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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. 1423**

**1942 June 14**

**United Nations Flag Day Address**

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT  
UNITED NATIONS FLAG DAY  
JUNE 14, 1942

Today on Flag Day we celebrate the declaration of the United Nations -- that great alliance dedicated to the defeat of our foes and to the establishment of a true peace based on the freedom of *and the Commonwealth of The Philippin Islands* man. Today the Republic of Mexico joins us. We welcome ~~that~~ valiant *these* people to the company of those who fight for freedom.

The four freedoms of common humanity are as much elements of man's needs as air and sunlight, bread and salt. Deprive him of all these freedoms and he dies -- deprive him of a part of them and a part of him withers. Give them to him in full and abundant measure and he will cross the threshold of a new age, the greatest age of man.

These freedoms are the rights of men of every creed and every race, wherever they live. This is their heritage, long withheld. We of the United Nations have the power and the men and the will at last to assure man's heritage.

The belief in the four freedoms of common humanity -- the belief in man, created free, in the image of God -- is the crucial difference between ourselves and the enemies we face today. In it lies the absolute unity of our alliance, opposed to the oneness of the evil we hate. Here is our strength, the source and promise of victory.

We of the United Nations know that our faith cannot be broken by any man or any force. And we know that there are other millions who in their silent captivity share our belief.

We ask the German people, still dominated by their Nazi whip-masters, whether they would rather have the mechanized hell of Hitler's "New" Order or -- in place of that, freedom of speech and religion, freedom from want and from fear.

We ask the Japanese people, trampled by their savage lords of slaughter, whether they would rather continue slavery and ~~slaughter~~ <sup>blood</sup> or, in place of them -- freedom of speech and religion, freedom from want and from fear.

We ask the brave, unconquered people of the nations the  
Axis invaders have dishonored and despoiled whether they would  
rather yield to conquerors or, -- have freedom of speech and  
religion, freedom from want and from fear.

We know the answer. They know the answer. We know that  
man, born to freedom in the image of God, will not forever suffer  
the oppressors' sword. The peoples of the United Nations, are  
taking that sword from the oppressors' hands. With it they will  
destroy those tyrants. / Man marches forward toward the light.  
The brazen tyrannies pass.

I am going to close by reading you a prayer that has been  
written for the United Nations on this Day:

"God of the free, we pledge our hearts and lives today to  
the cause of all free mankind.

"Grant us victory over the tyrants who would enslave all  
free men and nations. Grant us faith and understanding to cherish  
all those who fight for freedom as if they were our brothers. Grant  
us brotherhood in hope and union, not only for the space of this  
bitter war, but for the days to come which shall and must unite all  
the children of earth.

"Our earth is but a small star in the great universe. Yet  
of it we can make, if we choose, a planet unvexed by war, untroubled  
by hunger or fear, undivided by senseless distinctions of race,  
color or theory. Grant us that courage and foreseeing to begin  
this task today that our children and our children's children may  
be proud of the name of man.

"The spirit of man has awakened and the soul of man has gone  
forth. Grant us the wisdom and the vision to comprehend the great-  
ness of man's spirit, that suffers and endures so hugely for a goal  
beyond his own brief span. Grant us honor for our dead who died  
in the faith, honor for our living who work and strive for the  
faith, redemption and security for all captive lands and peoples.  
Grant us patience with the deluded and pity for the betrayed. And  
grant us the skill and the valor that shall cleanse the world of  
oppression and the old base doctrine that the strong must eat  
the weak because they are strong.

"Yet most of all grant us brotherhood, not only for this day but for all our years -- a brotherhood not of words but of acts and deeds. We are all of us children of earth -- grant us that simple knowledge. If our brothers are oppressed, then we are oppressed. If they hunger, we hunger. If their freedom is taken away, our freedom is not secure. Grant us a common faith — that man shall know bread and peace -- that he shall know justice and righteousness, freedom and security, an equal opportunity and an equal chance to do his best, not only in our own lands, but throughout the world. And in that faith let us march, toward the clean world our hands can make. Amen."

