Lamas used the Brazilian's car in the abduction. What the Argentine Chancellor said or did to entice the ex-belligerents away unfortunately is not recorded.

The next day, December 12, the Chaco Conference met again, and nothing unusual occurred. Before the session began, however, Saavedra Lamas made another bid to grab back control of the situation, albeit in a considerably less dramatic fashion. He suggested that the members of the Committee of Three, as the new mediators became known, meet with him the next day together with the Paraguayan delegation, to discuss a proposed boundary line. The Committee subsequently agreed with the proviso that the Paraguayans

^{45 &}lt;u>Ibid.</u>, and U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 724. 34119/715, Braden (Buenos Aires) to Wells (Buenos Aires), December 10, 1936. Braden, in his memoirs, was wrong when he included Stefanich among the abductees. Stefanich was not then in Buenos Aires.

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would not attend, ⁴⁶ lest it appear to be a conspiracy against Bolivia. Saavedra Lamas accepted but Braden warned his fellow committee members that they should not come, because the Paraguayans would be there. The North American was only partially correct. The Paraguayans arrived an hour after the scheduled start of the meeting. ⁴⁷

At that meeting, the Argentine Foreign Minister suggested to the Paraguayans that they increase their territorial demands. They found this suggestion eminently reasonable, along with Saavedra Lamas' statement that Paraguay should not give up the land for which she had shed her blood. In essence, he was proposing that Asunción keep all the captured land and negotiate the area still under Bolivian control. Braden's mention of the August 3rd Declaration was ignored. The Argentine Chancellor was making it clear to Asunción that more could be expected if Argentina were mediating. 48

Prior to this gambit, Macedo Soares had been so angry, that along with Cruchaga he went to see Justo to demand that their Argentine counterpart be restrained. Saavedra Lamas told Braden that as a result of this discussion, Justo had

⁴⁶ U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 724.34119/720, Braden (Buenos Aires) to Welles (Buenos Aires), December 18, 1935. The memo was written December 12.

⁴⁷ Ibid., Memo of December 14, 1936.

⁴⁸ Ibid.

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said to him "What is the matter? You are my Foreign Minister and should be handling the Chaco business; nevertheless, the Brazilian and Chilean Foreign Ministers came to see me." Saavedra Lamas said in reply, that he would collaborate with the Committee of Three. By his account, it would appear that the two Foreign Ministers wanted his help. That this was not what was requested is borne out by Braden's statement that the Brazilian was "indiscreet in his bitterness." Apparently, he had made his views known to others besides Justo. 49

Macedo Soares was not satisfied with complaining to Justo once. He demanded and received another appointment on December 16. Again, according to reports Braden heard, the Brazilian denounced Saavedra Lamas for trying to disrupt the work of the Committee of Three. Subsequently, Saavedra Lamas himself was brought in and Macedo Soares repeated his accusations to the Argentine's face. For his part, the Argentine Chancellor disclaimed blame for the entire affair. In order to make his point even clearer, at a reception the Brazilian praised Justo, but never mentioned the Argentine Foreign Minister. 50

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ Ibid., RG 59, Decimal File 724.34119/721, Braden (Buenos Aires) to Welles (Buenos Aires) December 24, 1936.

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It is evident that in December, 1936, Saavedra Lamas wanted to devote all his energies to the Maintenance of Peace Conference and avoid any involvement with the Chaco dispute. Even when the Foreign Ministers of Chile and Brazil began attending Chaco Conference sessions, he could probably have contained the matter, but his unthinking suggestion for a committee of three changed the desired scenario. After that Saavedra Lamas went to extreme lengths to shatter any advances his counterparts might have made. The result was no progress. Of more significance for Saavedra Lamas, the remark caused two protests against him to be made to Justo.

There can be no question that during 1936 Saavedra

Lamas reached the height of his career. He headed the mediating group which brought the Chaco war officially to an end. He became involved with the Italo-Ethiopian dispute and achieved notoriety by supporting the underdog. Most importantly, he won the Nobel Peace Prize and presided over a major inter-American Conference. Such accolades and distinctions should have placed Saavedra Lamas in line for even higher office, or at least assured continuing service in his current one.

Unfortunately for Saavedra Lamas, his actions in obtaining his fame, plus probably a certain jealousy, caused his standing in the Justo administration to plummet.

Braden claimed that the Argentine Chancellor's failure to give Justo some credit for the Nobel Prize lost Saavedra Lamas the presidential nomination in 1937. It is reasonable to assume the complaints by the Brazilians, Chileans and the United States sealed his fate. Aside from England, these nations were the ones Argentina was most involved with, and representations made by their Foreign Ministers directly to the President could not be ignored.

Whether the debacle over the Nobel Prize, or the protestations of the Foreign Ministers, or both, effectively ended Saavedra Lamas' public career is impossible to determine. But higher political office was closed to him. According to a report by Weddell, as late as September, 1936 Justo was considering a compromise ticket composed of ex-president and Anti-personalista leader Marcelo T. de Alvear and either Saavedra Lamas or Roberto M. Ortiz for Vice President. The report went on to state, however, that within Justo's own party, the Concordancia, only the last two were being considered, and they for President. Saavedra seven months later, in April, 1937, Ortiz was the front runner and the Argentine Foreign Minister was not even mentioned.

⁵¹ Braden, Diplomats, p. 154.

⁵²U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 835.00/765 (Strictly Confidential), Weddell (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, September 11, 1936.

⁵³ Ibid., RG 59, Decimal File 835.00/776 Wilson (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State. Wilson was Chargé d'Affaires. The idea of a compromise candidate apparently was dropped.

