

August 6, 1942

[Queen of the Netherlands]

FDR Speech File

1942

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
ON TRANSFER OF SHIP
AUGUST 6, 1942

YOUR MAJESTY:

From the earliest days of history, the people of The Netherlands -- your people -- have been willing to fight for their freedom and independence. They have won out in the face of great odds.

Once more they are fighting for that independence. Once more they will win and maintain it.

We, too, are fighting for our freedom ~~and~~
~~independence~~ and it is natural and right that The Netherlands and the United States have joined hands in the common struggle.

The gallant exploits of your countrymen have won the admiration of all the other peoples of the world -- first, in The Netherlands itself and later in the Netherlands' Indies where, in the face of overwhelming numbers, your sons and our sons went down fighting to the bitter end on land and sea and

in the air. Their memory inspires us to redouble our efforts for the cause for which they gave their lives.

The Netherlands' Navy is today adding fresh laurels to those already won in battle from the North Sea to the Java Straits. We Americans can know no better cause than to assist your gallant Navy.

It is, therefore, as a tangible expression of our admiration for all that the Netherlands' Navy has done, and is doing, that I have the great pleasure of turning over to you, under the provisions of the Lend-Lease Act, this ship.

Built by American workers in American yards, she will hereafter fly the brave Ensign of The Netherlands.

And she will bear the name of one who has come to stand in the eyes of the world as a symbol of Netherlands' courage and Netherlands' determination.

For it is as the "QUEEN WILHELMINA" that she will
embark upon her new career.

I ask Your Majesty to receive this ship as a
symbol of the friendship and admiration of the people of
the United States.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Orig. reading copy

STATEMENTS FILE

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Remarks of The President
And

Her Majesty Wilhelmina, Queen of The Netherlands
Broadcast Nationally

At The Washington Navy Yard

On The Occasion of The Transfer
of a Ship

Under The Lend-Lease Act.

August 6, 1942

at

about 1.15 PM, EWT

The President spoke as follows:

STATEMENTS FILE

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Once more they are fighting for that independence. Once more they will win and maintain it.

We, too, ^{in the United States} are fighting for our freedom and it is natural and right that The Netherlands and the United States have joined hands in the common struggle.

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For it is as the "QUEEN WILHELMINA" that she will embark upon her new career.

And so I ask Your Majesty to receive this ship as a symbol of the friendship and admiration of the people of the United States.

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AUGUST 6, 1942

The following texts of remarks made by the President and by Her Majesty Wilhelmina, Queen of the Netherlands at the Washington Navy Yard on the occasion of the transfer of a ship under the Lend-Lease Act are for release in newspapers appearing on the streets not earlier than 1:15 P.M., E.S.T., Thursday, August 6, 1942.

The same release also applies to radio announcers and news commentators.

CARE MUST BE EXERCISED TO PREVENT PREMATURE PUBLICATION.

STEPHEN EARLY
Secretary to the President

The President spoke as follows:

YOUR MAJESTY:

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For it is as the "QUEEN WILHELMINA" that she will embark upon her new career.

I ask Your Majesty to receive this ship as a symbol of the friendship and admiration of the people of the United States.

The response of Her Majesty Wilhelmina, Queen of the Netherlands, was as follows:

MR. PRESIDENT:

I am very happy that the transfer of this vessel under the provisions of the lend lease agreement takes place during my presence in Washington. This enables me to thank you personally for your gracious initiative and for your continued personal interest.

I see in this ceremony fresh evidence of the excellent spirit of friendship which ever since the days of Paul Jones has existed between our two navies.

This admirable vessel, replete with the most modern technical devices, is a valuable addition to our naval forces.

It will operate in close ^{John} ~~collaboration~~ ^{cooperation} with the United States Navy against our common enemies. The officers and crew will do all they can to live up to the friendly thought to which we owe this new unit of our Navy.

I ~~have~~ gladly accepted your suggestion to give it my name.

May your love of the sea and of seamanship pervade this vessel and inspire those on board.

With this wish I now commission the Queen Wilhelmina.

The response of Her Majesty Wilhelmina, Queen of the Netherlands, was as follows:

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REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AND
HER MAJESTY WILHELMINA, QUEEN OF THE NETHERLANDS
BROADCAST NATIONALLY
AT THE WASHINGTON NAVY YARD
ON THE OCCASION OF THE TRANSFER
OF A SHIP
UNDER THE LEND-LEASE ACT,
AUGUST 6, 1942, at about 1.15 P.M., E.W.T.

The President spoke as follows:

YOUR MAJESTY:

From the earliest days of history, the people of The Netherlands -- your people -- have been willing to fight for their freedom and independence. They have won out in the face of great odds.

Once more they are fighting for that independence. Once more they will win and maintain it.

We, too, in the United States are fighting for our freedom and it is natural and right that The Netherlands and the United States have joined hands in the common struggle.

The gallant exploits of your countrymen have won the admiration of all the other peoples of the world -- first, in The Netherlands itself and later in the Netherlands' Indies where, in the face of overwhelming (numbers) odds, your sons and our sons went down fighting to the bitter end on land and sea and in the air. Their memory inspires us to redouble our efforts for the cause for which they gave their lives.

The Netherlands' Navy is today adding fresh laurels to those already won in battle from the North Sea to the Java Straits. We Americans can know no better cause than to assist your gallant Navy.

It is, therefore, as a tangible expression of our admiration for all that the Netherlands' Navy has done, and is doing, that I have the

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.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
MAY 11 1941
12:00 PM
RECEIVED
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12:00 PM
RECEIVED

RECEIVED

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The following is a transcript of the speech made by the President of the United States at the White House, Washington, D. C., on May 11, 1941.

