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**Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”**  
**The Master Speech Files, 1898, 1910-1945**  
**Series 3: “The Four Freedoms” and FDR in World War II**

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**File No. 1575**

**1945 March 23**

**Toast to the Governor General of Canada,  
the Earl of Athlone and Princess Alice**

TOAST Of The President

At The State Dinner For

The Governor General of Canada, the Earl of Athlone  
And Princess Alice

In The State Dining Room Of The White House

March 23, 1945 -- about 9.15 p.m., e.w.t.

(With Reply Of The Earl Of Athlone)

THE PRESIDENT: A few years ago, a young couple came to this table, and we had a little dinner for them. And we found them not only very delightful people, but they gave us the feeling that they were old friends.

And tonight I cannot do it for a second time to his face. I will have to ask his uncle's representative -- his uncle and his aunt. This gives us all a wonderful opportunity to do something that we have in our hearts very much, and that is to drink to the health of the King.

(the Toast was drunk)

THE EARL OF ATHLONE: Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen:

May I, before losing your Toast, just say a few words of thanks, to you Mr. President particularly.

It is through you that my wife and I have been able to make some very delightful visits to the United States, and also, of course, to Mrs. Roosevelt. Thanks to you, Mr. President, we have been able to visit the wonderful place called Fairbanks in Alaska, and also Seattle and Portland on the

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.

borders of Canada. On that occasion, we were able to visit your great naval base at Bremerton, which I confess took my breath entirely away.

Then, of course, my wife and I had the great pleasure of entertaining you at Québec on two occasions. On the second occasion you brought Mrs. Roosevelt with you. I do wish you could have stayed a little longer. Of course, those historic occasions will never be obliterated from our minds.

Now, Mr. President, we have come to the climax and the most exciting moment of our lives: in visiting Washington. May I be allowed to say this, that I hope when poor old London comes to be rebuilt -- poor old London, still standing but sorely stricken -- that if you do not send an architect over there, that our architects should come over here to Washington, and see whether they cannot implant in London something of the touch of beautiful Washington.

When my wife and I return to Canada, we shall take away with us recollections of Mount Vernon, your Memorials to great people, especially the Memorial to one unknown but not forgotten, and also the beautiful blooms, or shall we say the shrubs and the trees that are coming out into bloom, some of them coming from the North.

We shall also remember your very kind hospitality, and the hospitality of your officials, and the officers of the various Services with whom we have had the pleasure of being entertained, at your invitation, on so many occasions.

We hope that some day we shall meet you and Mrs.

Roosevelt in the tiny little Isle, which is no great distance  
by air from the United States of America.

I give you a Toast to the President of the United  
States.

(the Toast was drunk)

(copy for the Governor General)