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**Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”**  
**The Master Speech Files, 1898, 1910-1945**

**Series 3: “The Four Freedoms” and FDR in World War II**

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**File No. 1406**

**1941 December 24**

**Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremonies**

FIRST DRAFT

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

DECEMBER 24, 1941

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A few days ago, amid the surge of old and young toward the defense of their beloved land, your President met with the Cabinet of the United States. The theme was speed -- speed in the creation of the weapons by which we propose with deep purpose to help rescue good from evil.

We talked of the pros and cons of asking America to keep on working on Christmas Day. Some spoke, rightly, of the planes we need and the guns we need and the ships we need, and of how the stopping of work even for one day might prolong the life of the evil thing that hangs over us. And some said "It is too late now -- it would not be fair to those who have planned their Christmas".

And then one spoke up and said "Christmas Day; that is not our day or the day of those who bomb us; Christmas Day is Christ's day -- the day of the grown-ups, and especially the day of the children". And after that was said, it was decided by all of us that thus we would celebrate Christmas Day.

It is in that spirit that we light our national tree and all the trees in our homes throughout the land this Christmas Eve. It is in that spirit that we will go to church tomorrow. It is in that spirit that we will give our gifts.

In a sense we older one cannot be merry, for overhanging all our thoughts from morn till eve tomorrow, we will not be able to cast aside the knowledge of a brutality and destruction and death that has no reason or good sense on any day of the year, let alone Christmas Day.

We cannot be truly happy except in the knowledge that now at last we take our rightful part in a rightful cause; and except in the sight of the very little children whose Christmas must be as happy and as merry this year as in every year gone by.

For their joy, complete and undefiled, we will carry A on tomorrow; just as for their joy in all the years to come we are giving and will give all that lies in us in order that they in their maturity will not have to bear the cross that we bear.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

INSERT A- PAGE #2

And we who are the parents,  
the mothers and fathers of the  
men who serve on land and sea,  
here in our own land and in  
distant Isles and in distant  
Continents, will carry on for  
their brave sakes.

All around the world today, the great part of the people who live in it feel as we do about this great fight for good against the forces of evil. Millions of them have been engaged in the task of defending good with their life-blood for months and years.

Now that we are standing by their side, some of them have already sent to our shores chosen leaders to plan what is the common effort. The other peoples who fight this evil thing will join with us in the coming days.

One of these leaders stands beside me -- the guest of your President -- but more than that a partner of the Americas in the struggle for the kind of humanity we seek to save. He and his people in many parts of the world have their little children too. He and his people have pointed the way in sacrifice and bravery for the sake of little children everywhere.

And so I am asking my associate and good old friend, Winston Churchill, the Prime Minister of Great Britain, to say just a word to you -- to the people of America -- old and young, tonight.

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THE LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS

b WASHINGTON, D. C.

December 23, 1941

Dear Grace:

I thought, instead of trying to alter the first draft, I would make a new start. The draft marked "A. MacL." is the result. I am also enclosing a draft prepared by a very gifted writer in OFF whose discretion can be counted on. I will keep the White House operator informed where I can be reached at any time this evening.

*I decided  
not  
to do  
it to  
you.*

With all regards, *Archibald MacLeish*

Faithfully yours,

*Archibald MacLeish*  
Archibald MacLeish

Enclosure

Miss Grace Tully  
Secretary to the President  
The White House

Draft of  
Christmas message  
for Dec 24

A. Mac L.

There are many men and women in America - sincere and  
faithful men and women - who ask themselves this Christmas:

How can we light our trees? How can we give our gifts?

How can we meet and worship with love and with uplifted  
hearts in a world at war, a world of fighting ~~and of death~~,  
~~A~~  
~~and war?~~

How can we pause, even for a day, even for Christmas  
Day, in our urgent labor of arming ~~this nation~~ against the  
enemies which beset it?  
*A decent humanity*

How can we put the world aside, as men and women put the  
world aside in peaceful years, to rejoice in the birth of  
Christ? *These* They are natural, even inevitable, questions. They  
present themselves here in Washington as they present them-  
selves throughout the country. Feeling as we do the terrible  
urgency of preparation, the need for greater and still greater

*(A)*

efforts - for work and for more work and still more work -

feeling as we do the huge necessity for greater and still

greater effort - we here in Washington <sup>have asked</sup> ask each other whether

even Christmas Day <sup>should</sup> would be a day of rest: whether we should

not ask the country to devote <sup>Christmas</sup> also to the task of arming

freedom to confront its enemies and overcome them.

<sup>Given</sup> But <sup>A</sup> as we ask these questions we know the answer ~~X~~. There

<sup>this NATION</sup> is another preparation demanded of <sup>us</sup> beyond and beside the

preparation of weapons and materials of war. There is demanded

of us also the preparation of our hearts: the arming of our

hearts. And the preparation of our hearts for the labors

and the sufferings and the ultimate victory which lie ahead,

is precisely such a preparation as this day, with all its

memories and all its meanings, can provide.

Our strongest weapon in this war is that conviction of the  
dignity and brotherhood of man which ~~this~~ day, more than any other  
<sup>Christmas</sup> ~~any~~ <sup>other</sup> ~~symbol~~ —  
day or any <sup>other</sup> symbol, ~~symbol~~.

Against enemies who preach the principles of hate and  
practice them, we set our faith in human love and in God's  
care for us and all men everywhere.

It is in that spirit, and with particular thoughtfulness  
<sup>serve in our armed forces</sup>  
of those, our sons and brothers, who ~~defend our ships and~~  
~~on land and sea near or far~~  
~~harbors and the islands of the seas~~ — those who serve for us  
and endure for us — that we light our Christmas candles now  
across this continent from one coast to the other on this  
Christmas evening.

(B)

DAY OF PRAYER

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
A PROCLAMATION

The year 1941 has brought upon our nation a war of aggression by powers dominated by arrogant rulers whose selfish purpose is to destroy free institutions. They would thereby take from the freedom-loving peoples of the earth the hard-won liberties gained over many centuries.

The new year of 1942 calls for the courage and the resolution of old and young; to help to win a world struggle in order that we may preserve all we hold dear.

We are confident in our devotion to country, in our love of freedom, in our inheritance of courage. But our strength, as the strength of all men everywhere, is of greater avail as God upholds us.

THEREFORE, I, FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, President of the United States of America, do hereby appoint the first day of the year 1942 as a day of prayer, of asking forgiveness for our shortcomings of the past, of consecration to the tasks of the present, of asking God's help in days to come.

We need His guidance that this people may be humble in spirit but strong in the conviction of the right; steadfast to endure sacrifices and brave to achieve a victory of liberty and peace."

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States of America to be affixed.

DONE at the City of Washington this twenty-second day of December in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and forty-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and sixtieth.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

By the President:

CORDELL HULL

Secretary of State.

