March 11, 1943 [Message to Lend-Lease Luncheon] 1456

FDR Speech File

[redacted] President Roosevelt's Message to Lend-Lease Luncheon - March 11, 1943

Two years ago, on March 11, 1941, the Lend-Lease Act was approved.

Hitler had promised his people that this war would be a short one, a single front war,-that our aid would be too little and too late.

Such also were the promises of the military Junta of Japan.

Time has given the lie to their promises.

Our promises have stood the test of time.

For today, as we observe the second anniversary of the Lend-Lease Act, the United Nations are on the offensive.

Two years ago the question was -- where would the Axis strike next. Now, the question is -- where will the United Nations strike next. The enemy will receive its answers on battlefields of our own choosing.

As we strike again and again, lend-lease and reciprocal aid will contribute increasingly to the inevitable defeat of the Axis.

And this mutual aid has become more than a joint weapon of war. In the smoke of battle, lend-lease is helping to forge the unity that will be required to make a just and lasting peace.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

1941

March 11, 1943

Dear Henry:

The President has written a statement and asked me to put it in your hands.

The President's statement is, as I understand the arrangements already made, to be read by you as part of the radio broadcast which takes place at noon today in connection with the Lend-Lease Anniversary Luncheon given by Mr. Stettinius. Will you therefore be kind enough to read this message for the President on this occasion?

Very sincerely yours,

STEPHEN EARLY
Secretary to the President

Honorable Henry A. Wallace,
The Vice President,
Washington, D. C.

Enclosure

BY MESSENGER

STE:mb

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT
READ BY VICE PRESIDENT WALLACE
AT THE LUNCHEON GIVEN BY
LEND-LEASE ADMINISTRATOR STETTINIUS
IN RECOGNITION OF THE
SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF LEND-LEASE
BROADCAST NATIONALLY
MARCH 11, 1943

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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.

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FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

STATEMENTS FILE

HOLD FOR RELEASE MARCH 11, 1943

NOTE: Release upon delivery.

PLEASE GUARD AGAINST PREMATURE RELEASE.

Type final

STEPHEN EARLY
Secretary to the President

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The following is a statement by the President to be read by Vice President Wallace at the luncheon given today by Lend-Lease Administrator Stettinius in recognition of the Second Anniversary of Lend-Lease:

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FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

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