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January, 1937-February, 1938

Saavedra Lamas' loss of power and prestige became known very quickly to the delegates at the Chaco Conference. The necessity of deferring to the Argentine Chancellor was suddenly no longer absolute. Spurring the delegates on was the spectacle of their own foreign ministers coming to blows with their Argentine counterpart. Consequently, when Saavedra Lamas continued to follow a policy of delay on the all important issue of the final territorial settlement, he found the delegates to be considerably more courageous than ever before.

The territorial question was intimately involved with the oil fields in the western Chaco. As the Paraguayans drove across the Chaco, ostensibly defending their own land, they were not ignorant of the fact that they were approaching the Bolivian oil fields near Camiri. In fact, their drive was halted a scant thirty miles from Camiri at the outskirts of Boyuibé. The Paraguayans immediately began drilling for oil but the bonanza of black gold never materialized. Meanwhile, Saavedra Lamas began intensive efforts to insure that Bolivian oil would go to Argentina. As early as November, 1935, a report was forwarded by the Estado Mayor General de Marina to Saavedra Lamas pointing out the need for Bolivian oil. 54

⁵⁴ Argentina, Archives, Box 5, Expediente II, "Memorán-dum sobre informaciones y consideraciones relacionadas con

In September, 1936, the Argentine Chancellor sent Horacio Carillo to Bolivia to discuss the possibility of building a railroad from Yacuiba, Argentina, to Santa Cruz, Bolivia, through the oil fields. What Carillo said is not known, but on December 21, 1936, a national company to exploit the petroleum was inaugurated in La Paz. Shortly thereafter, on March 13, 1937, Bolivia expropriated Standard Oil's holdings and in April an announcement was made that a Yacuiba-Santa Cruz railroad was being considered. That Argentina was a factor in this expropriation can be seen in a conversation between Finot and the United States Ambassador in La Paz, R. Henry Norweb on May 8, 1937. At that time, Finot stated that neither Brazil, Chile nor the United States was willing to challenge Argentina. Argentina was decidedly pro-Paraguayan, the only way to placate Buenos Aires according to La Paz, was to make her oil available. 55

Bolivia's plan did not work as well as Finot probably hoped it would. Before Saavedra Lamas would agree to allow a territorial settlement, a treaty had to be negotiated with Bolivia. This was not, however, the only, or in fact, the crucial reason for delay on the part of the Argentine

los problemas inherentes a las vinulaciones exteriores de Bolivia," Estado Mayor General de Marina to Saavedra Lamas, November, 1935, pp. 19-20.

⁵⁵U. S. Dept. of State, <u>Foreign Relations</u>, V, 1937, p. 287.

Chancellor. There was also the possibility, that Paraguay would eventually discover oil. The most important reason for delay, however, apparently sprang from Saavedra Lamas' desire to prevent the Conference from collapsing while he was the leader. He was willing to shift it to another forum or simply avoid a settlement before he left office. In either case, he would be rid of the Chaco albatross and would not be blamed if it failed. 56

In order to halt the delaying tactics of Saavedra

Lamas the representatives of Chile, Brazil and the United

States decided in April, 1937, to complain to President

Justo once again. Following the meeting, the three delegates concluded that the Argentine Foreign Minister was

profoundly displeased with their actions. They were of the opinion, however, that Justo would halt the antics of his

Foreign Minister. The meeting initially, however, had the opposite effect desired. At a session five days later, the Argentine Chancellor recounted a report he had received from the Paraguayan delegate that President Vargas of Brazil

⁵⁶U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 724.34119/894, Braden (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, June 7, 1937. See also <u>ibid</u>., RG 59, Decimal File 724.34119/1043, Braden (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, September 23, 1937.

^{57 &}lt;u>Ibid.</u>, RG 59, Decimal File 724.34119/864, Braden (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, May 7, 1927. The memorandum was drawn up by the delegates and duplicates were sent to their respective Foreign Ministries.

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favored a slow, deliberative approach. Although it was pointed out that Saavedra Lamas had left out a good deal of what Vargas had said, ⁵⁸ there can be no doubt that the counterattack had begun. In his report on events to Espil, the Argentine Chancellor called the behavior of the delegates "grotesque." Curiously, he claimed that Nieto del Río, the Chilean representative, was responsible for the trouble. ⁵⁹

In August, Saavedra Lamas indicated that he was ready for serious negotiations. Spurring him on was a threat by Braden to call publicly for an end to direct negotiations in favor of outside arbitration. The United States delegate's explanation if he took such an action would certainly not be flattering to Saavedra Lamas. Also, Justo had given his Foreign Minister direct orders to settle the matter before the president's administration left office. Probably the most important reason, however, was that it

⁵⁸ Ibid., RG 59, Decimal File 724.34119/853, Braden (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, April 30, 1937.

⁵⁹Argentina, Archives, Box 5, Expediente IV, "asuntos varios," Letter (muy reservado) from Saavedra Lamas to Felpie Espil (Washington D.C.), May 3, 1937.

⁶⁰U. S. Archives, RG 59, Decimal File 724.34119/977, Braden (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, August 4, 1937. Braden indicated that Saavedra Lamas had given up the idea of shifting the dispute to the World Court.

^{61 &}lt;u>Ibid.</u>, RG 59 Decimal File 724.34119/960, Braden (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, August 10, 1937.

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had become clear to Saavedra Lamas that even to retain his present position in the certain to be elected <u>Concordancia</u> administration under Ortiz, the Chaco dispute would have to be concluded. The fight for the presidency was over, and the fight for the Foreign Ministry had begun.