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

DECEMBER 24, 1941

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There are many men and women in America -- sincere and faithful men and women -- who ask themselves this Christmas:

How can we light our trees? How can we give our gifts? How can we meet and worship with love and with uplifted hearts in a world at war, a world of fighting and suffering and death?

How can we pause, even for a day, even for Christmas Day, in our urgent labor of arming a decent humanity against the enemies which beset it?

How can we put the world aside, as men and women put the world aside in peaceful years, to rejoice in the birth of Christ?

These are natural -- inevitable -- questions in every part of the world which is resisting the evil thing.

Even as we ask these questions, we know the answer. There is another preparation demanded of this nation beyond and beside the preparation of weapons and materials of war. There is demanded of us also the preparation of our hearts; the arming of our hearts. And when we make

ready our hearts for the labors and the sufferings and the ultimate victory which lie ahead, then we observe Christmas Day with all its memories and all its meanings, as we should.

Looking into the days to come, I have set aside a Day of Prayer, and in that Proclamation I have said:

"The year 1941 has brought upon our nation a war of aggression by powers dominated by arrogant rulers whose selfish purpose is to destroy free institutions. They would thereby take from the freedom-loving peoples of the earth the hard-won liberties gained over many centuries.

"The new year of 1942 calls for the courage and the resolution of old and young to help to win a world struggle in order that we may preserve all we hold dear.

"We are confident in our devotion to country, in our love of freedom, in our inheritance of courage. But our strength, as the strength of all men everywhere, is of greater avail as God upholds us.

"Therefore, I ....do hereby appoint the first day of the year 1942 as a day of prayer, of asking forgiveness for our shortcomings of the past, of consecration to the tasks of the present, of asking God's help in days to come.

"We need His guidance that this people may be humble in spirit but strong in the conviction of the right; steadfast to endure sacrifice, and brave to achieve a victory of liberty and peace".

Our strongest weapon in this war is that conviction of the dignity and brotherhood of man which Christmas Day signifies -- more than any other day or any other symbol.

Against enemies who preach the principles of hate and practise them, we set our faith in human love and in God's care for us and all men everywhere.

It is in that spirit, and with particular thoughtfulness of those, our sons and brothers, who serve in our armed forces on land and sea, near and far -- those who serve for us and endure for us -- that we light our Christmas candles now across this continent from one coast to the other on this Christmas evening.

We have joined with many other nations and peoples in a great cause. Millions of them have been engaged in the task of defending good with their life-blood for months and years.

One of their great leaders stands beside me. He and his people in many parts of the world are having their Christmas trees with their little children around them, just as we do here. He and his people have pointed the way in courage and sacrifice for the sake of little children everywhere.

And so I am asking my associate and old friend to say a word to the people of America, old and young, tonight -- Winston Churchill, Prime Minister of Great Britain.

Franklin Roosevelt  
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Orig. reading copy

CHRISTMAS GREETING OF THE  
PRIME MINISTER OF GREAT BRITAIN, WINSTON CHURCHILL,  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE LIGHTING OF THE  
NATIONAL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE,  
DELIVERED FROM THE SOUTH PORTICO OF THE WHITE HOUSE,  
December 24, 1941, at 5.10 P.M., E.S.T.

THE PRIME MINISTER:

Fellow workers in the cause of Freedom:

I have the honor to add a pendant to the necklace of that Christmas goodwill and kindness with which my illustrious friend -- the President -- has encircled the homes and families of the United States by his Message of Christmas Eve, which he has just delivered.

I spend this anniversary and festival far from my country, far from my family, and yet I cannot truthfully say that I feel far from home. Whether it be -- (applause) -- whether it be by the ties of blood on my mother's side, or the friendships I have developed here over many years of active life, or the commanding sentiment of comradeship in the common cause of great peoples who speak the same language, who kneel at the same altars, and to a very large extent pursue the same ideals -- whichever it may be, or all of them together -- I cannot feel myself a stranger here in the center and at the summit of the United States. (applause) I feel a sense of unity and fraternal association, which, added to the kindness of your welcome, convinces me that I have a right to sit at your fireside and share your Christmas joys. (applause)

Fellow workers, fellow soldiers in the Cause:

This is a strange Christmas Eve. Almost the whole world is locked in deadly struggle. Armed with the most terrible weapons which science can devise, the nations advance upon each other. Ill would it be for us, this

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

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RECORDED BY STENOGRAH

RECORDED IN SHORTHAND BY STENOGRAH

SIMPLY AND AT THE END OF WHICH WAS

-- WHICH WAS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY ON THIS DAY CONSISTED  
WHICH WAS IN WHOLE PART OMITTED AND WHICH WAS

CHARACTERIZED BY THE USE OF WHICH WAS EXPRESSED AS IF  
NOT YET MADE BUT PREVIOUSLY MADE

WHICH WAS NOT MADE BUT WHICH WAS PREVIOUSLY MADE

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Christmas-tide, if we were not sure that no greed for the lands or wealth of any other people, no vulgar ambition, no morbid lust for material gain at the expense of others, had led us to the field. And ill would it be for us if that were so.

Here in the midst of war, raging and roaring over all the lands and seas, creeping nearer to our hearths and homes; here amid all these tumults, we have tonight the peace of the spirit in each cottage home and in every generous heart.

Therefore, we might cast aside -- for this night at least -- the cares and dangers which beset us, and make for the children an evening of happiness in a world of storm. Here then -- for one night only -- each home throughout the English-speaking world should be a brightly lighted island of happiness and peace.

Let the children have their night of fun and laughter. Let the gifts of Father Christmas delight their play. Let us grownups share to the full in their unstinted pleasures, before we turn again to the stern tasks and formidable year that lie before us.

Resolve that by our sacrifice and daring these same children shall not be robbed of their inheritance, or denied their right to live in a free and decent world.

And so -- (applause) -- and so in God's Mercy, a Happy Christmas to you all. (applause)

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HOLD FOR RELEASE

HOLD FOR RELEASE

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December 24, 1941

CAUTION: The Prime Minister has prepared the following for delivery this afternoon upon the occasion of the lighting of the National Community Christmas Tree at the White House.

NOTE: Release is for editions of all newspapers appearing on the streets NOT EARLIER THAN 5:10 P. M., E. S. T. today.

STEPHEN EARLY  
Secretary to the President

I have the honour to add an appendix to the message of Christmas goodwill and kindness with which my illustrious friend the President has encircled the homes and families of the United States by the message of Christmas eve which he has just delivered.

I spend this anniversary and festival far from my country, far from my family, and yet I cannot truthfully say that I feel far from home. Whether it be the ties of blood on my mother's side, or the friendships I have developed here over many years of active life, or the commanding sentiment of comradeship in the common cause of great races who speak the same language and to a very large extent worship the same altars and pursue the same ideals. Whichever it may be - or all of them together - I cannot feel myself a stranger here in the centre of the summit of these United States. I feel a sense of unity and fraternal association which, through all your kindness convinces me that I have a right to sit at your fireside and share your Christmas joys.

