STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

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.

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.
FOR THE PRESS

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

FOR THE PRESS

INTERDIATE RELEASE

DECEMBER 1, 1939

STATIONARY BY THE PRESIDENT

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The news of the Soviet invasion of Finland 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 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 condemn this new resort to military force as the sole arbiter of international differences.

To the great misfortune of the world the present trend to force makes no account the indispensable existence of small nations in every part of the earth and of their independence. The rights of small countries must be preserved, and the people of small countries have a right to live in a land of honor and wholly peaceful rest which has been for them the subject and warm regard of the people and Government of the United States.
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.
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