

~~Ms A~~ 17, 1944

[Signing Second Extension of Land-Lease Act]

FDR Speech File

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT ON THE SIGNING
OF THE SECOND EXTENSION OF THE LEND-LEASE ACT

Once again, by overwhelming majorities, the elected representatives of the American people in the Congress have affirmed that lend-lease is a powerful weapon working for the United States and the other United Nations against our common enemies. For the third time, I am affixing my approval to a ~~the~~ Lend-Lease Act.

When, on March 11, 1941, the Lend-Lease Act first became law, Britain stood virtually alone before the tide of Axis aggression which had swept across western Europe. Everywhere the peace-loving peoples of the world were facing disaster. But the passage of the Lend-Lease Act gave firm assurance to those resisting the aggressors that the overpowering material resources of the United States were on their side.

After we were attacked on December 7, 1941, lend-lease became an essential part of our own war effort.

The promise of ever-increasing help which the United States held forth to those who defied the Axis has been fulfilled. In April 1941, the first full month of the lend-lease program, we furnished aid valued at 28 million dollars. In the month of March 1944, the lend-lease aid supplied amounted to \$1,628,554,000.00 -- almost as much as the aid rendered during ^{the} the first year of lend-lease operations. From the beginning of the lend-lease program in March 1941 to April 1, 1944, our aid totalled \$24,224,806,000.00.

Through lend-lease and reverse lend-lease, the material resources and supplies of the United Nations have been pooled for their most effective use against our common enemies.

~~In the decisive battles ahead of us,~~ The combined forces and the combined resources of the United Nations ~~are~~ striking with their united strength from all directions against the

heart of Nazi Germany. ~~In these battles~~ Our fighting men
~~are~~ joined with British, Soviet, French, Dutch, Polish,
Czech, Yugoslavian and the fighting men of the other United
Nations. In the Far East and in the Pacific, combined
United Nations fighting forces are also striking with increas-
ing power against the Japanese.

This unity of strength, both in men and in resources,
among the free peoples of the world will bring complete and
final victory. That victory will come sooner, and will cost
less in lives and materials because we have pooled our man-
power and our material resources, as United Nations, to
defeat the enemy.

..... *Franklin D. Roosevelt*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 17, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT.

The FEA people would like to have you issue a statement upon signing the attached extension of the Lend-Lease Act. They submitted a draft which I have cut about a half and revised as per the attached draft.

If satisfactory I shall give it to Steve for release.

jm
S. I. R.

OK
zck

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 17, 1944

The President today approved H. R. 4254, the extension of the Lend-Lease Act, and issued the following statement:

"Once again, by overwhelming majorities, the elected representatives of the American people in the Congress have affirmed that lend-lease is a powerful weapon working for the United States and the other United Nations against our common enemies. For the third time, I am affixing my approval to a Lend-Lease Act.

"When, on March 11, 1941, the Lend-Lease Act first became law, Britain stood virtually alone before the tide of Axis aggression which had swept across western Europe. Everywhere the peace-loving peoples of the world were facing disaster. But the passage of the Lend-Lease Act gave firm assurance to those resisting the aggressors that the overpowering material resources of the United States were on their side.

"After we were attacked on December 7, 1941, lend-lease became an essential part of our own war effort.

"The promise of ever-increasing help which the United States held forth to those who defied the Axis has been fulfilled. In April 1941, the first full month of the lend-lease program, we furnished aid valued at 28 million dollars. In the month of March 1944, the lend-lease aid supplied amounted to \$1,629,554,000.00-- almost as much as the aid rendered during the entire first year of lend-lease operations. From the beginning of the lend-lease program in March 1941 to April 1, 1944, our aid totalled \$24,224,806,000.00.

"Through lend-lease and reverse lend-lease, the material resources and supplies of the United Nations have been pooled for their most effective use against our common enemies.

"The combined forces and the combined resources of the United Nations are striking with their united strength from all directions against the heart of Nazi Germany. Our fighting men are joined with British, Soviet, French, Dutch, Polish, Czech, Yugoslavian and the fighting men of the other United Nations. In the Far East and in the Pacific, combined United Nations fighting forces are also striking with increasing power against the Japanese.

