

Aug. 12, 1944

[Puget Sound Navy Yard, Bremerton, WA]

1528

1-DK Speech File

HOLD FOR RELEASE

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EXTREME CARE MUST BE EXERCISED TO AVOID PREMATURE RELEASE.

EDWIN M. WATSON
Secretary to the President

Ladies and gentlemen, officers and men of the Puget Sound Navy Yard:

I am glad to be back here in well-known surroundings, for, as you know, I have been coming here off and on ever since I was Assistant Secretary of the Navy in 1913, and that's over thirty years ago.

It's nearly about four weeks ago since I left Washington, but, of course, at all times I have been in close touch with the work there and also in daily communication with our forces in the European and Far Eastern theatres of war.

Since my visit here at Bremerton nearly two years ago I have been happy at all times to know of the splendid progress that is being maintained -- kept up -- both here and at many other places on the Coast, progress in turning out ships and planes and munitions of almost every other kind and in the training of men and women for all of the armed forces.

So I have thought that you would be interested in an informal summary of the trip I have just taken to Hawaii and from there to the Aleutian Islands and Alaska, from which, when I get across the Sound, I am about to step foot on the shore of the continental United States again.

When I got to San Diego three weeks ago I spent three days before going on shipboard, and I had the opportunity at the southern end of the Pacific Coast to visit many of the patients in the large hospitals there, a large number of these patients having just come back from the fighting in the Marshall Islands and the Marianas.

And I also witnessed a large practice landing operation on the beaches of Southern California, between Los Angeles and San Diego.

It's a kind of warfare that has been most successfully developed by us during the past two years. It's a warfare of a wholly new type calling for all kinds of new equipment and new training.

And I think I can safely say that no other nation in the world has worked it out as successfully as we have -- the way we have shown it within the past few weeks in the capture of Saipan and Tinian and the recapturing of Guam, an effort which is resulting in new threats against Japan itself and against all of their operations in the Southwest Pacific.

You know, it takes a personal observation -- you've got to see things with your own eyes, such as I saw from a high bluff

right on the coast overlooking the shore below -- to understand how well the application of experience in war is being carried out.

The landing craft, a wholly new type of ship, one we didn't dream of two years and a half ago, came to the beach from the transports that were lying offshore under cover of a fog.

They came on in waves, the Marines and the infantry getting the first toehold, followed by other waves and then by all manner of equipment, ammunition and wire and tanks, all protected by air coverage and preceded theoretically -- because I wouldn't be here today if it was real -- by a devastating bombardment from heavy ships lying offshore.

When the beachhead was obtained to a depth of a mile or two there followed the unloading of great quantities of supplies and stores of all kinds, including tanks and trucks and Jeeps.

Timing -- that's why we have to practice this -- timing is of the utmost importance. Any operation of this kind has to be carried out click-click-click, right on schedule, together with instantaneous communication both the radio, the written kind and the voice from the shore to the ships and to the planes themselves.

Here was demonstrated the perfect cooperation between all the services -- Army and Navy and Marines, and to this should be added the teamwork for the immediate care of the wounded -- in the case I saw it was the theoretically wounded -- and the quick transfer of them back to the hospital ships.

We in our comfortable homes, I think, ought to realize more than we do that to all troops and Marines who are to conduct a new landing expedition on some far distant island in the Pacific, as well as on the coast of France, this amphibious training is being given at a number of places in the United States before the expedition ever starts.

Hundreds of instructors are required, nearly all men who have participated in actual combat operations beforehand, and many of these instructors, most of them, indeed, will, of course, accompany the troops in the actual operation of the future landings.

The cruiser, which is on her way to another place, the cruiser on which I went from San Diego to Honolulu, is one of a number of what we call post-treaty cruisers, much larger, more powerful and faster than the pre-war cruisers, which were limited by the old treaties to 10,000 tons.

This particular ship on which I voyaged joined the Pacific Fleet less than a year ago in the Western and Southwestern Pacific. Here is a magnificent record. Her skipper and crew have brought her through all of these army offensive missions unscathed, fifteen of them, fifteen battles.

And because of the experience that she has gained and that they have gained she is an even more powerful weapon than she was the day that she joined the fleet.

Well, the voyage was uneventful and we arrived at Pearl Harbor on July 26. At this moment may I just add a word of appreciation to the press and the radio of our country. You know we have a voluntary censorship, purely voluntary. I want to thank them for the protection and the security which they gave to me and to my party at a time on this trip when nearly all the time I was within easy reach of enemy action.

The press associations and some of the newspapers actually refused to publish the facts which they got from local friends who had heard of my arrival and my trip around the Hawaiian Islands -- or from local friends whose sons out there had written home about it -- and the newspapers didn't print it. That is a modern marvel.

Well, I got there on the twenty-sixth of July and what an amazing change since my visit there ten years ago: as big and bigger a change than a comparison between the Puget Sound Navy Yard of today with what this was ten years ago.

But out there — the change! At that time Pearl Harbor had maintained a steady growth as this yard has, so that today it is capable of making repairs to the heaviest ships, and employs a force nearly ten times as great as it did then. And, incidentally, very many of that force came straight there during the past two years and a half from the West Coast.

All of the battleships and smaller craft that were sunk or damaged in the attack on Pearl Harbor on the seventh of December, 1941, have been raised with the exception of the Arizona. In her case, because of the explosion in her forward magazine, salvage was impossible. But again in her case, her main battery of heavy guns was removed and remounted and now forms a part of the coastal defenses on the island of Oahu.

All of the other ships are afloat, most of them having been put back into commission here at Puget Sound, and nobody will ever forget that.

And, incidentally, the ships that you put back into commission, what you did to them in the process, has made of them vastly more powerful ships, better ships, with more gun power than they had before they were sunk.

And that's one thing that I'll never forget, the way that sunken fleet was set afloat again and has gone over the world in actually carrying out the plans of this war.

They've been in service, they've been in action, in the Pacific and elsewhere. Indeed, one of them, I think it is the Nevada, took part in the bombardment of the coast of Normandy during and after the landing operations there on the sixth of June this year.

I spent three days on the Island of Oahu, and everywhere, as at the Navy Yard, the war activities have multiplied almost beyond belief.

On the afternoon of my arrival my old friend General Douglas MacArthur arrived by air from New Guinea and we began a series of extremely interesting and useful conferences, accompanied by Admiral Nimitz and by my own Chief of Staff, Admiral Leahy, who stands beside me now, and General Richardson, the commanding general of the Army forces in the Hawaiian area and Admiral Halsey, commander of the Third Fleet.

In the three days we were there we talked about Pacific problems and the best methods of conducting the Pacific campaign in the days to come. These discussions developed complete accord both in the understanding of the problem that confronts us and in the opinion as to the best methods for its solution.

All of us must bear in mind the enormous size of the Pacific Ocean, the Pacific area, keeping a mental map of the world constantly in mind. The distances are greater there than anywhere else on earth.

In the old days the Hawaiian Islands used to be considered an outpost. We were not allowed to fortify Guam, nor did we fortify Wake, or Midway or Samoa.

Today the Hawaiian Islands are no longer a mere outpost. They constitute a major base from which, and from the Pacific coast, front-line operations are being conducted twice as far away as the distance between the coast and Hawaii itself.

The Hawaiian Islands have helped to make possible the victories at Guadalcanal and New Guinea and the Marshalls and the Marianas. The islands will make possible future operations in China -- will make possible the recapture and independence of the Philippines and make possible the carrying of war into the home islands of Japan itself and their capital city of Tokyo.

In a few minutes I think it will interest you if you will let me say a few additional words about the future of the Pacific.

But first, during the rest of my stay in Hawaii, I visited the many activities, including the great airfields, the hospitals and an ambulance plane at Hickam Field which had just flown in with wounded men from Saipan. I reviewed the Seventh Division, which has made such a splendid record.