Unfortunately, Saavedra Lamas learned quickly that progress would be difficult on such a critical issue. Both ex-belligerents had become even more suspicious once such an important matter was being discussed. Furthermore, Bolivia was also negotiating with Brazil to build a railroad to the oil fields. Finally, there were few people willing to cooperate with Saavedra Lamas now that he might be leaving office. Nieto del Río, in a letter to Braden, wrote "every day I open the newspaper hoping to find a notice of the resignation of Saavedra Lamas. 63 Cisneros of Peru observed that "[Saavedra Lamas] has a capacity for both good and evil, but even when he does good it is with evil

^{62&}lt;u>Tbid.</u>, RG 59, Decimal File 724.34119/1070, Braden (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, October 9, 1937.

⁶³ Ibid., RG 59, Decimal File 724.34119/1000, Braden (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, August 25, 1937. This statement came from a personal letter from Nieto del Río forwarded by Braden to the State Department. In ibid., RG 59, Decimal File 724.34119/1070, Braden (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, October 9, 1937, Nieto del Río stated that after Saavedra Lamas left office, he would provoke a personal incident with the Argentine. Macedo Soares said he would write a letter exposing the Argentine Chancellor.

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intent."64

Saavedra Lamas, however, did successfully conclude on November 19 a railroad and petroleum treaty with Bolivia. Unfortunately, the railroad would have to run through territory occupied by Paraguay. Realizing this, Saavedra Lamas had in late October given instructions to the military attaché in La Paz, Captain Carlos Mauriño, to suggest negotiations outside the framework of the Conference. Alas, the Brazilians, through undisclosed means, learned of this gambit. Meanwhile, in order to soothe relations with Paraguay, Argentina began negotiations on a new commercial treaty with Asunción. Bolivia consequently became suspicious. In essence, Saavedra Lamas' activities only increased the distrust of the ex-belligerents, and made more difficult a final settlement which might have allowed the Argentine Chancellor to remain Chancellor.

^{64 &}lt;u>Tbid.</u>, RG 59, Decimal File 724.34119/1007, Braden (Buenos <u>Aires</u>) to Dept. of State, August 31, 1937.

^{65&}lt;u>rbid.</u>, RG 59, Decimal File 724.34119/1096, Braden (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, October 29, 1937. At the same time, Saavedra Lamas was telling the Conference that slow, deliberate action was needed. See <u>ibid.</u>, RG 59, Decimal File 724.34119/114, Braden (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, November 3, 1937.

⁶⁶<u>Ibid.</u>, RG 59, Decimal File 724.34119/1150, Braden (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, December 14, 1937. Ruíz Moreno added it would be "catastrophic for Argentina and all of the Americas" if Saavedra Lamas was reappointed.

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The Conference, however, gave Saavedra Lamas one more chance to obtain a settlement. The Foreign Minister proposed that Paraguay withdraw from the Villa Montes-Boyuibé road, an important north-south artery in exchange for a Bolivian territorial session in the northern Chaco. Also, the talks in Buenos Aires would recess while the exbelligerents attempted to settle their problems directly. The plan met with no success. Braden as well as others, however, knew that he would fail even before he started. 67 It must have seemed the height of revenge to see him charge on to the field of battle with an empty gun. although Braden refused, Ruiz Moreno, the number two man in the Argentine foreign office, had asked Braden to defer a settlement until after Saavedra Lamas left office. Although there is no direct evidence, it is probable that Presidentelect Ortiz was behind the overture. In the end, the Argentine Foreign Minister had no friends at all. one-half years of delaying tactics mixed with wild schemes, double-crosses and several lies had destroyed whatever influence he might have had.

On February 10, 1938, Ortiz announced that José María Cantilo would be the next Foreign Minister. Saavedra Lamas thereupon made it known he expected an https://www.nemaniecommonial.com/homenaje or testimonial in his honor. Braden, however, refused to go along.

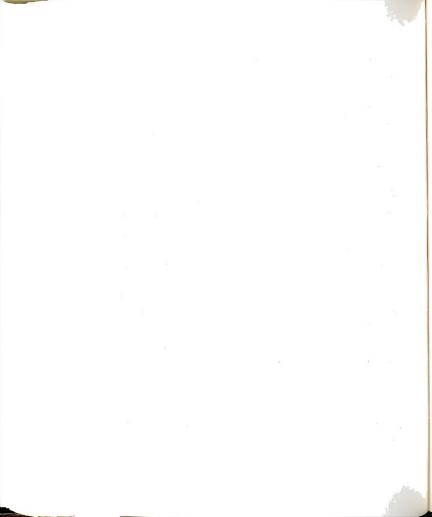
^{67 &}lt;u>Ibid.</u>, RG 59, Decimal File 724.34119/I167, Braden (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, December 31, 1937.

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Eventually, it was agreed that a testimonial lunch with one speech would be arranged. Rodriguez Alves, who was supposed to give it, left town and the task fell to Braden. He proceeded to praise Justo and play down the Argentine Foreign Minister's role. The Argentine Chancellor was infuriated. 68

It is clear that once Saavedra Lamas lost support at home, he lost power in the Chaco Peace Conference. He was still able to delay any settlement, but when he was forced to act he could not. Suspicion engendered over time made the ex-belligerents leary of any project he forwarded. Furthermore, the Conference delegates, besides being wary of the Argentine Chancellor, apparently were willing to allow themselves the luxury of revenge in dealing with him. Consequently, when he left office on February 20, 1938, there were few to sing his praises. Show was no substitute for substance.

⁶⁸Braden, <u>Diplomats</u>, pp. 180-181.



EPILOGUE

The administration of Roberto Ortiz took office on February 20, 1938. The newspapers devoted considerable space to the new Foreign Minister, José María Cantilo. Predictably, the outgoing minister, Saavedra Lamas, received almost no mention. In La Nación there was only a short announcement at the bottom of page four stating that the departing Chancellor had personally thanked all the people with whom he had worked. Ortiz had decided not to employ Saavedra Lamas in another position. Behind this decision, perhaps, was a rumor which had circulated in August, 1937, to the effect that Saavedra Lamas was planning to detail the electoral fraud perpetrated in the election. Whether this was a blackmail attempt is impossible to determine. In any case, Saavedra Lamas became a private citizen.

