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United Press Associations

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Written From

WASHINGTON BUREAU  
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WASHINGTON 4, D. C.

*Regret  
not making any  
statements or answering  
any questions*

March 19, 1946

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt  
29 Washington Square, West  
New York City

DEAR Mrs. Roosevelt:

I HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED to obtain an interview with you to be released on the anniversary of President Roosevelt's death.

Since it may not be possible for me to talk personally with you, I HAVE PREPARED some questions, and would greatly appreciate some written answers to be used in a story written as an interview.

I hope that you will agree to cooperate with us on such a story. If the arrangement is not acceptable, we would be glad to have a story under your own signature which we might carry.

Your kindness in considering this matter will be deeply appreciated.

Very truly yours,

*Helen Ashby*  
Helen Ashby

(Please feel free to discuss any matter with me)

1. What do you think of the world outlook now, a year after President Roosevelt's death?
2. Would he feel that the ideals for which the war was fought are being achieved through UNO?
3. Do you think that UNO can prevent future wars?
4. In what way can the nation best pay tribute to President Roosevelt?
5. What, in your opinion, would be the most suitable national memorial to him?
6. Does the democratic party still have the liberal ideals he espoused and what would he do to reconcile all elements now?
7. Do you feel that in the present situation he would be alarmed at the threat of war?
8. Do you think he would have any solution to avert war in the present trouble spots of the world?
9. Do you think that President Truman has acted to solve international and internal difficulties as President Roosevelt would have done in most cases?
10. What are your plans for the future? Do you hope to remain permanently with UNO? Will you seek a public office?
11. What do you think of the state of the nation domestically?
12. Do you think that reconversion is progressing satisfactorily?
13. Where do you plan to live most of the time?
14. Where is Fala now?
15. Is there still widespread discrimination in the United States, and what measures should be taken?
16. How do you plan to observe the anniversary of his death?

(PLEASE feel free to discuss any additional problems you wish)

cc-VP  
cc-Files

## United Press Associations OF AMERICA

30 BOUVERIE STREET, LONDON, E.C.4.

TELEGRAMS: UNIPRESS LONDON  
TELEPHONE: CENTRAL 2222

16 February 1946

**FOREIGN FEATURES DIVISION**  
HENRY TOSTI RUSSELL, Chief European Editor

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt,  
Claridges Hotel,  
London.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

Confirming our conversation, we found your first two articles on Germany, especially the second one, intensely moving.

The appearance of your column in the Daily Telegraph has had an extremely good effect. Among others, it has led me to form the belief that should arrangements ultimately be made between you and the Syndicate for a 1500 word weekly column written under European guidance for European consumption, there is every chance of its being a very great and permanent success.

Mr. Spencer, General Manager of the Liverpool Post, told me on the phone last night, that the circulation of his paper rose by 3% as a result of the printing of "My Day". Furthermore, he said (I thought rather sadly), that although his "sub-contract" with the paper which bought the British rights to the first 24 articles had ended and that it was not found possible to let him continue the arrangement with the new purchasers, namely the Daily Telegraph, the increased circulation of the paper had been maintained. That means, Ma'am, that you have gained new readers for this paper.

I enclose herewith cutting of the third article which the Daily Telegraph printed of yours. Mr. Watson liked your description of the UNO delegates enormously. He would have liked to print your fourth article in full. Owing to lack of space however, he was forced very reluctantly, to telescope numbers three and four.

I enclose also a letter received for you from the Liverpool Post.

Thank you once more for your admirable work. I earnestly hope that it will be possible as soon as you get back to New York to take up the question of a weekly column for Europe. I would suggest that it be given a different identity from "My Day", partly to emphasize that it is a weekly and not a daily column.

Sincerely yours,  
*Henry Tosti Russell*  
HENRY TOSTI RUSSELL.

*United*

cc-VP  
cc-Files

**United Press Associations**  
OF AMERICA

30 BOUVENIE STREET, LONDON, E.C.4.

TELEGRAMS: UNITED PRESS  
TELEPHONE: CENTRAL 3222

8 February 1946

**FOREIGN FEATURES DIVISION**  
HENRY TOSTI RUSSELL, Chief European Editor

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt,  
Claridges Hotel,  
London.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

I have just had a telephone call from Mr. Watson who thanks you as profusely as I myself have done for the admirable job that you did for him. That is the just the type of stuff he wants. You will be interested to hear that he is printing practically all of the six pages with the exception, I believe, of the last two paragraphs which he emphasized were not the type of thing the Telegraph likes. I take the liberty of passing on his private remark to me for your use as guidance. It is not a criticism. It is clear from Mr. Watson's observations that he was very much struck by your masterly summing up of the Conference's main achievements. He begged me to endeavor to obtain more of the same type of thing in the next articles.

I asked him if there was anything particular in the way of suggestions that he would like to have me pass on to you. After saying that he was very grateful for the suggestion, he said:

"Do ask Mrs. Roosevelt to re-emphasize and if she chooses to do so, at some length, the fact that she believes that the United States will remain with UNO". (The emphasis here is on the point which we have mentioned before, namely, there is still considerable unhappiness in Europe at the way in which the U.S.A. refrained from joining the League of Nations).

