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. 1518

1944 June 5

Radio Address re "Fall of Rome"
Yesterday, June fourth, 1944, Rome fell to American and Allied troops. The first of the Axis capitals is now in our hands. One up and two to go!

It is perhaps significant that the first of these capitals to fall should have the longest history of all of them. The story of Rome goes back to the time of the foundations of our civilization. We can still see there monuments of the time when Rome and the Romans controlled the whole of the then known world. That, too, is significant, for the United Nations are determined that in the future no one city and no one race will be able to control the whole of the world.
In addition to the monuments of the older times, we also see in Rome the great symbol of Christianity, which has reached into almost every part of the world. There are other shrines and other churches in many places, but the churches and shrines of Rome are visible symbols of the faith and determination of the early saints and martyrs that Christianity should live and become universal. And now it will be a source of deep satisfaction that the freedom of the Pope and of Vatican City is assured by the armies of the United Nations.

It is also significant that Rome has been liberated by the armed forces of many nations. The American and British armies -- who bore the chief burdens of battle -- found at their sides our own North American neighbors, the gallant Canadians. The fighting New Zealanders from the far South Pacific, the courageous French and the French Moroccans, the South Africans, the Poles and the East Indians -- all of them fought with us on the bloody approaches to Rome.
The Italians, too, forsaking a partnership in the Axis which they never desired, have sent their troops to join us in our battles against the German trespassers on their soil.

The prospect of the liberation of Rome meant enough to Hitler and his generals to induce them to fight desperately at great cost of men and materials and with great sacrifice to their crumbling Eastern line and to their Western front. No thanks are due to them if Rome was spared the devastation which the Germans wreaked on Naples and other Italian cities. The Allied Generals maneuvered so skilfully that the Nazis could only have stayed long enough to damage Rome at the risk of losing their armies.

But Rome is, of course, more than a military objective.

Ever since before the days of the Caesars, Rome has stood as a symbol of authority. Rome was the Republic. Rome was the Empire. Rome was the Catholic Church, and Rome was the capital of a United Italy. Later, unfortunately, Rome became the seat of Fascism -- one of the three capitals of the Axis.
For a quarter century the Italian people were enslaved and degraded by the rule of Mussolini from Rome. They will mark its liberation with deep emotion. In the north of Italy, the people are still dominated and threatened by the Nazi overlords and their Fascist puppets.

Our victory comes at an excellent time, while our Allied forces are poised for another strike at Western Europe -- and while armies of other Nazi soldiers nervously await our assault. And our gallant Russian Allies continue to make their power felt more and more.

From a strictly military standpoint, we had long ago accomplished certain of the main objectives of our Italian campaign -- the control of the sea lanes of the Mediterranean to shorten our combat and supply lines, and the capture of the airports of Foggia from which we have struck telling blows on the continent.
It would be unwise to inflate in our own minds the military importance of the capture of Rome. We shall have to push through a long period of greater effort and fiercer fighting before we get into Germany itself. The Germans have retreated thousands of miles, all the way from the gates of Cairo, through Libya and Tunisia and Sicily and Southern Italy. They have suffered heavy losses, but not great enough yet to cause collapse.

Germany has not yet been driven to surrender. Germany has not yet been driven to the point where she will be unable to recommence world conquest a generation hence.

Therefore, the victory still lies some distance ahead. That distance will be covered in due time -- have no fear of that. But it will be tough and it will be costly.

In Italy the people had lived so long under the corrupt rule of Mussolini that, in spite of the tinsel at the top, their economic condition had grown steadily worse. Our troops have found starvation, malnutrition, disease, a deteriorating education and lowered public health -- all by-products of the Fascist misrule.
The task of the Allies in occupation has been stupendous. We have had to start at the very bottom, assisting local governments to reform on democratic lines. We have had to give them bread to replace that which was stolen out of their mouths by the Germans. We have had to make it possible for the Italians to raise and use their own local crops. We have to help them cleanse their schools of Fascist trappings.

The American people as a whole approve the salvage of these human beings, who are only now learning to walk in a new atmosphere of freedom.

Some of us may let our thoughts run to the financial cost of it. Essentially it is what we can call a form of relief. At the same time we hope that this relief will be an investment for the future -- an investment that will pay dividends by eliminating Fascism and ending any Italian desires to start another war of aggression in the future. They are dividends which justify such an investment, because they are additional supports for world peace.
The Italian people are capable of self-government. We do not lose sight of their virtues as a peace-loving nation.

We remember the many centuries in which the Italians were leaders in the arts and sciences, enriching the lives of all mankind.

We remember the great sons of the Italian people -- Galileo and Marconi, Michelangelo and Dante -- and that fearless discoverer who typifies the courage of Italy -- Christopher Columbus.

Italy cannot grow in stature by seeking to build up a great militaristic empire. Italians have been overcrowded within their own territories, but they do not need to try to conquer the lands of other peoples in order to find the breath of life. Other peoples may not want to be conquered.

In the past, Italians have come by the millions to the United States. They have been welcomed, they have prospered, they have become good citizens, community and governmental leaders. They are not Italian-Americans. They are Americans -- Americans of Italian descent.
Italians have gone in great numbers to the other Americas, Brazil and the Argentine for example, and to many other nations in every continent of the world, giving of their industry and their talents, and achieving success and the comfort of good living.

Italy should go on as a great mother nation, contributing to the culture and progress and good will of all mankind -- and developing her special talents in the arts, crafts, and sciences, and preserving her historic and cultural heritage for the benefit of all peoples.

We want and expect the help of the future Italy toward lasting peace. All the other nations opposed to Fascism and Nazism should help give Italy a chance.

The Germans, after years of domination in Rome, left the people in the Eternal City on the verge of starvation. We and the British will do everything we can to bring them relief. Anticipating the fall of Rome, we made preparations to ship food supplies to the city, but it should be borne in mind that the needs are so great and the transportation requirements of our armies so heavy that improvement must be gradual. We have already begun to save the lives of the men, women and children of Rome.
This is an example of the efficiency of your machinery of war. The magnificent ability and energy of the American people in growing the crops, building the merchant ships, making and collecting the cargoes, getting the supplies over thousands of miles of water, and thinking ahead to meet emergencies -- all this spells, I think, an amazing efficiency on the part of our armed forces, all the various agencies working with them, and American industry and labor as a whole.

No great effort like this can be a hundred per cent perfect, but the batting average is very, very high.

I extend the congratulations and thanks of the American people to General Alexander, who has been in command of the whole Italian operation; to General Clark and General Leese of the Fifth and the Eighth Armies; to General Wilson, the Supreme Allied Commander of the Mediterranean theater, and General Devers his American Deputy; to General Eaker; to Admirals Cunningham and Hewitt; and to all their brave officers and men.

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But Rome is of course more than a military objective. Ever since before the days of the Caesars, Rome has stood as a symbol of authority. Rome was the Republic. Rome was the Empire. Rome was the Catholic Church, and Rome was the capital of a United Italy. Later, unfortunately, Rome became the seat of Fascism — one of the three capitals of the Axis.

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The task of the Allies in occupation has been stupendous. We have had to start at the very bottom, assisting local governments to reform on democratic lines. We have had to give them bread to replace that which was stolen out of their mouths by the Germans. We have had to make it possible for the Italians to raise and use their own local crops. We have to help them cleanse their schools of Fascist trappings.

The American people as a whole approve the salvage of these human beings, who are only now learning to walk in a new atmosphere of freedom.

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great militaristic empire. Italians have been overcrowded within
their own territories, but they do not need to try to conquer the
lands of other peoples in order to find the breath of life. Other
peoples may not want to be conquered.

In the past, Italians have come by the millions to the
United States. They have been welcomed, they have prospered;
they have become good citizens, community and governmental leaders;
They are not Italian-Americans. They are Americans — Americans
of Italian descent.

Italians have gone in great numbers to the other Americas —
Brazil and the Argentine, for example — and to many other nations
in every continent of the world, giving of their industry and their
talents, and achieving success and the comfort of good living.

Italy should go on as a great mother nation, contributing
to the culture and progress and good will of all mankind — and
developing her special talents in the arts, crafts, and sciences,
and preserving her historic and cultural heritage for the benefit
of all peoples.

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lasting peace. All the other nations opposed to Fascism and Nazism
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people in the Eternal City on the verge of starvation. We and the
British will do everything we can to bring them relief. Anticipating
the fall of Rome, we made preparations to ship food supplies to
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This is an example of the efficiency of your machinery
of war. The magnificent ability and energy of the American people
in growing the crops, building the merchant ships, making and
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and the Eighth Armies; to General Wilson, the Supreme Allied
Commander of the Mediterranean theater, and General Devers his
American Deputy; to Lieutenant General Eaker; to Admirals Cunningham
and Hewitt; and to all their brave officers and men.

May God bless them and watch over them and over all of
our gallant, fighting men.
ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
On The Fall Of Rome
June 5, 1944, 8.30 p.m., e.w.t.
Radio Broadcast

My friends:

Yesterday, on June fourth, 1944, Rome fell to American and Allied troops. The first of the Axis capitals is now in our hands. One up and two to go!

It is perhaps significant that the first of these capitals to fall should have the longest history of all of them. The story of Rome goes back to the time of the foundations of our civilization. We can still see there monuments of the time when Rome and the Romans controlled the whole of the then known world. That, too, is significant, for the United Nations are determined that in the future no one city and no one race will be able to control the whole of the world.