I saw a large Army group that was going through a complete course in jungle warfare -- they have to do it there because we haven't got any jungles around here -- jungle warfare, an art which we have developed so expertly that our troops are more than a match in the jungle for any Japanese whom we have met yet. And I am proud of all of this basic training and the final training of our sons -- all that they're getting both at home and when they get near the front.

After rejoining our ship we headed for the Aleutian Islands. I had read about them -- heard about them -- but I'd never been there before.

Arriving four days later at Adak, which is one of the more westerly islands of the group, there again I found intense activity at what might be called a nearly completed advance base. It was from there that a great part of the expeditions for the recapture of Attu and Kiska started. Adak two years ago was a bleak and practically uninhabited spot which with the other Aleutian Islands seemed relatively unimportant in the plans for the security of our own continent.

You here can well realize the commotion that followed the Japanese occupation of Attu and Kiska. You've dreamt of Japanese marching up the streets of Bremerton or Seattle tomorrow morning. You may have thought that the Chiefs of Staff in Washington were not paying enough attention to the threat against Alaska and the coast. We realized, of course, that such a Japanese threat could become serious if it was unopposed. But we knew also that Japan did not have the naval and air power to carry the threat into effect without greater resources and a longer time to carry it out.

Preparation to throw the Japanese from their toehold, very skimpy toehold, had been laid even before the Japs got there, and the rest of the story you know.

It took great preparations and heavy fighting to eject them from Attu and by the time the great expedition to recapture Kiska got there the Japanese had decided that discretion was the better part of valor. They decided that retirement and retreat was better for them than hara-kiri, and so they abandoned the Aleutians.

The climate at Adak is not the most inviting in the world, but I want to say a word of appreciation to the thousands of officers and men of all the services who have built up this base and other bases, many other bases, in the extreme northwest of the American Continent, built them up in such a short time to a point where the people of our Pacific Coast, the people of British Columbia and of Alaska, can feel certain that we are safe against Japanese invasion on any large scale.

We were delayed by fog and rain as almost everybody is up in those parts; we had to give up putting in at Dutch Harbor but we did stop at Kodiak, a large island off the end of the Alaskan Peninsula. Here, also, the three services completed a very excellent, though smaller, base. The first little town really that we built in those parts, and there's actually a small community there, the first that we saw in Alaskan waters and the first trees that we saw, because the outer Aleutians just don't have trees. That town and those trees made me think of the coasts of Maine and Newfoundland.

We were told that a number of officers and men at this place and other posts are considering settling in Alaska after the war is over. I do hope that this is so because the development of Alaska has only been scratched and it is still the country of the pioneers, and in one sense every American is a descendant of pioneers.

Only a small part of Alaska's resources have been explored and there is, of course, an abundance of fish and game and timber, together with great possibilities for agriculture. I could not help remembering that the climate and the crops and other resources are not essentially different from northern Europe -- Norway and Sweden, Finland -- for the people of those countries in spite of the cold and in winter darkness have brought their civilizations to a very high and very prosperous level. On my return to Washington I am going to set up a study of Alaska and the Aleutian Islands as a place to which many veterans of this war, especially those who do not have strong home roots, can go to become pioneers. Alaska is a land with a very small population, but I am convinced that it has great opportunities for those who are willing to work and to help build up all kinds of new things in new lands.

So this trip has given me a chance to talk over the social and economic future of the Hawaiian group with Governor Stainback and the future of the people of Alaska with Governor Gruening. By the way, he asked me to assure you that the tan which I have acquired in Alaska in a week has come from the bright sunlight of Alaska. Near Juneau one afternoon, when we were nearly fogged out, I played hockey for three hours. I went fishing and I caught one halibut and one flounder.

Speaking again of the future, of the future of the defense of the Pacific and the use of its strong points in order to prevent attacks against us.

You who live in the Pacific Northwest have realized that a line for sea and air navigation following the Great Circle courses from Puget Sound to Siberia and China passes very close to the Alaskan coast and thence westward along the line of the Aleutian Islands.

From the point of view of national defense, therefore, it is essential that our control of this route shall be undisputed. Everybody in Siberia and China knows that we have no ambition to acquire land on the Asiatic continent.

We as a people are utterly opposed to aggression and sneak attacks. But we as a people are insistent that other nations must not under any circumstances through the foreseeable future commit such attacks against the United States. Therefore, it is essential that we be fully prepared to prevent them for all time to come.

The word and the honor of Japan cannot be trusted. That is a simple statement from the military and naval and air point of view. But with the end of a Japanese threat, soon we hope, there is an excellent outlook for a permanent peace in the whole of the Pacific area.

It is therefore natural and proper for us to think of the economic and the commercial future. It is logical that we should foresee a great interchange of commerce between our shores and those of Siberia and China.

And in this commercial development Alaska and the Aleutian Islands become automatic stepping stones for trade, both by water and by cargo planes. And this means the automatic development of transportation on the way there, including the Puget Sound area.

It is as long as ten years, I think, that I talked with Mr. Mackenzie King, Prime Minister of Canada, in regard to the development of highways, in regard to air routes and even a railroad via the northwest and British Columbia and the Yukon. Great interest in both nations was aroused but it took the war to get quick action.

Today the Alcan Highway is practically completed and an air route to Fairbanks enables us to deliver thousands of planes to our ally Russia by way of Alaska and Bering Straits and Siberia. These planes are an important factor in the brilliant and brave advance of the Russian armies on their march to Berlin. And I might observe also that our close relations, our true friendship with Canada during these years has proved to be an illustrious example of working hand in hand with your neighbor for the general good.

South of this northern route, Alaska and the Aleutians, the use of other island groups must also be thought of for defense and for commerce in getting to and from the Asiatic and the American Continents. We understand at last the importance of the Hawaiian Islands. It is important that we have other bases, forward bases nearer to Japan than Hawaii lies.

The same thing, we have to remember, holds true in regard to the defense of all the other American Republics, twenty others, from Mexico down past the Panama Canal and all the way down to Chile. There are hundreds of islands in the South Pacific that bear the same relation to South America and Central America and the Panama Canal as Hawaii bears to North America.

These islands are mostly in the possession of the British Empire and the French. They are important commercially just as they are from the defense point of view because they lead to New Zealand, and Australia, and the Dutch Islands and the Southern Philippines. With all these places we undoubtedly are going to have a growing trade.

We have no desire to ask for any possessions of the United Nations. But the United Nations who are working so well with us in the winning of the war will, I am confident, be glad to join us in protection against aggression and in machinery to prevent aggression. With them and with their help I am sure that we can agree completely so that Central and South America will be as safe against attack -- attack from the South Pacific -- as North America is going to be very soon from the north Pacific as well.

The self-interests of our Allies is going to be affected by fair and friendly collaboration with us. They too will gain in national security. They will gain economically. The destinies of the peoples of the whole Pacific will for many years be entwined with our own destiny. Already there are stirring among hundreds of millions of them a desire for the right to work out their own destinies and they show no evidence in this Pacific area to overrun the earth -- with one exception.

That exception is and has been for many, many years that of Japan and the Japanese people -- because whether or not the people of Japan itself know and approve of what their war lords and their home lords have done for nearly a century, the fact remains that they seem to be giving hearty approval to the Japanese policy of acquisition of their neighbors and their neighbors' lands and a military and economic control of as many other nations as they can lay their hands on.

It is an unfortunate fact that other nations cannot trust Japan. It is an unfortunate fact that years of proof must pass by before we can trust Japan and before we can classify Japan as a member of the society of nations which seeks permanent peace and whose word we can take.

In removing the future menace of Japan to us and to our continent we are holding out the hope that other people in the Far East can be freed from the same threat.

The people of the Philippines never have wished and never will wish to be slaves of Japan. Of the people of Korea, that ancient kingdom which was overrun by the Japanese half a century ago, the same is true. The peoples of Manchuria and all the rest of China, feel the same.

The same thing is true of the peoples of Indo-China and Siam, the peoples of Java and even the most primitive peoples of New Guinea and the so-called mandated islands which I am glad to say we are in the splendid process of throwing the Japs out from.

