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**Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”**

**The Master Speech Files, 1898, 1910-1945**

**Series 1: Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Political Ascension**

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**File No. 79**

**1918 July 17**

**Ponta Delgada, Azores**

July 17, 1918

[Summary of Speech at Ponta Delgada, Azores]

FDR Speech File

0079

Translation from Diario dos Acores July 19, 1918.

The Assistant Secretary of the American Navy in Ponta Delgada.

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To-day we can give our subscribers, to complete the brief notice of yesterday, a full description of the homages done here to His Excellency, the Assistant Secretary of the American Navy, Mr. Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

At the High Commissioner's.

Last Wednesday, by invitation of General Simas Machado, the illustrious guest had breakfast at the Palace. The guests at that breakfast, besides the High Commissioner's family, were: Admiral H. O. Dunn, John Q. Wood, American Consul, Colonel Antonio G. Serrao dos Reis, Civil Governor, Dr. Joao Correa da Silva, Captain MacCauley, Mr. Roosevelt's Aide, Dr. J. C. Thompson and Lieutenant H. C. Cawler, members of the Admiral's staff, Rolando Viveiros, and the officers of the civil and military departments of the High Commissioner.

At the champagne His Excellency the High Commissioner toasted Mr. Roosevelt and the United States, mentioning clearly the importance of the co-operation of America in this European War and expressing high wishes for the illustrious guest to take from this island the best impressions and the conviction of our efforts for the triumph of the common cause.

His Excellency, the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, thanking this toast and the homage distinguishing him, said that what he had seen already in this island, was enough to estimate the developed effort here, in order that the fight against the enemy be most effective. Portugal entered the war on the side of the Allies but the Azores are doing more than that, according to the especial conditions of their strategical position, conditions that give to the Allied the most important services in this war. America knows this and thanks you for it. Terminating, Mr. Roosevelt toasted to General Simas Machado and family. During the breakfast the band of the 26th Regiment played at the High Commissioner's gardens.

The Ride to Furnas.

After the breakfast, Mr. Roosevelt and other persons, invited by Admiral Dunn, started to Furnas by the northern road in two automobiles from the Admiralty.

The first machine was occupied by Mr. F. D. Roosevelt, General Simas Machado, Admiral Dunn, Dr. Jose Bruno Tavares Carreiro and Lieutenant Commander L. F. Thibault. The second by Captain MacCauley, Captain Baltasar Moreira de Brito Xavier, Lieutenant H. C. Gawler and Junior Lieutenant Norwood. After a visit to the hot springs and to some gardens, which were much appreciated by Mr. Roosevelt, the guests of Admiral Dunn took the southern road on the way back and arrived in the city at about 8:00 o'clock. At half past eight, a banquet was held at the American Admiralty in honor of Mr. Roosevelt, the guests were: General Simas Machado, Admiral A. Neuparth, George W. Hayes, British Consul, John Q. Wood, U.S. Consul, Captain MacCauley, USN, Lieutenant Commander A. G. Fleming, British Navy, Commander Hellweg, USN, Dr. Jose Bruno Tavares Carreiro, Captain Baltasar de Brito Xavier, Junior Lieutenant Oliveira Priheiro and all the Admiral's Staff.

#### The Banquet at the Admiralty.

A series of toasts was proposed by Admiral Dunn. In toasting Mr. Roosevelt, representative of the American government, the Admiral manifested in high terms how much the United States Navy appreciated the excellent work and good will that His Excellency had always displayed since his administration of the Navy.

Officially he heartily welcomed the Assistant Secretary. Personally he was delighted to honor Mr. Roosevelt.

Being present the High Commissioner of the Republic, he wished also to manifest before His Excellency the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, his gratitude for the loyal co-operation that he had received from the illustrious representative of the Portuguese government; co-operation which could not have been more loyal, more sincere and more complete, praising the qualities of General Simas Machado as a man and as an officer. He then toasted Mr. Roosevelt and General Simas Machado.

#### Mr. Roosevelt's Toast.

Standing up to answer the toast, Mr. Roosevelt said that it was a great pleasure for him to visit Ponta Delgada, and with much gratification was taking the opportunity to tell in brief, before the illustrious guests present, the purposes and wishes of his government in this terrible war.

He first referred to the naval co-operation of the Allies, which has shown a great efficiency against the submarine warfare which have been acting without restrictions and limits.

His mission and effort was to obtain a closer co-operation among the Allied Naval Forces for the purpose of clearing the seas completely of German submarines or at least to make them powerless in order not to interfere with the purposes of the American government in sending to the battle field of Europe the necessary men to make victory sure for the Allied democracy. This war must be won for the cause of justice and humanity and peace to the future generations.

Since the American government decided to give to the Allies her share of human forces, the principal problem of the Navy Department of the United States was now to transport the troops to the front. It was known by all the military authorities that this war will be gained by the number of men in the battlefield, and in the United States the common opinion was that the soldiers of a population of about one hundred million men, with all the material, industry, and the richness of their country, should be thrown into this war.

