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**Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”**  
**The Master Speech Files, 1898, 1910-1945**

**Series 2: “ You have nothing to fear but fear itself:”**  
**FDR and the New Deal**

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**File No. 630**

**1933 May 16**

**Draft of Message to Congress on World Monetary  
and Economic Conference**

To the Congress.

For the information of the Congress I am sending herewith a message that I have addressed this morning to the sovereigns and presidents of those nations participating in the Disarmament Conference and the World Monetary and Economic Conference.

I was impelled to this action because it has become increasingly evident that the assurance of world political and economic peace and stability is threatened by selfish and short sighted policies, actions and threats of actions.

*Sincerely*  
The ~~Kennedy~~ for this assurance by an overwhelming majority of the nations faces the danger of recalcitrant obstruction by a very small minority, just as in the domestic field the good purposes of a majority in business, labor or in other cooperative efforts are often frustrated by a selfish few.

The deep-rooted desire of Americans for better living conditions and for the avoidance of war is shared by mass humanity in every country. As a means to this end, I have in the message to the various nations, stressed the practical necessity of reducing armaments. It is high time for us and for every other nation to understand the simple fact that the invasion of any nation, *a national* or the destruction of ~~the~~ sovereignty of another nation, can be prevented only by the complete elimination of the weapons that make such a course possible today.

Such an elimination will make the little nation relatively more secure against the great nation.

Furthermore, permanent defenses are a non-recurring charge against governmental budgets while large armies, continually rearmed with improved offensive weapons, constitute a recurring charge. This, more than any other factor/is [today] responsible for governmental deficits and threatened bankruptcy.

The way to disarm is to disarm. The way to prevent invasion is to make it impossible.

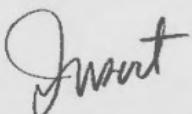
I have asked for an agreement among nations on four practical and simultaneous steps:

First, that through a series of steps the weapons of offensive warfare be eliminated;

Second, that the first definite step be taken now;

Third, that while these steps are being taken no nation shall increase existing armaments over and above the limitations of treaty obligations;

Fourth, that subject to existing treaty rights no nation during the disarmament period <sup>shall</sup> send any armed force of whatsoever nature across its own borders.



In the domestic field the Congress has labored in sympathetic understanding with me for the improvement of social conditions, for the preservation of individual human rights, and for the furtherance of social justice.

In the message to the nations which I herewith transmit I have named the same objectives. It is ~~to~~<sup>in order</sup> assure these great human values that we seek peace ~~by reducing the world of the weapons of aggression and attack~~

The White House  
May 16, 1933-

Franklin D. R.  
(Signature)

*Insert*

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Our people realize that weapons of offense are needed only if other nations have them and they will freely give them up if all the nations of the world will do likewise.

Such an elimination will make the little nation relatively more secure against the great nation.

Furthermore, permanent defenses are a non-recurring charge against governmental budgets which large armies continually rearmed with improved offensive weapons constitute a recurring charge. This, more than any other factor is today responsible for governmental deficits and threatened bankruptcy.

The way to disarm is to disarm. The way to prevent invasion is to make it impossible.

I have asked for an agreement among nations on four practical and simultaneous steps:

First, that through a series of steps the weapons of offensive warfare be eliminated;

Second, that the first definite step be taken now;

Third, that while these steps are being taken no nation shall increase existing armaments over and above the limitations of treaty obligations;

Fourth, that subject to existing treaty rights no nation during the disarmament period send any armed force of whatsoever nature across its own borders.

*Jas. A. D. Roosevelt*

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In the domestic field the Congress has labored in sympathetic understanding with me for the improvement of social conditions, for the preservation of individual human rights, and for the furtherance of social justice.

In the message to the nations which I herewith transmit I have named the same objectives. It is to assure these great human values that we seek peace through reduced armaments.

The White House  
May 16, 1933

*Inset*

Our people realize that weapons of offense are needed only if other nations have them and they will freely give them up if all the nations of the world will do likewise.

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① 17 P.P.F.

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The ~~sincere wish~~ for this assurance by an overwhelming majority of the nations faces the danger of recalcitrant obstruction by a very small minority, just as in the domestic field the good purposes of a majority in business, labor or in other cooperative ~~efforts~~ <sup>efforts</sup> are often frustrated by a selfish few.

The deep-rooted desire of Americans for better living conditions and for the avoidance of war is shared by mass humanity in every country. As a means to this end I have, in the message to the various nations, stressed the practical necessity of reducing armaments. It is high time for us and for every other nation to understand the simple fact that the invasion of any nation, or the destruction of <sup>a national</sup> ~~the~~ sovereignty ~~of~~ <sup>A</sup> nation, can be prevented only by the complete elimination of the weapons that make such a course possible today.

Such an elimination will make the little nation relatively more secure against the great nation.

Furthermore, permanent defenses are a non-recurring charge against governmental budgets while large armies, continually rearmed with improved offensive weapons, constitute a recurring charge. This, more than any other factor ~~is today~~ responsible for governmental deficits and threatened bankruptcy.

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Third, that while these steps are being taken no nation shall increase existing armaments over and above the limitations of treaty obligations;

Fourth, that subject to existing treaty rights no nation during the disarmament period <sup>shall</sup> send any armed force of whatsoever nature across its own borders.

*Susett A*

In the domestic field the Congress has labored in sympathetic understanding with me for the improvement of social conditions, for the preservation of individual human rights, and for the furtherance of social justice.

In the message to the nations which I herewith transmit I have named the same objectives. It is to assure these great human values that we seek peace ~~through reduced armaments~~ <sup>in order</sup> by ridding the world of the weapons of aggression and attack.

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*Desert A*

Our people realize that weapons of offense are needed only if other nations have them and they will freely give them up if all the nations of the world will do likewise.

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