Another thing Mr. Watson thinks would make good reading in his paper (and I agree on behalf of our European clients) is your opinion of how the delegates behaved during the Conference. We think that Mrs. Roosevelt's personal impressions of various speakers, such as Bevin, Stettinius, Vyshinsky, Lie and others who may have attracted your attention, and the reasons why Mrs.

Roosevelt was struck by their behaviour, or their intonation, or their manner of speaking, would be valuable in making these personalities - some of them perhaps not very well-known in the world of today but who may become personalities of the world of tomorrow - come to life.

Wherever you find it convenient to compare atmospheres, behaviours, etc., at UNO to the League of Nations' atmosphere and the behaviour of delegates there, it would be very much appreciated if you would make the comparison.

Miss Cuddy gave me to understand that you would be holding in reserve for tomorrow's article, some of the suggestions which I took the liberty of offering on the telephone last night. One of them which Mr. Watson and I both feel would be gratefully received by the reading public over here concerns the delightful anecdote which you told us about your friendly meeting with Mr. Gromyko.

As Mr. Watson and I remember your delightful conversation, on Sunday over the little tea-party at Claridges, you emphasized that no little misunderstanding at the Conference tables had occurred through lack of knowledge of languages, customs, etc. Among other things, you said that the Russians were suspicious and, I believe, felt that to a certain extent you understood some of the reasons underlying their mistrust of us and our motives. You pointed out that Gromyko regarded you as his "friend" because, you said, you thought you were the only one of the delegates who had actually met and talked to him for an hour. Thus, at the Conference table it seems that you got on very well. I believe you wished that more of the delegates could have known him in the same way (although I don't remember hearing you say that, I merely gathered that you might have inferred it). If you were to include this in tomorrow's article, I think we would have a very human document indeed and one which would be most helpful in guiding many of us toward the road of understanding the often inexplicable Russians. I was struck, too, by your reference to your knowledge that Gromyko was one of those who had become acquainted with the "not-so-bright-side-of-life" in a U.S. factory. A mention of this fact and any amplification of it would make first-class reading.

On the "now it may be told" angle, one might almost start an article based on the assertion that "now that we know that UNO has faced serious issues, overcome them, and survived, in spite of what the pessimists and cynics have been pleased to write and talk about during the past few days, it can be revealed that on more than one occasion, incidents occurred which at the time seemed to

augur badly for the success of the Conference". I would suggest then an enumeration of, firstly some of those incidents with, if convenient, a few of the more vivid quotes, for instance where arguments became very heated the quotation of a couple of sentences of typically heated language would serve to illustrate a point which you have already made, namely: that contrary to the old method of keeping unpleasant things in the dark, UNO will have proved that by far the best method is to say what you think and say it in public.

Mr. Watson feels, as I myself do, that when you express your own opinions, you give people in Europe an opportunity to envisage problems as seen by a lady of very great vision. You also give them a chance to realize that they make a grave mistake when they think that we Americans on account of our distance from Europe are not capable of analysing intelligently the events which make their lot such an unhappy one. Every time I read your understanding statements which are gems of their kind, it gives me a thrill because each of those sentences disproves the cynics over here who think that because the United States is so far away we are indifferent to European unhappiness.

P.S. By the way, no doubt you will have noticed that I have crammed six pages full of these opinions of yours concerning every possible aspect of the Conference: its accomplishments, its failures, your hopes for the future, what you think will be done about the problems when the UNO sessions are resumed in the United States, all these angles will produce a story which will be avidly read all over Europe. I am certain that a very large reading public in the United States will be tremendously impressed by what you say and will accept from you the "inside story" of the Conference which otherwise might be rather indifferent to them.

You have such a reputation for honesty and sincerity that you can safely call a spade a spade in your articles and you will be applauded. If you do call spades spades you will also prove that Mr. Bevin and the British are not the only ones who are expressing their opinions on problems which were once considered to be far too delicate to be mentioned in language unaccustomed to diplomacy.

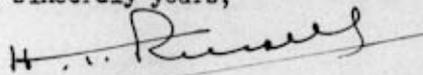
After all, you are one of those upon whom millions of mothers all over the world are dependent for building a new world. The old world was built upon secrecy. Surely the new world must be built upon frankness. Surely, as charity begins at home, so does frankness.

No doubt, during the Conference it would have been somewhat embarrassing to express disappointment that such-and-such an issue should have been shirked, or muddled etc. It is always a rather

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delicate matter to discuss things which are sub-judice. But now that the Conference is virtually over and has avoided the dangerous rocks upon which so many of its predecessors were wrecked, I feel confident that a frank analysis by you of issues which may affect the lives of millions of us for some centuries to come will be of the greatest possible help in making public opinion in all countries realize, as you have so often begged them to on previous occasions, what UNO stands for.

Very sincerely yours,



HENRY TOSTI RUSSELL.

P.S. By the way, no doubt you will have noticed that the three letters "UNO" spell an Italian word meaning "one". Rather significant, isn't it?

HTR