Mr. President, I have the honor to announce to you that the United States Government has decided to lend to the United Kingdom a certain number of military aircraft, and to provide for the maintenance of these aircraft in the United Kingdom.

This is a very important step in our policy of supporting the United Kingdom in its fight against the Axis powers. It shows that we are standing with the United Kingdom in its hour of need, and that we are determined to help it to win the war.

The aircraft which we are lending to the United Kingdom are of the latest type, and are of the highest quality. They are being lent to the United Kingdom on a loan basis, and will be returned to the United States when the war is over.

The maintenance of these aircraft in the United Kingdom will be provided for by the United States Government. This will include the cost of fuel, oil, and other supplies, as well as the cost of repairs and other expenses.

I am sure that you will be pleased to hear that the United States Government is taking these steps to support the United Kingdom in its fight against the Axis powers. It shows that we are standing with the United Kingdom in its hour of need, and that we are determined to help it to win the war.

great pleasure of turning over to you, under the provisions of the Lend-Lease Act, this ship.

Built by American workers in American yards, she will hereafter fly the brave Ensign of The Netherlands.

And she will bear the name of one who has come to stand in the eyes of the world as a symbol, a symbol of Netherlands' courage and Netherlands' determination.

For it is as the "QUEEN WILHELMINA" that she will embark upon her new career.

And so I ask Your Majesty to receive this ship as a symbol of the friendship and the admiration of the people of the United States.

The response of Her Majesty Wilhelmina, Queen of the Netherlands, was as follows:

MR. PRESIDENT:

I am very happy that the transfer of this vessel under the provisions of the lend-lease agreement takes place during my presence in Washington. This enables me to thank you personally for your gracious initiative and for your continued personal interest.

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This admirable vessel, replete with the most modern technical devices, is a valuable addition to our naval forces.

It will operate in close (collaboration) cooperation with the United States Navy against our common enemies. The officers and crew will do all they can to live up to the friendly thought to which we owe this new unit of our Navy.

I (have) gladly accept(ed) your suggestion to give it my name.

May your love of the sea and of seamanship pervade this vessel
and inspire those on board.

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Immediate Release

For the Press

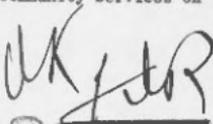
Statement by the President

Nov 13

'42

~~This afternoon the President expressed personal interest in the progress of Washington's first Community War Fund Campaign.~~

~~The President~~  It is my hope that Washington may set an outstanding example of generosity for the rest of the nation in providing its share for USO, War Relief, and necessary Community Services on the home front.



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*Suggested
Draft -
Not used*

Your Majesty:

There is an old proverb as true today as when it was coined: "God made the Ocean, but the Dutch made Holland."

For in truth, in all human history, few people have done more with less. The Dutch found Holland a sand spit on the North Sea. They made it, by centuries of patient toil, a green and fertile land.

And in the process the people of the Netherlands made their country much more than that. They made a land of free men, a land of justice and toleration for everyone, a land with a long record of devotion to human liberty. Nor did the Dutch forget these virtues when they went abroad. The contributions of Holland to our own country have been great and enduring. Everywhere the Netherlander has gone he has taken the ideals of Holland with him.

Today the Netherlands which we measure in square miles lies conquered by ruthless tyranny. But that other Netherlands, the Netherlands which we measure by human hearts lighted by the flame of freedom, is today stronger than ever. Whether prisoners at home or exiles abroad, the Dutch today are active participants in the battle for a new and better world.

In this battle, Your Majesty, the gallant exploits of your countrymen have won the admiration of all the free peoples of the world. Today, as ever in the past, the name of the Netherlands is synonymous with courage and constancy. The Dutch have not forgotten that they won their freedom only through bitter struggle. They know they must regain it the same way.

A name which will ever be associated with the struggle which won the Netherlands her independence is that of the Watergeuzen, those little bands of ragged patriots who took to the sea to strike their blows for liberty. The tradition of fighting seamanship they left their countrymen was made even more glorious by the genius of such great admirals as Tromp and de Ruyter. It is particularly fitting therefore, that today the Navy is taking an outstanding part in the war activities of the Netherlands government. From the very first day of the invasion of the Netherlands, when the destroyer JAN VAN GALEN dashed to the defense of Rotterdam, the Netherlands Navy has shown the same fighting spirit which animated its distinguished seamen of the past. It was a Dutch submarine which sank the first Japanese ship destroyed in the War of the Pacific. And in the days which followed the Netherlands Navy in the Far East made the astonishing record of sinking a ship a day for 52 days.

The outcome of that battle, as we all know, was to be defeat by overwhelming numbers. Yet we in America cannot forget how our sons and yours -- outnumbered but not outfought -- went down fighting to the bitter end. We mourn their loss. And at the same time their memory inspires us to redouble our efforts for the cause for which they gave their lives.

We can be sure that the Netherlands will rise again to be physically, as she has never ceased to be spiritually, a free land. We can be sure that the Netherlands Navy will add fresh laurels to those

already won in battles from the North Sea to the Java Straits. And in this confidence we Americans can know no better cause than to assist this gallant Navy in the heavy task it has undertaken. Netherlands losses have been heavy because Netherlands seamen have never hesitated to take their ships into the heart of danger. To help to replace these losses by assistance under the Lend-Lease Act is a privilege which we are proud is ours.

It is, therefore, as a tangible expression of our admiration for the gallantry of the Netherlands Navy that I have, your Majesty, the great pleasure of turning over to you, under the provisions of the Lend-Lease Act, this ship. Built by American workers in American yards, she will hereafter fly the brave ensign of the Netherlands. And she will bear the name of one who has come to stand in the eyes of the world as a symbol of Netherlands courage and determination. For it is as THE QUEEN WILHELMINA that she will embark upon her new career.

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