

November 27, 1936 [Remarks in Proposing Toast to President Vargas, Rio de Janeiro]

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FDR Speech File

From OF 200-33

Rio de Janeiro, November 27, 1936.

REMARKS made by the President, in reply to the address of the President of Brazil, at the banquet given in his honor at the Brazilian Foreign Office.

Your Excellency, Gentlemen,

I cannot quite believe that I am actually leaving Rio tonight, because the wish is very much the father of the thought. Now that I have come to know the city, and a little part of this great Republic, I should like very much to stay for a week, and indeed for many weeks.

Your reception of me today, which is a reception not to me alone but to a sister nation, has touched me very deeply. It has been a great privilege for me to make the acquaintance of your President. I have had the privilege of knowing some of his family before today, and I hope that in the not too distant future ~~we~~ we will be able to welcome President Vargas in Washington, as a visitor in the United States.

May I say a word about communications, not qualities? I have always felt that the advent of the airplane, the advent of quicker steamship service, is going to make a large difference in the future relationships of the Americas, because science is going to make it easier for us to get to know each other better; and people who know each other well can only be friends. And so in the days to come I hope very much that we shall have more news of Brazil in the United States.

You have done much to help us in the United States in many ways in the past. We, I think, have done a little to help you; and may I suggest that you, with this great domain, these many millions of square miles, of which such a large proportion is still open to human occupation, that you can learn much from the mistakes that we have made in the United States. And so I invite you to come and benefit, not only from the good things that we have done, but also from the errors that we have committed in the past.

And so I am leaving you tonight with great regret. There is one thing, however, that I shall remember, and that is that ~~it was two people~~ it was two people who invented the New Deal, -- the President of Brazil and the President of the United States.

And so I am going to ask you to rise with me and drink the health of my good friend, President Vargas, and the great Republic of Brazil, our sister nation.