In addition to the monuments of the older times, we also see in Rome the great symbol of Christianity, which has reached into almost every part of the world. There are other shrines and other churches in many places, but the churches and shrines of Rome are visible symbols of the faith and determination of the early saints and martyrs that Christianity should live and become universal. And tonight (now) it will be a source of deep satisfaction that the freedom of the Pope and the (or) Vatican City is assured by the armies of the United Nations.
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.
It is also significant that Rome has been liberated by the armed forces of many nations. The American and British armies -- who bore the chief burdens of battle -- found at their sides our own North American neighbors, the gallant Canadians. The fighting New Zealanders from the far South Pacific, the courageous French and the French Moroccans, the South Africans, the Poles and the East Indians -- all of them fought with us on the bloody approaches to the city of Rome.

The Italians, too, forswearing a partnership in the Axis which they never desired, have sent their troops to join us in our battles against the German trespassers on their soil.

The prospect of the liberation of Rome meant enough to Hitler and his generals to induce them to fight desperately at great cost of men and materials and with great sacrifice to their crumbling Eastern line and to their Western front. No thanks are due to them if Rome was spared the devastation which the Germans wreaked on Naples and other Italian cities. The Allied Generals maneuvered so skillfully that the Nazis could only have stayed long enough to damage Rome at the risk of losing their armies.

But Rome is of course more than a military objective.

Ever since before the days of the Caesars, Rome has stood as a symbol of authority. Rome was the Republic. Rome was the Empire. Rome was and is in a sense the Catholic Church, and Rome was the capital of a United Italy. Later, unfortunately, a quarter of a century ago, Rome became the
seat of Fascism -- one of the three capitals of the Axis.

For this (a) quarter century the Italian people were enslaved. They were (and) degraded by the rule of Mussolini from Rome. They will mark its liberation with deep emotion. In the north of Italy, the people are still dominated and threatened by the Nazi overlords and their Fascist puppets. Somehow, in the back of my head, I still remember a name -- Mussolini.

Our victory comes at an excellent time, while our Allied forces are poised for another strike at Western Europe -- and while the armies of other Nazi soldiers nervously await our assault. And in the meantime our gallant Russian Allies continue to make their power felt more and more.

From a strictly military standpoint, we had long ago accomplished certain of the main objectives of our Italian campaign -- the control of the islands -- the major islands -- the control of the sea lanes of the Mediterranean to shorten our combat and supply lines, and the capture of the airports, such as the great airports of Foggia, south of Rome, from which we have struck telling blows on the continent -- the whole of the continent all the way up to the Russian front.

It would be unwise to inflate in our own minds the military importance of the capture of Rome. We shall have to push through a long period of greater effort and fiercer fighting before we get into Germany itself. The Germans have retreated thousands of miles, all the way from the gates of Cairo, through Libya and Tunisia and Sicily and Southern
Italy. They have suffered heavy losses, but not great enough yet to cause collapse.

Germany has not yet been driven to surrender. Germany has not yet been driven to the point where she will be unable to recommence world conquest a generation hence.

Therefore, the victory still lies some distance ahead. That distance will be covered in due time -- have no fear of that. But it will be tough and it will be costly, as I have told you many, many times.

In Italy the people had lived so long under the corrupt rule of Mussolini that, in spite of the tinsel at the top -- you have seen the pictures of him -- their economic condition had grown steadily worse. Our troops have found starvation, malnutrition, disease, a deteriorating education and lowered public health -- all by-products of the Fascist misrule.

The task of the Allies in occupation has been stupendous. We have had to start at the very bottom, assisting local governments to reform on democratic lines. We have had to give them bread to replace that which was stolen out of their mouths by the Germans. We have had to make it possible for the Italians to raise and use their own local crops. We have to help them cleanse their schools of Fascist trappings.

I think the American people as a whole approve the salvage of these human beings, who are only now learning to walk in a new atmosphere of freedom.

Some of us may let our thoughts run to the financial
cost of it. Essentially it is what we can call a form of relief. And at the same time, we hope that this relief will be an investment for the future -- an investment that will pay dividends by eliminating Fascism, by (and) ending any Italian desires to start another war of aggression in the future. And that means that they are dividends which justify such an investment, because they are additional supports for world peace.

The Italian people are capable of self-government. We do not lose sight of their virtues as a peace-loving nation.

We remember the many centuries in which the Italians were leaders in the arts and sciences, enriching the lives of all mankind.

We remember the great sons of the Italian people -- Galileo and Marconi, Michelangelo and Dante -- and incidentally that fearless discoverer who typifies the courage of Italy -- Christopher Columbus.

Italy cannot grow in stature by seeking to build up a great militaristic empire. Italians have been overcrowded within their own territories, but they do not need to try to conquer the lands of other peoples in order to find the breath of life. Other peoples may not want to be conquered.

In the past, Italians have come by the millions into (to) the United States. They have been welcomed, they have prospered, they have become good citizens, community and governmental leaders. They are not Italian-Americans. They
are Americans -- Americans of Italian descent.

The Italians have gone in great numbers to the other Americas -- Brazil and the Argentine, for example -- hundreds and hundreds of thousands of them. They have gone (and) to many other nations in every continent of the world, giving of their industry and their talents, and achieving success and the comfort of good living, and good citizenship.

Italy should go on as a great mother nation, contributing to the culture and the progress and the goodwill of all mankind -- (and) developing her special talents in the arts and crafts and sciences, and preserving her historic and cultural heritage for the benefit of all peoples.

We want and expect the help of the future Italy toward lasting peace. All the other nations opposed to Fascism and Nazism ought to (should) help to give Italy a chance.

The Germans, after years of domination in Rome, left the people in the Eternal City on the verge of starvation. We and the British will do and are doing everything we can to bring them relief. Anticipating the fall of Rome, we made preparations to ship food supplies to the city, but, of course, it should be borne in mind that the needs are so great, (and) the transportation requirements of our armies so heavy that improvement must be gradual. But we have already begun to save the lives of the men, women and children of Rome.

This, I think, is an example of the efficiency of your machinery of war. The magnificent ability and energy of the American people in growing the crops, building the
merchant ships, in making and collecting the cargoes, in getting the supplies over thousands of miles of water, and thinking ahead to meet emergencies -- all this spells, I think, an amazing efficiency on the part of our armed forces, all the various agencies working with them, and American industry and labor as a whole.

No great effort like this can be a hundred percent perfect, but the batting average is very, very high.

And so I extend the congratulations and thanks tonight of the American people to General Alexander, who has been in command of the whole Italian operation; to our General Clark and General Leese of the Fifth and the Eighth Armies; to General Wilson, the Supreme Allied Commander of the Mediterranean theater, to (and) General Devers his American Deputy; to (Lieutenant) General Eaker; to Admirals Cunningham and Hewitt; and to all their brave officers and men.

May God bless them and watch over them and over all of our gallant, fighting men.
EXCERPTS FOR THE NEWSREELS FROM THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS:

Take I

The first of the Axis capitals is now in our hands. One up and two to go!

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And now it will be a source of deep satisfaction that the freedom of the Pope and of Vatican City is assured by the armies of the United Nations.

But Rome is of course more than a military objective.

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STOP
TAKE II

The Italian people are capable of self-government. We do not lose sight of their virtues as a peace-loving nation.

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In the past, Italians have come by the millions to the United States. They have been welcomed, they have prospered, they have become good citizens, community and governmental leaders. They are not Italian-Americans. They are Americans — Americans of Italian descent.

STOP
TAKE III

The Germans, after years of domination in Rome, left the people in the Eternal City on the verge of starvation. We and the British will do everything we can to bring them relief. Anticipating the fall of Rome, we made preparations to ship food supplies to the city, but it should be borne in mind that the needs are so great and the transportation requirements of our armies so heavy that improvement must be gradual. We have already begun to save the lives of the men, women and children of Rome.

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I extend the congratulations and thanks of the American people to all the brave officers and men in the armed forces of the United Nations. May God bless them and watch over them and over all of our gallant, fighting men.

STOP
First Draft

It is well worth while to make a special mark on the calendar to signify that on June ___ 1944 Rome has fallen to American and Allied troops. The first of the Axis capitals is in our hands. One up and two to go.

It is perhaps significant that the most historic of these capitals should fall first—for the known story of Rome goes back to the foundations of what we call our civilisation. It is significant because we can see there today well preserved monuments of the time when Rome and the Romans controlled the whole of the then known world.

Perhaps it will be a good thing if from now on no one city and no one race are able to control the whole of the present known world—which means all of us.

And in addition to the monuments of the older times we see in Rome the greatest symbol of the Christianity which has reached into almost every part of the world. There are other shrines and other Churches in many places, but the church founded by St. Peter himself is a living symbol which breathes throughout the world.

Finally it is significant that Rome has been captured by armies of many nations. The American and British Armies played the greater part in the heavy fighting which edged slowly forward, but they were ably assisted by troops from another country of North America—Canada—and from the distant New Zealand in the South Pacific, and by the Poles and by East Indians, by French and French Moroccans. (Include others)

We all know that Italy is not liberated yet; that we have freed from Italian controls in North Africa—Ethiopia, Somoliland,
Eritrea, Tripolitania and Libya, all of Sicily and Sardinia and the boot of Italy. For good measure we have restored Corsica to the French.

But a glance at the map shows that the major part of the Italian peninsula—both in population and in acreage—is still in the hands of the Axis—primarily the Germans, though we have little information as to what operatic role Senor Mussolini is now singing.

What I want to emphasize especially in military terms—is the interdependence of every part of the European theater with every other part. What happens in Italy today has a direct bearing on what will happen in France and the Low Countries and Scandinavia and on the Russian front and in the Balkans.