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HOLD FOR RELEASE

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June 13, 1942

CAUTION: The following address of the President for United Flag Day, Sunday, June 14th, MUST BE HELD IN CONFIDENCE for release in regular editions of newspapers for Monday morning, June 15, 1942.

NOTE: The text of this speech must not be broadcast in English earlier than 5:50 P.M., E.W.T., Sunday, June 14, 1942.

CARE MUST BE EXERCISED TO PREVENT PREMATURE PUBLICATION.

STEPHEN EARLY  
Secretary to the President

Today on Flag Day we celebrate the declaration of the United Nations -- that great alliance dedicated to the defeat of our foes and to the establishment of a true peace based on the freedom of man. Today the Republic of Mexico and the Commonwealth of the Philippine Islands join us. We welcome these valiant peoples to the company of those who fight for freedom.

The four freedoms of common humanity are as much elements of man's needs as air and sunlight, bread and salt. Deprive him of all these freedoms and he dies -- deprive him of a part of them and a part of him withers. Give them to him in full and abundant measure and he will cross the threshold of a new age, the greatest age of man.

These freedoms are the rights of men of every creed and every race, wherever they live. This is their heritage, long withheld. We of the United Nations have the power and the men and the will at last to assure man's heritage.

The belief in the four freedoms of common humanity -- the belief in man, created free, in the image of God -- is the crucial difference between ourselves and the enemies we face today. In it lies the absolute unity of our alliance, opposed to the oneness of the evil we hate. Here is our strength, the source and promise of victory.

We of the United Nations know that our faith cannot be broken by any man or any force. And we know that there are other millions who in their silent captivity share our belief.

We ask the German people, still dominated by their Nazi whipmasters, whether they would rather have the mechanized hell of Hitler's "New" Order or -- in place of that, freedom of speech and religion, freedom from want and from fear.

We ask the Japanese people, trampled by their savage lords of slaughter, whether they would rather continue slavery and blood or, in place of them -- freedom of speech and religion, freedom from want and from fear.

We ask the brave, unconquered people of the nations the Axis invaders have dishonored and despoiled whether they would rather yield to conquerors or, -- have freedom of speech and religion, freedom from want and from fear.

We know the answer. They know the answer. We know that man, born to freedom in the image of God, will not forever suffer the oppressors' sword. The peoples of the United Nations, are taking that sword from the oppressors' hands. With it they will destroy those tyrants. The brazen tyrannies pass. Men march forward toward the light.

I am going to close by reading you a prayer that has been written for the United Nations on this Day:

"God of the free, we pledge our hearts and lives today to the cause of all free mankind,

"Grant us victory over the tyrants who would enslave all free men and nations. Grant us faith and understanding to cherish all those who fight for freedom as if they were our brothers. Grant us brotherhood in hope and union, not only for the space of this bitter war, but for the days to come which shall and must unite all the children of earth.

"Our earth is but a small star in the great universe. Yet of it we can make, if we choose, a planet un vexed by war, untroubled by hunger or fear, undivided by senseless distinctions of race, color or theory. Grant us that courage and foreseeing to begin this task today that our children and our children's children may be proud of the name of man.

"The spirit of man has awokened and the soul of man has gone forth. Grant us the wisdom and the vision to comprehend the greatness of man's spirit, that suffers and endures so hugely for a goal beyond his own brief span. Grant us honor for our dead who died in the faith, honor for our living who work and strive for the faith, redemption and security for all captive lands and peoples. Grant us patience with the deluded and pity for the betrayed. And grant us the skill and the valor that shall cleanse the world of oppression and the old base doctrine that the strong must eat the weak because they are strong.

"Yet most of all grant us brotherhood, not only for this day but for all our years -- a brotherhood not of words but of acts and deeds. We are all of us children of earth -- grant us that simple knowledge. If our brothers are oppressed, then we are oppressed. If they hunger, we hunger. If their freedom is taken away, our freedom is not secure. Grant us a common faith that men shall know bread and peace -- that he shall know justice and righteousness, freedom and security, an equal opportunity and an equal chance to do his best, not only in our own lands, but throughout the world. And in that faith let us march, toward the clean world our hands can make. Amen."