I am glad to have the opportunity of taking this short trip, first, for the conferences with General MacArthur and Admiral Nimitz and, secondly, for the first hand view of certain bases that are of vital importance to the ending of the war and to the prevention in the future of any similar attack.

More than a million of our troops are today overseas in the Pacific. The war is well in hand in this vast area, but I cannot tell you, if I knew, when the war will be over, either in Europe or in the Far East or the war against Japan itself.

It will be over sooner, if the people of this country will maintain the making of the necessary supplies of ships and planes and all the things that go with them. By so doing we shall hasten the day of the peace. By so doing we will save our own pocketbooks and those of our children. And by so doing we will stand a better chance of substantial unity not only at home but among the united nations in laying so securely what we all want, the foundation of a lasting peace.

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EDWIN M. WATSON
Secretary to the President

Ladies and gentlemen, officers and men of the Puget Sound Navy Yard:

I am glad to be back here in well-known surroundings, for, as you know, I have been coming here off and on ever since I was Assistant Secretary of the Navy in 1913, and that's over thirty years ago.

It's nearly about four weeks ago since I left Washington, but, of course, at all times I have been in close touch with the work there and also in daily communication with our forces in the European and Far Eastern theatres of war.

Since my visit here at Bremerton nearly two years ago I have been happy at all times to know of the splendid progress that is being maintained -- kept up -- both here and at many other places on the Coast, progress in turning out ships and planes and munitions of almost every other kind and in the training of men and women for all of the armed forces.

So I have thought that you would be interested in an informal summary of the trip I have just taken to Hawaii and from there to the Aleutian Islands and Alaska, from which, when I get across the Sound, I am about to step foot on the shore of the continental United States again.

When I got to San Diego three weeks ago I spent three days before going on shipboard, and I had the opportunity at the southern end of the Pacific Coast to visit many of the patients in the large hospitals there, a large number of those patients having just come back from the fighting in the Marshall Islands and the Marianas.

And I also witnessed a large practice landing operation on the beaches of Southern California, between Los Angeles and San Diego.

It's a kind of warfare that has been most successfully developed by us during the past two years. It's a warfare of a wholly new type calling for all kinds of new equipment and new training.

And I think I can safely say that no other nation in the world has worked it out as successfully as we have -- the way we have shown it within the past few weeks in the capture of Saipan and Tinian and the recapturing of Guam, an effort which is resulting in new threats against Japan itself and against all of their operations in the Southwest Pacific.

You know, it takes a personal observation -- you've got to see things with your own eyes, such as I saw from a high bluff

right on the coast overlooking the shore below -- to understand how well the application of experience in war is being carried out.

The landing craft, a wholly new type of ship, one we didn't dream of two years and a half ago, came to the beach from the transports that were lying offshore under cover of a fog.

They came on in waves, the marines and the infantry getting the first foothold, followed by other waves and then by all manner of equipment, ammunition and wire and tanks, all protected by air coverage and preceded theoretically -- because I wouldn't be here today if it was real -- by a devastating bombardment from heavy ships lying offshore.

When the beachhead was obtained to a depth of a mile or two there followed the unloading of great quantities of supplies and stores of all kinds, including tanks and trucks and jeeps.

Timing -- that's why we have to practice this -- timing is of the utmost importance. Any operation of this kind has to be carried out click-click-click, right on schedule, together with instantaneous communication both the radio, the written kind and the voice from the shore to the ships and to the planes themselves.

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We in our comfortable homes, I think, ought to realize more than we do that to all troops and Marines who are to conduct a new landing expedition on some far distant island in the Pacific, as well as on the coast of France, this amphibious training is being given at a number of places in the United States before the expedition ever starts.

Hundreds of instructors are required, nearly all men who have participated in actual combat operations beforehand, and many of these instructors, most of them, indeed, will, of course, accompany the troops in the actual operation of the future landings.

The cruiser, which is on her way to another place, the cruiser on which I went from San Diego to Honolulu, is one of a number of what we call post-treaty cruisers, much larger, more powerful and faster than the pre-war cruisers, which were limited by the old treaties to 10,000 tons.

This particular ship on which I voyaged joined the Pacific Fleet less than a year ago in the Western and Southwestern Pacific. Here is a magnificent record. Her skipper and crew have brought her through all of these many offensive missions unscathed, fifteen of them, fifteen battles.

And because of the experience that she has gained and that they have gained she is an even more powerful weapon than she was the day that she joined the fleet.

Well, the voyage was uneventful and we arrived at Pearl Harbor on July 23. At this moment may I just add a word of appreciation to the press and the radio of our country. You know we have a voluntary censorship, purely voluntary. I want to thank them for the protection and the security which they gave to me and to my party at a time on this trip when nearly all the time I was within easy reach of enemy action.

The press associations and some of the newspapers actually refused to publish the facts which they got from local friends who had heard of my arrival and my trip around the Hawaiian Islands -- or from local friends whose sons out there had written home about it -- and the newspapers didn't print it. That is a modern marvel.

Well, I got there on the twenty-sixth of July and what an amazing change since my visit there ten years ago: as big and bigger a change than a comparison between the Puget Sound Navy Yard of today with what this was ten years ago.

But out there -- the change! At that time Pearl Harbor had maintained a steady growth as this yard has, so that today it is capable of making repairs to the heaviest ships, and employs a force nearly ten times as great as it did then. And, incidentally, very many of that force came straight there during the past two years and a half from the West Coast.

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The Hawaiian Islands have helped to make possible the victories at Guadalcanal and New Guinea and the Marshalls and the Marianas. The islands will make possible future operations in China -- will make possible the recapture and independence of the Philippines and make possible the carrying of war into the home islands of Japan itself and their capital city of Tokyo.

In a few minutes I think it will interest you if you will let me say a few additional words about the future of the Pacific.

But first, during the rest of my stay in Hawaii, I visited the many activities, including the great airfields, the hospitals and an ambulance plane at Hickam Field which had just flown in with wounded men from Saipan. I reviewed the Seventh Division, which has made such a splendid record.

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After rejoining our ship we headed for the Aleutian Islands. I had read about them -- heard about them -- but I'd never been there before.

Arriving four days later at Adak, which is one of the more westerly islands of the group, there again I found intense activity at what might be called a nearly completed advance base. It was from there that a great part of the expeditions for the recapture of Attu and Kiska started. Adak two years ago was a bleak and practically uninhabited spot which with the other Aleutian Islands seemed relatively unimportant in the plans for the security of our own continent.

You here can well realize the commotion that followed the Japanese occupation of Attu and Kiska. You've dreamt of Japanese marching up the streets of Brunerton or Seattle tomorrow morning. You may have thought that the Chiefs of Staff in Washington were not paying enough attention to the threat against Alaska and the coast. We realized, of course, that such a Japanese threat could become serious if it was unopposed. But we know also that Japan did not have the naval and air power to carry the threat into effect without greater resources and a longer time to carry it out.

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We were told that a number of officers and men at this place and other posts are considering settling in Alaska after the war is over. I do hope that this is so because the development of Alaska has only been scratched and it is still the country of the pioneers, and in one sense every American is a descendant of pioneers.

Only a small part of Alaska's resources have been explored and there is, of course, an abundance of fish and game and timber, together with great possibilities for agriculture. I could not help remembering that the climate and the crops and other resources are not essentially different from northern Europe -- Norway and Sweden, Finland -- for the people of those countries in spite of the cold and in winter darkness have brought their civilizations to a very high and very prosperous level. On my return to Washington I am going to set up a study of Alaska and the Aleutian Islands as a place to which many veterans of this war, especially those who do not have strong home roots, can go to become pioneers. Alaska is a land with a very small population, but I am convinced that it has great opportunities for those who are willing to work and to help build up all kinds of new things in new lands.