I do not think that we should paint fancy pictures about what the fall of Rome will bring to the people in Northern Italy and especially to the people in Germany itself. We cannot assume it will destroy the morale of their civilian populations. It still looks as if we shall have to go through a long period of further effort, further fighting and further mopping up before we get into Germany itself. We know by now that the Germans have retreated hundreds and hundreds of miles, all the way from the gates of Cairo, through Libya and Tunisia and Sicily and back of Rome itself, with heavy losses to be sure, but not with losses in men and material great enough to cause their collapse.

Germany has not been driven to surrender. Germany has not yet been driven to the point of renouncing the right to recommence world conquest a generation hence.

Therefore the victory in a larger sense has not yet been won.
People sometimes wonder what the mopping up process to which I have referred actually means. It will vary in different nations. In Norway and the Netherlands and Belgium, for example, there has been, we hope, relatively little physical destruction of habitations and transportation. And most certainly the people, though starved and maltreated has retained its virile hatred of Nazism. In Poland, on the other hand, the destruction must have been unbelievable and the people have been shunted from one corner to another and hundreds and thousands of them have been massacred.

In Italy the people lived so long under Mussolini's rule that in spite of the tinsel at the top, their economic condition grew steadily worse, especially toward the end. We found starvation, malnutrition, disease, a deteriorating education and moral decay. (Work this out)

The task of the Allies on coming in was stupendous. We have had to build up simple local government on non-Fascist lines. We have had to make it possible for the Italians to raise their own local crops in peace and to prevent those crops from being stolen out of their mouths.

The American people as a whole approve the salvage of these human beings, seeing them started in learning to walk in an atmosphere of freedom. Some of us let our thoughts run to the cost of it. Essentially it is what we call relief. We at the same time hope that this relief is something that will pay dividends in the future—especially the dividends of the elimination of Fascism and the ending of the desire to start another war of aggression in twenty years. A dividend of peace looks to me like a good investment.
The Italian people are capable of self government. It seems wise for all the other nations opposed to Fascism and Nazism to give them a chance. I am deliberately intimating that this will help the United States from now on.

Rome for example has been on the verge of starvation under German domination. Hoping for its fall we and the British have already shipped many thousands of tons of food to Rome and now, Thank God that we are there, we can soon begin to save the lives of men, women, and children.

This is an example also of the machinery of war and its after effects. The magnificent response of our country in building the merchant ships, in making and collecting the cargoes, in getting the supplies over thousands of miles of water, and in thinking ahead to meet emergencies, I think, an amazing efficiency on the part of our armed forces and of the various agencies working with them. American farmers produced the food. American merchant seamen built the ships. American merchant seamen manned those ships and delivered the food to its destination. And all the while we were building munitions of war, building warships, and fighting ever more successful battles.

To use an old phrase of mine, no great effort like this can be a hundred percent perfect, but the batting average is very, very high.

I know that I extend the congratulations and good wishes of the American people to General Alexander, who has been in command of the whole Italian operation; to General Clark and General Leese of the Fifth and the Eighth Armies, and to General Wilson, the Supreme/Commander of the Mediterranean theater, and to all their gallant fighting men, for this striking climax in their continuing campaign.
The Italians are not best known for warlike qualities—thank God! In these days of war heavy hearts, qualities of peace are all the more to be admired.

We remember the many centuries in which Italians were leaders in the finer things of life. Their paintings, sculptures and literature have enriched the lives of all mankind. Their science and invention has benefited all the world.

Gallileo, Marconi, Cellini

Gallileo and Marconi, Cellini and Michel Angelo and Dante—these are names among the greatest of the great. And there is that dauntless adventurer who typifies the courage of a constructive race—Christopher Columbus.

Italy cannot grow in the stature of civilization by seeking to build up a great militaristic empire. Italians have been overcrowded within their own territories in the past, but they do not need to conquer the lands of other peoples in order to find the breadth of life. It is worth thinking about that the other peoples may not want to be conquered.

In the past Italians have found plenty of places to go to. They have gone, for example, by the millions to the United States. They have prospered, they have made good. They are not Italian-Americans. They are Americans—Americans of Italian descent.

Italians have gone in great numbers to Brazil. There they have been made welcome and have prospered. They have gone to the Argentine and become leading citizens of that great country.
And they have gone to many other nations in every continent of the world, giving of their industry and their talents and achieving success and the comfort of good living.

Their own land should go on as a great mother nation, contributing to the culture and progress and good will of all mankind—and sending forth sons and daughters to help in the upbuilding of other nations.

Aggression by a future Italy can be tolerated no more than aggression by future Germans or Japanese.

We want and expect the help of the future Italy toward lasting peace.
Second Draft.

It is well worth while to make a special mark on the calendar to signify that on June ___ 1944 Rome has fallen to American and Allied troops. The first of the Axis capitals is in our hands. One up and two to go.

It is perhaps significant that the first of these capitals to fall should be the most historic one of all. The story of Rome goes back to the foundations of what we call our civilization. We can see there today well preserved monuments of the time when Rome and the Romans controlled the whole of the then known world, and that, too, is significant.

It will be a good thing if from now on no one city and no one race are able to control the whole of the present known world—which means all of us.

And in addition to the monuments of the older times we see in Rome the greatest symbol of the Christianity which has reached into almost every part of the world. There are other shrines and other Churches in many places, but the church founded by St. Peter himself is a living symbol which breathes throughout the world.

Finally it is significant that Rome has been captured by armies of many nations. The American and British armies fought courageously as the battle edged slowly forward. They were ably assisted by our own North American neighbors, the gallant Canadians. And the fighting New Zealanders from the far off South Pacific, the courageous French and the French Moroccans, the Poles and the East Indians—they also fought with us on the bloody approaches to Rome. (Check for other)
The Italians, forsaking their erstwhile Axis partnership, have sent their troops against the German trespassers, and have acquitted themselves well on our battlefronts.

We all know that Italy is not yet liberated. In North Africa we have freed from Italian controls Ethiopia, Somaliland, Kritrea, Tripolitania and Libya, and then all of Sicily and Sardinia and the South of Italy. For good measure we have restored Corsica to the French.

But a glance at the map shows that the major part of the Italian peninsula—in population and in acreage—is still in the hands of the Axis—primarily the Germans, though we have little information as to what operative role Senor Mussolini is now singing.

What I want to emphasize especially—and I am thinking in military terms—is the interrelationship of every part of the European war theater with every other part. What happens tomorrow in France and the Low Countries and Scandinavia and on the Russian front and in the Balkans.

I do not think that we should paint fancy pictures about what the fall of Rome will mean to the people in Northern Italy and especially to the people in Germany itself.

True, it meant enough in the minds of Hitler and his generals to induce them to fight desperately—and at great cost to their crumbling Eastern line and to the Western front—to hold Rome for themselves.

From a strictly military standpoint, we had long before captured the main objectives of our Italian campaign—the control of the sea lanes of the Mediterranean and the airports
of Foggia, from which we have struck telling blows on the
continent.

But Rome is in a sense more than a military objective.
Ever since the days of the Caesars Rome has stood as a
symbol of authority. Rome was the Republic. Rome was the
Empire. Rome was the seat of Fascism, and as I have said,
one of the three capitals of the Axis.

The Italian people were enslaved and degraded for a
quarter century by the Rome of Mussolini, and they will
mark its fall with deep emotion. In the north of Italy,
however, the people are still dominated and threatened by
the Nazi overlords and their Fascist puppets. We will hope
that the fall capture of Rome may encourage resistance groups
in the north of Italy
/to redouble their efforts and make our own further advances
more swift.

The collapse of the German ring around Rome proves
that our soldiers can outfight the vaunted Nazi legions—the
so-called invincible Hitler line, the Herman Goering divisions
and the rest of the bloody Nazi war machine.

Our victory comes at a needed time, while other Allied
forces are poised for a strike at Western Europe—and while
lines of other Nazi soldiers nervously await our assault.

But it would be foolish to inflate in our own minds the
importance of the capture of Rome. (It is a
psychological victory as well as a military victory.) And we cannot
assume that this victory—the news of
which will be distorted by the Nazi propagandists for home
consumption—will destroy the morale of the German population.
It still appears that we shall have to push through a long
period of greater effort and fiercer fighting before we get into Germany itself. We know by now that the Germans have retreated hundreds and hundreds of miles, all the way from the gates of Cairo, through Libya and Tunisia and Sicily and all the way, with heavy losses to be sure, but not with losses in men and material great enough to cause their collapse.

Germany has not yet been driven to surrender. Germany has not yet been driven to the point of renouncing the right to recommence world conquest a generation hence.

Therefore the victory in a larger sense still lies some distance ahead.

The seizure of Rome will in a measure simplify the problems of the liberated areas. As I have said, Rome was the center of all Italian authority and when we came in the people were confused by any effort to give them free and democratic local administration.

In Italy the people had lived so long under the corrupt rule of Mussolini that in spite of the tinsel at the top, and after a first show of success, their economic condition had grown steadily worse. We found starvation, malnutrition, disease, a deteriorating education and moral decay, all by-products of the Fascist misrule.