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

June 8, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR GRACE TULLY:

Dear Grace:

Archie MacLeish submitted the attached for the President's approval for use on Flag Day, next Sunday, June 14th.

Will you please ask the President to edit and approve this suggested draft. When approved, I will have to arrange to have the speech recorded so that it may be broadcast next Sunday. The recording will have to be made in advance and distributed to the various net-works in advance under a "hold for release".

Therefore, will greatly appreciate clearance of this with the President as soon as possible.

S.T.E.

An Address by the President  
On United Nations Flag Day

A [Today the Republic of Mexico ~~has~~ joined the Declaration of the United Nations, becoming one with us all in that great alliance dedicated to the defeat of our foes and to the establishment on this earth of a true peace based on the freedom of man. We welcome the valiant people of Mexico to the company of those who fight for freedom.

The four freedoms of common humanity are as much elements of man's needs as air and sunlight, bread and salt. Deprive him of all these freedoms and he dies — deprive him of a part of them and a part of him withers. Give them to him in full and abundant measure and he will cross the threshold of a new age, the greatest age of man.

These freedoms are the rights of men of every creed and every race, wherever they live. This is their heritage, long withheld. We of the United Nations have the power and the men and the will at last to assure man's heritage.

The belief in the four freedoms of common humanity -- the belief in man, created free, in the image of God -- is the crucial difference between ourselves and the enemies we face today. In it lies the absolute unity of our alliance, opposed to the oneness of the evil we hate. Here is our strength, the source and promise of victory.

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We ask the German people, still dominated by their Nazi whipmasters, whether they would rather have the mechanized hell of

- 2 -  
*in place of that,*

Hitler's "New" Order or -- freedom of speech and religion, freedom from want and from fear.

We ask the Japanese people, trampled by their savage lords of ~~Civilized Slavery and Death~~, whether they would rather have ~~the vast prison house~~ <sup>in place of them.</sup> Asia they are offered or -- freedom of speech and religion, freedom from want and from fear.

We ask the brave, unconquered people of the nations the Axis invaders have dishonored and despoiled whether they would rather give ~~yield~~ <sup>To conquerors</sup> up their heros ~~soldiers~~ or -- have freedom of speech and religion, freedom from want and from fear.

We know the answer. They know the answer. We know that man, born to freedom in the image of God, will not forever suffer the oppressors' sword. ~~The peoples~~ of the United Nations, are taking that sword from the oppressors' hands, ~~and~~ <sup>A</sup> with it will destroy those tyrants. ~~One by one~~ the brazen tyrannies pass, ~~going back~~ <sup>A</sup> into the darkness that包围着 <sup>A</sup> man marches forward toward the light.

I am going to close by reading you a prayer that has been written for the United Nations on this Day:

"God of the free, we pledge our hearts and lives today to the cause of all free mankind.

"Grant us victory over the tyrants who would enslave all free men and nations. Grant us faith and understanding to cherish all those who fight for freedom as if they were our brothers. Grant us brotherhood in hope and union, not only for the space of this bitter war, but for the days to come which shall and must unite all the children

of earth.

"Our earth is but a small star in the great universe. Yet of it we can make, if we choose, a planet unvexed by war, untroubled by hunger or fear, undivided by senseless distinctions of race, color or theory. Grant us that courage and foreseeing to begin this task today that our children and our children's children may be proud of the name of man.

"The spirit of man has awakened and the soul of man has gone forth. Grant us the wisdom and the vision to comprehend the greatness of man's spirit, that suffers and endures so hugely for a goal beyond his own brief span. Grant us honor for our dead who died in the faith, honor for our living who work and strive for the faith, redemption and security for all captive lands and peoples. Grant us patience with the deluded and pity for the betrayed. And grant us the skill and the valor that shall cleanse the world of oppression and the old base doctrine that the strong must eat the weak because they are strong.

"Yet most of all grant us brotherhood, not only for this day but for all our years--a brotherhood not of words but of acts and deeds. We are all of us children of earth--grant us that simple knowledge. If our brothers are oppressed, then we are oppressed. If they hunger, we hunger. If their freedom is taken away, our freedom is not secure. Grant us a common faith that man shall know bread and peace -- that he shall know justice and righteousness, freedom and security, an equal opportunity and an equal chance to do his best, not only in our own lands but throughout the world. And in that faith let us march, toward the clean world our hands can make! *Amen*

An Address by the President  
On United Nations Flag Day

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Hitler's "New" Order or -- freedom of speech and religion, freedom from want and from fear.