This is a strange Christmas Eve. Almost the whole world is locked in deadly struggle. Armed with the most terrible weapons which science can devise, the nations advance upon each other. Ill would it be for us this Christmastide if we were not sure that no greed for the lands or wealth of any other people has led us to the field. That no vulgar ambition, no sordid lust for material gain at the expense of others had led us to the field. Here in the midst of war, raging and roaring about us over all the lands and seas, creeping nearer to our hearts and homes. Here amidst all these tumults, we have the peace of the spirit in each cottage home and in every heart.

Therefore we may cast aside, for this night at least, the cares and dangers which beset us, and make the children happy in a world of storm. Here then, for one night only, each home throughout the English-speaking world should be a brightly lighted island of happiness and peace. Let the children have their night of fun and laughter; let the gifts of Father Christmas delight their thoughts; let us share to the full in their unstinted pleasure, before we turn again to the stern tasks in the year that lies before us. But now, by our sacrifice and daring, these same children shall not be robbed of their inheritance, or denied the right to live in a free and decent world.

And so, in God's mercy, a Happy Christmas to you all.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO THE NATION  
DELIVERED BY THE PRESIDENT  
ON THE SOUTH PORTICO OF THE WHITE HOUSE  
AND BROADCAST OVER A NATIONAL AND WORLDWIDE HOOKUP  
DECEMBER 24, 1941, 5.05 P.M., E.S.T.  
UPON THE OCCASION OF THE LIGHTING OF THE  
NATIONAL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE AT THE WHITE HOUSE

(the Prime Minister of Great Britain, Winston Churchill, was standing at the side of the President while he was speaking.

The Prime Minister also delivered an address, which is appended.)

And now, for the ninth time, I light the living Christmas Community Tree of the Nation's Capital.

(the President then pressed a button, and the Tree was lighted)

FELLOW WORKERS FOR FREEDOM:

There are many men and women in America -- sincere and faithful men and women -- who are asking themselves this Christmas:

How can we light our trees? How can we give our gifts? How can we meet and worship with love and with uplifted (hearts) spirit and heart in a world at war, a world of fighting and suffering and death?

How can we pause, even for a day, even for Christmas Day, in our urgent labor of arming a decent humanity against the enemies which beset it?

How can we put the world aside, as men and women put the world aside in peaceful years, to rejoice in the birth of Christ?

These are natural -- inevitable -- questions in every part of the world which is resisting the evil thing.

And even as we ask these questions, we know the answer. There is another preparation demanded of this nation beyond and beside the preparation of weapons and materials of war. There is demanded also of us

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT SPEECH

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(see following section, first part to remind reader why)

confidence gained during the month of July and its influence  
(knowledge of which, however, has developed only recently, and it is  
understood that much more will develop) upon the  
confidence of the people in our Government and its  
ability to meet the emergency.

(see following section, last part)

(see following section, second part)

President has decided -- sufficient of course has now been done

to obtain the services of police and other law enforcement  
and military personnel or any other necessary staff or personnel.

There has already been, position after position, given the greatest care to

select the ablest and most reliable persons to whom all  
and all government not have yet a full measure of confidence and

read public confidence and radius of influence thereof to widest measure

Other aid and assistance has been obtained from all over the world

to assist in soliciting of every influence of all kinds  
and to keep alive at something -- classified -- liaison and confi-

against five organizations of which since  
that morning and now as additional should now be no more than

and other has largely failed and to determine whether, instead of  
as to date tomorrow at about one in afternoon has enough to sustain

(also) the preparation of our hearts; the arming of our hearts. And when we make ready our hearts for the labor and the suffering and the ultimate victory which lie ahead, then we observe Christmas Day -- with all of its memories and all of its meanings -- as we should.

Looking into the days to come, I have set aside a Day of Prayer, and in that Proclamation I have said:

"The year 1941 has brought upon our nation a war of aggression by powers dominated by arrogant rulers whose selfish purpose is to destroy free institutions. They would thereby take from the freedom-loving peoples of the earth the hard-won liberties gained over many centuries.

"The new year of 1942 calls for the courage and the resolution of old and young to help to win a world struggle in order that we may preserve all that we hold dear.

"We are confident in our devotion to country, in our love of freedom, in our inheritance of courage. But our strength, as the strength of all men everywhere, is of greater avail as God upholds us.

"Therefore, I .... do hereby appoint the first day of the year 1942 as a day of prayer, of asking forgiveness for our shortcomings of the past, of consecration to the tasks of the present, of asking God's help in days to come.

"We need His guidance that this people may be a humble people, that it may be truthful in spirit but strong in the conviction of the right; steadfast to endure sacrifice, and brave to achieve a victory of liberty and peace."

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It is in that spirit, and with particular thoughtfulness of those, our sons and brothers, who serve in our armed forces on land and sea, near and far -- those who serve for us and endure for us -- that we light our Christmas candles now across (this) the continent from one coast to the other on this Christmas (evening) Eve.

We have joined with many other nations and peoples in a very great cause. Millions of them have been engaged in the task of defending good with their life-blood for months and for years.

One of their great leaders stands beside me. He and his people in many parts of the world are having their Christmas trees with their little children around them, just as we do here. He and his people have pointed the way in courage and in sacrifice for the sake of little children everywhere.

And so I am asking my associate, (and) my old and good friend, to say a word to the people of America, old and young, tonight -- Winston Churchill, Prime Minister of Great Britain. (applause)

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THE LIGHTING  
OF THE  
**National  
Community Christmas Tree**

WASHINGTON, D. C.

**Christmas Eve**  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1941

THE WHITE HOUSE

Four-Thirty



# Christmas Eve Celebration at the National Community Christmas Tree, 1941

## Concert

UNITED STATES MARINE BAND

Captain William F. Santelmann, Leader  
Henry Weber, Second Leader

### PROGRAM

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| 1. "BREAK FORTH, O BEAUTEOUS HEAVENLY LIGHT" from<br>"THE CHRISTMAS ORATORIO" | Bach      |
| 2. "THE HEAVENS ARE TELLING" from "THE CREATION"                              | Haydn     |
| 3. "THE HEAVENS PRAISE THEE, ETERNAL KING"                                    | Beethoven |
| 4. Fantasy: "CHRISTMAS MEMORIES"  | Fink      |
| 5. "HALLELUJAH CHORUS" from "THE MESSIAH"<br>CAROL BY MASSED CHORISTERS       | Handel    |
| "JOY TO THE WORLD"  | Handel    |

## Arrival of the President and His Party

5:00 P. M.