The occupational task of the Allies has been stupendous. We have had to start at the very bottom, building local governments on democratic lines. We have had to make it possible for the Italians to raise their own local crops, and meanwhile we have had to give them bread to replace that which was stolen out of their mouths by the Germans. We have had to help them cleanse their schools of Fascist trappings.
The American people as a whole approve the salvage of these human beings, who are only learning to walk in a new atmosphere of freedom. Some of us let our thoughts run to the cost of it. Essentially it is what we call relief. We at the same time hope that this relief will be an investment for the future—an investment that will pay dividends in the form of the elimination of Fascism and the ending of any Italian desires to start another war of aggression in twenty years. It is a good investment which will pay a dividend of peace. Dividends of peace will justify the investment.

The Italian people are capable of self-government. They are not best known for warlike qualities—thank God! in these days people who are so warlike will not at lose sight of the virtues of a peace-loving race.

We remember the many centuries in which Italians were leaders in the things of life. Their paintings, sculptures, and literature have enriched the lives of mankind. (Their science and invention have benefited all the world.)

Gallileo and Marconi, Cellini and Michelangelo and Dante—these are names among the greatest of the great. And there is a certain fearless discoverer who typifies the courage of a useful race—Christopher Columbus.

Italy cannot grow in the stature of civilization by seeking to build up a great militaristic empire. Italians have been overcrowded within their own territories, but they do not need to conquer the lands of other peoples in order to find the breadth of life. It is worth thinking about that the other peoples may not want to be conquered.
In the past Italians have found plenty of places to go. They have gone, for example, by the millions to the United States. They have been welcomed, they have prospered, they have become good citizens, community leaders and governmental officials. They are not Italian-Americans. They are Americans—Americans of Italian descent.

Italians have gone in great numbers to Brazil. There they have been made welcome and have prospered. They have gone to the Argentine and become leading citizens of that great country, and they have gone to many other nations in every continent of the world, giving of their industry and their talents, and achieving success and the comfort of good living.

Italy should go on as a great mother nation, contributing to the culture and progress and good will of all mankind—and sending forth her sons and daughters to help in the upbuilding of other nations.

Aggression by a future Italy can be tolerated no more than aggression by future Germans or Japanese.

We want and expect the help of the future Italy toward lasting peace. Therefore it seems wise for all the other nations opposed to Fascism and Nazism to help give them a chance. If I am deliberately hinting that this will help the United States seem reasonable.

Let it not be forgotten that the Germans, after years of domination in Rome, left the Eternal City desolate and its people on the verge of starvation. Anticipating its fall, we and the British have already shipped overseas many thousands of tons of food for Rome and now, thank God, that we are there, we can soon begin to save the lives of the men and women and children of Rome.
This is an example of the machinery of war and its by-products. The magnificent response of our own country in building the merchant ships, in making and collecting the cargoes, in getting the supplies over thousands of miles of water, and in thinking ahead to meet emergencies, spells, I think, an amazing efficiency on the part of our armed forces and of the various agencies working with them. American farmers produced the food. American workers supplied the ships. American merchant seamen manned those ships and delivered the food to its destinations. And all the while the sea was building munitions of war, building warships, and fighting ever more successful battles.

To use an old phrase of mine, no great effort like this can be a hundred per cent perfect, but the batting average is very, very high.

I know that I can extend the congratulations and good wishes of the American people to General Alexander, who has been in command of the whole Italian operation; to General Clark and General Leese of the Fifth Army and the Eighth Armies, and to General Wilson, the Supreme Allied Commander of the Mediterranean theater, and to all their brave soldiers. They have continued to help us. They and we will always remember that.

May God bless them and watch over them and all of our gallant fighting men.
Third Draft.

It is well worthwhile to make a special mark on the calendar to signify that on June 4, 1944 Rome has fallen to American and Allied troops. The first of the Axis capitals is in our hands. One up and two to go.

It is perhaps significant that the first of these capitals to fall should be the most historic one of all. The story of Rome goes back to the foundations of what we call our civilization. We can see there today well preserved monuments of the time when Rome and the Romans controlled the whole of the then known world, and that, too, is significant.

It will be a good thing if from now on no one city and no one race are able to control the whole of the present known world—which means all of us.

And in addition to the monuments of the older times we see in Rome the greatest symbol of the Christianity which has reached into almost every part of the world. There are other shrines and other churches in many places, but the church founded by St. Peter himself is a living symbol which breathes throughout the world.

Finally, it is significant that Rome has been captured by armies of many nations. The American and British armies fought courageously as the battle edged slowly forward. They were ably assisted by our own North American neighbors, the gallant Canadians. And the fighting New Zealanders from the far South Pacific, the courageous French and the French Moroccans, the South Africans, the Poles and the East Indians—they also fought with us on the bloody approaches to Rome, partnership, have sent their troops against the German trespassers, and have acquitted themselves well on our battlefront.

I do not think that we should paint fancy pictures about what the fall of Rome will mean to the Axis populations and, more especially, to the people in Germany itself. True, it meant enough in the minds of Hitler and his generals to induce them to fight desperately—and at great cost to their crumbling Eastern line and to the Western front—to hold Rome for themselves.
From a strictly military standpoint, we had long before captured the main objectives of our Italian campaign - the control of the sea lanes of the Mediterranean and the airports of Foggia, from which we have struck telling blows on the continent.

But Rome is in a sense more than a military objective. Ever since the days of the Caesars Rome has stood as a symbol of authority. Rome was the Republic. Rome was the Empire. Then, Rome was the seat of Fascism, and as I have said, one of the three capitals of the Axis.

The Italian people were enslaved and degraded for a quarter century by Fule, from the Rone of Mussolini, and they will mark its fall with deep emotion. In the north of Italy, however, the people are still dominated and threatened by the Nazi overlords and their Fascist Fascist puppets. We will hope that the capture of Rome may encourage resistance groups in the north of Italy to redouble their efforts and make our own further advances more swift.

Our victory comes at an excellent time, while our Allied forces are poised for a strike at Western Europe - and while lines of other Nazi soldiers nervously await our assault.

But it would be foolish to inflate in our own minds the military importance of the capture of Rome. And we cannot assume that this victory - the news of which will be distorted by the Nazi propagandists for home consumption - will destroy the morale of the German population. It still appears that we shall have to push through a long period of greater effort and fiercer fighting before we get into Germany itself. We know by now that the Germans have retreated hundreds and hundreds of miles, all the way from the gates of Cairo, through Libya and Tunisia and Sicily and Southern Italy, with heavy losses to be sure, but not with losses in men and material great enough to cause full
collapse.

Germany has not yet been driven to surrender. Germany has not yet been driven to the point of renouncing the right to recommence world conquest a generation hence.

Therefore, the victory in a larger sense still lies some distance ahead.

In Italy the people had lived so long under the corrupt rule of Mussolini that in spite of the tinsel at the top, and after a first show of success, their economic condition had grown steadily worse. We have found starvation, disease, a deteriorating education and public health—all by-products of the Fascist misrule.

The occupational task of the Allies has been stupendous. We have had to start at the very bottom, building local governments on democratic lines. We have had to make it possible for the Italians to raise their own local crops, and meanwhile we have had to give them bread to replace that which was stolen out of their mouths by the Germans. We have to help them cleanse their schools of Fascist trappings.

The American people as a whole approve the salvage of these human beings, who are only now learning to walk in a new atmosphere of freedom. Some of us let our thoughts run to the cost of it. Essentially it is what we call relief. We at the same time hope that this relief will be an investment for the future—an investment that will pay dividends in the form of the elimination of Fascism and the ending of any Italian desires to start another war of aggression in twenty years. Dividends of future peace justify such an investment.

The Italian people are capable of self-government. They are not best known for war-like qualities—thank God! We do not lose sight of the
virtues of a peace loving race.

We remember the many centuries in which the Italians were leaders in the arts and sciences, enriching the lives of all mankind.

Galileo and Marconi, and Michelangelo and Dante - these are names among the greatest of the great. And there is a certain fearless discoverer who typifies the courage of a useful race - Christopher Columbus.

Italy cannot grow in the stature of civilization by seeking to build up a great militaristic empire. Italians have been overcrowded within their own territories, but they do not need to conquer the lands of other peoples in order to find the breadth of life. It is worth remembering that the other peoples may not want to be conquered.

In the past Italians have found plenty of places to go. They have gone by the millions to the United States. They have been welcomed, they have prospered, they have become good citizens, community and government leaders. They are not Italian-Americans. They are Americans - Americans of Italian descent.

Italians have gone in great numbers to Brazil, to the Argentine, and to many other nations in every continent of the world, giving of their industry and their talents, and achieving success and the comfort of good living.

Italy should go on as a great mother nation, contributing to the culture and progress and good will of all mankind - and sending forth her sons and daughters to help in the upbuilding of other nations.

We want and expect the help of the future Italy toward lasting peace. Therefore it seems wise for all the other nations opposed to Fascism and Nazism to help give them a chance.

Let it not be forgotten that the Germans, after years of domination in Rome, left the people in the Eternal City on the verge of
starvation. Anticipating its fall, we and the British have already shipped overseas many thousands of tons of food for Rome and now, thank God that we are there, we can soon begin to save the lives of the men and women and children of Rome.

This is an example of the efficiency of your machinery of war and its by-products. The magnificent response of the American people—in growing the crops, building the merchant ships, making and collecting the cargoes, getting the supplies over thousands of miles of water, and thinking ahead to meet emergencies—all this spells, I think, an amazing efficiency on the part of our armed forces and of the various agencies working with them.

To use an old phrase of mine, no great effort like this can be a hundred per cent perfect, but the batting average is very, very high.

I know that I can extend the congratulations and good wishes of the American people to General Alexander, who has been in command of the whole Italian operation; to General Mark Clark and General Leese of the Fifth and the Eighth Armies, and to General Wilson, the Supreme Allied Commander of the Mediterranean theater, and to all their brave soldiers. They have captured Rome. They, and we, will always remember that.