So this trip has given me a chance to talk over the social and economic future of the Hawaiian group with Governor Stainback and the future of the people of Alaska with Governor Gruening. By the way, he asked me to assure you that the ten which I have acquired in Alaska in a week has come from the bright sunlight of Alaska. Near Juneau one afternoon, when we were nearly fogged out, I played hooky for three hours. I went fishing and I caught one halibut and one flounder.

Speaking again of the future, of the future of the defense of the Pacific and the use of its strong points in order to prevent attacks against us.

You who live in the Pacific Northwest have realized that a line for sea and air navigation following the Great Circle courses from Puget Sound to Siberia and China passes very close to the Alaskan coast and thence westward along the line of the Aleutian Islands.

From the point of view of national defence, therefore, it is essential that our control of this route shall be undisputed. Everybody in Siberia and China knows that we have no ambition to acquire land on the Asiatic continent.

We as a people are utterly opposed to aggression and sneak attacks. But we as a people are insistent that other nations must not under any circumstances through the foreseeable future commit such attacks against the United States. Therefore, it is essential that we be fully prepared to prevent them for all time to come.

The word and the honor of Japan cannot be trusted. That is a simple statement from the military and naval and air point of view. But with the end of a Japanese threat, soon we hope, there is an excellent outlook for a permanent peace in the whole of the Pacific area.

It is therefore natural and proper for us to think of the economic and the commercial future. It is logical that we should foresee a great interchange of commerce between our shores and those of Siberia and China.

And in this commercial development Alaska and the Aleutian Islands become automatic stepping stones for trade, both by water and by cargo planes. And this means the automatic development of transportation on the way there, including the Puget Sound area.

It is as long as ten years, I think, that I talked with Mr. Mackenzie King, Prime Minister of Canada, in regard to the development of highways, in regard to air routes and even a railroad via the northwest and British Columbia and the Yukon. Great interest in both nations was aroused but it took the war to get quick action.

Today the Alcan Highway is practically completed and an air route to Fairbanks enables us to deliver thousands of planes to our ally Russia by way of Alaska and Bering Straits and Siberia. These planes are an important factor in the brilliant and brave advance of the Russian armies on their march to Berlin. And I might observe also that our close relations, our true friendship with Canada during these years has proved to be an illustrious example of working hand in hand with your neighbor for the general good.

South of this northern route, Alaska and the Aleutians, the use of other island groups must also be thought of for defense and for commerce in getting to and from the Asiatic and the American Continents. We understand at last the importance of the Hawaiian Islands. It is important that we have other bases, forward bases nearer to Japan than Hawaii lies.

The same thing, we have to remember, holds true in regard to the defense of all the other American Republics, twenty others, from Mexico down past the Panama Canal and all the way down to Chile. There are hundreds of islands in the South Pacific that bear the same relation to South America and Central America and the Panama Canal as Hawaii bears to North America.

These islands are mostly in the possession of the British Empire and the French. They are important commercially just as they are from the defense point of view because they lead to New Zealand, and Australia, and the Dutch Islands and the Southern Philippines. With all these places we undoubtedly are going to have a growing trade.

We have no desire to ask for any possessions of the United Nations. But the United Nations who are working so well with us in the winning of the war will, I am confident, be glad to join us in protection against aggression and in machinery to prevent aggression. With them and with their help I am sure that we can agree completely so that Central and South America will be as safe against attack -- attack from the South Pacific -- as North America is going to be very soon from the north Pacific as well.

The self-interests of our Allies is going to be affected by fair and friendly collaboration with us. They too will gain in national security. They will gain economically. The destinies of the peoples of the whole Pacific will for many years be entwined with our own destiny. Already there are stirring among hundreds of millions of them a desire for the right to work out their own destinies and they show no evidence in this Pacific area to overrun the earth -- with one exception.

That exception is and has been for many, many years that of Japan and the Japanese people -- because whether or not the people of Japan itself know and approve of what their war lords and their home lords have done for nearly a century, the fact remains that they seem to be giving hearty approval to the Japanese policy of acquisition of their neighbors and their neighbors' lands and a military and economic control of as many other nations as they can lay their hands on.

It is an unfortunate fact that other nations cannot trust Japan. It is an unfortunate fact that years of proof must pass by before we can trust Japan and before we can classify Japan as a member of the society of nations which seeks permanent peace and whose word we can take.

In removing the future menace of Japan to us and to our continent we are holding out the hope that other people in the Far East can be freed from the same threat.

The people of the Philippines never have wished and never will wish to be slaves of Japan. Of the people of Korea, that ancient kingdom which was overrun by the Japanese half a century ago, the same is true. The peoples of Manchuria and all the rest of China, feel the same.

The same thing is true of the peoples of Indo-China and Siam, the peoples of Java and even the most primitive peoples of New Guinea and the so-called mandated islands which I am glad to say we are in the splendid process of throwing the Japs out from.

I am glad to have the opportunity of taking this short trip, first, for the conferences with General MacArthur and Admiral Nimitz and, secondly, for the first hand view of certain bases that are of vital importance to the ending of the war and to the prevention in the future of any similar attack.

More than a million of our troops are today overseas in the Pacific. The war is well in hand in this vast area, but I cannot tell you, if I knew, when the war will be over, either in Europe or in the Far East or the war against Japan itself.

It will be over sooner, if the people of this country will maintain the making of the necessary supplies of ships and planes and all the things that go with them. By so doing we shall hasten the day of the peace. By so doing we will save our own pocketbooks and those of our children. And by so doing we will stand a better chance of substantial unity not only at home but among the united nations in laying so securely what we all want, the foundation of a lasting peace.

STATEMENTS FILE

[Handwritten signature]

HOLD FOR RELEASE

CONFIDENTIAL: The following radio address of the President to be delivered at the Puget Sound Navy Yard, Bremerton, Washington, on Saturday, August 12, 1944, MUST BE HELD IN STRICT CONFIDENCE and no portion, synopsis or intimation is to be published or given out until delivery has begun.

NOTE: Release is when the President actually begins speaking. The same release conditions mentioned above also apply to the radio as well as to the press.

EXTREME CARE MUST BE EXERCISED TO AVOID PREMATURE RELEASE.

Edwin M. Watson,
Secretary to the President.

It is ~~just thirty days~~ ^{almost, at all times} nearly -- about four weeks ago -- since I left Washington but I have been at all times in close touch with the work there and also in daily communication with our forces in the European and Far Eastern theaters of war. I ~~is good to come back to the Puget Sound Navy Yard~~ ^{for as you know I have been going here off and on since 1913 or 1914}. Since my visit here, nearly two years ago I ~~came to know of the splendid progress that is being maintained both here and at many places on the West Coast in turning out ships and planes and munitions of almost every other variety - and in the training of men for all of the armed services.~~ ^{from these} So I have thought that you would be interested in a brief summary of ~~my visit to Hawaii and to the Aleutian Islands and Alaska, from which I came about to step foot on shore in the continental United States, again.~~ ^{an informal summary of the trip I have just taken}

When I got to San Diego, ~~and for three days before going on board ship, I had the opportunity to visit many of the patients in the hospital there, a large number of whom were just back from the fighting in the Marshall and Marianas Islands. And also I witnessed a large practice landing operation on the beaches of southern California between Los Angeles and San Diego - the kind of warfare which has been so successfully developed by us during the past two years.~~ ^{which is of a wholly new type, requiring all kinds of new equipment and new training, and I think I can safely say that no other nation in the world has worked it out as successfully as we have, and we have shown within the past few weeks in the capture of Saipan and Tinian and the recapturing of Guam, resulting in new threats against Japan itself and against all of our operations in the Southwest Pacific.}

It takes a personal observation of a landing maneuver, such as I saw from a high bluff overlooking the shore below, to understand how well the application of experience is being carried out. The landing craft - a wholly new type of ship, came to the beach from the transports offshore under cover of fog. They came on in waves, the Marines and the infantry getting the first toe-hold, followed by other waves and then by all manner of equipment, ammunition and wire and tanks, all protected by air coverage, and preceded theoretically by a devastating bombardment from heavy ships lying

-1-

right on the top coast *-- expiring in war --* *(that were lying*

one we didn't dream of, two years and a half ago,

Have been happy at all times

-- kept up --

progress

three weeks ago, spent

Range

it wouldn't be here today if it was real --

you have got to see it with your own eyes,

at the southern end of the Pacific Coast,

has to be carried out -- click, click, click -- right on schedule
 took the radio, the written kind, and using,

themselves.

