

July 14, 1944

[Statement: Bastille Day]

FDR Speech File

Once again I salute, on Bastille Day, the heroic people of France. July 14th this year is different, ^{we hope that} for it is the last fourteenth of July that France will suffer under German occupation. With full confidence, I look forward ~~to the certainty~~ that the French people on July 14, 1945, will celebrate their great national fete on French soil, liberated alike from the invader and from the puppets of Vichy.

For the great battle of liberation is now engaged. It is a battle resolutely waged by the American, British and Canadian forces, together with the valiant fighters of the French ^{home} ~~Forces of the Interior~~, who have already contributed so greatly to the success of the operations. At the same time gallant French fighting forces are carrying on the victorious struggle in Italy, joined in traditional unity with their comrades of the American Fifth Army and the British Eighth Army.

Here, on this side of the Atlantic, the fourteenth of July, 1944, offers an equally great spectacle of the indissoluble unity and the deep friendship of the American and French peoples.

I have been much pleased again to greet General de Gaulle, this time on American soil. We have engaged in cordial conversation on many subjects dealing with current operations and leading to final victory.

Together, the French and American ^{peoples} ~~nations~~ stand today, united as they have always been when the cause of freedom was endangered.

Together, we shall win, and France shall be free!

Franklin D. Roosevelt

JULY 13, 1948

The following statement by the President in honor of Bastille Day (July 14th) is for release in papers appearing on the streets not earlier than 9:00 P. M., E. U. T., Tuesday, ~~July 13, 1948~~ *Thurs.*

The same release also applies to radio announcers and news commentators.

CARE MUST BE EXERCISED TO PREVENT PREMATURE PUBLICATION.

STEPHEN EARLY
Secretary to the President

The 14th of July is, for all the peoples of the world, devoted to the ideals of Liberty, a day of celebration. We observe it this year, here in the United States, with special fervor. Immortal France has reaffirmed once again, in the most heroic circumstances, her greatness and her glory.

On this anniversary of the winning by the French people of their liberties, I wish to recall again that the fundamental principles which guide our democracies were evolved from the American and the French revolutions. The keystone of our democratic structure is the principle which places governmental authority in the people, and in the people only. There can be one symbol only for Frenchmen -- France herself. She transcends all parties, personalities and groups: They live indeed only in the glory of French nationhood.

One of our war aims, as set forth in the Atlantic Charter, is to restore the mastery of their destinies to the peoples now under the invaders' yoke. There must be no doubt, anywhere, of the unalterable determination of the United Nations to restore to the oppressed peoples their full and sacred rights.

French sovereignty resides in the people of France.

Today, this people is shackled by barbaric oppression. In the freedom of tomorrow, when Frenchmen and their brothers in arms of the United Nations have cleansed French soil of the enemy, the French people will again give expression to their freedom in the erecting of a government of their own free choice.

Long live Liberty, Equality, Fraternity. May France live forever!