May God bless them and watch over them and all of our gallant fighting men.
Yesterday, June fourth, 1944, Rome fell to American and Allied troops. The first of the Axis capitals is now in our hands. One up and two to go!

It is perhaps significant that the first of these capitals to fall should have the longest history of all of them. The story of Rome goes back to the time of the foundations of our civilisation. We can still see there monuments of the time when Rome and the Romans controlled the whole of the then known world. That, too, is significant, for the United Nations are determined that in the future no one city and no one race will be able to control the whole of the world.

In addition to the monuments of the older times, we also see in Rome the great symbol of Christianity, which has reached into almost every part of the world. There are other shrines and other churches in many places, but the churches and shrines of Rome are visible symbols of the faith and determination of the early saints and martyrs that Christianity should live and become universal. And now it will be a source of deep satisfaction that the freedom of the Pope and of Vatican City are assured by the armies of the United Nations.

It is also significant that Rome has been liberated by the armed forces of many nations. The American and British armies — who bore the chief burdens of battle — found at their sides
our own North American neighbors, the gallant Canadians. The fighting New Zealanders from the far South Pacific, the courageous French and the French Moroccans, the South Africans, the Poles and the East Indians — all of them fought with us on the bloody approaches to Rome.

The Italians, too, forewearing a partnership in the Axis which they never desired, have sent their troops to join us in our battles against the German trespassers on their soil.

The prospect of the liberation of Rome meant enough to Hitler and his generals to induce them to fight desperately at great cost of men and materials and with great sacrifice to their crumbling Eastern line and to their Western front. No thanks are due to them if Rome was spared the devastation which the Germans wreaked on Naples and other Italian cities. The Allied Generals maneuvered so skillfully that the Nazis could only have stayed long enough to damage Rome at the risk of losing their armies.

But Rome is of course more than a military objective.
Ever since before the days of the Caesars, Rome has stood as a symbol of authority. Rome was the Republic. Rome was the Empire. Rome was the church, and Rome was the capital of a United Italy. Later, unfortunately, Rome became the seat of Fascism -- one of the three capitals of the Axis.

For a quarter century the Italian people were enslaved and degraded by the rule of Mussolini from Rome. They will mark its liberation with deep emotion. In the north of Italy, the people are still dominated and threatened by the Nazi overlords and their Fascist puppets. The enemies of Rome will encourage resistance groups in the north of Italy to redouble their efforts and accelerate our own further advances.

Our victory comes at an excellent time, while our Allied forces are poised for strikes at Western Europe -- and while James of other Nazi soldiers nervously await our assault. Our gallant Russian Allies continue to make their power felt more and more.

From a strictly military standpoint, we had long ago accomplished certain of the main objectives of our Italian campaign -- the control of the sea lanes of the Mediterranean to shorten our combat and supply lines, and the airports of Foggia from which we have struck telling blows on the continent.

It would be unwise to inflate in our own minds the military importance of the capture of Rome. We shall have to push through a long period of greater effort and fiercer fighting before we get into Germany itself. The Germans have retreated thousands
of miles, all the way from the gates of Cairo, through Libya and Tunisia and Sicily and Southern Italy. They have suffered heavy losses, but not great enough yet to cause collapse.

Germany has not yet been driven to surrender. Germany has not yet been driven to the point where she will be unable to recommence world conquest a generation hence.

Therefore, the victory still lies some distance ahead. That distance will be covered in due time — have no fear of that. But it will be tough and it will be costly.

In Italy the people had lived so long under the corrupt rule of Mussolini that, in spite of the tinSEL at the top, their economic condition had grown steadily worse. Our troops have found starvation, malnutrition, disease, a deteriorating education and lowered public health — all by-products of the Fascist misrule.

The task of the Allies in occupation has been stupendous. We have had to start at the very bottom, assisting local governments to reform on democratic lines. We have had to give them bread to replace that which was stolen out of their mouths by the Germans. We have had to make it possible for the Italians to raise their own local crops. We have to help them cleanse
their schools of Fascist trappings.

The American people as a whole approve the salvage of these human beings, who are only now learning to walk in a new atmosphere of freedom.

Some of us must let our thoughts run to the financial cost of it. Essentially it is what we can call a form of relief. At the same time we hope that this relief will be an investment for the future — an investment that will pay dividends by eliminating Fascism and ending any Italian desires to start another war of aggression in the future. They are dividends which justify such an investment because they are additional supports for world peace.

The Italian people are capable of self-government. We do not lose sight of their virtues as a peace-loving nation.
We remember the many centuries in which the Italians were leaders in the arts and sciences, enriching the lives of all mankind.

We remember the great sons of the Italian people — Galileo and Narconi, Michelangelo and Dante — and that fearless discoverer who typifies the courage of Italy — Christopher Columbus.

Italy cannot grow in stature by seeking to build up a great militaristic empire. Italians have been overworked within their own territories, but they do not need to try to conquer the lands of other peoples in order to find the breadth of life. Other peoples may not want to be conquered.

In the past, Italians have come by the millions to the United States. They have been welcomed, they have prospered, they have become good citizens, community and governmental leaders. They are not Italian-Americans. They are Americans — Americans of Italian descent.

Italians have gone in great numbers to the other Americas, and to many other nations in every continent of
the world, giving of their industry and their talents, and achieving success
and the comfort of good living.

Italy should go on as a great mother nation, contributing to the
culture and progress and good will of all mankind — and developing her special
talents in the arts, crafts, and sciences, and preserving her historic and cul-
tural heritage for the benefit of all peoples.

We want and expect the help of the future Italy toward lasting peace.

All the other nations opposed to Fascism and Nazism should help give Italy a chance.

The Germans, after years of domination in Rome, left the people in the
Eternal City on the verge of starvation. We and the British will do everything
we can to bring them relief. Anticipating the fall of Rome, we made preparations
to ship food supplies to the city, but it should be borne in mind that the needs
are so great and the transportation requirements of our armies so heavy that
improvement must be gradual. We commences to save the lives of the men,
women and children of Rome.

This is an example of the efficiency of your machinery of war. The
magnificent ability and energy of the American people in growing the crops,
building the merchant ships, making and collecting the cargoes, getting the
supplies over thousands of miles of water, and thinking ahead to meet
emergencies — all this spells, I think, an amazing efficiency on the part of our armed forces, all the various agencies working with them, and American industry and labor as a whole.

What we have done to help the Italian people, we are determined to do for all enslaved people who have been under the yoke of the Nazis — if they come to our side in time. The bold hearts of the men and women in the underground of Europe and Asia can take renewed faith and courage in the liberation of Rome. Their chains will come off too. And those peoples who have the misfortune to be in the satellite nations of Europe and Asia should take the liberation of Rome as an augury of what can happen to help them, if they will only help themselves by rising and striking against their captors when the time comes.

No great effort like this can be a hundred per cent perfect, but the batting average is very, very high.

I extend the congratulations and thanks of the American people to General Alexander, who has been in command of the whole Italian operation; to General Clark and General Leese of the Fifth and the Eighth Armies; to General Wilson, the Supreme Allied Commander of the Mediterranean theater, and General Devers his American Deputy; Lieutenant General Baker; and Admiral. 
FOURTH DRAFT

and Hewitt; and to all their brave officers and men.

May God bless them and watch over them, and all of our gallant, fighting men.

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FOURTH DRAFT

Yesterday, June fourth, 1944, Rome fell to American and Allied troops. The first of the Axis capitals is now in our hands. One up and two to go!

It is perhaps significant that the first of these capitals to fall should have the longest history of all of them. The story of Rome goes back to the time of the foundations of our civilization. We can still see there monuments of the time when Rome and the Romans controlled the whole of the then known world. That, too, is significant, for the United Nations are determined that in the future no one city and no one race will be able to control the whole of the world.

In addition to the monuments of the older times, we also see in Rome the great symbol of Christianity which has reached into almost every part of the world. There are other shrines and other churches in many places, but the churches and shrines of Rome are visible symbols of the faith and determination of the early saints and martyrs that Christianity should live and become universal. And now it will be a source of deep satisfaction that the freedom of the Pope and of Vatican City as guaranteed by the armies of the United Nations.

It is also significant that Rome has been liberated by the armed forces of many nations. The American and British armies - who bore the chief burdens of battle - found at their sides
our own North American neighbors, the gallant Canadians. The fighting New Zealanders from the far South Pacific, the courageous French and the French Moroccans, the South Africans, the Poles and the East Indians — all of them fought with us on the bloody approaches to Rome.

The Italians, too, forswearing a partnership in the Axis which they never desired, have sent their troops to join us in our battles against the German trespassers on their soil, and have acquitted them.

The prospect of the liberation of Rome meant enough to Hitler and his generals to induce them to fight desperately at great cost of men and materials and with great sacrifice to their crumbling Eastern line and to their Western front. No thanks are due to them if Rome was spared the devastation which the Germans wreaked on Naples and other Italian cities. The Allied Generals maneuvered so skillfully that the Nazis could only have stayed long enough to damage Rome at the risk of losing their armies. We know — and Hitler and Tojo know — that the Nazis can be beaten whether they are on the offensive or the defensive; and the Axis will learn that lesson again and again.

But Rome is of course more than a military objective.
FOURTH DRAFT

Ever since before the days of the Cæsars, Rome has been a symbol of authority. Rome was the Republic. Rome was the Empire. Rome was the Catholic Church, and Rome was the capital of a United Italy. Later, unfortunately, Rome became the seat of Fascism -- one of the three capitals of the Axis.