I think we

offshore. When a beachhead was obtained to a depth of a mile or two, there followed the unloading of great quantities of supplies and stores of all kinds, including tanks and trucks and jeeps.

-- that is why we have to prioritize this -- timing

Timing is of the utmost importance in any operation of this kind, together with instantaneous communications from the shore to the ships and planes. Here was demonstrated the perfect cooperation between all of the services - Army, Navy and Marines - and to this should be added the teamwork for the immediate care of the wounded and their quick transfer back to the hospital ships. We in our comfortable homes, ought to realize that to all troops and Marines who are to conduct a new landing expedition on some far distant island in the Pacific as well as on the coast of France, this amphibious training is being given at a number of places in the United States before the expedition ever starts. Hundreds of instructors are required, nearly all men who have participated in actual combat operations beforehand. Many of these instructors, most of whom, of course, accompany the troops in the actual operations of the future landings.

183. -- which is on her way to another place -- the cuis

The cruiser, on which I went from San Diego to Hawaii is one of a number of what we call "post-treaty" cruisers - much larger, and more powerful, and faster than the pre-war cruisers, which were limited by treaty³ to ten thousand tons. This particular ship joined the Pacific Fleet less than a year ago, but she already engaged in fifteen operations in the Western and Southwest Pacific. Her's is a magnificent record. Her skipper and crew have brought her through all of these many offensive missions unscathed, and because of the experience they gained, she is an even more powerful weapon than she was the day she joined the Fleet.

→ that she is gaining and that they have

The voyage was uneventful and we arrived at Pearl Harbor on July 26th.

← INSERT A HERE

an amazing change since my visit there ten years ago. At that time the Pearl Harbor Navy Yard had maintained a steady growth, like most of our other navy yards, but today it is capable of making repairs to the heaviest ships and employs a force nearly ten times as great. ~~Many of the~~ ^{the} ~~ships~~ ^{ships} coming from the West Coast. All of the battleships and smaller craft ~~were~~ ^{which} were sunk or damaged in the attack on Pearl Harbor on the December 7th, 1941, have been raised with the exception of the ARIZONA. In her case, because of the explosions of her forward magazine, salvage was impossible but in her case her main battery of heavy guns was removed and repaired, and now forms a part of the coastal defenses on the Island of Oahu.

All of the other ships are afloat, ~~and in service~~, most of them having been put back into commission here at Puget Sound, and all of them ~~greatly improved in fire power~~. They have been used in action in the Pacific and elsewhere--~~one of them~~ ^{the} NaVADA, having taken part in the bombardment of the coast of Normandy prior to and during the landing operations there ~~on~~ ^{on} lately on the sixth of June.

I spent three ^{this year} days on the Island of Oahu and everywhere, as at the navy yard, the war activities have multiplied almost beyond belief.

On the afternoon of my arrival, my old friend General Douglas MacArthur arrived by air from New Guinea, and we began a series of ^{discussions} ~~the~~

as it did then. And, incidentally,
very many of that force came straight
there, during the past two years and a -2-

[illegible]

~~I had read about them, heard about them, but I had never~~

which had made such a splendid record.

You have seen well realize the connection with the following the Chinese occupation of Asia and Russia. You may have thought that the Chinese of itself in Washington were not paying enough attention to the threat against Alaska and the Coast. We realized, of course, that such a disposition should be made. Sooner it it was impossible, but we know that that Japan did not have the naval air power to carry out the attack without greater resources and a long time to get it. Preparedness to know the resources that their technology had been laid down before the Japanese got there, and the rest of the story. You know, it took great preparations and heavy fighting to come out.

four days before the departure of the ship. The first day was spent in the morning at the "National Institute" and in the afternoon at the "National Institute" and in the evening at the "National Institute". The second day was spent in the morning at the "National Institute" and in the afternoon at the "National Institute" and in the evening at the "National Institute". The third day was spent in the morning at the "National Institute" and in the afternoon at the "National Institute" and in the evening at the "National Institute". The fourth day was spent in the morning at the "National Institute" and in the afternoon at the "National Institute" and in the evening at the "National Institute".

[illegible]

In a few minutes I want to say a few words about the future of the Project. I think it will interest you if you are

Today the Hawaiian Islands are no longer a mere subject. They constitute a major base from which, and from the Pacific Coast, front-line operations are being conducted twice as fast as they were in the past. The distance between the coast and Hawaii is lessened by the fact that the Japanese have helped to make possible the victories at Guadalcanal and New Guinea and the terrible and the terrible. It is possible that the Japanese will make possible future operations in China, -- make possible the recapture of the independence of the Philippines, and make possible the carrying of war into the home of the Japanese. Japan and the capital city of Tokyo. (Very long line)

WILSON J. BROWN

Howell's Institute used to be considered an outpost. We were not allowed to contact him and we could not go to his house.

(Faint, illegible handwritten notes)

dimensions developed need to be understood both in the understanding

In these three days we talked about people problems and the best methods of conducting the people program in the future. 11

the commanding general of army forces in the Hawaiian area, and
Admiral Halsey, Commander of the Third Fleet.

Interesting and useful conferences, accompanied by Admiral Kintz and my own Chief of Staff, Admiral Leahy, and General Richardson.

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... ..

The distances are greater than

-- they have to do it then because we haven't got any jungles around here -- jungle warfare,

eject them from Attu, and by the time the great expedition to that
recapture Kiska got there, the Japanese had decided that
discretion was the better part of valor; they decided, retirement,
and retreat was better for them than Hori-Kari. ^{They and so they}
abandoned the Aleutians.

^{-- many other bases --}
The climate at Adak is not the most inviting in the world,
but I want to say a word of appreciation to the thousands of
officers and men of all the services who have built up this
base and other bases in the extreme Northwest in such a short
time to a point where the people of our Pacific Coast, ^{the people}
British Columbia, and of Alaska can feel certain that we are
safe against Japanese invasion on any large scale.

^{as almost everybody is up in these parts.}
^{We were} delayed by fog and rain, we had to give up putting in at
Dutch Harbor but we did stop at Kodiak, a large island off the
end of the Alaskan peninsula. Here, also, the three services
have completed a very excellent, though smaller, base. The
first little town, we had seen in Alaskan waters, and the first
trees made me think of the coasts of Maine and Newfoundland.

^{posts}
We were told that a number of officers and men at this, and
other posts, are considering settling in Alaska after the war
is over. I hope that this is so, because the development of
Alaska has only been scratched and it is still the country of
the pioneers. Only a small part of its mineral resources have
been explored, and there is, of course, an abundance of fish
and game and timber, together with great possibilities for
agriculture. I could not help remembering that the climate, and
the crops and other resources are not essentially different
from Northern Europe - Norway, Sweden, and Finland - and the
people of these countries, in spite of the cold, and, in winter,
the darkness, have brought their civilizations to a high and very
prosperous level. On my return to Washington I am going to
set up a study of Alaska and the Aleutian Islands as a place
to which many veterans of this war, especially those who do
not have strong roots, ^{is their own home}, can go to become
pioneers. It is a land with a small population but ~~which~~ I
am convinced has great opportunities for those who are willing
to work and to help build up all kinds of new things in new
lands.

