

Thomas J. Watson Is Decorated by Hitler

For Work in Bettering Economic Relations

BERLIN, July 1.—Thomas J. Watson, president of the International Business Machines Corporation, New York and the new president of the International Chamber of Commerce, has achieved the distinction of being the first American whom Chancellor Adolf Hitler has decorated with the new order of merit of the German Eagle, created for "honoring foreign nations who have made themselves deserving of the German Reich."

The bestowal, which had been deferred for some time, was announced today in a communiqué which stated that the same decoration had been given to F. H. van Vliet, retiring president of the International Chamber of Commerce, while Pierre Vanier, the chamber's secretary-general, received a gift from the State factory in Berlin.

The full title of Mr. Watson's decoration is "The Merit Cross of the German Eagle With Star," representing the second of the three classes into which the order is divided. The only higher class is the Grand Cross.

The Merit Cross With Star consists of an eight-pointed, framed cross of white enamel with the German eagle and the swastika in each corner, which is worn around the neck on a broad ribbon bordered with white, black and white and which is accompanied with a silver six-pointed star on the left breast.

The actual presentation was made this afternoon at the Reichsbank by Dr. Hjalmar Schacht, president of the bank and Minister of Economics, in the presence of representatives of the Foreign Office and the Economics Ministry, and Abraham Frowein as president of the International Chamber of Commerce Congress.

Dr. Schacht emphasized in his speech that Mr. Watson and van Vliet had done valuable work for the improvement of international economic relations and therewith had also made them-



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 himself deserving of Germany, which was greatly interested in the maintenance of peaceful relations. Dr. Schacht said that the present Congress had shown the great importance of the International Chamber of Commerce for the promotion of international economic relations and had thus underlined the work and accomplishments of the men now honored.