

October 30, 1937

[Delegation from People's Mandate to End War]

FDR Speech File

1099

INFORMAL REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT  
MADE TO THE DELEGATION REPRESENTING  
THE PEOPLE'S MANDATE TO END WAR.  
(Not to be used verbatim)

I am not only glad to say "God Speed" but I wish I could go with you. I shall never forget, of course, that trip last year. It was the most amazing experience anybody could have and sometime in the next three years I hope to have an opportunity to go down the West Coast of South America as far as Chile.

There is one thing that perhaps you do not realize as much as I realize it, as I am so closely in touch with affairs all over the world. What has been done in the three Americas for the last four years not only resulted in very definite progress in our hemisphere but had a very great effect in other parts of the world! More than perhaps you would realize from reading of the belligerent attitude of some other countries.

The people all over the world are beginning to say to themselves, here is the most interesting thing that has ever happened. Here is a whole continent that has abolished war, a whole continent that has provided machinery so that any question between nations may be peaceably settled.

Of course, we have had treaties ourselves, say these other people, but unfortunately we are not quite certain about the adherence to these treaties. In the Americas they have the idea not only of making treaties but of living up to them.

And I think this is an important point to make on the trip: that these treaties are not scraps of paper.

What is the use, after all, of making national treaties if the world as a whole is in the frame of mind to violate them on the spur of the moment or use them merely to meet temporary needs.

That point is one to be brought up. These are treaties to be lived up to.

I said I would like to go back to South America again. It was a very wonderful trip and it ought to be followed up not only by this Caravan but by a great many other agencies that we have, not merely commercial, but educational, scientific and those in all other fields of our human life.

I am glad you are going by air, but of course everybody cannot travel by air. One thing that impressed me last year was the difficulty of persons living in Buenos Aires or Montevideo getting to the United States. It is very difficult for modern Americans to get down there on account of the lack of good steamship facilities and their slowness.

One of the things I am working on now with the Maritime Commission is trying to get a line started down the East Coast of South America which will get people down there with a lot more speed and a lot more comfort and I think in the course of the next year we are going to have good steamship service with the East Coast of South America.

You have good West Coast service now with Chile but other parts are harder of access.

I am very glad to see you all again. The People's Mandate is undoubtedly growing. Last year you brought one man and now there are half a dozen with you; so I hope you will keep up the good work and bring more men with you.

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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## STATEMENTS FILE

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE PRESS  
(Not to be used verbatim)

October 30, 1937

H. K. McINTYRE  
Secretary to the President

The following are the informal remarks of the President made to the delegation representing the People's Mandate to End War:

I am not only glad to say "God Speed" but I wish I could go with you. I shall never forget, of course, that trip last year. It was the most amazing experience anybody could have and sometime in the next three years I hope to have an opportunity to go down the West Coast of South America as far as Chile.

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There is one thing ~~of course~~ that perhaps you do not realize as much as I realize it, as I am so closely in touch with <sup>affairs</sup> ~~affairs~~ all over the world ~~all the time~~. What has been done in the three Americas for the last four years not only resulted in very definite progress in our hemisphere <sup>but</sup> ~~but~~ had a very great effect in other parts of the world. More than perhaps you would realize from reading the beligerent attitude of some other countries. <sup>1</sup>

The people all over the world are beginning to say to themselves, <sup>The</sup> ~~in Europe, Asia and Africa~~ "Here is a most interesting thing that has ever happened. Here is a whole continent that has abolished war, A whole continent that has ~~abolished~~ provided machinery so that any question between nations may be peaceably settled. ~~of course, we~~

~~have had a similar experience~~

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~~have had peace in the past.~~

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