For a quarter century the Italian people were enslaved and degraded by the rule of Mussolini from Rome. They will mark its liberation with deep emotion. In the north of Italy, the people are still dominated and threatened by the Nazi overlords and their Fascist puppets. The capture of Rome will encourage resistance groups in the north of Italy to redouble their efforts and accelerate our own further advance.

Our victory comes at an excellent time, while our Allied forces are poised for a strike at Western Europe -- and while tens of other Nazi soldiers nervously await our assault. Our gallant Russian Allies continue to make their power felt more and more.

From a strictly military standpoint, we had long ago accomplished certain of the main objectives of our Italian campaign -- the control of the sea lanes of the Mediterranean to shorten our combat and supply lines, and the air ports of Foggia from which we have struck telling blows on the continent.

It would be unwise to inflate in our own minds the military importance of the capture of Rome. We shall have to push through a long period of greater effort and fiercer fighting before we get into Germany itself. The Germans have retreated thousands
of miles, all the way from the gates of Cairo, through Libya and Tunisia and Sicily and Southern Italy. They have suffered heavy losses, but not great enough yet to cause collapse.

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Therefore, the victory still lies some distance ahead. That distance will be covered in due time -- have no fear of that. But it will be tough and it will be costly.

In Italy the people had lived so long under the corrupt rule of Mussolini that, in spite of the tinsel at the top, their economic condition had grown steadily worse. Our troops have found starvation, malnutrition, disease, a lowered education and lowered public health -- all by-products of the Fascist misrule.

The task of the Allies in occupation has been stupendous. We have had to start at the very bottom, assisting local governments to reform on democratic lines. We have had to give them bread to replace that which was stolen out of their mouths by the Germans. We have had to make it possible for the Italians to raise their own local crops. We have to help them cleanse
FOURTH DRAFT

their schools of Fascist trappings.

The American people as a whole approve the salvage of these human beings, who are only now learning to walk in a new atmosphere of freedom.

Some of us must let our thoughts run to the financial cost of it. Essentially it is what we can call a form of relief. At the same time we hope that this relief will be an investment for the future — an investment that will pay dividends by eliminating Fascism and ending any Italian desires to start another war of aggression in the future. They are dividends which justify such an investment because they are additional supports for world peace.

The Italian people are capable of self-government. We do not lose sight of their virtues as a peace-loving nation.
We remember the many centuries in which the Italians were leaders in the arts and sciences, enriching the lives of all mankind.

We remember the great sons of the Italian people — Galileo and Marconi, Michelangelo and Dante — and that fearless discoverer who typifies the courage of Italy — Christopher Columbus.

Italy cannot grow in stature by seeking to build up a great militaristic empire. Italians have been overcrowded within their own territories, but they do not need to try to conquer the lands of other peoples in order to find the breath of life. Other peoples may not want to be conquered.

In the past, Italians have come by the millions to the United States. They have been welcomed, they have prospered, they have become good citizens, community and governmental leaders. They are not Italian-Americans. They are Americans — Americans of Italian descent.

Italians have gone in great numbers to the other Americas, and to many other nations in every continent of...
the world, giving of their industry and their talents, and achieving success and the comfort of good living.

Italy should go on as a great mother nation, contributing to the culture and progress and good will of all mankind — and developing her special talents in the arts, crafts, and sciences, and preserving her historic and cultural heritage for the benefit of all peoples.

We want and expect the help of the future Italy toward lasting peace. All the other nations opposed to Fascism and Nazism should help give Italy a chance.

The Germans, after years of domination in Rome, left the people in the Eternal City on the verge of starvation. We and the British will do everything we can to bring them relief. Anticipating the fall of Rome, we made preparations to ship food supplies to the city, but it should be borne in mind that the needs are so great and the transportation requirements of our armies so heavy that improvement must be gradual. We can soon begin to save the lives of the men, women and children of Rome.

This is an example of the efficiency of your machinery of war. The magnificent ability and energy of the American people in growing the crops, building the merchant ships, making and collecting the cargoes, getting the supplies over thousands of miles of water, and thinking ahead to meet
emergencies — all this spells, I think, an amazing efficiency on the part of our armed forces, all the various agencies working with them, and American industry and labor as a whole.

What we have done to help the Italian people, we are determined to do for all enslaved people who have been under the yoke of the Nazis — if they come to our side in time. The cold hearts of the men and women in the underground of Europe and Asia can take renewed faith and courage in the liberation of Rome. Their chains will come off too. And those peoples who have the misfortune to be in the satellite nations of Europe and Asia should take the liberation of Rome as an augury of what can happen to help them, if they will only help themselves by rising and striking against their captors when the time comes.

No great effort like this can be a hundred per cent perfect, but the batting average is very, very high.

I extend the congratulations and thanks of the American people to General Alexander, who has been in command of the whole Italian operation; to General Clark and General Leese of the Fifth and the Eighth Armies; to General Wilson, the Supreme Allied Commander of the Mediterranean theater, and General Devers his American Deputy; Lieutenant General Baker; and Admiral

Cummings and
Hewitt; and to all their brave officers and men.

May God bless them and watch over them and all of our gallant, fighting men.
May 5, 1944

My Friends:

Yesterday, June fourteenth, Rome fell to American and Allied troops. The first of the Axis capitals is now in our hands. One up and two to go!

It is perhaps significant that the first of these capitals to fall should have the longest history of all of them. The story of Rome goes back to the time of the foundations of our civilization. We can still see there monuments of the time when Rome and the Romans controlled the whole of the then known world. That, too, is significant, for the United Nations are determined that in the future no one city and no one race will be able to control the whole of the world.

In addition to the monuments of the older times, we also see in Rome the great symbol of Christianity, which has reached into almost every part of the world. There are other shrines and other churches in many places, but the churches and shrines of Rome are visible symbols of the faith and determination of the early saints and martyrs that Christianity should live and become universal. And now it will be a source of deep satisfaction that the freedom of the Pope and of Vatican City is assured by the armies of the United Nations.

It is also significant that Rome has been liberated by the armed forces of many nations. The American and British armies - who bore the chief burdens of battle - found at their sides our own North American neighbors, the gallant Canadians. The fighting New Zealanders from the far South Pacific, the courageous French and the French Moroccans, the South Africans, the Poles and the East Indians -- all of them fought with us on the bloody approaches to Rome.

The Italians, too, forswearing a partnership in the Axis which they never desired, have sent their troops to join us in our battles against the German trespassers on their soil.

The prospect of the liberation of Rome meant enough to Hitler and his generals to induce them to fight desperately at great cost of men and materials and with great sacrifice to their crumbling Eastern line and to their Western front. No thanks are due to them if Rome was spared the devastation which the Germans wreaked on Naples and other Italian cities. The Allied Generals maneuvered so skillfully that the Nazis could only have stayed long enough to damage Rome at the risk of losing their armies.
But Rome is of course more than a military objective.

Ever since the days of the Caesars, Rome has stood as a symbol of authority. Rome was the Republic. Rome was the Empire. Rome was the Catholic Church, and Rome was the capital of a United Italy. Later, unfortunately, Rome became the seat of Fascism — one of the three capitals of the Axis.

For a quarter century the Italian people were enslaved and degraded by the rule of Mussolini from Rome. They will mark its liberation with deep emotion. In the north of Italy, the people are still dominated and threatened by the Nazi overlords and their Fascist puppets.

It would be unwise to inflate in our own minds the military importance of the capture of Rome. We shall have to push through a long period of greater effort and fiercer fighting before we get into Germany itself. The Germans have retreated thousands of miles, all the way from the gates of Cairo, through Libya and Tunisia and Sicily and Southern Italy. They have suffered heavy losses, but not great enough yet to cause collapse.

Germany has not yet been driven to surrender. Germany has not yet been driven to the point where she will be unable to re-commence world conquest a generation hence.

Therefore, the victory still lies some distance ahead. That distance will be covered in due time — have no fear of that. But it will be tough and it will be costly, as I have told you many, many times.

In Italy the people had lived so long under the corrupt rule of Mussolini that, in spite of the terrors at the top, their economic condition had grown steadily worse. Our troops have found starvation, malnutrition, disease, a deteriorating education and lowered public health — all by-products of the Fascist misrule.

The task of the Allies in occupation has been stupendous. We have had to start at the very bottom, assisting local governments to reform on democratic lines. We have had to give them bread to replace that which was stolen out of their mouths by the Germans. We have had to make it possible for the Italians to raise and use their own local crops. We have to help them to cleanse their schools of Fascist trappings.

The American people as a whole approve the salvage of these human beings, who are only now learning to walk in a new atmosphere of freedom.

Some of us may let our thoughts run to the financial cost of it. Essentially it is what we can call a form of relief, at the same time we hope that this relief will be an investment for the future — an investment that will pay dividends by eliminating Fascism and ending any Italian desires to start another war of aggression in the future. They are dividends which justify such an investment, because they are additional supports for world peace.

And that means that...
The Italian people are capable of self-government. They do not lose sight of their virtues as a peace-loving nation.

We remember the many centuries in which the Italians were leaders in the arts and sciences, enriching the lives of all mankind.

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In the past, Italians have come by the millions to the United States. They have been welcomed, they have prospered, they have become good citizens, community and governmental leaders. They are not Italian-Americans. They are Americans — Americans of Italian descent.