Ortiz's stewardship was brief and tragic. Diabetes soon claimed both his vision and energy. The Vice-President Ramón S. Castillo, took over effective control of the

La Nación, February 21, 1938.

²United States Archives, Record Group 59, Decimal File 724.34119/1000, Braden (Buenos Aires) to Dept. of State, August 25, 1937.

government in mid-1940, and official control in June, 1942. In October, 1941, while Ortiz was incapacitated, Saavedra Lamas was appointed Rector of the University of Buenos Aires. It was not an important policy making position, but it carried great prestige. He held the post until the overthrow of Castillo in June, 1943. During his tenure, the ex-Chancellor accomplished nothing of significance.

Saavedra Lamas, however, exploited his academic forum to discuss important issues. On education, his comments were almost duplicates of those made twenty-five years earlier. For example, he chastized Argentine instruction for its fragmented and unscientific approach to problems. He also charged that when students graduated they had no saleable occupation and therefore, he called for more vocational education. 3

Although he seldom commented on public developments after he left office, Saavedra Lamas did discuss some of the events during his tenure with an eye toward contemporary policies. For example, in an October 26, 1942 https://doi.org/10.2016/journal-beta-developments (testimonial) to the Venezuelan Foreign Minister, Saavedra Lamas proclaimed that the 1936 Maintenance of Peace Conference had established a basis for consultation and

³Carlos Saavedra Lamas, <u>Discursos del Rector</u> (Buenos Aires: Imprenta de la Universidad, 1943). See particularly "La universidad y el gobierno de la instrucción publica" given October 15, 1941, pp. 6-18, and "La universidad y el fomento industrial del país" given April 14, 1942, pp. 39-55.

cooperation which should be continued. Although Hull might have laughed if he read this statement, the exForeign Minister was clearly criticising the recalcitrant stand Argentina had taken in the Rio de Janeiro Conference of January, 1942 following the entry of the United States into World War II. Like his old boss, Justo, Saavedra Lamas feared close cooperation with the Axis powers. Opposed though he was to dependence on the United States, he was too aristocratic and his almost Edwardian impulses were too strong to permit him to align on the side of Hitlerian Germany.

In 1943, the Castillo government was replaced by one even more friendly to the Axis. Consequently, Saavedra Lamas was removed from office. When Juan Perón finally emerged as the leader of the country, he found in Saavedra Lamas an implacable opponent. Ironically, Saavedra Lamas helped Braden, who had become United States ambassador to Argentina and was also anti-Perón, to avoid an anti-United States mob. 5 They might have hated each other, but they

^{4 &}lt;u>Ibid</u>., see "Homenaje y entrega del titulo de Doctor Honoris Causa al Canciller de la Republica de Venezuela doctor Caracciolo Parra Perez," October 26, 1942, pp. 66-70. In a speech given earlier, on November 10, 1941, entitled "A la joventud" Saavedra Lamas praised the Good Neighbor Policy as "noble" and "moral." He added that the United States was the "exponent of liberty and justice," p. 10.

Spruille Braden, <u>Diplomats and Demagoges</u> (New Rochelle, New York: Arlington House, 1971), p. 307.

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agreed that Perón was unsatisfactory. In 1951, Perón, in an apparent attempt to give his government a larger base, and perhaps seeking the prestige of a Nobel Prize winner, asked Saavedra Lamas to be Chancellor once more. A seventy-two year old Saavedra Lamas refused, and as a result spent three days in San Telmo Prison.

The ex-Chancellor had been in retirement, and one suspects that the aforementioned ordeal convinced him to stay that way. He produced no more significant works and gave only a few speeches, testimonials to his friends who had died. He joined them on May 5, 1959, at the age of 80. As befitted his patrician heritage, he was interred in La Recoleta cemetary, where many of Argentina's illustrious historical figures are buried.

⁶Interview with Señora Pueyrredón, Buenos Aires, September 12, 1972.

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CONCLUSION

When Carlos Saavedra Lamas was born he had all the prerequisites for success and all of the burdens of one so endowed. He was expected to achieve high position, and his early scholastic success indicated that he would. Elected at an early age to the <u>Cámara de Diputados</u> he distinguished himself as an excellent speaker and debator. He was imbued with positivist thought during his education and he worked for an economically strong Argentina. The means to achieve this end, he believed, was through immigration from Europe. Consequently, he endeavored to establish new laws and programs to insure successful settlement.

A modern Argentina, according to Saavedra Lamas, also required a more democratic social structure. No longer should a small elite control the government through a limited voting franchise. Consequently, Saavedra Lamas voted for the Saenz Peña law which enfranchised the male population, even though he was a member of the ruling elite. He expected, however, that the new voters would chose the best qualified people, which included himself. They did not, and suddenly Saavedra Lamas was out of public office, a



victim of his own idealism. It is not, therefore, difficult to understand why Saavedra Lamas was willing to accept the position as Foreign Minister in the fradulently elected and military dominated government of General Justo.

When the new Chancellor took office, he inherited a foreign policy intent upon assuring Argentine leadership in Latin America. As translated by Saavedra Lamas and his predecessors, this meant opposition to the United States domination in the Western hemisphere. To aid in halting the North Americans, European countries or the League of Nations would be utilized as a counterpoise to the United States. Besides this general policy orientation, Saavedra Lamas had his own personal goal: to achieve prestige for himself. Augmenting this drive was the fact that, with a few notable exceptions, he was given a free hand by President Justo. Only at the end of his term did his own ambitions and the traditional ambitions of Argentine leadership seriously conflict.

