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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. 1064**

**1937 August 1**

**Radio Address re Dedication of American  
Monument at Montfaucon, France**

Remark made by Ambassador Bullitt in conversation with the President:  
"France is carrying on in the tradition of a great civilization".

SUGGESTED DRAFT OF REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT  
TO BE BROADCAST INTERNATIONALLY ON AUGUST 1,  
1937, IN CONNECTION WITH THE DEDICATION OF  
THE MEUSE-ARGONNE MEMORIAL, MONTFAUCON, FRANCE.

M. le President de la Republique Francaise, M. le Marechal Petain,  
Ambassador Bullitt, General Pershing, Ladies and Gentlemen:

~~This is for the day of triumph. We are dedicating in~~  
~~France a monument which is the symbol of our ideal.~~ Though  
the seas divide us, the people of France and of the United States  
find union today in common devotion to the ideal which the memorial  
at Montfaucon symbolizes. That ideal, to which both nations bear  
faithful witness, is the ideal of freedom under democracy ~~in the govern-~~  
~~ment of our~~ *liberty attained by government founded in*  
*democratic institutions.*

In a real sense this monument, which we have reared on the  
French hillside to commemorate the victory of our First Army in the  
Meuse-Argonne offensive, symbolizes ~~the triumph of spiritual power over~~  
*that devotion.*  
~~material force. Feats of arms mean little if they are ends in themselves,~~  
~~mere triumphs of physical force. But they have a deeper and loftier~~  
~~significance when they are translated into the national life in spiritual~~  
~~terms, and symbolize reconsecration of all our being to spiritual ends.~~

~~I like to think that~~ *today* we ~~are~~ reaffirming our faith in  
the democratic ideal. It was in defense of that ideal that we entered  
the great war twenty years ago. In the Meuse-Argonne, we fought as

champions of the rights of mankind. <sup>Neither France nor the United States</sup> ~~This country~~ seeks <sup>conquest</sup> ~~the~~ conquest.  
<sup>Neither had ever had</sup> ~~Imperial~~ designs. <sup>Both</sup> ~~We~~ desire to live at peace with all  
<sup>Both</sup> nations. ~~We~~ seek kinship with lovers of liberty wherever they are  
 found, -- ~~whether our neighbors in this hemisphere or dwellers in the~~  
~~far corners of the earth. "These liberty bells have rung in my country".~~

France is carrying on in the tradition of a great civiliza-  
 tion, a civilization with which our own culture has had full communion  
 from our very beginnings as a nation. We, of this country, have not  
 forgotten nor could we ever forget the aid given us by France in the  
 dark days of the Revolution. <sup>American</sup>

In token of our appreciation of that aid, the Congress of  
 the United States has put up two monuments -- one to the immortal  
 La Fayette, the other to Rochambeau -- just across the street to stand  
 as sentinels over the White House, from which I am speaking.

Our historic friends <sup>shall</sup> ~~find~~ find apt expression in the  
 following quotation from a letter which Washington wrote to Rochambeau,  
 and which is inscribed on the base of <sup>our</sup> ~~the~~ monument to the great Frenchman;  
~~to which I have just referred~~ "We have been contemporaries and fellow-  
 laborers in the cause of liberty, and we have lived together as brothers  
 should do, in harmonious friendship".

Many things have gone into the making of the France which we  
 revere and with whose culture we find ourselves ~~today, as always,~~ in close

communion. ~~When we think of France we think of her, not in isolation from her history, but as the net result of all that has gone before.~~  
 All of the past speaks to us in the living present, and out of the shadows of a thousand years ~~there~~ emerge the glory and the achievement which are France. We see again the pomp and color and growing power of the Middle Ages; the windows of Chartres; the valor of Joan of Arc; the Gothic mystery of Notre Dame de Paris; the ceaseless struggle to maintain and perpetuate the nation whose cultural achievements in the arts, in science and in letters and in the boundless land of ideas have shed light over all the world.

These things we remember today, nor do we forget the <sup>living</sup> ~~external~~ face of France: the green fields around Montfaucon, with broad farms and contented dwellers on the soil; the <sup>with their in great numbers</sup> ~~vast expanse of the ocean;~~ the <sup>villages and cities with their artful and traditions;</sup> ~~night of mountain peaks; the magic of the Mediterranean;~~ <sup>all these have</sup> ~~through the ages gone into the making of~~ the France we hail today, <sup>making and history</sup> ~~as a~~ nation, <sup>back</sup> ~~carrying on in the tradition of a~~ great civilization.