- INVOCATION His Excellency, The Most Reverend Joseph Corrigan  
INTRODUCTORY REMARKS Honorable Guy Mason  
*Commissioner of the District of Columbia*

## Greetings

OF THE PEOPLE OF WASHINGTON TO THE  
PRESIDENT AND MRS. ROOSEVELT

*Presented by*

Louella Boyd, Troop 95, Girl Scouts of the District of Columbia.  
J. Robert Thrower, Jr., Eagle Scout, Troop 104, Boy Scouts of National Capital Area  
Council

## Lighting of the Living Community Christmas Tree

*By The*

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

## The President's Christmas Greeting to the Nation

## Christmas Carols

*Led by Massed Choristers from*  
Calvary Baptist Choir Covenants-Presbyterian Church  
Epiphany Choir  
Mt. Vernon Place Methodist Episcopal Choir  
St. Thomas Episcopal Choir The Lovette Choral Club  
Vesper Choir of Ninth Street Christian Church  
Eva Whitford Lovette, Director

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| "ADESTE FIDELES"                                     | J. Reading                    |
| "IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR"                    | Richard S. Willis             |
| "SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT"                           | Franz Gruber                  |
| "CANTIQUE DE NOEL"—Corno Solo                        | Adam                          |
| Musician Edward Masters<br>United States Marine Band |                               |
| BENEDICTION  | Reverend Oscar F. Blackwelder |

*This celebration, sponsored by the Community Center and Playgrounds  
Department of the District of Columbia, The American Forestry Association,  
The Greater National Capital Committee of the Washington Board of  
Trade, and the Office of National Capitol Parks of the Department of Interior,  
marks the Nineteenth Annual Lighting of the National Community  
Christmas Tree by the President of the United States.*

# Committees on the National Community Christmas Tree, 1941



## National Committee

HONORABLE GUY MASON, *Chairman*  
HONORABLE NEWTON B. DRURY, *Vice-Chairman*

DR. FRANK BALLOU, Public Schools of the District of Columbia  
JAMES B. BURNS, American Federation of Government Employees  
OVID BUTLER, The American Forestry Association  
HON. ARTHUR C. COOPER, United States Senate  
MILTON CHRISTIANSEN, Commissioner of Recreation  
MOST REV. JOSEPH CORRIGAN, Catholic University of America  
HON. FREDERIC A. DELANO, National Capital Park and Planning  
DR. PAUL F. DOUGLAS, American University  
MRS. HENRY GRATTAN DOYLE, Board of Education  
WALTER FINNEGAN, National President, Junior Board of Commerce  
HON. LESTER GECKES, Secretary of the Interior  
DR. MORDECAI JOHNSON, Howard University  
GENERAL CHARLES W. KUTZ, Commissioner, District of Columbia

DR. CLOUD HECK MARVIN, George Washington University  
HON. PATRICK McCARRAN, United States Senate  
EUGENE MEYER, *The Washington Post*  
THEODORE MORSE, *The Evening Star*  
VIRGIL A. ARTHUR O'LEARY, Georgetown University  
DR. JOHN O'ROURKE, *Washington Daily News*  
MRS. ELEANOR PATTERSON, *Washington Times-Herald*  
HON. JENNINGS RADOLPH, House of Representatives  
C. MELVIN RICHARD, Board of Education  
ADMIRAL H. E. STARK, Chief of Naval Operations, Naval Observatory  
LUTHER C. STEWARD, SR., National Federation of Federal Employees  
MRS. JOHN L. WHITEHURST, General Federation of Women's Clubs  
HON. JOHN RUSSELL YOUNG, President, Board of Commissioners,  
District of Columbia

## Executive Committee

MISS SIBYL BAKER, Community Center and Playgrounds Department, *Chairman*  
OVID BUTLER, The American Forestry Association, *Vice-Chairman*  
EDWARD KELLY, National Capital Parks, *Vice-Chairman*

CLARENCE ARATA, Greater National Capital Committee  
COL. H. O. ATWOOD, High School Cadets, Public Schools, Divisions 10-15

DR. FRANK BALLOU, Public Schools of the District of Columbia  
JAMES B. BENNETT, Council of Social Agencies  
REV. O. F. BLACKWELDER, Washington Federation of Churches  
BEN F. BUCKNER, Boy Scouts of America  
WASHINGTON CIVILIAN CLEVELAND, American Automobile Association  
JOHN C. COLPOUGH, High School Cadets, Public Schools, Divisions 1-9  
COL. W. M. CRAIGIE, High School Cadets, Public Schools, Divisions 10-15

WILLIAM E. ELLINGERBERGER, Potomac Electric Power Company  
E. C. GRAHAM, Hansbury National Bank  
GRANVILLE F. GUDIE, Washington Board of Trade  
MRS. L. W. HARDY, Community Center and Playgrounds Department  
MRS. EDITH H. HUNTER, Community Center and Playgrounds Department

JOHN YOUNG, Community Center and Playgrounds Department

MISS HARLEAN JAMES, American Planning and Civic Association  
MAJOR EDWARD J. KELLY, Metropolitan Police  
MRS. EVA WHITEFORD LOVETTE, Capital District, National Federation of Music Clubs  
MISS MARY LOUISE, Girl Scouts of America  
EDGAR MORRIS, Greater National Capital Committee  
REV. J. D. PAIR, Federation of Civic Associations  
WILLIAM H. PRESS, Board of Trade  
CARL R. REED, Board of Trade, U. S. Park Police  
THOMAS S. SETTLE, National Capital Park and Planning Commission  
FRED A. SMITH, Board of Trade  
HARRY N. STULL, Federation of Citizens' Associations  
ARTHUR T. THAYER, Merchants and Manufacturers Association  
MRS. ARTHUR C. WATKINS, District of Columbia Federation of Women's Clubs  
MILLARD F. WEST, JR., Junior Board of Commerce  
HUGO W. WOLTER, Recreation Division, Council of Social Agencies and Playgrounds Department

## Committee on Lighting of the Tree

*From the Electric Institute of Washington*  
JOHN S. BARTLETT, *Chairman*  
N. H. BARNES FRANK T. SHULL L. T. SOUDER  
*From the Community Center and Playgrounds Department*  
HAROLD SNYDER

## Committee on Lighting of Alley Christmas Trees

*Sponsored by Washington Council of Church Women*  
MRS. HAROLD B. ROGERS, *Chairman of Community Work*  
MRS. W. L. KLINE, *Chairman of Alley Trees*  
MISS ETTA MAE RUSSELL, *Executive Secretary*

## Committee on Broadcasting

JOHN A. REINON, *Chairman*  
G. R. WILHELM, *Vice-Chairman*  
Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Company  
HARRY BUTCHER, *Columbia Broadcasting Company* MISS ANN GILLIS  
W. D. DOLPH, *Mutual Broadcasting Company* MISS MADELINE ENSIGN  
K. H. BERKELEY, *National Broadcasting Company* CARLETON SMITH  
LAWRENCE HEELEN, *WINX Broadcasting Station* GEORGE GOW  
EDMUND SPENCE, *WWDC Broadcasting Station* NORMAN REED

*A Guard of Honor for the PRESIDENT and MRS. ROOSEVELT are Officers of Washington High School Cadet Corps, Cadet Colonels ROBERT S. ASHFORD and EARL W. SCOTT, Commanding; Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts.*

*The Washington Council of Church Women is sponsoring Community Christmas Celebrations in many Communities on Christmas Eve. The Alley Trees are lighted as the PRESIDENT Lights the National Tree.*

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Mr. President.—  
This is  
the autograph  
you asked  
me to prepare  
for you for  
the Christmas  
tree speech.  
F.P. Perkins

PARAGRAPH FOR THE PRESIDENT'S CHRISTMAS EVE ADDRESS

I have a deep conviction that this Christmas in the midst of war and darkness can be the best Christmas within our memories. We can make it a good Christmas by establishing peace and good will between ourselves. Let there be charity in the true sense. Let us forgive those who have offended us. Let us seek forgiveness for any hurt which we may have done. Let each one of us strive to make right all our personal relationships, in our homes, among our friends, among those we work with and work for. Let us, by charity and generosity of action toward each other cause the *lyn* light of life to burn among us anew so we shall have the greatest of God's gifts at this Christmas time.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

December 28, 1941.