The first area in which the Argentine Chancellor demonstrated the type of concerted effort which characterized his work was in the dispute between Bolivia and Paraguay over ownership of the Chaco. He inserted himself strongly into the mediation then being conducted by the United States dominated Committee of Neutrals. In order to attack the Neutrals as well as to help himself attain hemispheric

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leadership, Saavedra Lamas established an informal mediating group composed of Brazil, Chile, Peru and Argentina.

In the subsequent conflict which erupted between the two mediating groups, there can be little doubt that Saavedra Lamas came out ahead. The Chancellor claimed credit for a new international axiom, that territory taken by illegal means would not be recognized. That this doctrine, dubbed the Declaration of August 3, had been used earlier relative to Japan and in essence was suggested by the United States to Saavedra Lamas, was never acknowledged. Unsatisfied, the Argentine Foreign Minister forwarded a second Declaration three days later which negated the first. Saavedra Lamas took credit for both, with the firm knowledge that only a very few would realize the truth, and they would say nothing publicly. Following this development, the Argentine Chancellor initiated with Chile a proposal to end the fighting in the Chaco. It failed, as did numerous other proposals forwarded by various parties and by Saavedra Lamas himself.

A number of factors explain this lack of success. Primarily, the belligerents had settled on arms as the means to ajudicate their problem. Whether anyone could have induced an agreement is impossible to determine, but Saavedra Lamas was certainly trying to reach one. He would not, however, accept any proposal which he did not initiate, and actively worked against plans forwarded by others. Undercutting the Foreign Minister's total control was the

Argentine military's insistence on supplying Paraguay with arms. If Saavedra Lamas had the ability to cut off military supplies to Paraguay, he would have had considerably more power.

The Argentine Chancellor was able to act as he did because no nation wished to confront Argentina. Other limitrophe nations, such as Brazil and Chile, had an interest in the dispute, but this was outweighed by the desire to avoid conflict with Argentina. The Depression and the possibility of war with Buenos Aires mediated against any sharp move to counter Argentina.

The desire by the United States to foster the Good
Neighbor Policy led to accommodation with the Argentine
Foreign Minister at the Seventh Inter-American Conference
in Montevideo. Hull accepted Saavedra Lamas' Anti-War Pact
even though the previous administration had rejected it.
The United States gave to the Argentine Chancellor the
leadership role he coveted, and in accepting it, however,
Saavedra Lamas surrendered none of his prerogatives or
ideas.

This interlude was followed by a return to the bickering that had earlier marked the Chaco talks. By the beginning of 1935, however, Saavedra Lamas lost control of the mediation efforts, and the League of Nations threatened to impose harsh sanctions upon Paraguay. Not only was the League impinging upon an area perceived as being within the

Argentine sphere, but due to the military stalemate in the Chaco, there was the possibility that Geneva might bring an end to the war and gain the credit Saavedra Lamas desired. Moving with dispatch, Saavedra Lamas put together a mediating body composed of the ABCP countries, the United States and Uruguay. Based on the Argentine Foreign Minister's personal assurances that the talks would continue until a settlement was reached, a cease-fire was arranged. The credit went to Saavedra Lamas.

At the Chaco Peace Conference, the Argentine Chancellor initially followed a policy of delay until the Foreign Ministers of the other countries involved departed. continued this tactic while he ascertained the views of the delegates on his own plan. When they declared it to be unacceptable, Saavedra Lamas found himself in a difficult position. He wanted to gain the prestige a settlement would bring, but he also wanted to insure that Paraguay, as the victor, would not have to make too many concessions. Consequently, under Saavedra Lamas' direction, the Conference moved slowly, as the Argentine Chancellor tried to harmonize two conflicting goals. The result was general dissatisfaction on the part of all involved. During the first year and a half, however, there were some notable accomplishments. The war was officially declared over and the prisoners were returned.

At about the same time as the repatriation, Saavedra
Lamas journeyed to the League of Nations and, as he expected,
was elected President of the Assembly. Ironically, the
Argentine Foreign Minister had only used the League for his
own ends. He had never demonstrated faith in it, and had,
in fact, opposed League action against Paraguay. Indeed,
Saavedra Lamas seems to have been accorded this honor more
for participating in the Geneva-based body than for any
other reason. In any case, the Argentine Chancellor received what he wanted: applause for his statesmanship prior
to the 1936 Buenos Aires Conference.

Of infinitely more importance was the announcement in November, 1936, that Saavedra Lamas had won the Nobel Peace Prize. He would be receiving the award for the Anti-War Pact and for his efforts in bringing an end to the Chaco War. In reality, the Pact was never considered to have much significance. Those who signed it did so to avoid annoying Argentina and appearing pro-war. In the case of the Chaco War, Saavedra Lamas' problem was not bringing peace, but obtaining credit for a settlement favorable to Paraguay. If there can be the slightest justification for the award, it was on the grounds that the Argentine Chancellor publicly acted and talked like a peacemaker.

In many respects, the Peace Prize can best be seen as part of a cynical deal. Hull was willing to support Saavedra Lamas' drive for the honor in exchange for

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cooperation at the December, 1936, Maintenance of Peace Conference. Once Hull delivered the support, however, the Argentine Chancellor double-crossed him and opposed his programs in Buenos Aires. Admittedly for a number of reasons Saavedra Lamas was justified in halting Hull's program. Hemispheric isolation, which the North American Secretary of State wanted, would not have been in Argentina's best interests and would have foreclosed future prerogatives. Whatever the justification for Saavedra Lamas' tactics at the 1936 meeting, they resulted in angry representations by Hull to Justo. The Argentine Chancellor learned that it was one thing to oppose Hull's program and another to betray him.