With that tradition we have a ~~sympathy and spiritual affinity~~ <sup>back</sup> which have survived all of the vicissitudes of our national history, and which I pray God no hazard of the future may ever dissipate or destroy. <sup>that</sup> ~~In the spirit of uningled gratitude and hope I greet our friends in the~~ <sup>summan</sup> ~~Republic of France, firm in the confidence that a friendship as old as~~ <sup>is well</sup> ~~the American nation will never be suffered to grow less.~~

To the preservation of this civilization  
American soldiers and sailors contributed their  
lives and lie buried on this and other  
battlefields. They died brothers-in-arms  
with Frenchmen. And in their passing  
America and France gained deeper  
devotion to the ideals of Democracy.

In their name, for their sake, I

M. le President de la Republique Francaise, M. le Marechal  
Petain, Ambassador Bullitt, General Pershing, Ladies and  
Gentlemen:

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and the people of the United States find union today in  
common devotion to the ideal which the memorial at  
Montfaucon symbolizes. That ideal, to which both nations  
bear faithful witness, is ~~the ideal of~~ freedom under  
democracy -- liberty attained by government founded in  
democratic institutions.

In a real sense this monument, which we have  
reared on the French hillside to commemorate the victory  
of our First Army in the Meuse-Argonne offensive, symbolizes  
that devotion.

Today we reaffirm our faith in the democratic  
ideal. It was in defense of that ideal that we entered the  
great war twenty years ago. In the Meuse-Argonne, we fought

as champions of the rights of mankind. Neither France nor the United States sought or seeks conquest-- neither had nor has imperial designs. Both desire to live at peace with all nations. Both seek kinship with lovers of liberty wherever they are found.

France is carrying on in the tradition of a great civilization, a civilization with which our own culture has had full communion from our very beginnings as a nation. We, of this country, have not forgotten nor could we ever forget the aid given us by France in the ~~day~~ days of the American Revolution.

Our historic friendship finds apt expression in ~~the quotation from a letter which~~ <sup>the words of</sup> Washington ~~wrote~~ to Rochambeau, ~~and which is~~ <sup>words</sup> inscribed on ~~the base of~~ our monument to the great Frenchman: "We have been contemporaries and fellow-laborers in the cause of liberty, and we have lived together as brothers should do, in harmonious friendship."

Many things have gone into the making of the France which we revere and with whose culture we find ourselves in close communion. All of the past speaks to us in the living present, and out of the shadows of a thousand years emerge the glory and the achievement which are France.

These things we remember today, nor do we forget the living France: the green fields around Montfaucon, with broad farms and contented dwellers on the soil; the villages and cities with their artists and artisans -- all these make and preserve the France we hail today.

To the preservation of this civilization American soldiers and sailors contributed their lives and lie buried on this and other battlefields. They died brothers-in-arms with Frenchmen. And in their passing America and France gained deeper devotion to the ideals of democracy.

In their name, for their sake, I pray God no hazard of the future may ever dissipate or destroy that common ideal.



I greet the Republic of France, firm in the confidence that  
a friendship as old as the American nation will never be  
suffered to grow less.

*Hamilton W. Roosevelt*

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*Original master copy -  
This was made from U.S.T. Putnam  
Albright's report at Quantico.*

July 31, 1937

This address of the President, to be delivered by radio on the occasion of the dedication of the American Monument at Montfaucon, France, on Sunday, August 1, 1937, MUST BE HELD IN CONFIDENCE UNTIL RELEASED.

Release upon delivery, expected about 9:52 A. M., Eastern Standard Time, Sunday, August 1, 1937.

Please safeguard against premature release.

STEPHEN EARLY  
Secretary to the President

M. le President de la Republique Francaise, M. le Marechal Petain, Ambassador Bullitt, General Pershing, Ladies and Gentlemen:

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**Franklin D. Roosevelt Library**

This is a transcript made by the White House stenographer from his shorthand notes taken at the time the speech was made. Underlining indicates words extemporaneously added to the previously prepared reading copy text. Words in parentheses are words that were omitted when the speech was delivered, though they appear in the previously prepared reading copy text.

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In their name, for their sake, I pray God no hazards of the future may ever dissipate or destroy that common ideal. I greet the Republic of France, firm in the confidence that a friendship as old as the American nation will never be suffered to grow less.

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