

December 2, 1936

[Luncheon at American Embassy - Buenos Aires, Argentina]

FDR Speech File

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**Remarks of President Roosevelt  
At Luncheon at American Embassy  
Buenos Aires, Argentina, 2 December, 1956**

P.F.

The President said:

"An otherwise very delightful occasion makes me quite sad because within two hours I shall be going away and I am very very sorry that I have to go away, because I cannot imagine a more delightful three days than I have had here and yet, Mr. President, I do not feel as if I know Argentina yet because to come only to Buenos Aires is to know only a part of this great nation. One hundred and six years ago my grandfather came to Argentina. It has taken me more than a century to follow in his footsteps and I am very certain that if I live it will not be another century before I come back. There is one matter which I should like to take this opportunity of saying and because it is a matter that affects both of our nations, I might say an official matter, I will read a very short statement.

Every nation has the right and the duty to adopt such measures as may be necessary, in the interest of its own citizens, in order to prevent the entrance into its territory from abroad of contagious or infectious diseases prejudicial to human, animal, or plant life. But it is equally clear that quarantine or sanitary regulations should neither be used as disguised tariff measures nor should they be ever applied except in accordance with strict justice.

About a year ago, the Argentine Government and the Government of the United States negotiated a sanitary convention which had for its purpose the removal of an inequitable situation which had arisen as a result of the all embracing character of legislation adopted by the Congress of the United States. The ratification of this Convention would make it possible for Patagonia, a sheep raising area, where the hoof and mouth disease has not existed, and which territory is separated by natural barriers from the cattle raising regions of the Republic, to be relieved from the sanitary embargo now placed upon it. This Convention, which I had the honor of submitting to the Senate of the United States last year, affects in no wise existing tariff rates. It is intended solely to remove an obvious inequity resulting from an unnecessarily wide application of a sanitary embargo. The ratification of this Convention by the Senate of the United States would eliminate an injustice without detriment or prejudice of any kind to the legitimate interests of the cattle industry of the United States, and without relaxing in the least full sanitary protection of our own livestock. I intend to present these facts clearly to the attention of the members of the Senate of the United States, with the hope that our Senate may give its consent to the ratification of the simple instrument of justice.

May I further say that I trust that conversations may soon be undertaken between us in order to ascertain the bases which exist for the negotiation of a trade agreement between our two countries, which may prove to be mutually profitable to both the people of the Argentine Republic and the people of the United States.

So may I take this last opportunity -- I wish there were many more -- of thanking you and the good people of Argentina for the very wonderful reception that you have given me, and on behalf of my son and the members of my party to extend to you our profound thanks for all that you have done for us and, as I said last night, I am counting on a visit from you, Mr. President, and Señora de Justo in Washington just as soon as you can.

[Dec. 2, 1936]

Statement made by the President at Luncheon  
given to President Justo at the American  
Embassy

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[Dec. 1936]

Answer to Toast which President Justo  
Proposed at Banquet given for President Roosevelt by Argentines

Your Excellency:

In acknowledging Your Excellency's gracious courtesy, let me offer my heartfelt thanks, not only for the hospitality which has been shown here, but for the deep understanding of our point of view, which you, Mr. President, have just manifested. It is always a great experience for nations to meet as they have done today; it is greater still, when they meet, to find that they thoroughly understand one another. I am heartily in agreement with Your Excellency in what you have said and I feel sure that your words will re-echo throughout this Continent.

This is a fitting occasion to express my deep thanks to the Government of the Argentine Republic, and, especially, to the people of the Republic, for the honor they have paid me. Let me accept it not for myself but for the people of the United States as a tribute of fellowship from one nation to another, and as a mark of devotion to the great ideal which all of us are here to serve. Rarely have I been as moved and touched as by my experiences of yesterday and today. It seems to me as though everyone, from the great statesmen of your country to the little children who play in your gardens, have combined to say, "Welcome - we are friends." Friends we are; friends we shall always be. I shall treasure these days as a link in the great chain of intercourse which binds our countries and as a poignant memory in my heart.

The Conference for the Maintenance of Peace has opened. As Your Excellency has said, it is rare in history that such a conference opens without hate, without rancor, without difference; with no desire on the part of any one or of any country to triumph; inspired only by the desire of all to cement our family relationship. Its success is forecast by the attitude you have just expressed in behalf of the Argentine people in announcing the Republic's willingness to continue

her collaboration without reservation of any kind in the work of continental brotherhood and solidarity. That has been one of the great glories of the Argentine Republic. Joined in now by all of her sister Republics, we can and we must achieve a triumphant realization of a long cherished hope.