Not only did he infuriate Hull, but he also earned the wrath of the Brazilian and Chilean Foreign Ministers with his unsavory tactics regarding the Chaco talks. He evinced an almost pathological drive to stop Macedo Soares and Cruchaga from finding a formula to end the Chaco War. If there was going to be a settlement, it must be arranged by the Argentine Foreign Minister. The result of Saavedra Lamas' actions were further hostile complaints to Justo.

These representations were instrumental in bringing an end to any chance Saavedra Lamas had for higher office, but the most important factor ending the Argentine Chancellor's ambitions was his relationship with Justo. The General clearly did not appreciate his Foreign Minister

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"little fatty." The final blow was his failure to give sufficient credit to Justo when he received the Nobel Prize. Consequently, the President chose not to include Saavedra Lamas on the Concordancia ticket in the 1937 presidential election.

The diminution of Saavedra Lamas' power in the administration led to disaster for the Argentine Chancellor in the Chaco Peace talks. The delegates who had at least openly deferred to him, grew suddenly argumentative.

Buoying their boldness was the spectre, in at least three cases, of the representatives' own Foreign Ministers complaining to Justo about his Chancellor. Saavedra Lamas' own actions made the situation worse. In an attempt to secure Bolivian oil for Argentina, he alienated Paraguay. Subsequent attempts to assuage Asunción caused La Paz to be suspicious. The result was no progress.

With the presidency and vice-presidency closed to him, Saavedra Lamas began a concerted effort to save his position as Chancellor. In the last week of December, 1937, he obtained from the Conference the power to try to find a peace formula on his own.

But the details of what he was going to suggest were well known already and it was common knowledge that his plan would fail. He was given the go ahead and like a latter-day

Don Quixote, he charged the windmill and alas, suffered the same fate.

The importance of Saavedra Lamas lies not in his accomplishments, none of which were of great significance, but in his achievement of a leadership role for Argentina in the Americas that its military and economic position did not justify. This is a major success, when one considers that such a goal had long been sought by Argentine statesmen. That he achieved these ends more for personal reasons than for patriotic ones, and through the use of unsavory tactics, tarnishes the accomplishment. But the fact that he achieved Argentina's long awaited place in the sun is undeniable.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC ESSAY

Biographical Sources

There is no substantial biography of Carlos Saavedra The only works available are short sketches of his Lamas. life in biographical anthologies and homenajes. The best of these was done by Jacobo Weiner, his close friend and secretary in a June 24, 1962 article in the Buenos Aires newspaper, La Nación. The work, unfortunately, covers only about half a page and is a tribute rather than an analytical study. Other than this, there are entries in Who is Who and its Argentine equivalent, Quién es Quién en la Argentina. Another source, William Belmont Parker's Argentines of To-day originally published in 1920 (New York: Krause Reprint Corp., 1967), gives the wrong date of his birth and supplies little other information. In 1943 José Acre personally published Carlos Saavedra Lamas versus la univeridad de Buenos Aires (Buenos Aires: Amorrortu) in which he bitterly chastized the ex-Chancellor. The dispute centered upon who would pay the taxes on a donation Acre made to the University; the author was unquestionably furious when Saavedra Lamas refused to cooperate.

Works of Carlos Saavedra Lamas

The first publication of Saavedra Lamas was his professional thesis entitled Sistema municipal en la capital de la República (Buenos Aires: Compañía sud-americana billetes de banco, 1903). It was far from his best work, but notwithstanding the title, he did confront some of the major issues of the day, such as the availability of the voting franchise. Four years later, Saavedra Lamas published a small volume, Informe sobre la situación financiera de la muncipalidad de la capital (Buenos Aires: Casa editora de A. Grau). The title adequately describes this work.

All of Saavedra Lamas' major speeches and projects delivered in the House of Deputies were published in 1916 under the title Problemas de Gobierno, discursos pronunciados en la cámara de diputados de la nación (Buenos Aires: Compañía sub-americana de billetes de banco, 1916). Three legislative programs which appeared in this volume were published earlier, two of which had different titles. The only one with the same title was Proyecto de ley sobre ferrocarriles secundarios (Buenos Aires: L. J. Rosso, 1914). In this tome, he proposed a means of financing railroad construction. Economía colonial (Buenos Aires: L. J. Rosso, 1910) appeared in Problemas de gobierno as Ley de Colonizacción. The second title describes the work well.

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In <u>Problemas de gobierno</u>, <u>Por las provincias del norte</u>, <u>estudios sobre el Régime de la industria azucarera</u>

(Buenos Aires: L. J. Rosso y cía., 1911) became <u>El régimen legal de la producción de azúcar en la república</u>, <u>Ley de desgravación azucarera</u>. Finally, all Saavedra Lamas' utterances in Congress were reported in the <u>Diario de</u>

Sessiones de la Cámara de Diputados.

Following his departure from the House of Deputies,
Saavedra Lamas wrote a number of works dealing with Argentina's economic position. In 1918 Los ferrocarriles ante

la legislación positiva argentina (Buenos Aires: Talleres
graficos de L. J. Rosso y cía.) was published at the behest
of the Empresa del Ferrocarril Oeste de Buenos Aires. It
was a highly legalistic discussion of Argentine railroad
legislation. In both Los aslariados en la República

Argentina (Buenos Aires: Libreria y casa editora de Jesús
Menendea, 1922) and La huelga de la industria carbonera en

la Ingalterra (Buenos Aires: Imprenta de la Universidad,
1926), Saavedra Lamas called for consensus rather than conflict in labor-management relations.