Taking into consideration the matter of transporting the troops across the Atlantic, we saw the importance of the strategical position of the Azores. With the developing of this war, the importance of these islands, which have been great, will increase steadily. The American government appreciated the good will of Portugal in letting us have these islands to use as a naval base, and appreciates the cordiality and the good spirit of the authorities of the Lisbon government and the local authorities to facilitate and to make successful the installation of this base.

Being informed of all this, he stopped at these islands to see personally their importance and also because he wished to observe on the spot how the allied forces were co-operating, to make these islands a center of efficiency. With the utmost pleasure he noted the cordial co-operation that was being received here from the High Commissioner, the local authorities, and the English representatives, for the successful mission of Admiral Dunn. As a concrete example of this co-operation, shoulder to shoulder, he wished to mention a fact that he had observed on the day before, causing him the most agreeable impression. He saw an English wireless station, installed on Portuguese soil and guarded by an American marine. This is the spirit that should preside in the Alliance and it is in this way that alliances are successful and practical.

To realize and to make effective the most complete co-operation is our duty. That co-operation afloat has been in existence since the first day of war. Unfortunately, it was established much later on land, by adopting the single command and the results are already beginning to show and it will improve more and more until the day of the victory comes.

No true friend of the great cause for which we are fighting should discuss anything about what may happen after the war. The one who does so, distracting our minds from our present occupations, should be considered an enemy. The future will take care of itself. No statesman will have the audacity to hold a meeting around a peace table before the enemy is decidedly beaten on the battlefield. So it must and will be. Even though it be six months or six years from now we are going to win this war.

He said he was not a prophet but he did not hesitate in foretelling that the present co-operation of the Allies in this great war will unite them with stronger ties of friendship, making their future relations firm and lasting.

Terminating he toasted Portugal and the Azores.

#### The High Commissioner's Toast.

Next, His Excellency the High Commissioner, toasted the United States through the illustrious Assistant Secretary of the Navy. He heartily praised our great American Allies, saying that his old admiration for the United States was rededicated on the day he saw her throw into the furnace of the European War all her strength and all her blood, in co-operation with her Allies, defending the most sacred of all causes.

Within her little resources, Portugal did the same thing and with pride she could affirm that her resolution was derived more from the conscience of a duty to be done than from the satisfaction of any treaties or international compromises.

Through His Excellency the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, he toasted the great American nation, which brought to the Allies in the European War the guarantee of a complete victory.

#### Some Other Toasts.

Admiral Dunn then toasted the Portuguese Navy, represented by Admiral Neuparth, and also the English Navy, praising the work that this nation has done in this war and the qualities of skill, tenacity and valor which have been keeping the supremacy of the seas for the Allies.

Admiral Neuparth and George W. Hayes, British Consul, responded to these toasts, returning to the American sailors the same praise with which Admiral Dunn honored the English Navy.

Next, Admiral Dunn said that he wished also to propose a personal toast to a distinguished guest and close friend who

was present. He was referring to Dr. Jose' Bruno Tavares Carreiro, who has done so many services, both personal and official.

Before His Excellency the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, he was gratified to state that a good part of the success of his mission in the Azores was due to the co-operation and good will that he had always received since the first day of his arrival from Dr. Jose' Bruno, and he was glad to testify to the Dr's intense devotion to the cause of the Allies. Without that co-operation and that good will, much more difficult would it have been in fulfilling his mission.

Answering to this toast, Dr. Jose' Bruno, thanked Admiral Dunn for the kind words with which he distinguished him. Since the first day of war, he had embraced the cause of the Allies. When Admiral Dunn came to stay with us, he thought it to be his duty to offer him all his insignificant co-operation both personal and official when exercising his functions.

He was gratified to listen to the Admiral's generous statement that he had done something and he most cordially thanked the Admiral, with the feeling of those who have accomplished a duty.

In a toast to Mr. John Q. Wood, Admiral Dunn manifested to him his gratitude for his co-operation in exercising his consular functions.

The American Consul, answering to this toast thanked the Admiral for his good words of friendship. With the most pleasure he was before the illustrious guest of that evening, who had come directly from the great center of action, where the largest forces were working for the development of all the American energy in order to give the most help to the cause of the Allies. America is in the war and if not the end of it would not be so clear as it is now. It is with the greatest honor that he is the representative of America in these islands which fulfill so important a mission. He toasts for that victorious peace, which all of us are waiting for and which will compensate for all our sacrifices.

Dr. Jose' Bruno again asked permission of Admiral Dunn to toast the officers of his staff, to the group of officers that co-operating with the Admiral had also given the best proofs of friendship.

At last, terminating the toasts, His Excellency the Assistant Secretary of the Navy said that he wished to give the tribute of his homage to Admiral Dunn and to the officers of the Naval base for the work they have accomplished and that it only could have been done due to the exemplar organization.

