

December 1, 1939

[Soviet Agitation in Finland]

FDR Speech File

1257

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STATEMENTS FILE

FOR THE PRESS

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DECEMBER 1, 1939

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

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The news of the Soviet naval and military bombings within Finnish territory has come as a profound shock to the Government and people of the United States. Despite efforts made to solve the dispute by peaceful methods to which no reasonable objection could be offered, one power has chosen to resort to force of arms. It is tragic to see the policy of force spreading, and to realize that wanton disregard for law is still on the march. All peace-loving peoples in these nations that are still hoping for the continuance of relations throughout the world on the basis of law and order will unambiguously condemn this new resort to military force as the arbiter of international differences.

W {
To the great misfortune of the world, the present trend to force makes insecure the independent existence of small nations in every continent and jeopardizes the rights of mankind to self-government. The people and government of Finland have a long, honorable and wholly peaceful record which has won for them the respect and warm regard of the people and Government of the United States.

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DRAFT

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To the great misfortune of the world the present trend to force makes insecure the independent existence of small nations in every part of the globe. ~~Such~~ ^{Such} ~~an~~ ^{an} ~~act~~ ^{act} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~violence~~ ^{violence} ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~only~~ ^{only} ~~unjust~~ ^{unjust} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~unlawful~~ ^{unlawful} but also ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~direct~~ ^{direct} ~~violation~~ ^{violation} of the rights of manhood to self government. The people ^{and government} of Finland have a long, ~~honorable~~ ^{honorable} and wholly peaceful record which has won for them the respect and warm regard of the people and government of the United States.

ENC:PM:CHS
PA/D:JCD
11/30/39

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

THE SECRETARY

December 1, 1939.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

This is the draft I read
over the telephone a few moments
ago.

C. H.

The news of the Soviet naval and military bombings within Finnish territory has come as a profound shock to the Government and people of the United States. Despite efforts made to solve the dispute by peaceful methods to which no reasonable objection could be offered, one power has chosen to resort to force of arms. It is tragic to see the policy of force spreading, and to realize that wanton disregard for law is still on the march. All peace-loving peoples in those nations that are still hoping for the continuance of relations throughout the world on the basis of law and order will unanimously condemn this new resort to military force as the arbiter of international differences.

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