We ask the Japanese people, trampled by their savage lords of slaughter, whether they would rather have the vast prison house of Asia they are offered or -- freedom of speech and religion, freedom from want and from fear.

We ask the brave, unconquered people of the nations the Axis invaders have dishonored and despoiled whether they would rather give up their heroic struggle or -- have freedom of speech and religion, freedom from want and from fear.

We know the answer. They know the answer. We know that man, born to freedom in the image of God, will not forever suffer the oppressors' sword. Men, the men of the United Nations, are taking that sword from the oppressors' hands, and with it will destroy those tyrants. One by one the brazen tyrannies pass, going backward into the darkness that bore them, while man marches forward toward the light.

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Amen.

OFFICE OF FACTS AND FIGURES  
WASHINGTON

June 8, 1942

The Honorable  
Stephen H Early  
Secretary to the President  
The White House  
Washington, D C

Dear Steve:

Since Mexico jumped the gun and joined the United Nations last week, it has been necessary to revise the first paragraph in the draft of the President's address we sent over on Friday.

I am enclosing herewith a revised draft. Anything we can do to facilitate the recording of the speech we shall be glad to do. It will be necessary to have a copy of the recording for each of the four networks.

The speech will follow a fifty-five minute dramatic show which is originating in the NBC studios in Hollywood. For this reason it would be extremely helpful if the speech could be recorded by Wednesday evening so that the record might be shipped to Hollywood in time to be played there as part of the over-all production. If this is impossible, however, the record can be played at the NBC studios here.

Best regards,

Cordially,

*Bill*

William B Lewis  
Assistant Director  
in charge of Operations



An Address by the President  
On United Nations Flag Day

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We have dedicated this Sunday as a day of homage to our own flag and the colors of all the United Nations pledged with us to the defeat of our foes and the establishment on this earth of a true peace based on the freedom of man. We welcome Mexico to the company of our great alliance. Our thoughts and our prayers go out to the valiant peoples everywhere who fight for the victory of the United Nations, irrevocably determined that mankind shall achieve the four freedoms of common humanity.

The four freedoms of common humanity are as much elements of man's needs as air and sunlight, bread and salt. Deprive him of all these freedoms and he dies -- deprive him of a part of them and a part of him withers. Give them to him in full and abundant measure and he will cross the threshold of a new age; the greatest age of man.

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I am going to close by reading you a prayer that has been written for the United Nations on this Day:

"God of the free, we pledge our hearts and lives today to the cause of all free mankind.

REVISED DRAFT  
June 8 1942

"Grant us victory over the tyrants who would enslave all free men and nations. Grant us faith and understanding to cherish all those who fight for freedom as if they were our brothers. Grant us brotherhood in hope and union, not only for the space of this bitter war, but for the days to come which shall and must unite all the children of earth.

"Our earth is but a small star in the great universe. Yet of it we can make, if we choose, a planet un vexed by war, untroubled by hunger or fear, undivided by senseless distinctions of race, color or theory. Grant us that courage and foreseeing to begin this task today that our children and our children's children may be proud of the name of man.

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REVISED DRAFT  
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"Grant us a common faith that man shall know bread and peace -- that he shall know justice and righteousness, freedom and security, an equal opportunity and an equal chance to do his best, not only in our own lands but throughout the world. And in that faith let us march, toward the clean world our hands can make."

Amen.

TRANSCRIBED ADDRESS  
OF THE  
PRESIDENT  
FOR  
UNITED FLAG DAY  
RADIO BROADCAST AT 5:50 P.M., E.W.T.  
JUNE 14, 1942

Today on Flag Day we celebrate the declaration of the United Nations -- that great alliance dedicated to the defeat of our foes and to the establishment of a true peace based on the freedom of man. Today the Republic of Mexico and the Commonwealth of the Philippine Islands join us. We welcome these valiant peoples to the company of those who fight for freedom.

