

December 11, 1941

[Declaration of War on Germany]

1402

FDR Speech File

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

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The long-known and the long-expected have happened. The movement of world conquest, accompanied by methods of enslavement, barbaric lawlessness, general destruction, and fiendish cruelty, without a parallel, is headed straight toward this hemisphere in accordance with full notice long since given by repeated acts and utterances of international brigands led by Hitler. Never before has a challenge to life, liberty and civilization been so completely world-wide and so utterly diabolical in its beastly nature. Every rational civilized person is faced with the imperative and inescapable responsibility of resisting to the utmost. Delay is destruction. Quick, united effort everywhere will insure a world victory of the forces of law and justice and righteousness over the forces of slavery and savagery. Germany has declared war against the United States, and the United States should promptly accept the state of war that Germany has thus instituted.

Italy has also declared war against the United States.

I therefore request the Congress to recognize the existence of a state of war between the United States and Germany, and between the United States and Italy.

HOLD FOR RELEASE

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DECEMBER 11, 1941

CONFIDENTIAL: To be held in STRICT CONFIDENCE and no portion, synopsis or intimation to be published or given out until delivery of the President's message to the Congress HAS BEGUN.

Release expected about 12:30, E. S. T.,
December 11, 1941.

CAUTION: Extreme care must be exercised to
avoid premature publication.

STEPHEN EARLY
Secretary to the President

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

On the morning of December eleventh, the Government of Germany, pursuing its course of world conquest, declared war against the United States.

The long known and the long expected has thus taken place. The forces endeavoring to enslave the entire world now are moving towards this hemisphere.

Never before has there been a greater challenge to life, liberty, and civilization.

Delay invites greater danger. Rapid and united effort by all of the peoples of the world who are determined to remain free will ensure a world victory of the forces of justice and of righteousness over the forces of savagery and of barbarism.

Italy also has declared war against the United States.

I therefore request the Congress to recognize a state of war between the United States and Germany, and between the United States and Italy.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

THE WHITE HOUSE,

December 11, 1941.

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

On the morning of December 11, the Government of Germany, pursuing its course of world conquest, declared war against the United States.

The long known and the long expected has thus taken place. The forces endeavoring to enslave the entire world are ^{now} ~~now~~ moving towards this hemisphere.

Never before has there been a greater challenge to life, liberty, and civilization.

~~Hesitation or delay implies destruction.~~ ^{Delay invites greater danger.} Rapid and united effort by all of the peoples of the world who are determined to remain free will ensure a world victory of the forces of justice and of righteousness over the forces of savagery and of barbarism.

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P.P.F.
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Never before has there been a greater challenge to life, liberty, and civilization.

~~Hesitation or Delay~~ ^{implies greater danger} implies destruction. Rapid and united effort by all of the peoples of the world who are determined to remain free will ensure a world victory of the forces of justice and of righteousness over the forces of savagery and of barbarism.

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FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

THE WHITE HOUSE,

December 11, 1941.

MR. EARLY'S
PRESS CONFERENCE
December 11, 1941
THURSDAY
10:10 AM

MR. EARLY:

The long expected is now a reality. We have received the official notification of the declaration of war. The Secretary of State has notified the President. The State Department was advised this morning by the German Charge here. The American Embassy in Rome has reported that it was advised in Rome. So, Germany has declared War. Italy has goose-stepped apparently in compliance with orders. A Message will be transmitted to the Congress at noon today by the President. The Senate Leader and the Speaker have both advised that resolutions will be promptly introduced and passed.

That is all.

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