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

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

File No. 1432

1942 September 16

**Remarks on the Transfer of a Ship to Norway
under Lend-Lease**

SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT
SEPTEMBER 16, 1942

YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS, MR. AMBASSADOR^s ~~MR. PRESTON,~~

If there is anyone who still wonders why this war is being fought, let him look to Norway. If there is anyone who has any delusions that this war could have been averted, let him look to Norway. And if there is anyone who doubts ~~the~~ the democratic will to win, again I say, let him look to Norway.

He will find in Norway, at once conquered and unconquerable, the answer to his questioning.

We all know how this most peaceful and innocent of countries was ruthlessly violated. The combination of treachery and brute force which conquered Norway will live in history as the blackest deed of a black era. Norway fought valiantly with what few weapons there were at hand -- and fell.

And with Norway fell the concept that either remoteness from political controversy or usefulness to mankind could give any nation immunity from attack in a world where aggression spread unchecked.

But the story of Norway since the conquest shows that while a free democracy may be slow to realize its danger, it can be heroic when aroused. At home, the Norwegain people have silently resisted the invader's will with grim endurance. Abroad, Norwegain ships and Norwegian men have rallied to the cause of the United Nations. And their assistance to that cause has been out of all proportion to their small numbers. The Norwegian merchant marine has lost some two hundred ships and thirteen hundred seamen in carrying the supplies vital to our own and Allied forces overseas. Nor has the Norwegian Navy been less active. Norse fighting ships battled valiantly but vainly against the invader --

destroying one-third of the German invasion fleet before they were overwhelmed by superior forces. Right now the blue cross of Norway flies on the fourth largest Navy of the United Nations -- a Navy whose operations extend from the North Sea to the Indian Ocean.

It is today the privilege of the people of the United States, through the mechanism of the Lend-Lease Law, to assist this gallant navy in carrying out its present heavy duties.

Your Royal Highness, as a token of the admiration and friendship of the American people toward your country and her Navy, I ask you to receive this ship. We Americans, together with the millions of loyal Norwegians, are glad that this ship is being given today the name of the King of Norway -- a leader well versed in the ways of the sea, a true leader who, with his people, has always stood for the freedom of the seas for all nations. May this ship long keep the seas in the battle for liberty. May the day come when she will carry the Norwegian flag into a home port in a free Norway!

***** *Franklin D. Roosevelt*

*Hip 33815
1941-1945*

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
ON THE OCCASION OF THE TRANSFER OF A SHIP,
KING HAAKON VII, TO NORWAY
BROADCAST OVER THE RADIO
AT 12.30 P.M., E.W.T.,
SEPTEMBER 16, 1942

YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS, MR. AMBASSADOR:

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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.

and we will you produce 11:00 only except at about 11
and we may be under the shadow of 10:30 now and not return
to 11:00 until 11:30. Please send your bill to me and don't mind
me or 11:00 sign enough our article the action of about 11 has become
reduced to (1) and this self-type of simple
statements and descriptions can be compared with like
statements and descriptions made by other
countries to compare the difference between
what they are consistent in information and certainly greater
in the last statement and no greater difference in many respects than
in the same sources and same date yesterday which you sent me
and I cannot make that comparison and the point of
difference and those points of similarity in presenting material
in much more detail, as some sources do better than others
in this case and probably the main reason is that the
more detail is given, you get the more or less of the argument and
the more detail usually goes along with it and so it is
difficult to argue because, (1) there is no evidence of the other
countries than the American, English and Canadian and all
of these like most of us know lie to the one and none tell the

Norwegian merchant marine has lost some two hundred ships and thirteen hundred seamen in carrying the supplies vital to our own and Allied forces overseas. Nor has the Norwegian Navy been less active. Norse fighting ships battled valiantly but vainly against the invader -- destroying one-third of the German invasion fleet before they were overwhelmed by superior forces. Right now the blue cross of Norway flies on the fourth largest Navy of the United Nations -- a Navy whose operations extend from the North Sea to the Indian Ocean.

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HOLD FOR RELEASE

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SEPTEMBER 16, 1942

The following texts of remarks made by the President and by Her Royal Highness, Crown Princess Martha, of Norway 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 12:30, E. W. T., Wednesday, September 16, 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

P.P.E.
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MR. PRESIDENT:

On behalf of The King and The Government of Norway I am very happy to accept this ship of war, which under the provisions of the Lend-Lease Act you have today transferred to my country. Having just returned from London, I am in a position to bear personal witness to the deep appreciation with which your friendly and generous action is being received by those who lead the Norwegian people in its fight for freedom.

But not only the leaders, — also Norwegian men and women everywhere, on sea and on land, on the home front and on the external front, are stirred at what is taking place here to-day. It is not alone what this admirable, technically complete submarine-chaser means as an addition to our fighting Navy, but also, and not the least, what it signifies as an expression of the friendship and common purpose of our great comrade-in-arms, the American people.

The beautiful and generous words just expressed by you, Mr. President, about the Norwegian people and its contribution to our common cause, will ultimately find their way to every Norwegian home, every Norwegian ship on the seven seas, yes, to everywhere on this globe where Norwegian men and women are praying and working and fighting to regain the free and happy Norway of our deepest longing.

Especially coming from one whose clear vision and unfaltering courage has contributed immeasurably to rally the forces of freedom, your words will bring hope and renewed faith in deliverance from the yoke of the barbarians.

The tidings of America's rapidly increasing mobilized manpower and war-production, of the flaming spirit of America's fighting forces already manifested in engagements on land, sea and in the air, are every day telling our hard-tried people that with such an ally we cannot fail.

The Royal Norwegian Navy is proud and happy to call their own this ship, named after our beloved leader, King Haakon VII. Those who are going to take her into the thick of our common battle tell me, that their greatest ambition shall be to show themselves worthy of their flag, and of the trust and friendship of the President and the people of the United States.

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Sept. 16-1942.
WM/SH

STATEMENTS FILE

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Remarks of the President /
On the Occasion
of the Transfer of a Ship /
King Haakon VII,
of Norway |
Broadcast over the Radio |
AP

12.30 PM, EWT

September 16, 1942.



Ramsey:

Just type President's speech and
include ^{some} copies of the mimeograph
referred to take care of Crown Princess
remarks. J. Mognat

STATEMENTS FILE

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*dictated from
Ski Note
J. Roosevelt*
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