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Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

This is a transcript made by the White House stenographer from his shorthand notes taken at the time the speech was made. Underlining indicates words extemporaneously added to the previously prepared reading copy text. Words in parentheses are words that were omitted when the speech was delivered, though they appear in the previously prepared reading copy text.

of our best line of justice and of freedom has been lost -- without any plan -- due to several acts of extreme shortsightedness -- in consolidating and not making adjustment not by dismantling all the old institutions but by giving them a new lease of life -- under such conditions as will

to stimulate men to the highest standard of achievement and make life go on and improve. This can never happen here while there still be many a man ready to use it to his advantage -- both on the compact side of the ledger and on the side of the balance sheet -- and while there still be many a man who has no desire to do either -- but who wants to get rich quick and easy -- and to spend all his earnings well

to us -- although such a person does not exist -- and yet because this -- we fear -- is like unto the sun that has risen -- and the earth and

the sky are darkened -- we are compelled to say -- "Behold a great darkness"

despite the efforts we had to make against it -- and because this -- it is strange -- is not -- as we believe -- the result of the existing socialistic system -- which we have not -- to whom -- all of whose principles are to give -- greater to industry the chance and opportunity and all that makes us strong and free -- and the fact that this kind was created -- is not to be -- at any possible rate -- we could not wish to have -- except that we are now

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THE WHITE HOUSE - WASHINGTON

CEREMONIES  
ON  
UNITED FLAG DAY  
AT 2:30 P.M., E.W.T.  
JUNE 14, 1942  
HELD IN THE STATE DINING ROOM

(Representatives of the 26 nations who signed the United Nations Pact, were presented to the President, and then stood before their national flags, forming a "V" behind the President, who was seated with Secretary of State Cordell Hull, and the Mexican Ambassador Najera, and Manuel Quezon, President of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, to affix their signatures to the Pact)

THE PRESIDENT: I think I might begin these historic proceedings today by mentioning the fact that the table at which we sit is the Cabinet table of President Abraham Lincoln.

Today on Flag Day we celebrate the declaration of the United Nations -- that great alliance dedicated to the defeat of our foes and to the establishment of a true peace based on the freedom of man. Today the Republic of Mexico and the Commonwealth of the Philippine Islands join us. We welcome these valiant peoples to the company of those who fight for freedom.

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These freedoms are the rights of men of every creed and every race, wherever they live. This is their heritage. We of the United Nations

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

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Health, machinery and of commerce were, that control nation. "We" a patient, don't implore each other with  
evident to yesterday this afternoon we are, numbered at  
home, myself volunteered myself and our John Leland  
are to agreement not to prosecute, among them  
(that all of us) nothing itself within us, nothing will  
be done significantly enough right again & when it's mentioned will  
be wider results and at this we will be under our own organization  
*nothing remains ignorant*

During our 10 minutes will separate to the left as many  
as can get into the room out of ourselves ourselves from this -- without  
advice -- can be allowed and no bound-stone what is to themselves and  
the rest place of anything and to themselves not the coined to stronger  
not right one would be anyone out of yourself possibly would another as  
*nothing*

To commence just as the chairman called to himself and out  
comes like to me everyone. This is to do, to do, this can be done, then  
-- and to you, is this what to you, is this what -- both on his number  
there will be no time, no time, no time, no time, no time, no time  
-- and to you, is this what to you, is this what -- both on his number  
there will be no time, no time, no time, no time, no time, no time  
-- and to you, is this what to you, is this what -- both on his number  
there will be no time, no time, no time, no time, no time, no time

have the power and the men and the will at last to assure man's heritage.

The belief in the four freedoms of common humanity -- the belief in man, created free, in the image of God -- is the crucial difference between ourselves and the enemies we face today. In it lies the absolute unity of our alliance, opposed to the oneness of the evil we hate. Here is our strength, the source and promise of victory.

We know that man, born to freedom in the image of God, will not forever suffer the oppressors' sword. The peoples of the United Nations, are taking that sword from the oppressors' hands. With it they will destroy those hands. The brazen tyrannies pass. Man marches forward toward the light.