Taking in consideration the limited resources that Admiral Dunn had at his disposition, the result honors the best traditions of the American navy. On his return to Washington he will show himself not only satisfied but proud with what he saw in Ponta Delgada. He knows now Admiral Dunn and his officers have been helped by His Excellency the High Commissioner, Admiral Neuparth and Dr. Jose Bruno.

Referring specially to His Excellency the High Commissioner, he said that he exemplified the spirit of the true allies as well as the good will and cordiality with which His Excellency has helped Admiral Dunn in the mission that brought him here to the Azores. He took great pleasure toasting His Excellency the brave and illustrious soldier coming from the battlefield of Flanders, who has highly shown that he possesses the right understanding of what must be done at the present time. He will inform the Washington government of all he saw and learned here. He toasted his countrymen and the three Portuguese he had mentioned, congratulating them and thanking them for their cordial assistance, hoping that later on he will have an opportunity of seeing them all again.

It was 11:00 o'clock when the guests of Admiral Dunn left the Admiralty where they were received with the kindness that is already traditional of the illustrious Chief of the American Naval Base and of the officers of his staff.

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PERSONAL

U. S. Naval Base 13,  
c/o Postmaster, N. Y. City.  
2 September 1918.

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
Assistant Secretary of the Navy.  
Navy Department,  
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Roosevelt:

I am sending you under separate cover your eyeglasses which you inadvertently left here, and a package which was sent to me the day after you left for delivery to you.

I had hoped that you would stop here on your return home, when I would have delivered the articles in person, but evidently you have decided to go home direct, hence the delay in sending you these articles.

You have left a great many good friends here who often inquire about you, among them the High Commissioner, who was greatly pleased with your personality and youth. If you have a spare photograph I think the General would be very pleased to have one in his possession with your autograph. General Simas Machado, Alto Comissario da Republica nos Acores.

Incidentally if you have another spare one that is not working, I would be pleased to receive one myself.

The President was kind enough to send me his autographed photograph, also Secretary Daniels, and I would be much pleased to add yours to such a good collection.

Everything is running along smoothly here and my relations with the authorities are still pleasant.

I have lost Hellweg who has gone across, and I must say that I miss him very much.

The mail question is still rather unsatisfactory and I have asked the Department if they will be kind enough each time a convoy leaves New York to designate a destroyer to bring mail here. This could be done without any undue delay to the destroyer as she could fuel here and either rejoin the convoy or return home. This would insure a mail at least once in ten days. Our last blank was three weeks and as you remember when you were here a nine week interval had passed without letters.

I trust you had a very pleasant trip abroad and I have read with much pleasure some of your activities in England.

I am enclosing a translation from the local paper of our pleasant little dinner which we all enjoyed very much the evening before you left. This account was written by Dr. Bruno from what he remembered of the speeches and I think will interest you.

With best wishes, I remain,

Very sincerely yours,

*W. S. Sum.*

December 19, 1918.

My dear Admiral:

I have been putting off writing to you for a long time. On my return trip on the LEVIATHAN I came down with the influenza and pneumonia, and the result was that I did not get back to the Department until the middle of October. Since then, as you know, much water has gone over the dam, and now the prospect is that I shall go across to England and France again within a couple of weeks, and I fear this time that I shall have to go straight, though, as you know, nothing would give me greater personal pleasure than to stop in at Ponta Delgada.

I have heard of you occasionally from passing skippers and also from Hellweg, whom I saw on his return. Many thanks for sending me the eye-glasses and the translation from the local paper. I hope that you are still acting as editor-in-chief of this newspaper. Possibly you have acquired the other daily since I was with you and formed a newspaper trust for the Island.

I am sending herewith a note to General Machado, with my photograph, and I am also sending one for you on the strict condition that you send me one of yours in return. Also, I am enclosing several photographs which I took and which you may like to have.

With my sincerest regards,

Ever faithfully yours,

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Rear Admiral Herbert O. Dunn, U.S.N.,  
Ponta Delgada,  
The Azores.

P.S.: Will you give the extra one of the automobile to General Machado.

December 26, 1918.

My dear General Machado:

I have been intending to write to you for many weeks to thank you once more for all your kindness and hospitality which made my two days at Ponta Delgada so delightful last July. On my return from Europe I was ill with pneumonia for some time, and now, after a few weeks in the Department, I am being sent to England and France again on Navy business. Some time I shall hope to have the very great pleasure of seeing you again, and if, by any chance, you should at any time visit the United States, I shall count on your doing me the honor of letting me know.

I am taking the liberty of sending this through Admiral Dunn, with a photograph of myself and a Kodak picture of our trip to the wonderful boiling springs.

Is it not glorious, the way in which the war has come to a successful conclusion? I shall never forget the splendid way the work has been carried on by all of the Allies, and no spot shows this hearty co-operation to better advantage than Ponta Delgada.

Believe me, my dear General, with my very good wishes for a prosperous New Year to you and to your family,

Very sincerely yours,

Franklin D. Roosevelt

General Simes Machado,  
Alto Comissario da Republica nos Acores.