The attached longhand note ,  
enclosing the fifth draft of the  
President Radio Address to be  
delivered on Sunday night,  
December 29th, was sent to Mr.  
William S. Knudsen on the after-  
noon of Saturday, December 28th.

Also attached is Mr. Knudsen's  
longhand reply.

Dear Bill

This is 5<sup>th</sup> draft - What do you think? It must be cut 1/3

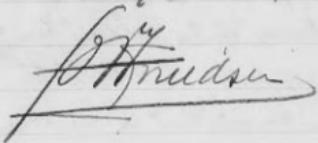
F.H.C.

Dear Mr. President

Page 14. to 25 are just right and factual. — Page 1 - 2. a great introduction. In Pages 2 - 14. stress should be placed on the fact that the Honor of the soldier has been cast to the winds and the war of Today has been transferred to the civilians and non combatant populations who are being driven into holes in the ground in order to glorify a so called holy Conquest. In all other wars men have fought and died for the protection of their women and children in this war it is <sup>"kill"</sup> women and children first. — With all the vaunted efficiency in this war there is still the Concentration Camps in the Background and the servants of God in chains. We do not have this in America.

and with Gods Help we are not going to have it. — The activities of the Nazis in U.S / world minimize or rather not acknowledge the aggressions I would refer to Denmark Norway Belgium France and England before she woke up; there can be no appeasement with ruthlessness. There can be no reasoning with an incendiary bomb. — This is not a contest between the Money dollar and the Work dollar this is a contest between earned and unearned dollars. — Between Craft and Whips. — Then all help by Britain. —

Sincerely and respectfully

  
George  
H. Hudson

Winston Churchill  
Speech

I have the honour to add a pendant to the necklace of Christmas goodwill and kindness with which my illustrious friend the President has encircled the homes and families of the United States by the message of Christmas eve which he has just delivered.

I spend this anniversary and festival far from my country, far from my family, and yet I cannot truthfully say that I feel far from home.

Whether it by the ties of blood on my mother's side, or the friendships I have developed here over many years of active life, or the commanding sentiment of comradeship in the common cause of great peoples who speak the same language, worship at the same altars and, to a very large extent pursue the same ideals - whichever it may be - all of them together - I cannot feel myself a stranger here at the centre and summit of these United States. I feel a sense of unity and fraternal association which, added to the kindness of your welcome, convinces me that I have a right to sit at your fireside and share your Christmas joys.

This is a strange Christmas eve. Almost the whole world is locked in deadly struggle. Armed with the most terrible weapons which science can devise, the nations advance upon each other.

How would it be for us this Christmastide if we were not sure that no greed for the lands or wealth of any other people, that no vulgar ambition, no sordid lust for material gain at the expense of others, had led us to the field. Here in the midst of war, raging and roaring about us over all the lands and seas, creeping nearer to our hearths and homes - here amidst all these tumults, we have tonight the peace of the spirit in each cottage home and in every

generous heart.

Therefore we may cast aside, for this night at least, the cares and dangers which beset us, and make the children happy in a world of storm. Here then, for one night only, each home throughout the English-speaking world should be a brightly lighted island of happiness and peace. Let the children have their night of fun and laughter. Let the gifts of Father Christmas delight their play; let us share to the full in their unstinted pleasure, before we turn again to the stern task and formidable year that lie before us. Resolved that, by our sacrifice and daring, these same children shall not be robbed of their inheritance, or denied their right to live in a free and decent world.

And so, in God's mercy, a Happy Christmas to you all.

"A"  
STATEMENTS FILE

CHRISTMAS GREETING OF THE PRIME MINISTER, OF GREAT BRITAIN,  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE LIGHTING OF THE NATIONAL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE, DELIVERED  
FROM THE SOUTH PORTICO OF THE WHITE HOUSE,  
DECEMBER 24, 1941, AT 5.10 P.M., E.S.T.

THE PRIME MINISTER:

Fellow workers in the cause of Freedom:

I have the honor to add a pendant to the necklace of that Christmas goodwill and kindliness with which my illustrious friend -- the President -- has encircled the homes and families of the United States by his Message of Christmas Eve, which he has just delivered.

I spend this anniversary and festival far from my country, far from my family, and yet I cannot truthfully say that I feel far from home. Whether it be -- (applause) -- whether it be by the ties of blood on my mother's side, or the friendships I have developed here over many years of active life, or the commanding sentiment of comradeship in the common cause of great peoples who speak the same language, who kneel at the same altars, and to a very large extent pursue the same ideals -- whichever it may be, or all of them together -- I cannot feel myself a stranger here in the center and at the summit of the United States. (applause) I feel a sense of unity and fraternal association, which, added to the kindness of your welcome, convinces me that I have a right to sit at your fireside and share your Christmas joys. (applause)

Fellow workers, fellow soldiers in the Cause:

This is a strange Christmas Eve. Almost the whole world is locked in deadly struggle. Armed with the most terrible

weapons which science can devise, the nations advance upon each other. Ill would it be for us, this /Christmas-tide, if we were not sure that no greed for the lands or wealth of any other people, no vulgar ambition, no morbid lust for material gain at the expense of others, had led us to the field. And ill would it be for us if that were so.

Here in the midst of war, raging and roaring over all the lands and seas, creeping nearer to our hearths and homes; here amid all these tumults, we have tonight the peace of the spirit in each cottage home and in every generous heart.

Therefore, we might cast aside -- for this night at least -- the cares and dangers which beset us, and make for the children an evening of happiness in a world of storm. Here then -- for one night only -- each home throughout the English-speaking world should be a brightly lighted island of happiness and peace.

Let the children have their night of fun and laughter. Let the gifts of Father Christmas delight their play. Let us grownups share to the full in their unstinted pleasures, before we turn again to the stern tasks and formidable year that lie before us.

Resolve that by our sacrifice and daring these same children shall not be robbed of their inheritance, or denied their right to live in a free and decent world.