"This unity of strength, both in men and in resources, among the free peoples of the world will bring complete and final victory. That victory will come sooner, and will cost less in lives and materials because we have pooled our manpower and our material resources, as United Nations, to defeat the enemy."

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 17, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT.

The FEA people would like to have you issue a statement upon signing the attached extension of the Lend-Lease Act. They submitted a draft which I have cut about a half and revised as per the attached draft.

If satisfactory I shall give it to Steve for release.

S. I. R.

by the President

STATEMENT ON THE SIGNING OF THE
SECOND EXTENSION OF THE LEND-LEASE ACT

This is the third time that I have approved the Lend-Lease Act. Once again, by overwhelming majorities, the elected representatives of the American people in the Congress have affirmed that lend-lease is a powerful weapon working for the United States and the other United Nations against our common enemies.

On the third time, I am off my very approval to the Lend-Lease Act.

[It was only 38 months ago—on March 11, 1941—that] the Lend-Lease Act first became law. [Then,] Britain stood virtually alone [before] between the United States and [the] tide of Axis aggression which had swept across western Europe. [Everywhere the Axis was winning battles.] Everywhere the peace-loving peoples of the world were facing disaster. [With] the passage of the Lend-Lease Act, the nations gallantly maintaining their resistance to the aggressors, who sought to dominate the world, were able to fight on with the firm assurance that the [tremendous] material resources of the United States were on their side.

After we were attacked on December 7, 1941, lend-lease became an essential part of our own war effort. [Under lend-lease, we continued to provide to our allies not only planes, tanks, guns and ships to supplement their own resources, but the war supplies and equipment which they needed to produce more planes, tanks, guns and ships to fight enemies who were ours as well as theirs.]

As I told the Congress on September 11, 1941, in the Second Lend-Lease Report: "It is our task to turn the workshops of our industry into mighty forges of war—to outbuild the aggressors in every category of modern arms. . . . Planes, tanks, guns and ships have begun to flow from our factories and yards, and the flow will accelerate from day to day, until the stream becomes a river, and the river a torrent, engulfing the totalitarian tyranny which seeks to dominate the world."

if ever necessary help which the United States will lend to those who defend the West

The ~~that~~ promise has been fulfilled. ~~In March 1941 we furnished~~

~~humanitarian aid valued at 10 million dollars.~~ In the month of March 1944, the lend-lease aid supplied amounted to \$1,629,554,000.00—almost as much as the aid rendered ^{during} in the first ~~twelve months~~ ^{used} of lend-lease operations. From the beginning of the lend-lease program in March 1941 to April 1, 1944, our aid totalled \$24,224,806,000.00.

~~Today our fighting forces, those of our Allies as well as our~~
~~are fighting shoulder to shoulder against the common foe with~~
~~ever increasing strength.~~ Through lend-lease ^{reverse} and lend-lease, in re-
verse, the material resources and supplies of the United Nations have
been pooled ~~so that they can be most effectively used~~ ^{before our eyes} against our
common enemies.

In the decisive battles ahead of us, the combined ^{forces} ~~armies~~ and
the combined resources of the United Nations will strike with their
solid and united strength from all directions against the heart of Nazi
Germany. In these battles our fighting men will be joined with British,
Soviet, French, Dutch, Polish, Czech, Yugoslavian ^{the fighting men of the} and other United
Nations ~~fighting men.~~ In the Far East and in the Pacific, combined
United Nations fighting forces are also striking with increasing power
against the Japanese.

^{This united} ~~United in our~~ strength, ^{both in man and in resources, among} the strength of the free peoples of the
world ~~we shall achieve~~ complete and final victory. That victory will come
~~be won far~~ sooner, and ~~with far less~~ ^{will} cost, in lives and materials because,
~~as United Nations, we have pooled our manpower and our material resources~~
to defeat the enemy.

will bring
for the third time, by joining this
the United Nations, this will, then
after