The Italians have gone in great numbers to the other Americas — Brazil and the Argentine, for example — and to many other nations in every continent of the world, giving of their industry and their talents, and achieving success and the comfort of good living and good citizenship.

Italy should go on as a great mother nation, contributing to the culture and progress and good will of all mankind — and developing her special talents in the arts, crafts, and sciences, and preserving her historic and cultural heritage for the benefit of all peoples.

We want and expect the help of the future Italy toward lasting peace. All the other nations opposed to Fascism and Nazism should help give Italy a chance.

The German, after years of domination in Rome, left the people in the Eternal City on the verge of starvation. We and the British will do everything we can to bring them relief. Anticipating the fall of Rome, we made preparations to ship food supplies to the city, but it should be borne in mind that the needs are so great, and the transportation requirements of our armies so heavy that improvement must be gradual. We have already begun to save the lives of the men, women and children of Rome.

This is an example of the efficiency of your machinery of war. The magnificent ability and energy of the American people in growing the crops, building the merchant ships, making and collecting the cargoes, getting the supplies over thousands of miles of water, and thinking ahead to meet emergencies — all this spells, I think, an amazing efficiency on the part of our armed forces, all the various agencies working with them, and American industry and labor as a whole.

No great effort like this can be a hundred per cent perfect, but the batting average is very, very high.

And at tonight's Allied meeting, I extend the congratulations and thanks of the American people to General Alexander, who has been in command of the whole Italian operation; to General Clark and General Leese of the Fifth and the Eighth Armies; to General Wilson, the Supreme Allied Commander of the Mediterranean theater; to General Devereux his American Deputy; to Lieutenant General Eddy; to Admirals Cunningham and Howitt; and to all their brave officers and men.

May God bless them and watch over them and over all of our gallant, fighting men.
Office Memorandum  •  UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: White House
FROM: State Department
DATE: June 5, 1944

SUBJECT: Radio speech

The State Department suggests the following changes:

Page I

Paragraph 2, line 3: strike out "what we call."

Paragraph 2: rewrite to read —

"... Rome the great symbol of Christianity which has reached into almost every part of the world. There are other shrines and other churches in many places, but the churches and shrines of Rome are visible symbols of the faith and determination of the early saints and martyrs that Christianity should live and become universal."

Paragraph 6: rewrite to read —

"The Italian people, forewearing a partnership in the Axis which they never desired, have sent their troops against the German trespassers and have acquitted themselves well."

Paragraph 7, second line: strike out "fall" and substitute "liberation."

Page II

Paragraph 1: rewrite to read —

"We had long before accomplished certain of the main military objectives of our Italian campaign -- the control of the sea lanes of the Mediterranean and the airports of Poggia from which we have struck telling blows on the Continent."

Paragraph 2, first line: strike "in a sense" and substitute "of course." Strike the last sentence and make it read:

"Rome was the Republic, Rome was the Empire, Rome was the Church, and Rome was the capital of a united Italy. Later, unfortunately, Rome has been the seat of Fascism and one of the three capitals of the Axis."

Paragraph 3
Paragraph 3, first sentence: rewrite to read --

"The Italian people were enslaved and degraded for a quarter of a century by the rule of Mussolini from Rome. They will mark its liberation with deep emotion."

Then pick up the rest of the paragraph beginning "in the north of Italy."

Paragraph 4: add the following -- "Our gallant Russian Allies continue to make their power felt more and more."

Page III

Paragraph 3, last line -- strike "by products" and substitute "results."

Paragraph 4, second line: strike "building" and substitute "assisting" and make it read:

"assisting local governments to reform on democratic lines."

Paragraph 5: change first sentence to read --

"The American people as a whole approve assistance to these fellow human beings who now have the opportunity to walk in a new atmosphere of freedom."

Paragraph 5, line 5: Period after "future." Strike "an investment that will pay dividends in the form of elimination of Fascism and the ending of any Italian desires to start another war of aggression in 20 years."

Last paragraph: Strike "They are not best known for war-like qualities -- Thank God."

The reason for striking this is that there is nothing to be gained by calling the Italians poor soldiers because the Germans undoubtedly will be reflecting upon the courage and military valor of the Italians. We gain more by not doing so.

Page IV

Second paragraph: Transpose Marconi and Danti.

Paragraph 4: In first sentence, strike "found plenty of places to go. They have, etc." The sentence will then read: "In the past the Italians have come by the millions to the United States."
Paragraph 5, first sentence: strike "Brasil, to the Argentine," and make it read:

"The Italians have gone in great numbers to the other Americas."

Paragraph 6, second line: strike "and sending forth her sons and daughters to help in the upbuilding of other nations." Substitute, "and developing her special talents in the arts, crafts and science, and preserve her historic and cultural heritage for the benefit of all peoples."

Page V

Top of page: strike first sentence and substitute:

"We and the British have the food in Italy to feed the men, women and children of Rome in this emergency period."

Paragraph 3, line 5: strike "captured" and substitute "freed."

NOTE: In this connection it is suggested that there be woven into the speech at this point or elsewhere: "Rome was not evacuated by the enemy. Our armies had smashed the enemy forces before Rome and he had no alternative but to flee."

M. J. McDermott

[Signature]
FOURTH DRAFT

Yesterday, June fourth, 1944, Rome fell to American and Allied troops. The first of the Axis capitals is now in our hands. One up and two to go!

It is perhaps significant that the first of those capitals to fall should have the longest history of all of them. The story of Rome goes back to the time of the foundations of our civilization. We can still see there monuments of the time when Rome and the Romans controlled the whole of the then-known world. That, too, is significant, for the United Nations are determined that in the future no one city and no one race will be able to control the whole of the world.

In addition to the monuments of the older times, we also see in Rome the great symbol of the Christianity which has reached into almost every part of the world. There are other shrines and other churches in many places, but the churches and shrines of Rome are visible symbols of the faith and determination of the early saints and martyrs that Christianity should live and become universal. And now it will be a source of deep satisfaction that the freedom of the Pope and of Vatican City are guaranteed by the armies of the United Nations.

It is also significant that Rome has been liberated by the armed forces of many nations. The American and British armies — who bore the chief burdens of battle — found at their sides
our own North American neighbors, the gallant Canadians. The fighting New Zealanders from the far South Pacific, the courageous French and the French Moroccans, the South Africans, the Poles and the East Indians — all of them fought with us on the bloody approaches to Rome.

The Italians, too, forswearing a partnership in the Axis which they never desired, have sent their troops to join us in our battles against the German trespassers on their soil, and have acquitted themselves well.

The prospect of the liberation of Rome meant enough to Hitler and his generals to induce them to fight desperately at great cost of men and materials and with great sacrifice to their crumbling Eastern line and to their Western front. No thanks are due to them if Rome was spared the devastation which the Germans wrecked on Naples and other Italian cities. The Allied Generals maneuvered so skillfully that the Nazis could only have stayed long enough to damage Rome at the risk of losing their armies. We know — and Hitler and Tojo know — that the Nazis can be beaten whether they are on the offensive or the defensive; and the Axis will learn that lesson again and again.

But Rome is of course more than a military objective.
Ever since before the days of the Caesars, Rome has stood as a symbol of authority. Rome was the Republic. Rome was the Empire. Rome was the church, and Rome was the capital of a United Italy. Later, unfortunately, Rome became the seat of Fascism -- one of the three capitals of the Axis.

For a quarter century the Italian people were enslaved and degraded by the rule of Mussolini from Rome. They will mark its liberation with deep emotion. In the north of Italy, the people are still dominated and threatened by the Nazi overlords and their Fascist puppets. The capture of Rome will encourage resistance groups in the north of Italy to redouble their efforts and accelerate our own further advances.

Our victory comes at an excellent time, while our Allied forces are poised for a strike at Western Europe -- and while lines of other Nazi soldiers nervously await our assault. Our gallant Russian Allies continue to make their power felt more and more.

From a strictly military standpoint, we had long ago accomplished certain of the main objectives of our Italian campaign -- the control of the sea lanes of the Mediterranean to shorten our combat and supply lines, and the airports of Foggia, from which we have struck telling blows on the continent.

It would be unwise to inflate in our own minds the military importance of the capture of Rome. We shall have to push through a long period of greater effort and fiercer fighting before we get into Germany itself. The Germans have retreated thousands
of miles, all the way from the gates of Cairo, through Libya and Tunisia and Sicily and Southern Italy. They have suffered heavy losses, but not great enough yet to cause collapse.

Germany has not yet been driven to surrender. Germany has not yet been driven to the point where she will be unable to resume world conquest a generation hence.

Therefore, the victory still lies some distance ahead. That distance will be covered in due time -- have no fear of that. But it will be tough and it will be costly.

In Italy the people had lived so long under the corrupt rule of Mussolini that, in spite of the tinSEL at the top, their economic condition had grown steadily worse. Our troops have found starvation, malnutrition, disease, a lack of education and lowered public health -- all by-products of the Fascist misrule.

The task of the Allies in occupation has been stupendous. We have had to start at the very bottom, assisting local governments to reform on democratic lines. We have had to give them bread to replace that which was stolen out of their mouths by the Germans. We have had to make it possible for the Italians to raise their own local crops. We have to help them cleanse.
FOURTH DRAFT

-3-

their schools of Fascist trappings.

The American people as a whole approve the salvage of these human beings, who are only now learning to walk in a new atmosphere of freedom.

Some of us have let our thoughts run to the financial cost of it. Essentially it is what we can call a form of relief. At the same time we hope that this relief will be an investment for the future — an investment that will pay dividends by eliminating Fascism and ending any Italian desire to start another war of aggression in the future. They are dividends which justify such an investment because they are additional supports for world peace.