And so -- (applause) -- and so in God's Mercy, a Happy Christmas to you all. (applause)

*Copy of this was sent to John Martin, the  
Prime Minister's Secy 10/26/1941 JH*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Dec. 26, 1941

ROMALEE: STATEMENTS FILE

Please type out Copy "A" as is,  
with the usual number of carbons, etc.

Attach to each copy a mimeograph  
form of the speech released for the  
press.

No need to mark changes as we do  
with the President. I made a verbatim  
report of what he said, and let's let it  
go at that.

J. Romagna

CHRISTMAS GREETING OF THE PRIME MINISTER,  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE LIGHTING OF THE NA-  
TIONAL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE, DELIVERED  
FROM THE SOUTH PORTICO OF THE WHITE HOUSE,  
DECEMBER 24, 1941, AT 5.10 P.M., E.S.T.

THE PRIME MINISTER:

Fellow workers in the cause of Freedom:

I have the honor to add a pendant to the necklace of that Christmas goodwill and kindness with which my illustrious friend -- the President -- has encircled the homes and families of the United States by his Message of Christmas Eve, which he has just delivered.

I spend this anniversary and festival far from my country, far from my family, and yet I cannot truthfully say that I feel far from home. Whether it be -- (applause) -- whether it be by the ties of blood on my mother's side, or the friendships I have developed here over many years of active life, or the commanding sentiment of comradeship in the common cause of great peoples who speak the same language, who kneel at the same altars, and to a very large extent pursue the same ideals -- whichever it may be, or all of them together -- I cannot feel myself a stranger here in the center and at the summit of the United States. (applause) I feel a sense of unity and fraternal association, which, added to the kindness of your welcome, convinces me that I have a right to sit at your fireside and share your Christmas joys. (applause)

Fellow workers, fellow soldiers in the Cause:

This is a strange Christmas Eve. Almost the whole world is locked in deadly struggle. Armed with the most terrible

weapons which science can devise, the nations advance upon each other. Ill would it be for us, this Christmas-tide, if we were not sure that no greed for the lands or wealth of any other people, no vulgar ambition, no morbid lust for material gain at the expense of others, had led us to the field. And ill would it be for us if that were so.

Here in the midst of war, raging and roaring over all the lands and seas, creeping nearer to our hearths and homes; here amid all these tumults, we have tonight the peace of the spirit in each cottage home and in every generous heart.

Therefore, we might cast aside -- for this night at least -- the cares and dangers which beset us, and make for the children an evening of happiness in a world of storm. Here then -- for one night only -- each home throughout the English-speaking world should be a brightly lighted island of happiness and peace.

Let the children have their night of fun and laughter. Let the gifts of Father Christmas delight their play. Let us grownups share to the full in their unstinted pleasures, before we turn again to the stern tasks and formidable year that lie before us.

Resolve that by our sacrifice and daring these same children shall not be robbed of their inheritance, or denied their right to live in a free and decent world.

And so -- (applause) -- and so in God's Mercy, a Happy Christmas to you all. (applause)

THE PRIME MINISTER:

Fellow workers in the cause of Freedom:

I have the honor to add a pendant to the necklace of that  
Christmas goodwill and kindness which my illustrious friend, the  
President, has encircled the homes and families of the United States  
by his ~~Message~~ <sup>which</sup> of Christmas Eve, which he has just delivered.

I spend this anniversary and festival far from my  
country, far from my family, and yet I cannot truthfully say that  
I feel far from home. Whether it be --- (applause) -- whether it  
be by the ties of blood on my mother's side, or the friendships I  
have developed here over many years of active life, or the com-  
manding sentiment of comradeship in the common cause of great  
peoples who speak the same language, who kneel at the same altars,  
and to a very large extent pursue the same ideals, <sup>--</sup> whichever it  
may be, or all of them together, <sup>--</sup> I cannot feel myself a stranger  
here in the center and at the summit of the United States. (applause)  
I feel a sense of unity and fraternal association, which, added  
to the kindness of your welcome, convinces me that I have a  
right to sit at your fireside and share your Christmas joys.  
(applause)

Fellow workers, fellow soldiers in the cause:

This is a strange Christmas Eve. Almost the whole world  
is locked in deadly struggle. Armed with the most terrible  
weapons which science can devise, the nations advance upon each  
other. Ill would it be for us, this Christmas-tide, if we were  
not sure that no greed ~~x~~ for the lands ~~x~~ or wealth ~~x~~ of any other people,  
no vulgar ambition, no morbid lust for material gain at the expense

of others, had led us to the field, And ill would it be for us if that were so. Here in the midst of war, raging and roaring over all the lands and seas, creeping nearer to our hearths and homes; here amid all these tumults, we have tonight the peace of the spirit in each cottage home and in every generous heart. Therefore, we might cast aside for this night at least the cares and dangers which beset us, and make for the children an evening of happiness in a world of storm. Here then for one night only each home throughout the English-speaking world should be a brightly lighted island of happiness and peace. Let the children have their night of fun and laughter. Let the gifts of Father Christmas delight their play. Let us grownups share to the full in their unstinted pleasures, Before we turn again to the stern tasks and formidable year that lie before us, Resolve that by our sacrifice and daring these same children shall not be robbed of their inheritance, or denied their right to live in a free and decent world. ~~applause~~

And so -- (applause) -- and so in God's Mercy, a happy Christmas to you all.

(applause)

HOLD FOR RELEASE

HOLD FOR RELEASE

HOLD FOR RELEASE

December 24, 1941

CAUTION: The Prime Minister has prepared the following for delivery this afternoon upon the occasion of the lighting of the National Community Christmas Tree at the White House.

NOTE: Release is for editions of all newspapers appearing on the streets NOT EARLIER THAN 5:10 P. M., E. S. T. today.

STEPHEN EARLY  
Secretary to the President

I have the honour to add an appendix to the message of Christmas goodwill and kindness with which my illustrious friend the President has encircled the homes and families of the United States by the message of Christmas eve which he has just delivered.

I spend this anniversary and festival far from my country, far from my family, and yet I cannot truthfully say that I feel far from home. Whether it be the ties of blood on my mother's side, or the friendships I have developed here over many years of active life, or the commanding sentiment of comradeship in the common cause of great races who speak the same language and to a very large extent worship the same altars and pursue the same ideals. Whichever it may be - or all of them together - I cannot feel myself a stranger here in the centre of the summit of these United States. I feel a sense of unity and fraternal association which, through all your kindness convinces me that I have a right to sit at your fireside and share your Christmas joys.

This is a strange Christmas Eve. Almost the whole world is locked in deadly struggle. Armed with the most terrible weapons which science can devise, the nations advance upon each other. Ill would it be for us this Christmastide if we were not sure that no greed for the lands or wealth of any other people has led us to the field. That no vulgar ambition, no sordid lust for material gain at the expense of others had led us to the field. Here in the midst of war, raging and roaring about us over all the lands and seas, creeping nearer to our hearts and homes. Here amidst all these tumults, we have the peace of the spirit in each cottage home and in every heart.