Another topic to which Saavedra Lamas devoted considerable effort was education. His first concise statement of views appeared in Atlantida (Tomo V, 1912) and was entitled "Los estudios intensivos en la Universidad de Buenos Aires." Here, as in other statements on education, he called

and the state of t and the second s and the second section of the Tending To Te and the second The second for liberalization of curriculum coupled with a scientific approach to problem solving. He took the same position in Problemas Americanos, discurso del presidente en la inauguración del congreso americano de ciencias sociales en Tucumán el 6 de julio de 1916 (Buenos Aires: Imprenta de Coni Hermanos, 1916), La personalidad universitaria del Dr. Carlos Octavio Bunge (Buenos Aires: Talleres Graficos Argentinas de L. J. Rosso y cia., 1919), and La crisis universitaria y la formación de hombre de gobierno (Buenos Aires: Jacobo Peuser, Ltda., 1925). After Saavedra Lamas left the Foreign Ministry and became Rector of the University of Buenos Aires he published Discursos del Rector (Buenos Aires: Imprenta de la Universidad, 1943). Included in this collection of speeches were a number of graduation addresses.

Between the time Saavedra Lamas left the House of
Deputies and the time he became Chancellor, he wrote four
books on Foreign affairs. The two written in 1922, La
Legislación social despues de la guerra, la crisis del
socialismo y el maximalismo (Buenos Aires: Establecimiento
gráfico A. de Martino) and Tratados internacionales de tipo
social, las convenciones sobre emigración y trabajo, perpectivas que representan para los países sub-americanos y
especialmente para la República argentina conferencias de
Wáshington y Ginebra (Buenos Aires: Facultad de derécho y
ciencias sociales) deal principally with concepts of

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international law. An edition of the latter work was published in French in 1924. Another work on international law, published in French was La conception argentine de arbitrage et de l'intervention a l'ouverture de la Conférence de Washington (Paris: Les Editions internationales, 1928). Included was a detailed discussion of the Gondra Treaty, which set up a commission to settle disputes in the Americas.

While Foreign Minister, Saavedra Lamas published a number of works. The Anti-War Pact was detailed in Project de Traité Sub-Américain pour prevenir la guerre Non-Agression et Conciliation (Paris: Les Editions internationales, 1932). The Spanish text appeared in Argentina, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto, Memoria presentada al Honorable Congreso Nacional correspondiente al periodo 1932-1933 (Buenos Aires: Gmo. Kraft. Ltda., 1933). For an English translation of the treaty see United States Department of State, Foreign Relations of the United States, 1932, Volume V. Before the 1936 Maintenance of Peace Conference, Saavedra Lamas published Draft of a Convention for the Maintenance of Peace (Washington D.C. n.p., 1936) in which he presented his program.

Following the award of the Nobel Peace Prize, Saavedra Lamas published a compendium of material concerning his Chancellorship. Entitled Por la paz de las Américas (Buenos Aires: M. Gleizer, 1937) it included many of the Foreign

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Minister's speeches as well as some articles describing his work. Outside material is only identified by a footnote and even then, the reference would only read a "prominent newspaper." In much the same vein, a collection of documents relative to the Chaco War, La conferencia interamericana de consolidación de la paz (Buenos Aires: Talleres grafícos L. J. Rosso, 1938), listed Saavedra Lamas as the author. The same work was also issued, although no publisher was identified, by the Argentine Foreign Ministry.

Argentine Archival Sources

The Argentine Foreign Ministry Archives proved to be an invaluable source for this study. Although it is apparent that much material has been culled from the files, considerable information was available. There are twelve boxes of papers relative to the Chaco Peace Conference. Box three is mistakenly labeled as the second box eleven. All of them are labeled "Conferencia de la Paz." For the 1933 Montevideo meeting there is only a single box filled mostly with general memoranda given to the delegates. Three boxes are devoted to the Maintenance of Peace Conference. Most of the material relates to the origin and conduct of the Conference and includes such trivia as the menu's for the major receptions, but there is some formal diplomatic correspondence.

United States Archival Sources

A serious study of Saavedra Lamas would not have been possible without the massive resources of Record Group 59 in the United States Archives. By far the most comprehensive and significant files relative to the Chaco are 724.3415 and 724.34119. For the correspondence and memoranda dealing with the two inter-American meetings see (1933) and 710.Peace, 811.001Roosevelt Visit (1936). The documentation concerning Saavedra Lamas and the League of Nations can be found in files 710.League of Nations, 500.001, 500.Clll, and 500.C Covenant. Of lesser importance are files 724.3411, 835.00General Conditions, 835.002, 711.35, 724.3215, 835.001Justo, Agustin P., 724.25, and 725.35.

Argentine Government Publications

The best general source published by the Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto relative to the 1930's is Memorias. This yearly series, ostensibly a report of Congress, is a collection of documents. Because it is made public, however, the material details the formalities of foreign relations rather than the substance. The same is true of La conferencia de paz del Chaco 1935-1939 (Buenos Aires: E. L. Frigerico e Hijo, 1939). A reading of the material included would yield the impression that the whole conference went smoothly. Another example of form rather

than substance is La neutralidad argentina en el conflicto boliviano-paraguayo (Buenos Aires: Jacobo Peuser, Ltda., 1933). This slim volume also appeared in Memorias. Without question the most useful Argentine government source is the two volume La politica argentina en la guerra del Chaco (Buenos Aires: Guillermo Kraft, 1937). Besides providing some documentation, the work outlines the policy and motives of Argentina until July, 1925. It was produced while Saavedra Lamas was in office and is highly laudatory of his actions.

The Argentine Foreign Ministry also brought out reports on the major Inter-American meetings of 1933 and 1936.

