

the docks of San Francisco. How would the republics implement the Resolution on Reciprocal Assistance and Cooperation which their delegates had signed at Havana? Nine Latin American countries - all of which were close neighbours of the United States - immediately declared war on the aggressor. And to this number can be added Canada, notwithstanding the fact that she had not been a party to the resolution. Three other countries, namely Mexico, Columbia, and Venezuela, immediately broke off diplomatic relations with Japan. The other American countries were slower to act, although some of these, including Argentina and Chile, immediately stated that they would not treat the United States as a "belligerent", a fiction which would make it possible for that country to use their ports without being subject to the restrictions imposed by the rules of international law governing the conduct of neutrals.

Generally speaking, Latin America's immediate support of the United States was in inverse relationship to distance from the United States. The only thing, of course, that the republics had agreed to do in the event of an act of aggression had been to "consult among themselves in order to agree upon the measure it may be advisable to take."

In implementation of this undertaking it was immediately decided to hold a third consultative meeting of foreign ministers at Rio de Janeiro. This meeting, which opened on January 15, 1942, was in some respects a serious setback for the Pan American movement. The United States had hoped that the meeting would at least agree on a joint rupture of relations with the Axis powers. It soon became apparent, however, that neither Argentina nor Chile would consent to do this; and in the result a resolution was adopted recommending a rupture of relations. As a matter of fact all the Latin American republics, including Argentina and Chile, have now either declared war on Germany and Japan or broken off relations with them. But Chile maintained relations with the Axis powers until January, 1943, and Argentina until January, 1944.

Apart from the resolution recommending the rupture of diplomatic relations with the Axis powers, the Meeting adopted 40 other declarations, resolutions and recommendations. One of the most important recommended general rules for the eventual severance of financial and commercial relations with the Axis. Another set up the Inter-American Joint Defence Board with headquarters in Washington. Another provided for the creation of the Emergency Advisory Committee for Political Defense. This Committee has been particularly active.

Other resolutions related to the functions of the Inter-American Financial and Economic Advisory Committee and generally to the economic mobilization of the hemisphere. One significant act of the Meeting was the transformation of the Inter-American Neutrality Committee (which had been set up by the Panama Meeting of Foreign Ministers) into the Inter-American Juridical Committee.

Finally, the Meeting expressed its satisfaction that the Atlantic Charter included "principles which constitute a part of the juridical heritage of America."

There has been no meeting of American foreign ministers since the Rio Meeting of January, 1942, although the government of Argentina recently requested the Governing Board of the Union to convene such a meeting to discuss that republic's relations with