I want to read to all of you a prayer that has been written for the United Nations on this Day:

"God of the free, we pledge our hearts and lives today to the cause of all mankind.

"Grant us victory over the tyrants who would enslave all free men and nations. Grant us faith and understanding to cherish all those who fight for freedom as if they were our brothers. Grant us brotherhood in hope and union, not only for the space of this bitter war, but for all the days to come which shall and must unite all the children of earth.

"Our earth is but a small star in the great universe. Yet of it we can make, if we choose, a planet un vexed by war, untroubled by hunger or fear, undivided by senseless distinctions of race, color or theory. Grant us that courage and foreseeing to begin this task today that our children and our children's children may be proud of the name of man.

"The spirit of man has awakened and the soul of man has gone forth. Grant us the wisdom and the vision to comprehend the greatness of

man's spirit, that suffers and endures so hugely for a goal beyond his own brief span. Grant us honor, honor for our dead who died in the faith, honor for our living who work and strive for the faith, redemption and security for all captive lands and peoples. Grant us patience with the deluded and pity for the betrayed. And grant us the skill and the valor that shall cleanse the world of oppression and the old base doctrine that the strong must eat the weak because they are strong.

"Yet most of all grant us brotherhood, not only for this day but for all our years -- a brotherhood not of words but of acts and deeds. We are all of us children of earth -- grant us that simple knowledge. If our brothers are oppressed, then we are oppressed. If they hunger, we hunger. If their freedom is taken away, our freedom is not secure. Grant us a common faith that man shall know bread and peace -- that he shall know justice and righteousness, freedom and security, an equal opportunity and an equal chance to do his best, not only in our own lands, but throughout the world. And in that faith let us march,<sup>march</sup> toward the clean world our hands can make. Amen."

I think it is very appropriate for all of us here to hear that Prayer, as a symbol of what that Prayer says and what this (Flag) Day means throughout all the world.

It is a great pleasure to add two nations to the Past, which the 26 of them have already signed.

Now if the original document can be brought forward, it will be signed, first by the Ambassador from our sister Republic of Mexico, and immediately thereafter by the President of the Commonwealth of the Philippines.

(The two signings were then accomplished, recorded by the

newsreels and stills)

May I add, there is plenty of room for more signatures later on.  
I will turn it over to the Secretary of State, the custodian.

Well, I think that about concludes what we have got -- a success-  
ful day. That will hold it. A good job. Thanks for coming.

\*\*\*\*\*

INSERT A

STATEMENTS FILE

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Ceremonies  
on  
United Flag Day  
at 2.30 PM, EWT  
June 14, 1942

Held in the State Dining Room



(Representatives of the 26 nations who signed the United Nations Pact, were presented to the President, and then stood before their national flags, forming a "V" behind the President who was seated with Secretary of State Cordell Hull, and the Mexican Ambassador Nájera, and Manuel

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Quezon, President of the Commonwealth  
of the Philippines, to affix  
their signatures to the Pact)

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~

June 14, 1942 - Flag Day - Remarks of the President

INSERT A

THE PRESIDENT:

I think I might begin these historic proceedings today by mentioning the fact that the table at which we sit is the Cabinet table of President Abraham Lincoln. /

(then follows the prepared address) INSERT B)

I think it is very appropriate for all of us here to hear that Prayer, as a symbol of what that Prayer says and what this (Flag) Day means throughout all the world.

~~As soon as possible~~ It is a great pleasure to add two nations to the Pact, which the 26 of them have already signed.

Now if the original document can be brought forward, it will be signed, first by the Ambassador from our sister Republic of Mexico, and immediately thereafter by the President of the Commonwealth of the Philippines.

*(The two signings were then accomplished,  
recorded by the newsreels and stills)*

May I add, there is plenty of room for more signatures later on. I will turn it over to the secretary of state, the custodian.

Well, I think that about concludes what we have got -- a successful day. That will hold it. A good job. Thanks for coming.



HOLD FOR RELEASE

HOLD FOR RELEASE

HOLD FOR RELEASE

June 13, 1942

CAUTION: The following address of the President for United Flag Day, Sunday, June 14th, MUST BE HELD IN CONFIDENCE for release in regular editions of newspapers for Monday morning, June 15, 1942.