Séptima Conferencia Internacional Americana Reunida en la Ciudad de Montevideo del 3 la 24 de diciembre de 1933, informe presentada por el Presidente de la delegación Argentina Dr. Carlos Saavedra Lamas (Buenos Aires: n.p., 1934) includes the speeches given by the Argentine delegation and the protocols and treaties signed. Although the volume dealing with 1936, La conferencia interamericana de la paz, is considerably larger, it has a similar format.

<u>United States Government Publications</u>

For information on the Chaco dispute, the InterAmerican conferences, and economic matters the series,

Papers Relating to the Foreign Relations of the United

States (Washington D.C.: United States Government Printing

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Office, various years) is invaluable. Another helpful source is the conference series of the United States. Relative to Saavedra Lamas' tenure in Argentina, the most useful are Report of the Delegates of the United States of of America to the Seventh Inter-American Conference, 1933

(Washington D.C.: United States Government Printing Office, 1934), Report of the Delegates of the United States of America to the International Conference for the Maintenance of Peace at Buenos Aires, 1936 (Washington D.C.: United States Government Printing Office, 1937) and Report of the Delegation of the United States of America to the Peace Conference Held at Buenos Aires, July 1, 1935-January 23, 1939 (Washington D.C.: United States Government Printing Office, 1940).

Published Primary Sources

There are a number of published memoirs of people who were involved in the diplomacy surrounding the dispute.

The most useful is Vicente Rivarola's three volume work,

Memorias diplomáticas (Buenos Aires: Editorial Ayacucho,

1952-1957). The work's utility is enhanced by the inclusion of numerous documents. Another helpful volume is Bautista Saavedra's El Chaco y la conferencia de la Paz de Buenos

Aires (Chile: Editorial Nacimiento, 1939), a defense of Saavedra's actions. For a vicious indictment of Argentina in general and Saavedra Lamas in particular, see Miguel

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Mercado Moreira, <u>Historia diplomática de la guerra del</u>

<u>Chaco</u> (La Paz: Talleres Gráficos Bolivianos, 1966).

Another book highly critical of Saavedra Lamas is <u>Diplomats</u>
and <u>Demagogues</u> (New Rochelle, New York: Arlington House,
1971) by Spruille Braden. Also included is information
relative to the Inter-American meetings. Finally a work
which is indispensible to any discussion of the period is
<u>The Memoirs of Cordell Hull</u> (New York: Macmillan Co.,
1948) by Cordell Hull.

Secondary Sources

The works by Argentine authors dealing with the 1930's are generally polemical although some are useful if read with caution. La Democracia Fraudulenta (Buenos Aires: Editorial Jorge Alvarez S.A., 1968) by Rodolfo Puiggrós reveals its bias in the title. La década infame (Buenos Aires: Talleres Gráficos Lumen, 1969) edited by Carlos Pérez, is also critical. Two good works on the period are Alberto Ciria, Partidas y Poder en la Argentina moderna, 1930-1946 (Buenos Aires: Editorial Jorge Alvarez, 1968) and Jorge Abelardo Ramos, El Sexto Domino (Buenos Aires: Editorial Plus Ultra, 1972). A very useful and excellent work dealing with the oligarchy is José Luis de Imaz's Los Que Mandan (Buenos Aires: Eudeba, 1964).

In English two works which stand out for their depth of analysis are <u>The Army and Politics in Argentina 1928-</u>1945 (Stanford, California: Stanford University Press,

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1969) by Robert A. Potash and <u>Democracy</u>, <u>Militarism</u>, <u>and Nationalism in Argentina</u>, <u>1930-1966</u>: <u>An Interpretation</u>

(Austin: University of Texas Press, 1972) by Marvin

Goldwert. For the purposes of this study Potash's book proved to be more useful.

Concerning the economic policy of Saavedra Lamas during the 1930's, the most informative work relative to the Roca-Runciman Treaty is <u>El gobierno de las vacas</u>, <u>1933-1956</u> (Buenos Aires: Ediciones la Bastilla, 1972) by Daniel Prosdoff. The author sees the treaty as unfortunate, but necessary. A more general study of Argentine economic policy as it relates to the United States is "New Light on the Good Neighbor Policy: The United States and Argentina, 1933-1939" (unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, University of Pennsylvania, 1972) by William Grant Cooper. The total lack of Spanish language sources detracts from the work.

There are a great many books dealing all or in part with the diplomatic relations between the United States and Argentina during the 1930's. The best work is Harold F. Peterson's Argentina and the United States, 1810-1960

(New York: Macmillan Co., 1964). Another useful work with a greater emphasis on the background of United States policy is The United States and Inter-American Security, 1889-1960

(Austin: University of Texas Press, 1962) by J. Lloyd Mecham. A critical view of United States policy can be found in Yankee Diplomacy (Dallas: Southern Methodist

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University Press, 1953) by Edmund Smith, Jr. An opposite view of United States policy is available in The Latin American Policy of the United States (New York: W. W. Norton and Co., 1967) by Samuel Flagg Bemis. A work the researcher should definitely consult is Argentine Foreign Policy (Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 1966) by Alberto Conil Paz and Gustavo Ferrari. The book was translated from Spanish by John J. Kennedy

Regarding the Chaco War, the best and most comprehensive work is Politics of the Chaco Peace Conference, 1935-1939 (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1970), by Leslie B. Rout, Jr. Another fine source is Bryce Wood's The United States and Latin American Wars, 1932-1942 (New York: Colombia University Press, 1958). This volume integrates the Chaco War into other disputes of the 1930's. For the military side of the conflict, see David H. Zook, Jr., The Conduct of the Chaco War (New Haven: Bookman Associates, 1960). The only work spotlighting the response of the League of Nations to the Chaco War is Margaret La Foy, The Chaco Dispute and the League of Nations (Ann Arbor: Edward Brothers, Inc., 1946), which suffers from inadequate research.