^{group}
So this trip has given me a chance to talk over the social and
economic future of the Hawaiian Islands with Governor Stainback,
and the future of the people of Alaska with Governor Gruening.
He asked me to assure you that the ten which I have acquired in
the last few days has come from the Alaskan ~~group~~. Near Juneau,
I played hooky for three hours. Went fishing and caught one
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Speaking again of the future, of the defense of the Pacific
and the use of its strongpoints in order to prevent attacks ~~on~~
us. You who live in the Pacific Northwest have realized that
a line for sea and air navigation following the great circle
course from Puget Sound to Siberia and ~~Northern~~ China passes
very close to the Alaskan coast and thence westward along the
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national defense, therefore, it is essential that our control
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just don't have trees, that town and those
trees

And in one sense every
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Continued, built them up
it really that we built in these parts
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there -- the first that we saw in Alaskan
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our interests by itself.

the foreseeable future commit such attacks against the United States. Therefore, it is essential that we be fully prepared to prevent them for all time to come. The word and the honor of Japan can not be trusted.

That is a simple statement from the military, naval and air point of view. But with the end of a Japanese threat there is an excellent outlook for a permanent peace in the whole of the Pacific Area. It is, therefore, natural and proper for us to think of the economic and commercial future. It is logical that we should foresee a great interchange of commerce between our shores and those of Siberia and China - and in this commercial development Alaska and the Alaskan Islands become automatic stepping stones for trade, both by water and by cargo planes. And this means the automatic development of transportation to Alaska via British Columbia and as far north as the Yukon.

It is as long as ten years ago that I talked with Mr. Mackenzie King, Prime Minister of Canada, in regard to the development of highways, the air routes and even a railroad to Alaska via British Columbia and the Yukon. Great interest in both actions was aroused, but it took the war to get quick action. Today, the Alcan Highway is practically completed, and an air route to Fairbanks enables us to deliver thousands of planes to our ally Russia by way of Alaska, Bering Straits and Siberia. These planes are an important factor in the brilliant and brave advance of the Russian armies on their march to Berlin. And I might observe, also, that our close relations, the true friendship with Canada during these years, has proved to be an illustrious example of working hand in hand with your neighbor for the general good.

South of the Alaskan continent, the use of island groups must also be considered for defense and for commerce in getting to and from the ~~Asian~~ Asiatic continents. We understand, at last, the importance of the Hawaiian Islands. It is important that we have other bases - forward bases nearer to Japan than they lie. The same thing is true in regard to the defense of all the American Republics from Mexico to the Panama Canal and all the way down to Chile. There are hundreds of islands in the South Pacific which bear the same relation to South America and the Panama Canal as Hawaii bears to North America. These islands are possessions of the British Empire and the French. They are important commercially just as they are from the defense point of view, for they lead to New Zealand, Australia, the Dutch Islands and the Southern Philippines. With all these places we undoubtedly have a growing trade.

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-3-

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That exception is and has been for many, many years that of Japan and the Japanese people-- because whether or not the people of Japan itself know and approve of what their lords and their have done for nearly a century, the fact remains that they seem to be giving hearty approval to the Japanese policy of acquisition of their neighbors, and their neighbors' lands, and a military and economic control of as many other nations as they can lay their hands on. It is an unfortunate fact that other nations can not trust Japan, it is an unfortunate fact that years of proof must pass before we can trust Japan, and before we can classify Japan as a member of the society of nations which seek permanent peace ^{and} whose word we can take.

In removing the future menace of Japan to us and to our continent, we are holding out the hope that other people in the Far East can be freed from the same threat. The people of the Philippines never have wished and never will wish to be slaves of Japan. ~~had the same thing is true of the peoples of Korea, that ancient kingdom which was over-run by the Japanese half a century ago, the peoples of Manchuria and all the rest of China. The same thing is true of the peoples of Indo-China, and the people of Siam, the peoples of Java, and even the most primitive peoples of New Guinea, and of the so-called Landed Islands, which we are in the splendid process of throwing the~~

I am glad to have the opportunity of taking this short trip, first for the conferences with General MacArthur and Admiral Nimitz, and secondly for the first-hand view of certain bases which are of vital importance to the ending of the war and to the prevention in the future of any similar attack.

More than a million of our troops are, ^{today} overseas in the Pacific. The war is well in hand in this vast area, but I can not tell you, if I knew, when the war will be over, either in Europe or in the Far East, or the war against Japan ~~itself~~.

It will be over ~~the~~ sooner if the people of this country will maintain the making of the necessary supplies, ships and planes. By so doing we will hasten the day of peace. By so doing we will save our own pocketbooks and those of our children; by so doing we will ~~save the lives of our sons and by so doing we will win a better chance of substantial unity among the United Nations in laying down securely the foundation of a lasting peace.~~ (applause)

and of all the things that go with them.

stand

, not only at home but

what we all want --

INSERT A

At this moment, may I just add a word of appreciation to the press and the radio of our country. You know we have a voluntary censorship -- purely voluntary. I want to thank them for the protection and the security which they gave to me and to my party at a time, on this trip, when nearly all the time I was within easy reach of enemy action. The press associations and some of the newspapers actually refused to publish the fact, which they got from local friends who had heard of my arrival and my trip around the Hawaiian Islands, ^{or} from local friends who -- whose sons out there had written home about it, and the newspapers didn't print it. That is a modern marvel.

Well, I got there on the 26th of July, and what

[1944]

FIRST DRAFT

It is just thirty days since I left Washington but I have been at all times in close touch with the work there and also in daily communication with our forces in the European and Far Eastern theatres of war. ~~As I have thought that you would be interested in a brief summary of my visit to Hawaii and to the Aleutian Islands and Alaska, from which I have landed only a few hours ago at the Puget Sound Navy Yard at Bremerton just a few miles away. It is good to see since my visit here nearly two years ago the splendid progress that is being maintained on the Pacific Coast in turning out ships and planes and munitions of almost every other variety and the training of men for all the armed services.~~

~~When I got~~
Being directly to San Diego, and for three days before going on board ship, I had the opportunity to visit many of the patients in the hospital there, a large number of whom were just back from the fighting in the Marshall and Marianas Islands. And also I witnessed a large landing operation practice on the beaches of Southern California between Los Angeles and San Diego -- the kind of warfare which has been so successfully developed by us during the past two years. This is ^{of} a wholly new type ~~of operations~~, requiring all kinds of new equipment and new training, and I think I can safely say that no other nation in the world has worked it out as successfully as we have, as we have shown within the past few weeks in the capture of Saipan and Tinian and the recapturing of Guam, resulting in new threats against Japan itself and against all of their operations in the Southwest Pacific.

~~observation~~
It takes a personal ~~view~~ of a landing maneuver, such as I saw, from a high bluff overlooking the shore below, to understand how well the application of experience is being carried out. The

landing craft -- a wholly new type of ship, came to the beach from the transports offshore under a cover of fog. They came ~~in~~^{on} in waves, the Marines and infantry getting the first toe-hold, followed by other waves and then by all manner of equipment, ammunition and wire and tanks, all protected by air coverage, and preceded theoretically by a devastating bombardment from heavy ships lying offshore. When a beachhead was obtained to a depth of a mile or two there followed the unloading of great quantities of supplies of all kinds, including ~~trucks and jeeps.~~^{trucks and jeeps.} Timing is of the utmost importance in an operation of this kind together with instantaneous communication from the shore to the ships and planes. Here was demonstrated the perfect cooperation between all of the services, Army, Navy and Marines, and to this should be added the teamwork ~~of~~^{the} immediate care ~~for~~^{of} the wounded and their quick transfer back to the hospital ships. We in our comfortable homes ought to realize that to all troops and Marines who are to conduct a new landing expedition on some far distant island in the Pacific as well as on the coast of France, this amphibious training is being given at a number of places in the United States before the expedition even starts. Hundreds of instructors are required, nearly all ~~of the~~ men who have participated in actual combat operations beforehand. Many of these instructors will, of course, accompany the troops in the actual operations of future landings.

