HOLD FOR RELEASE

FOR THE PRESS

December 24, 1936

CAUTION: The President's Christmas greeting must be held for release.

Release is automatic for five o'clock (5:00) P.M., E.S.T., today.

NOTE: Please safeguard against premature release.

STEPHEN EARLY
Secretary to the President

SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT
CHRISTMAS TREE
Lafayette PARK
DECEMBER 24, 1936
SUGGESTED DRAFT FOR PRESIDENT'S CONSIDERATION IN PREPARATION OF HIS CHRISTMAS EYE RADIO BROADCAST FROM LAFAYETTE PARK AT 5:15 P.M., E.S.T., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1938.

With the rest of the world we celebrate tonight the birth of the Prince of Peace. A world weary of strife turns again for succor of sorrow to the Jansen Hills.

Our thoughts take us through time and space back to the Holy Land of the first Christmas, a country small in area but vast apart from the dawn of history to be the battleground of empires, the theatre of great events. Here the Divine Purpose was accomplished nineteen hundred years ago when in a stable in Bethlehem the Christ Child was born. And on that Holy Night the Angel of the Lord announced to the shepherds keeping the night watches over their flock: "Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour which is Christ the Lord."

The Desire of the Everlasting Hills had come and from that little town of Bethlehem so near to all our hearts we receive again tonight a message of joy which neither tribulation, nor sorrow, nor war, nor rumors of war can mar. We lift our hearts in joy and naught shall mar the beauty of this hour.

Tonight is Christmas Eve. I want to give you the picture in Washington on this happy Christmas. We are gathered again around our Community Tree here in Lafayette Park, across the street from the White House. Darkness has fallen over the Capital, but all about us shine a myriad of brilliant lights, and all hearts are warmed by the eternal fire of Christmas. Happiness because new life and new hope and new happiness are in them.

In this setting I wish my fellow countrymen everywhere a Merry Christmas with peace, content and happiness and friendly cheer to all. I wish also to thank the thousands who have remembered me this Christmas with individual greetings. I shall always treasure those friendly messages. This year maker provides individual acknowledgment, but I do want to assure all of my friends of my heartfelt appreciation of their remembrance.
outpouring of kindness is another witness to the abundance of good in this old world of ours. We are thankful for these hidden springs of happiness and love which the coming of Christmas always brings forth.

At this great holiday season let us hope that the boon of peace which we in this country and in the whole Western Hemisphere enjoy under the Providence of God may likewise be vouchsafed to all nations and all peoples. We desire peace. We shall work for peace. 

We of the Western World who have borne witness by works as well as words to our devotion to the cause of peace, ought to take heart tonight from the atmosphere of hope and promise in which representatives of twenty-one free republics are now assembled in the Pan American Conference at Lima, Peru. I consider it a happy circumstance that these deliberations concluded after the birthday of the Prince of Peace. It is indeed a holy season in which to work for good will among men.

We do not expect a new Heaven and a new Earth overnight, but in our own land, wherever men of good will listen to our appeal, we shall work as best we can with the instruments at hand to banish hatred, greed and covetousness from the heart of mankind.

And so the pledge I have so often given to my own countrymen I renew before all the world on this glad Christmas Eve, that I shall do whatever lies within my own power and the power and authority of the office conferred upon me to hasten the day foretold by Isaiah, when men "shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."
ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
CHRISTMAS EVE
DECEMBER 24, 1938.

Tonight is Christmas Eve. We are gathered again around our Community Tree here in Lafayette Park, across the street from the White House. Darkness has fallen over the Capital but all about us shine a myriad of brilliant lights. All our hearts, warmed by the eternal fire of Christmas rejoice, because new life, new hope, new happiness are in them.

In this setting I wish my fellow countrymen everywhere a Merry Christmas with peace, content and friendly cheer to all. I wish also to thank the thousands who have remembered me and my family this Christmas with individual greetings. We shall always treasure these friendly messages.

At this time let us hope that the boon of peace which we in this country and in the whole Western Hemisphere enjoy under the Providence of God may likewise be vouchsafed to all nations and all peoples. We desire peace. We shall work for
peace. We covet neither the lands nor the possessions of any other nation or people.

We of the Western World who have borne witness by works as well as words to our devotion to the cause of peace, ought to take heart tonight from the atmosphere of hope and promise in which representatives of twenty-one free republics are now assembled in the Pan American Conference at Lima, Peru. I consider it a happy circumstance that these deliberations will be successfully concluded soon after the birthday of the Prince of Peace. It is indeed a holy season in which to work for good will among men. We derive new strength, new courage for our work from the spirit of Christmas.

We do not expect a new Heaven and a new Earth overnight, but in our own land, and other lands - wherever men of good will listen to our appeal - we shall work as best we can with the instruments at hand to banish hatred, greed and covetousness from the heart of mankind.

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(Signed)

(Drafting Reading Copy)
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We of the Western World who have borne witness by words as well as by deeds to our devotion to the cause of peace, ought to take heart tonight from the atmosphere of hope and promise in which representatives of twenty-one free republics are now assembled in the Pan American Conference at Lima, Peru. I consider it a happy circumstance that these deliberations will be successfully concluded soon after the birthday of the Prince of Peace. It is indeed a holy season in which to work for good will among men. We derive new strength, new courage for our work from the spirit of Christmas.

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