Therefore we may cast aside, for this night at least, the cares and dangers which beset us, and make the children happy in a world of storm. Here then, for one night only, each home throughout the English-speaking world should be a brightly lighted island of happiness and peace. Let the children have their night of fun and laughter; let the gifts of Father Christmas delight their thoughts; let us share to the full in their unstinted pleasure, before we turn again to the stern tasks in the year that lies before us. But now, by our sacrifice and daring, these same children shall not be robbed of their inheritance, or denied the right to live in a free and decent world.

And so, in God's mercy, a Happy Christmas to you all.

HOLD FOR RELEASE

HOLD FOR RELEASE

HOLD FOR RELEASE

E.P.H. / F

file

December 24, 1941

CAUTION: The following Christmas Greeting to the Nation to be delivered by the President MUST BE HELD IN CONFIDENCE until released.

NOTE: Release is for editions of all newspapers appearing on the streets NOT EARLIER THAN 5:05 P.M., E.S.T. today.

STEPHEN EARLY  
Secretary to the President

~~CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING~~

~~DECEMBER 24, 1941~~

There are many men and women in America -- sincere and faithful men and women -- who ask themselves this Christmas: How can we light our trees? How can we give our gifts? How can we meet and worship with love and with uplifted hearts in a world at war, a world of fighting and suffering and death?

How can we pause, even for a day, even for Christmas Day, in our urgent labor of arming a decent humanity against the enemies which beset it?

How can we put the world aside, as men and women put the world aside in peaceful years, to rejoice in the birth of Christ?

These are natural -- inevitable -- questions in every part of the world which is resisting the evil thing.

Even as we ask these questions, we know the answer. There is another preparation demanded of this nation beyond and beside the preparation of weapons and materials of war. There is demanded of us also the preparation of our hearts; the arming of our hearts. And when we make

ready our hearts for the labors and the sufferings and the ultimate victory which lie ahead, then we observe Christmas Day with all its memories and all its meanings as we should.

Looking into the days to come, I have set aside a Day of Prayer, and in that Proclamation I have said:

"The year 1941 has brought upon our nation a war of aggression by powers dominated by arrogant rulers whose selfish purpose is to destroy free institutions. They would thereby take from the freedom-loving peoples of the earth the hard-won liberties gained over many centuries.

"The new year of 1942 calls for the courage and the resolution of old and young to help to win a world struggle in order that we may preserve all we hold dear.

"We are confident in our devotion to country, in our love of freedom, in our inheritance of courage. But our strength, as the strength of all men everywhere, is of greater avail as God upholds us.

"Therefore, I ....do hereby appoint the first day of the year 1942 as a day of prayer, of asking forgiveness for our shortcomings of the past, of consecration to the tasks of the present, of asking God's help in days to come.

"We need His guidance that this people may be humble in spirit but strong in the conviction of the right; steadfast to endure sacrifice, and brave to achieve a victory of liberty and peace".

Our strongest weapon in this war is that conviction of the dignity and brotherhood of man which Christmas Day signifies -- more than any other day or any other symbol.

Against enemies who preach the principles of hate and practise them, we set our faith in human love and in God's care for us and all men everywhere.

It is in that spirit, and with particular thoughtfulness of those, our sons and brothers, who serve in our armed forces on land and sea, near and far -- those who serve for us and endure for us -- that we light our Christmas candles now across this continent from one coast to the other on this Christmas evening.

We have joined with many other nations and peoples in a great cause. Millions of them have been engaged in the task of defending good with their life-blood for months and years.

One of their great leaders stands beside me. He and his people in many parts of the world are having their Christmas trees with their little children around them, just as we do here. He and his people have pointed the way in courage and sacrifice for the sake of little children everywhere.

And so I am asking my associate and old friend to say a word to the people of America, old and young, tonight -- Winston Churchill, Prime Minister of Great Britain.

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December 24, 1941

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STEPHEN EARLY  
Secretary to the President

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How can we light our trees? How can we give our gifts? How can we meet and worship with love and with uplifted hearts in a world at war, a world of fighting and suffering and death?

How can we pause, even for a day, even for Christmas Day, in our urgent labor of arming a decent humanity against the enemies which beset it?

How can we put the world aside, as men and women put the world aside in peaceful years, to rejoice in the birth of Christ?

These are natural -- inevitable -- questions in every part of the world which is resisting the evil thing.

Even as we ask those questions, we know the answer. There is another preparation demanded of this nation beyond and beside the preparation of weapons and materials of war. There is demanded of us also the preparation of our hearts; the arming of our hearts. And when we make ready our hearts for the labor and the suffering and the ultimate victory which lie ahead, then we observe Christmas Day -- with all its memories and all its meanings -- as we should.

Looking into the days to come, I have set aside a Day of Prayer, and in that Proclamation I have said:

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We have joined with many other nations and peoples in a great cause. Millions of them have been engaged in the task of defending good with their life-blood for months and years.

One of their great leaders stands beside me. He and his people in many parts of the world are having their Christmas trees with their little children around them, just as we do here. He and his people have pointed the way in courage and sacrifice for the sake of little children everywhere.

And so I am asking my associate and old friend to say a word to the people of America, old and young, tonight -- Winston Churchill, Prime Minister of Great Britain.

- - - - -

STATEMENTS FILE

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS  
TO THE NATION/  
DELIVERED BY THE  
PRESIDENT/  
ON THE SOUTH PORTICO OF THE WHITE HOUSE/  
AND BROADCAST  
OVER A NATIONAL AND WORLDWIDE HOOKUP/  
5.05 P.M., E.S.T., DECEMBER 24, 1941/  
UPON THE OCCASION OF THE LIGHTING OF THE/  
NATIONAL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE AT THE  
WHITE HOUSE  
(the Prime Minister of Great Britain,  
Winston Churchill, was standing at the  
side of the President while he was  
speaking. The Prime Minister also de-  
livered an address, which is appended.)

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

INSERT "A"

And now, for the ninth time, I light  
the living Christmas Community Tree of the  
Nation's Capital.

(the President then pressed a button,  
<sup>was</sup>  
and the Tree lighted up)  
A

STATEMENTS FILE

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December 24, 1941

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STEPHEN EARLY  
Secretary to the President

- - - - - INSERT "A" - - - - -

*Fellow workers for freedom:*

There are many men and women in America -- sincere and faithful men and women -- who ask themselves this Christmas:

How can we light our trees? How can we give our gifts? How can we meet and worship with love and with uplifted hearts in a world at war, a world of fighting and suffering and death?

How can we pause, even for a day, even for Christmas Day, in our urgent labor of arming a decent humanity against the enemies which beset it?

How can we put the world aside, as men and women put the world aside in peaceful years, to rejoice in the birth of Christ?

These are natural -- inevitable -- questions in every part of the world which is resisting the evil thing.