The cruiser on which I went from San Diego to Hawaii is one of a number of what we call "post-treaty" cruisers -- much larger and more powerful and faster than the pre-war cruisers, which were limited by treaty to 10,000 tons. This particular ship joined the Pacific Fleet less than a year ago, but has already engaged in fifteen operations in the Western and Southwest Pacific. Her's is a magnificent record. Her skipper and crew have brought her through all of these many offensive missions unscathed, and because

of the experience thus gained she is an even more powerful weapon than she was the day she joined the Fleet.

The voyage was uneventful and we arrived at Pearl Harbor on July 26th.

What an amazing change since my visit there ten years ago. Up to that time the Pearl Harbor navy yard had maintained a steady growth, like most of our other navy yards, but today it is capable of making repairs to the heaviest ships and employs a force nearly ten times as great, many of the mechanics coming from the West Coast. All of the battleships and smaller craft which were sunk or damaged in the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7th, 1941, have been raised with the exception of the ARIZONA. In her case, because of the explosion of her forward magazine, salvage was impossible but in her case her main battery of heavy guns was removed and remounted and now forms a part of the coastal defenses on the Island of Oahu.

All of the other ships are afloat and in service, most of them having been put back into commission here at Puget Sound and all of them greatly improved in fire power. They have been used in action in the Pacific and elsewhere -- one of them, indeed, the NEVADA, having taken part in the bombardment of the coast of Normandy prior to and during the landing operations there as lately as the 6th of June.

I spent three days on the Island of Oahu and everywhere, as at the navy yard, the war activities have multiplied almost beyond belief.

On the afternoon of my arrival ^{my old friend} General Douglas MacArthur arrived by air from New Guinea and we began a series of interesting and useful conferences accompanied by Admiral Nimitz and my own Chief of Staff, Admiral Leahy, and General Richardson, the Commanding General

Third Fleet of Army Forces in the Hawaiian Area and *Admiral Halsey, Commander of the*

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Today the Hawaiian Islands are no longer a mere outpost. They constitute a major base from which, and from the Pacific Coast, front line operations are being conducted twice as far away as the distance between the Coast and Hawaii. The Hawaiian Islands ^{have helped} ~~to make~~ possible the victories at Guadalcanal and New Guinea and the Marshalls and the Marianas. The Islands will make possible future operations in China -- make possible the recapture and the independence of the Philippines, and make possible the carrying of war into the home islands of Japan itself and its capital city of Tokio.

In a few minutes I want to say another word about the future of the Pacific.

During the rest of my stay in Hawaii I visited many activities including the great air fields, the hospitals, and an ambulance plant at Hickham Field which had just come in with wounded men from Saipan, ^{and I saw} a large Army group which was going through a complete course on jungle warfare -- an art which we have developed so expertly that our troops are more than a match in the jungle for any Japanese whom we have yet to meet. ^{I am very proud of the basic training and the}

^{Final training we are getting at home and overseas.} After rejoining our ship we headed for the Aleutian Islands, four days later arriving at Adak on one of the more westerly islands of the group. There again I found intense activity at what might be called a nearly completed advance base. It was from here that a great part of the expeditions for the recapture of Attu and Kiska

started. Adak two years ago was a bleak and practically uninhabited island which, with the other Aleutian Islands, seemed relatively ^{to us} ~~in the plans~~ ^{for} the security of our own continent. ^{to} You here can well realize the commotion which followed the Japanese occupation of Attu and Kiska and you may have thought that the Chiefs of Staff in Washington were not paying enough attention to the threat against Alaska and the Coast. We realized, of course, that such a Japanese threat could become serious if it was unopposed, but we knew also that Japan did not have the naval and air power to carry this into effect without greater resources and longer time ^{to plan, to organize, to throw} the Japanese from their toe-holds had been laid even before the Japanese got there, and the rest of the story you know. It took great preparations and heavy fighting to eject them from Attu and by the time the great expedition to recapture Kiska got there the Japanese had decided that discretion was the better part of valor. ^{They decided} ~~retreat~~ ^{to them} ~~the~~ ^{They abandoned the attention.} The climate at Adak is not the most inviting in the world but I want to say a word of appreciation to the thousands of officers and men of all the services who have built up this base and other bases in such a short time ^{in the extreme Northwest} to a point where the people of our Pacific Coast, of British Columbia, and of Alaska, can feel certain that we are safe against Japanese invasion ~~from the south~~ ^{on my large scale.}

 Delayed by fog, ^{and rain} we had to give up putting in at Dutch Harbor but we did stop at Kodiak, a large island off the end of the Alaskan peninsula. Here, also, the three services have completed a very excellent, though smaller, base. ^{The} first little town we had seen in Alaskan waters and the first trees made me think of the coasts of Maine and Newfoundland.

We were told that a number of officers and men at this and other posts are considering settling in Alaska after the war is over. I hope that this is so because the development of Alaska has only been scratched and it is still the country of the pioneer. Only a small

part of its mineral resources have been explored and there is, of course, an abundance of fish and game and timber. *I could not help remembering that the climate, the crops and other resources are not essentially different from Northern Europe -- Norway, Sweden and Finland -- and the people of these countries in spite of the cold and, in winter, the darkness have brought their civilisations to a high and prosperous level. On my return to Washington I am going to set up a study of Alaska as a place to which many veterans of this war, especially those who do not have strong roots in their own homes, can go to Alaska and the Aleutian Islands to become pioneers. It is a land with a very small population but which I am convinced has great opportunities for those who are willing to work and help to build up all kinds of new things in new territories.*

That is why we must turn to the future of the defense of the Pacific and the use of its strongpoints to prevent attacks on us. You who live in Seattle and its neighborhood have realized that a line for sea and air navigation follows the great circle course from Puget Sound to Siberia and Northern China passes very close to the Alaskan coast and thence westward along the line of the Aleutian Islands. From the point of view of national defense, therefore, it is essential that our control of this route shall be undisputed. Everybody in Siberia and China knows that we have no ambition to acquire land on the continent of Asia. We as a people are utterly opposed to aggression or sneak attacks -- but we as a people are insistent that other nations must not under any circumstances through the foreseeable future commit such attacks against the United States. Therefore, it is essential that we be fully prepared to prevent them for all time to come.

The west and the
honor of Japan (and of the Pacific)
That is a simple statement from the military, naval and air point of view. But with the end of a Japanese threat there is an excellent outlook for a permanent peace in the whole of the Pacific Area. It is therefore natural and proper for us to think of the economic and commercial future. It is logical that we should foresee a great interchange of commerce between our shores and those of Siberia and China -- and in this commercial development Alaska and the Aleutian Islands become automatic stepping stones for trade, both by water and by cargo planes. And this means the automatic development of transportation to Alaska
to British Columbia and as far north as the Yukon.

It is as long as ten years ago that I talked with Mr. Mackenzie King, Prime Minister of Canada, in regard to the development of highways and air routes and even a railroad to Alaska via British Columbia and the Yukon. Great interest in both nations was aroused but it took the war to get quick action. Today the Alcan Highway is practically completed and an air route to Fairbanks enables us to deliver thousands of planes to our ally Russia by way of Alaska, Bering Straits and Siberia. These planes are an important factor in the brilliant and brave advance of the Russian armies ^{and this means the} ~~in winning~~ ^{to Berlin} the defeat of Germany itself. And I might observe also that our close relations and true friendship with Canada during these years has proved to be an illustrious example of working hand in hand ^{with your neighbor} for the general good. ^{South} South of the Alaska-Aleutians ^{islands} the use of island groups must also be considered for defense and for commerce in getting to and from the American and Asiatic continents. We understand at last the importance of the Hawaiian Islands. It is important that we have other bases -- forward bases nearer to Japan than they lie. The same thing is true in regard to the defense of all the American Republics from Mexico past the Panama Canal and all the way down to Chile. There are ^{hundreds} ~~hundreds~~ of islands in the South Pacific which bear the same relation to South America and the Panama Canal ^{as} ~~which~~ Hawaii bears to North America. These islands are possessions of the British Empire and the French. They are important commercially just as they are from the defense point of view for they lead to New Zealand, Australia, the Dutch Indies and the Southern Philippines. With all these places we shall undoubtedly have a growing trade.