NOTE: The text of this speech must not be broadcast in English earlier than 5:50 P.M., E.W.T., Sunday, June 14, 1942.

CARE MUST BE EXERCISED TO PREVENT PREMATURE PUBLICATION.

(2) INSERT B

STEPHEN EARLY  
Secretary to the President

*2 JUN 1942*  
*2 JUN 1942*  
*Romalee: Please type straight, don't show deviation*  
*changes*  
Today on Flag Day we celebrate the declaration of the United Nations -- that great alliance dedicated to the defeat of our foes and to the establishment of true peace based on the freedom of man. Today the Republic of Mexico and the Commonwealth of the Philippine Islands join us. We welcome these valiant peoples to the company of those who fight for freedom.

The four freedoms of common humanity are as much elements of man's needs as air and sunlight, bread and salt. Deprive him of all these freedoms and he dies -- deprive him of a part of them and a part of him withers. Give them to him in full and abundant measure and he will cross the threshold of a new age, the greatest age of man.

These freedoms are the rights of man of every creed and every race, wherever they live. This is their heritage, long-withheld. We of the United Nations have the power and the men and the will at last to assure man's heritage.

The belief in the four freedoms of common humanity -- the belief in man, created free, in the image of God -- is the crucial difference between ourselves and the enemies we face today. In it lies the absolute unity of our alliance, opposed to the oneness of the evil we hate. Here is our strength, the source and promise of victory.

omitted → We of the United Nations know that our faith cannot be broken by any man or any force. And we know that there are other millions who in their silent captivity share our belief.

We ask the German people, still dominated by their Nazi whipmasters, whether they would rather have the mechanized hell of Hitler's "New" Order or -- in place of that, freedom of speech and religion, freedom from want and from fear.

We ask the Japanese people, trampled by their savage lords of slaughter, whether they would rather continue slavery and blood or, in place of them -- freedom of speech and religion, freedom from want and from fear.

We ask the brave, unconquered people of the nations the Axis invaders have dishonored and despiled whether they would rather yield to conquerors or, -- have freedom of speech and religion, freedom from want and from fear.

We know the answer. They know the answer. We know that man, born to freedom in the image of God, will not forever suffer the oppressors' sword. The peoples of the United Nations, are taking that sword from the oppressors' hands. With it they will destroy those tyrants. The brazen tyrannies pass. Men march forward toward the light.

*Hands.*      *want to read to all of you*  
I am going to close by reading you a prayer that has been written for the United Nations on this Day:

"God of the free, we pledge our hearts and lives today to the cause of all free mankind."

"Grant us victory over the tyrants who would enslave all free men and nations. Grant us faith and understanding to cherish all those who fight for freedom as if they were our brothers. Grant us brotherhood in ~~hope~~ and union, not only for the space of this bitter war, but for ~~the~~ days to come which shall and must unite all the children of earth.

"Our earth is but a small star in the great universe. Yet of it we can make, if we choose, a planet un vexed by war, untroubled by hunger or fear, undivided by senseless distinctions of race, color or theory. Grant us that courage and foreseeing to begin this task today that our children and our children's children may be proud of the name of man.

"The spirit of man has awokened and the soul of man has gone forth. Grant us the wisdom and the vision to comprehend the greatness of man's spirit, that suffers and endures ~~so~~ <sup>honorably</sup> for a goal beyond his own brief span. Grant us honor ~~for~~ our dead who died in the faith, honor for our living who work and strive for the faith, redemption and security for all captive lands and peoples. Grant us patience with the deluded and pity for the betrayed. And grant us the skill and the valor that shall cleanse the world of oppression and the old base doctrine that the strong must eat the weak because they are strong.

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March

STATEMENTS FILE

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

- Transcribed Address  
of the  
President  
for  
United Flag Day

Radio Broadcast at 5:50 PM EWT

June 14, 1942



HOLD FOR RELEASE

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HOLD FOR RELEASE

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①  
*(Handwritten signature)*  
STEPHEN EARLY  
Secretary to the President

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