And even as we ask these questions, we know the answer. There is another preparation demanded of this nation beyond and beside the preparation of weapons and materials of war. There is demanded of us ~~also~~ the preparation of our hearts; the arming of our hearts. And when we make ready our hearts for the labor and the suffering and the ultimate victory which lie ahead, then we observe Christmas Day -- with all its memories and all its meanings -- as we should.

Looking into the days to come, I have set aside a Day of Prayer, and in that Proclamation I have said:

"The year 1941 has brought upon our nation a war of aggression by powers dominated by arrogant rulers whose selfish purpose is to destroy free institutions. They would thereby take from the freedom-loving peoples of the earth the hard-won liberties gained over many centuries.

"The new year of 1942 calls for the courage and the resolution of old and young to help to win a world struggle in order that we may preserve all we hold dear.

"We are confident in our devotion to country, in our love of freedom, in our inheritance of courage. But our strength, as the strength of all men everywhere, is of greater avail as God upholds us.

"Therefore, I .... do hereby appoint the first day of the year 1942 as a day of prayer, of asking forgiveness for our shortcomings of the past, of consecration to the tasks of the present, of asking God's help in days to come.

"We need His guidance that this people may be <sup>a</sup> humble ~~in~~ people spirit but strong in the conviction of the right; steadfast to endure sacrifice, and brave to achieve a victory of liberty and peace".

Our strongest weapon in this war is that conviction of the dignity and brotherhood of man which Christmas Day signifies -- more than any other day or any other symbol.

*spirit and heart*

*Stephan Early*

*mf*

Against enemies who preach the principles of hate and practise them, we set our faith in human love and in God's care for us and all men everywhere.

It is in that spirit, and with particular thoughtfulness of those, our sons and brothers, who serve in our armed forces on land and sea, near and far -- those who serve for us and endure for us -- that we light our Christmas candles now across this continent from one coast to the other on this Christmas evening. *Eve.*

We have joined with many other nations and peoples in a *very* great cause. Millions of them have been engaged in the task of defending good with their life-blood for months and years.

One of their great leaders stands beside me. He and his people in many parts of the world are having their Christmas trees with their little children around them, just as we do here. He and his people have pointed the way in courage and sacrifice for the sake of little children everywhere.

And so I am asking my associate, ~~and old friend~~, to say a word to the people of America, old and young, tonight -- Winston Churchill, Prime Minister of Great Britain. *Our my and good (applause)*

HOLD FOR RELEASE

HOLD FOR RELEASE

HOLD FOR RELEASE

December 24, 1941

CAUTION: The following Christmas Greeting to the Nation to be delivered by the President MUST BE HELD IN CONFIDENCE until released.

NOTE: Release is for editions of all newspapers appearing on the streets NOT EARLIER THAN 5:05 P.M., E.S.T. today.

STEPHEN EARLY  
Secretary to the President

There are many men and women in America -- sincere and faithful men and women -- who ask themselves this Christmas:

How can we light our trees? How can we give our gifts? How can we meet and worship with love and with uplifted hearts in a world at war, a world of fighting and suffering and death?

How can we pause, even for a day, even for Christmas Day, in our urgent labor of arming a decent humanity against the enemies which beset it?

How can we put the world aside, as men and women put the world aside in peaceful years, to rejoice in the birth of Christ?

These are natural -- inevitable -- questions in every part of the world which is resisting the evil thing.

Even as we ask these questions, we know the answer. There is another preparation demanded of this nation beyond and beside the preparation of weapons and materials of war. There is demanded of us also the preparation of our hearts; the arming of our hearts. And when we make ready our hearts for the labor and the suffering and the ultimate victory which lie ahead, then we observe Christmas Day -- with all its memories and all its meanings -- as we should.

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"The new year of 1942 calls for the courage and the resolution of old and young to help to win a world struggle in order that we may preserve all we hold dear.

"We are confident in our devotion to country, in our love of freedom, in our inheritance of courage. But our strength, as the strength of all men everywhere, is of greater avail as God upholds us.

"Therefore, I .... do hereby appoint the first day of the year 1942 as a day of prayer, of asking forgiveness for our shortcomings of the past, of consecration to the tasks of the present, of asking God's help in days to come.

"We need His guidance that this people may be humble in spirit but strong in the conviction of the right; steadfast to endure sacrifice, and brave to achieve a victory of liberty and peace".

Our strongest weapon in this war is that conviction of the dignity and brotherhood of man which Christmas Day signifies -- more than any other day or any other symbol.

12/24/41  
S.E.

Against enemies who preach the principles of hate and practise them, we set our faith in human love and in God's care for us and all men everywhere.

It is in that spirit, and with particular thoughtfulness of those, our sons and brothers, who serve in our armed forces on land and sea, near and far -- those who serve for us and endure for us -- that we light our Christmas candles now across this continent from one coast to the other on this Christmas eve.

We have joined with many other nations and peoples in a great cause. Millions of them have been engaged in the task of defending good with their life-blood for months and years.

One of their great leaders stands beside me. He and his people in many parts of the world are having their Christmas trees with their little children around them, just as we do here. He and his people have pointed the way in courage and sacrifice for the sake of little children everywhere.

And so I am asking my associate and old friend to say a word to the people of America, old and young, tonight -- Winston Churchill, Prime Minister of Great Britain.

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~~Sent by radio from San Francisco +  
N.Y. + repeated long distance. PRB~~

~~December 26, 1941~~

The People of the Philippines.

News of your gallant struggle against the Japanese aggressor has elicited the profound admiration of every American. As President of the United States, I know that I speak for all our people on this solemn occasion.

The resources of the United States, of the British Empire, of the Netherlands East Indies and of the Chinese republic have been dedicated by their people to the utter and complete defeat of the Japanese war lords. In this great struggle of the Pacific the loyal Americans of the Philippine Islands are called upon to play a crucial role.

They have played, and they are playing tonight, their part with the greatest gallantry.

As President I wish to express to them my feeling of sincere admiration for the fight they

are now making.

The people of the United States will never forget what the people of the Philippine Islands are doing this day and will do in the days to come. I give to the people of the Philippines my solemn pledge that their freedom will be redeemed and their independence established and protected. The entire resources, in men and in material, of the United States stand behind that pledge.

It is not for me or for the people of this country to tell you where your duty lies. We are engaged in a great and common cause. I count on every Philippine man, woman and child to do his duty. We will do ours. ~~+ now send you~~

a message from the Navy  
Franklin D. Roosevelt,

FOR THE PRESS

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 28, 1941

The President tonight sent a message to the people of the Philippine Islands. It was broadcast by short wave radio direct to Manila where it was rebroadcast and given to the press. The text of the message follows:

The People of the Philippines.

News of your gallant struggle against the Japanese aggressor has elicited the profound admiration of every American. As President of the United States, I know that I speak for all our people on this solemn occasion.

The resources of the United States, of the British Empire, of the Netherlands East Indies and of the Chinese republic have been dedicated by their people to the utter and complete defeat of the Japanese war lords. In this great struggle of the Pacific the loyal Americans of the Philippine Islands are called upon to play a crucial role.

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