If we can give tangible form and substance to our will to peace, to justice, and to fair play, we shall have accomplished a memorable thing in this hour when the world is torn by hatreds. Buenos Aires will stand out with an even greater lustre; to her glories as an ancient and famous City, she will add the splendour of being a Capital of Peace.

Let me return the toast! I raise my glass to Your Excellency and Senora de Justo; to your health and happiness; to your splendid work in strengthening the work of justice in the Republic and the ties of friendship and unity throughout the Continent. Let me also express the earnest hope that you, Mr. President, and Senora de Justo may give the people of the United States the honor and the privilege of visiting their country, where both Government and people will endeavor to reciprocate in kind the magnificent hospitality we have so splendidly received.

L. S. Trowe

DIRECTOR GENERAL

FEDRO DE ALBA

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

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WASHINGTON, D. C., U. S. A.

December 19, 1936.

My dear Mr. Early:

The Bulletin of the Pan American Union is planning to publish in the next issue, now largely in galleyproof, the text of the addresses made by President Roosevelt on his memorable trip to South America to open the Conference for the Maintenance of Peace, and translations of the addresses made in his honor.

As your office has probably informed you, I have been trying to obtain the President's remarks at the dinner given in his honor by President Justo of Argentina on the night of December first. Since this was the day that the Peace Conference opened the remarks of the two Presidents on that occasion were overshadowed by their addresses at the inaugural session of the Conference, and even the New York Times carried only one paragraph from President Roosevelt's banquet address.

I should have confined the addresses printed in the Bulletin to the three main occasions: in the Brazilian Congress, at the opening of the Peace Conference, and at the luncheon given by the President of Uruguay, were it not for the fact that the President of Brazil spoke only at the banquet that he gave in President Roosevelt's honor. It is as a companion piece to this that I think I should include the addresses made at the dinner given by President Justo.

As a last resort a translation has been made of President Roosevelt's remarks as published in the Buenos Aires press. I enclose a copy of this translation and should greatly appreciate it if you would approve it and return it to me at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely yours,

Elsie Brown

Elsie Brown,  
Managing Editor.

Stephen Early, Secy.,  
The White House.

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Memorandum at Buenos Aires

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Mr. President:

In accepting your gracious courtesy, permit me to offer my sincere thanks, not only for the hospitality which I have received here, but also for the deep understanding of your points of view, as you, Mr. President, have just set them forth. It is always a great experience for nations to meet as they have met today, but the experience is even greater when they meet to prove their complete mutual understanding. I am in entire agreement with what you have said, and I am sure that your words will resound throughout the whole continent.

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This is an appropriate opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to the Government of Argentina, and especially to the people of the Republic, for the honor they have shown me. Permit me to accept it not simply for myself, but also for the people of the United States, as a tribute of the friendship of one nation toward the other and as a proof of devotion to the great ideal which we all serve. Rarely have I been more moved than I was by the events of yesterday and today. It seemed to me as if everybody, from the greatest statesmen of your country down to the children playing in your gardens, had joined together to say, 'Welcome, we are friends'. And friends we are, and friends we shall always be. I shall consider these days a link in the great chain of intercourse uniting our countries and they will remain an indelible memory in my heart.

The Conference for the Maintenance of Peace has begun. As you have said, it is seldom in history that such a conference has begun without hatred, without rancor, without differences of opinion, without the desire of some one nation to obtain a victory, but inspired solely by the desire of all to cement our relations as one family. Its success is

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forecast by the attitude which you just expressed in the name of the Argentine nation when you announced the determination of the Republic to continue its unreserved cooperation in the work of continental brotherhood and solidarity. This has been one of the greatest glories of Argentina.

United with all our sister republics, we can and should bring a long-cherished hope to a triumphant realization.

If we can give tangible form and substance to our will to peace, justice, and fair play, we shall have accomplished a memorable thing in this hour when the world is torn with hatred. Buenos Aires will stand out with even greater luster; to her glories as an ancient and famous city she will add the splendor of being the Capital of Peace.

Permit me to return your toast. I drink to you and Señora de Justo; to your health and happiness, to your splendid work in strengthening justice in the Republic and the bonds of friendship and unity throughout the continent. Permit me at the same time to express my most sincere hope that you, Mr. President, and you, Señora de Justo, may be able to do the people of the United States the honor of visiting their country, where the people and government will try in every way to return the magnificent hospitality which we have so lavishly received.

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