We have no desire to ask for any possessions of the United Nations. But the United Nations who are working so well with us in the winning of the war will, I am confident, be glad to join with us in ^{protection against} ~~the winning~~ aggression. ^{and in machinery to prevent aggression.} With them and with their help I am sure that we can agree ^{by so that} ~~on the basis of a~~ complete agreement that will make Central and South America as safe against attack from the South Pacific as ^{North America} ~~is~~ is going to be from the North Pacific itself.

The self-interests of our Allies will be affected by fair and friendly collaboration with us. They too will gain in national security. They will gain economically. The destinies of the peoples of the whole Pacific will for many years be entwined with our own destiny. Already there are stirring among hundreds of millions of them a desire for the right to work out their own destinies and they show no evidence of seeking to over-run the earth -- with one exception.

That exception is and has been for many, many years that of Japan and the Japanese people, because whether ^{or not} the people of Japan itself know and approve of what their lords have done for nearly a century, the fact remains that they ^{from the beginning have given their approval} ~~are giving approval~~ to the Japanese policy of acquisition of their neighbors and their neighbors' lands and a military and economic control of as many other nations as they can lay their hands on. It is an unfortunate fact that other nations can not trust Japan, it is an unfortunate fact that years of proof must pass before we can trust Japan and before we can classify Japan as a member of the society of nations which seek permanent peace and whose word we can take.

In removing the future menace of Japan to us and to our continent we are holding out the hope that other people in the Far East can be freed from the same threat. The people of the Philippines never have wished and never will wish to be slaves to Japan. And the same thing is true of the peoples of Korea, that ancient kingdom which was over-run by the Japanese half a century ago, the peoples of Manchuria and all the rest of China. The same thing is true of the peoples of Indo China, the people of Siam, the peoples of Java and even the most primitive peoples of New Guinea and of the so-called Mandated Islands which we are in the splendid process of throwing the Japanese out of.

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It is good to come back to the Puget Sound Navy Yard for as you know I have been coming here off and on since 1913 or 1914. Since my visit here nearly two years ago I am glad to know of the splendid progress that is being maintained both here and at many places on the Pacific Coast in turning out ships and planes and munitions of almost every other variety - and in the training of men for all of the armed services. So I have thought that you would be interested in a brief summary of my visit to Hawaii and to the Aleutian Islands and Alaska, from which I am about to step foot on shore in the continental United States.

INSERT (B)

This trip has given me a chance to talk over the social and economic future of the Hawaiian Islands with Governor Stainback and the future of the people of Alaska with Governor Gruening. He asked me to assure you that the tan which I have acquired in the last few days has come from the Alaskan sun. Near Juneau I played hockey for three hours, went fishing and caught one halibut and one flounder.

August 12, 1944.

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landing operation on the beaches of Southern California between Los Angeles and San Diego - the kind of warfare which has been so successfully developed by us during the past two years. This is of a wholly new type, requiring all kinds of new equipment and new training, and I think I can safely say that no other nation in the world has worked it out as successfully as we have, as we have shown within the past few weeks in the capture of SAIPAN and TINIAN and the recapturing of GUAM, resulting in new threats against Japan itself and against all of their operations in the Southwest Pacific.

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3

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During the rest of my stay in Hawaii I visited many activities, including the great air fields, the hospitals, and an ambulance plane at Hickham Field which had just come in with wounded men from Saipan; *The 7th Div. which had been a fine combat division in Europe* and I saw a large Army group which was going through a complete course on jungle warfare - an art which we have developed so expertly that our troops are more than a match in the jungle for any Japanese whom we have yet to meet. I am very proud of the basic training and the final training our sons are getting at home and overseas.

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You here can well realize the commotion which followed the Japanese occupation of Attu and Kiska and you may have thought that the Chiefs of Staff in Washington

were not paying enough attention to the threat against Alaska and the Coast. We realized, of course, that such a Japanese threat could become serious if it was unopposed, but we knew also that Japan did not have the naval and air power to carry this into effect without greater resources and a longer time to plan. Preparations to throw the Japanese from their toe-holds had been laid even before the Japanese got there, and the rest of the story you know. It took great preparations and heavy fighting to eject them from Attu and by the time the great expedition to recapture Kiska got there the Japanese had decided that discretion was the better part of valor; they decided retirement, and retreat was better for them than hari-kari. They abandoned the Aleutians.

575

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Speaking again of the future of the defense of the Pacific and the use of its strongpoints in order to prevent attacks on us. You who live in the Pacific Northwest have realized that a line for sea and air navigation following the great circle course from Puget Sound to Siberia and Northern China passes very close to the Alaskan coast and thence westward along the line of the Aleutian Islands. From the point of view of national defense, therefore, it is essential that our control of this route shall be undisputed. Everybody in Siberia and China knows that we have no ambition to acquire land on the continent of Asia. We as a people are utterly opposed to aggression or sneak attacks - but we as a people are insistent that other nations

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That is a simple statement from the military, naval and air point of view. But with the end of a Japanese threat there is an excellent outlook for a permanent peace in the whole of the Pacific Area. It is, therefore, natural and proper for us to think of the economic and commercial future. It is logical that we should foresee a great interchange of commerce between our shores and those of Siberia and China - and in this commercial development Alaska and the Aleutian Islands become automatic stepping stones for trade, both by water and by cargo planes. And this means the automatic development of transportation to Alaska via British Columbia and as far north as the Yukon.

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We have no desire to ask for any possessions of the United Nations. But the United Nations who are working so well with us in the winning of the war will, I am confident, be glad to join with us in protection against aggression and in machinery to prevent aggression. With them and with their help I am sure that we can agree completely so that Central and South America will be as safe against attack from the South Pacific as North America is going to be from the North Pacific itself.

The self-interests of our Allies will be affected by fair and friendly collaboration with us. They too will gain in national security. They will gain economically. The destinies of the peoples of the whole Pacific will for many years be entwined with our own destiny. Already there are stirring among hundreds of millions of them a desire for the right to work out their own destinies and they show no evidence of seeking to over-run the earth - with one exception.



That exception is and has been for many, many years that of Japan and the Japanese people - because whether or not the people of Japan itself know and approve of what their lords have done for nearly a century, the fact remains that they seem to be giving hearty approval to the Japanese policy of acquisition of their neighbors and their neighbors' lands and a military and economic

control of as many other nations as they can lay their hands on. It is an unfortunate fact that other nations can not trust Japan, it is an unfortunate fact that years of proof must pass before we can trust Japan and before we can classify Japan as a member of the society of nations which seek permanent peace and whose word we can take.

In removing the future menace of Japan to us and to our continent we are holding out the hope that other people in the Far East can be freed from the same threat. The people of the Philippines never have wished and never will wish to be slaves to Japan. And the same thing is true of the peoples of Korea, that ancient kingdom which was over-run by the Japanese half a century ago, the peoples of Manchuria and all the rest of China. The same thing is true of the peoples of Indo-China, the people of Siam, the peoples of Java and even the most primitive peoples of New Guinea and of the so-called Mandated Islands which we are in the splendid process of throwing the Japanese out of.

I am glad to have the opportunity of taking this short trip, first for the conferences with General MacArthur and Admiral Nimitz and secondly for the first-hand view of certain bases which are of vital importance to the ending of the war and to the prevention in the future of any similar attack.

More than a million of our troops are overseas in the Pacific, the war is well in hand in this vast area

but I can not tell you if I knew when the war will be over either in Europe or in the Far East or the war against Japan.

It will be over the sooner if the people of this country will maintain the making of the necessary supplies and ships and planes. By so doing we will hasten the day of peace. By so doing we will save our own pocketbooks and those of our children; by so doing we will save the lives of our sons and by so doing we will run a better chance of substantial unity among the United Nations in laying more securely the foundation of a lasting peace.

5.30

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Very truly yours
U. S. S. Andrews