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[Hawley]

APR 12 1945

1046 Chono St., San Luis Obispo, Cal.
April 8, 1945

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.
Dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

On March Fourth I wired the President the message attached. Surely nothing short of such a plan for making and preserving the peace, can protect the world against the indescribable horrors of another world conflict. This plan is simple but cannot prove but effective.

Years ago I read a volume against warfare in which you yourself contributed much of value. For many months I have labored intensely and soon I will close out my retail and wholesale jewelry business to devote all of my time toward a written work exposing the causes, the devastations, the futility, the waste of history.

Caring nothing for personal recognition for my efforts, or that my name enter into acknowledgements, I would still like to know, that my hopes that The President may read and consider the proposed peace plan are assured.

Requests for you and our beloved President are in all our prayers, for the relief of a tortured world.

Thank You and God bless you for being the most influential leader among the women of our time.

Ruth E. Hawley

S. L. O. Woman Proposes Peace Plan

In a telegram to President Roosevelt yesterday, Ruth E. Hawley of San Luis Obispo proposed a plan by which she believes the United Nations could secure their goal of permanent peace. She proposed that hereafter any nation wishing to make war, be required to first submit the matter to a vote of the people in that nation. She believes that no nation would deliberately vote to fight.

Her telegram follows:

"Dear Mr. President: In the greatest interest of all the people will you kindly and deeply consider a plan which assuredly cannot fail to prevent future wars between the great nations of the world.

"The plan is righteous as it is simple. Allow the people to say if they are to have war. Permit no nation to sign terms of peace with our victorious powers except they agree to take the power of life and death from their nation's leaders—the leaders who too oft-times prove to be the misguided mental degenerate Hitlers and Hirohitos place the world's safety where it belongs—in the lap of the millions of men who may die or suffer injuries worse than death in gory battle. Give the power to avert war to all the people of a nation and the people who support wars by their personal sacrifices their disconnected lives, ravaged homes, and choked hearts that nothing but wars' end can cure.

"The prosecution of the plan can be forced. In subscribing to the future world peace-negotiations every nation victorious or broken in defeat must swear to give their citizens the right of choice by vote if they shall risk their precious lives and their securities in bloody conflict and wholesale destruction. Elections for such safety must be guarded at the polls by the vigilant agents of the great world powers. It is unbelievable that even our enemies, most beastly in battle, would vote for the destruction of their young men to whom they are devoted.

"In civil law, leaders may with safety be appointed to direct the conduct of human relations. But the recorded histories of all great conflicts where millions of lives are lost or ravaged in war prove unquestionably that it is unsafe to give the custody of the lives and securities of the masses to a few leaders who may be crazed with the overweight of personal power, greed, and self aggrandizement or influenced by selfish interests in sheep's clothing. Concentration of power of life and death over the world's inhabitants as exercised by a few men, self appointed or chosen to office has only too convincingly shown, too strongly threatened the possible destruction of the whole civilization of this world. No longer must such czars of destiny dictate the destruction of life and the fruits of man's spiritual and material gains."