Remarks on the Transfer of a Ship to Norway under Lend-Lease
YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS, MR. AMBASSADOR:

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 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 Norwegian people have silently resisted the invader's will with grim endurance. Abroad, Norwegian 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!
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HOLD FOR RELEASE       HOLD FOR RELEASE       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
The following text of remarks made by the President and by Her Royal Highness, the 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 12:00, E.V.T., Wednesday, September 16, 1942.

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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 today. 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 comrades-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 dearest 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 fighting 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 her flag, and of the trust and friendship of the President and the people of the United States.
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 Land Lease Act you have 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
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the United States.
Remarks of the President
On the occasion
Of the Transfer Of A Ship

King Haakon VII,
2nd Norway

Broadcast over the Radio

12.30 PM, EWT
September 16, 1942

Remarks:
Just type President's speech and include copies of the memorandum where it total care of Crown Prince

Remarks
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