

ICHIA - CHILD

*Thank you for a successful day
I know how you will feel
I am sure you will be affected*



PRIME MINISTER,
CANBERRA.

30th July, 1945.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

As you will probably have heard of the decision of my Government to erect a memorial to your late husband, I think it only appropriate that I should let you know the nature of the memorial which we propose to set up.

First of all, may I explain that the idea grew out of a very wide and spontaneous desire on the part both of our Australian Government and people to commemorate the great services which President Roosevelt rendered not only to his own country but also to Australia, and, indeed, to humanity. After considering several proposals the Government decided that perhaps the most appropriate and effective memorial would be a growing library of American literature, which would be housed in a special wing of our Commonwealth National Library at Canberra, and bear the name "Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial Library".

On the ground floor of this wing we hope to constitute a display and reference collection commemorating the life of your late husband. This would consist of portraits, busts, pictures, etc., illustrating the main incidents in his life, also all works by or relating to him. The wing, however, will be planned primarily to house the growing collection of works relating to American history and culture, and would provide for study bays so that students might have the fullest and most direct access to the material needed. We also plan to provide assistance so that research students residing anywhere in Australia may be enabled to come to Canberra to complete their American studies, and we hope in this way the Library will promote a wider knowledge of the American nation and in that way lead to closer relations between our two countries.

I trust that such a memorial may not only commend itself to you but venture to hope that on the completion of the building we might be privileged to have you again visit Canberra.

Yours faithfully,

(J. B. Chifley)

Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt,
Hyde Park,
NEW YORK STATE, U.S.A.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 12, 1945

My dear Lieutenant Childers:

I am writing to acknowledge your letter of April 7, and to say that it will be given to Mrs. Roosevelt at the first opportunity.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Lieutenant (jg) R. A. Childers USNR
1412 George Mason Drive
Arlington
Virginia

THE WHITE HOUSE
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300

Lieutenant R. A. Childers (jg) USNR

1412 George Mason Drive

Arlington

Virginia

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*ack
4/11/45*

APR 9 1945

ROBERT A. CHILDERS
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Washington, D. C.
7 April 1945.

*ack
4/11/45*

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

During recent days the difficulties in organizing for world peace have been demonstrated as in no previous period; at the same time we are told that our casualties in World War II are already more than double those of World War I.

At one time we are reminded that another world conflict must be avoided at any cost and that the problems to be solved in establishing everlasting peace are almost beyond human conception. But regardless of the hurdles and difficulties which confront our leaders, surely universal peace is possible if all people of peace loving countries will recognize that peace is something to be acquired by positive action -- positive action today as well as in the future.

But how can we make certain that the people will not forget these things soon after the war is over just as they did soon after World War I? Isn't it vital that plans be made today that will insure that peace loving people will forever and ever recognize that peace is something to be fought for?

In order to make certain that the people will never forget, why not set aside one month of each year -- the month following Easter perhaps -- as a period during which we can all be reminded of the horrors of war and of the necessity for positive action in the year 1945 and in all the years to come if we are to have peace? This would be a period of prayer -- a period for all persons believing in a Supreme Being to pray to Him for everlasting peace; to pray to Him that our President today and our Presidents of the future will have the strength and wisdom required to accomplish this greatest of tasks. Perhaps each day at noon, during such a period, all peace loving people throughout our nation, wherever they are and whatever they're doing, might bow their heads for a moment of silent prayer for those who have died in all our wars and of supplication for enduring peace.

This would be a period of education for all Americans and especially for the youth who are not living through this present conflict; a period for impressing on all of our people the realities of war and the costs of peace; a period set aside this year and in each year of the future which will be devoted to the promotion of worldwide peace.

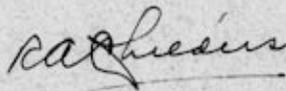
ROBERT A. CHILDERS
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

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I have the strong conviction that something must be done today in order to be sure that the people of America will be as vigorous in the pursuit of peace in the years to come as we were apathetic subsequent to World War I. Except from such a people, where can our leaders get their inspiration?

This letter is written with deep humiliation and the hope that you will see merit in the thoughts expressed since, without the sponsorship of someone like you, there is little chance of any such plan being initiated.

Respectfully yours,



R. A. Childers,
Lt. (jg), USNR.

1411 George Mason Drive,
Arlington, Virginia.