FDR Speech Tile

July 3, 1933

The Secretary of State, Mr. Cordell Hull, at London, in his capacity as Secretary of State, today made public the following message to him from the President of the United States, dated July 2, 1933:

"I would regard it as a catastrophe amounting to a world tragedy if the great Conference of Nations, called to bring about a more real and permanent financial stability and a greater prosperity to the masses of all nations, should, in advance of any serious effort to consider these broader problems, allow itself to be diverted by the proposal of a purely artificial and temporary experiment affecting the monetury exchange of a few nations only. Such action, such diversion, shows a singular lack of proportion and a failure to remember the larger purposes for which the Becommic Conference originally was celled together.

"I do not relish the thought that insistence on such action should be made an excuse for the continuance of the basic economic errors that underlie so much of the present world wide depression.

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"The sound internal economic system of a nation is a greater factor in its well being than the price of its currency in changing terms of the currencies of other nations.

It is for this reason that reduced cost of government, adequate government income, and ability to service government doths are all so important to ultimate stability. So too, old fetiahes of so-called international bankers are being replaced by efforts to plan national currencies with the objective of giving to those currencies a continuing purchasing power which does not greatly vary in terms of the commodities and need of modern civilization. Let me be frank in saying that the United States seeks the kind of a dollar which a generation hence will have the same purchasing and doth paying power as the dollar value we hope to attain in the near future. That objective means more to the good of other nations then a fixed ratio for a month or two in terms of the pound or franc.

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"The Conference was called to better and perhaps to cure fundamental economic ills. It must not be diverted from that effort."

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to be filed with other documents.

Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr.

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Phillips, Acting Secretary of State, Washington.

Please send following to Hull as soon as possible:

Herewith is statement which I think you can use Monday morning as a message from me to you. If you think it best not to give it out in London let me know at once and in that event I will release it here as a White House statement.

Quote I would regard it as a catastrophe amounting to a world tragedy if the great conference of nations, called to bring about a more real and permanent financial stability and a greater prosperity to the masses of all nations, should, in advance of any serious effort to consider these broader problems, allow itself to be diverted by the proposal of a purely artificial and temporary experiment affacting the monetary exchange of a few nations only. Such action, such diversion, shows a singular lack of proportion and a failure to remember the larger purposes for which the Economic Conference originally was called together.

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Paragraph Our broad purpose is the permanent stabilization of every nation's currency. Gold, or gold and silver, can well continue to be a metallic reserve behind currencies, but this is not the time to dissipate gold reserves. When the world works out concerted policies in the majority of nations to produce balanced budgets and a living within their means then we can properly discuss a better distribution of the world's gold and silver supply to act as a reserve base of national currencies.

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Paragraph The Conference was called to and perhaps to cure fundamental economic ills. It must not be diverted from that effort. Unquote

Franklin D. Roosevelt.