The Italian people are capable of self-government. We do not lose sight of their virtues as a peace-loving nation.
We remember the many centuries in which the Italians were leaders in the arts and sciences, enriching the lives of all mankind.

We remember the great sons of the Italian people — Galileo and Veronese, Michelangelo and Dante — and that fearless discoverer who typifies the courage of Italy — Christopher Columbus.

Italy cannot grow in stature by seeking to build up a great militaristic empire. Italians have been overcrowded within their own territories, but they do not need to try to conquer the lands of other peoples in order to find the breadth of life. Other peoples may not want to be conquered.

In the past, Italians have come by the millions to the United States. They have been welcomed, they have prospered, they have become good citizens, community and governmental leaders. They are not Italian-Americans. They are Americans — Americans of Italian descent.

Italians have gone in great numbers to the other Americas, and to many other nations in every continent of
the world, giving of their industry and their talents, and achieving success
and the comfort of good living.

Italy should go on as a great mother nation, contributing to the
culture and progress and good will of all mankind — and developing her special
talents in the arts, crafts, and sciences, and preserving her historic and cul-
tural heritage for the benefit of all peoples.

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All the other nations opposed to Fascism and Nazism should help give Italy a chance.

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Eternal City on the verge of starvation. We and the British will do everything
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to ship food supplies to the city, but it should be borne in mind that the needs
are so great and the transportation requirements of our armies so heavy that
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women and children of Rome.

This is an example of the efficiency of your machinery of war. The
magnificent ability and energy of the American people in growing the crops,
building, the merchant ships, making and collecting the cargoes, getting the
supplies over thousands of miles of water, and thinking ahead to meet
emergencies — all this spells, I think, an amazing efficiency on the part of our armed forces, all the various agencies working with them, and American industry and labor as a whole.

What we have done to help the Italian people, we are determined to do for all enslaved peoples who have been under the yoke of the Nazis — if they come to our side in time. The bold hearts of the men and women in the underground of Europe and Asia can take renewed faith and courage in the liberation of Rome. Their chains will come off too. And those peoples who have the misfortune to be in the satellite nations of Europe and Asia should take the liberation of Rome as an augury of what can happen to help them, if they will only help themselves by rising and striking against their captors when the time comes.

No great effort like this can be a hundred per cent perfect, but the batting average is very, very high.

I extend the congratulations and thanks of the American people to General Alexander, who has been in command of the whole Italian operation; to General Clark and General Leese of the Fifth and the Eighth Armies; to General Wilson, the Supreme Allied Commander of the Mediterranean theater, and General Dovuss his American Deputy; Lieutenant General Baker; and Admiral
PREFACE DRAFT

Sincerely and to all their brave officers and men.

May God bless them and watch over them, and all of our gallant,

fighting men.
FOURTH DRAFT

[It is well worthwhile to make a special mark on the

calendar to signify that on June fourth, 1944, Rome [has fallen] fell
to American and Allied troops. The first of the Axis capitals
is in our hands. One up and two to go.

It is perhaps significant that the first of these
capitals to fall should be the most historic one of all. The
story of Rome goes back to the foundations of what we call
our civilization. We can see there today well preserved monuments
of the time when Rome and the Romans controlled the whole of the
then known world, and that, too, is significant, for the hour
in which we have come to realize the need of justice.

It will be a good thing if from now on no one city
and no one race are able to control the whole of the [present
known world,-- which means all of us.]

And in addition to the monuments of the older times,
we see in Rome the greatest symbol of the Christianity which
has reached into almost every part of the world. [There are
other shrines and other churches in many places, but the
church founded by St. Peter himself is a living symbol which
breathes throughout the world. It is a living symbol of the cause of
human justice and the ideals of peace for which the United Nations are fighting.]

Finally, it is significant that Rome has been captured
liberated
by armies of many nations. The American and British armies-- who took
the chief burdens of battle-- found as their reward
fought courageously as the battle edged slowly forward. They]
were ably assisted by our own North American neighbors, the
gallant Canadians, and the fighting New Zealanders from the
for South Pacific, the courageous French and the French Moroccans,
the South Africans, the Poles and the West Indians—they also
fought with us on the bloody approaches to Rome.

The Italians, forsaking their erstwhile Axis
partnership, have sent their troops against the German trespassers...
and have acquitted themselves well on our battlefronts.

I do not think that we should paint fancy pictures
about what the fall of Rome will mean to the Axis populations,
and, more especially, to the people in Germany itself. True,
meant enough in the minds of Hitler and his generals to induce
them to fight desperately, to hold Rome for themselves—
and at great cost, to their crumbling Eastern line and to the Western
front. The Axis and Hitler must Two things—that the Axis can be
captured the main objectives of our Italian campaign—control of the sea lanes of the Mediterranean and the airports
of Foggia, from which we have struck telling blows on the
continent.

But Rome is in a sense more than a military objective.
Ever since the days of the Caesars, Rome has stood as a symbol of authority. Rome was the Republic. Rome was the Empire. Then, Rome was the seat of Fascism, and as I have said, one of the three capitals of the Axis.

The Italian people were enslaved and degraded for a quarter century by rule from the Rome of Mussolini, and they will mark its fall with deep emotion. In the north of Italy, however, the people are still dominated and threatened by the Nazi overlords and their Fascist puppets. We will hope that the capture of Rome may encourage resistance groups in the north of Italy to redouble their efforts and make our own further advances more swift.

Our victory comes at an excellent time, while our Allied forces are poised for a strike at Western Europe — and while lines of other Nazi soldiers nervously await our assault.

But it would be foolish to inflate in our own minds the military importance of the capture of Rome. It still appears that we shall have to push through a long period of greater effort and fiercer fighting before we get into Germany itself.

We know by now that the Germans have retreated hundreds and
hundreds of miles, all the way from the gates of Cairo, through Libya and Tunisia and Sicily and Southern Italy, with heavy losses, to be sure, but not with losses in men and material great enough to cause full collapse.

Germany has not yet been driven to surrender. Germany has not yet been driven to the point of renouncing the right to recommence world conquest a generation hence.

Therefore, the victory in a larger sense still lies some distance ahead. Let distance melt with time—time is on our side. That is true, but it will be tough and it will be costly.

In Italy the people had lived so long under the corrupt rule of Mussolini that in spite of the tinsel at the top, and after a first show of success, their economic condition had grown steadily worse. We have found starvation, malnutrition, disease, a deteriorating education and public health—all by-products of the Fascist misrule.

The occupational task of the Allies has been stupendous. We have had to start at the very bottom, building local governments on democratic lines. We have had to make it possible for the Italians to raise their own local crops, and meanwhile we have had to give them bread to replace that which was stolen out of their mouths by the Germans. We have to help them cleanse
FOURTH DRAFT

their schools of Fascist trappings.

The American people as a whole approve the salvage
of these human beings, who are only now learning to walk in a
new atmosphere of freedom. Some of us let our thoughts run
to the cost of it. Essentially it is what we call relief.

At the same time, hope that this relief will be an invest-
ment for the future -- an investment that will pay dividends by
eliminating
any Italian desires to start another war of aggression in the future.
[twenty years]. Dividends of future peace justify such an
investment, because they are additional support for world peace.

The Italian people are capable of self-government.

We do not lose sight of the virtues of a peace-loving race.
we remember the many centuries in which the Italians
were leaders in the arts and sciences, enriching the lives of
all mankind. We remember the first two of the Italian people
—
Galileo and Paracel—Michelangelo and Dante — and
these are named among the greatest of the great, and there
is a certain fearless discoverer who typifies the courage
of a useful race — Christopher Columbus.
Italy cannot grow in the stature of civilization by
seeking to build up a great militaristic empire. Italians
have been overcrowded within their own territories, but they
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In the past, Italians have found plenty of places to go.
They have gone by the millions to the United States. They
have been welcomed, they have prospered, they have become
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Italians have gone in great numbers to Brazil, to the
Argentina, and to many other nations in every continent of
the world, living of their industry and their talents, and achieving success and the comfort of good living.

Italy should go on as a great mother nation, contributing to the culture and progress and good will of all mankind — and sending forth her sons and daughters to help in the upbuilding of other nations.

We want and expect the help of the future Italy toward lasting peace. Therefore it seems wise for all the other nations opposed to Fascism and Nazism to help give them a chance.

Let it not be forgotten that the Germans, after years of domination in Rome, left the people in the Eternal City on the verge of starvation. Anticipating its fall, we and the British have already shipped overseas many thousands of tons of food for Rome; and now, thank God that we are there, we can soon begin to save the lives of the men and women and children of Rome.

This is an example of the efficiency of your machinery of war and its by-products. The magnificent response of the American people in growing the crops, building the merchant ships, making and collecting the cargoes, getting the supplies over thousands of miles of water, and thinking ahead to meet
emergencies -- all this spells, I think, an amazing efficiency on the part of our armed forces and all the various agencies working with them and American industry and labor as well.

To use an old phrase of mine, 'No great effort like this can be a hundred per cent perfect, but the batting average is very, very high.'

I know that I can extend the congratulations and good wishes of the American people to General Alexander, who has been in command of the whole Italian operation; to General Mark Clark and General Leese of the Fifth and the Eighth Armies, and to General Wilson, the Supreme Allied Commander of the Mediterranean theater, and to all their brave soldiers.

They have captured Rome. They, and we, will always remember that.

May God bless them and watch over them and all of our gallant fighting men.