Einstein Letter. In the summer of 1939, a group of physicists, including several who had fled Hitler’s Germany, met to discuss their fears of Germany developing a uranium-based weapon. It was decided that the best course of action was to immediately inform President Roosevelt of their concerns. Because Albert Einstein had a previous personal relationship with the Roosevelts and was internationally well-known for his expertise, a letter informing the President about the dangers of a nuclear chain reaction bomb was drafted for Einstein’s signature. This August 2, 1939 letter was personally delivered to the President on October 11, 1939 (the outbreak of the war intervened) by Alexander Sachs, a longtime economic adviser to FDR. After learning the letter’s contents, President Roosevelt told his military adviser General Edwin M. Watson, “This requires action.” The action FDR required would evolve into the Manhattan Project. From the President’s Secretary’s Files.

F.D. Roosevelt,
President of the United States,
White House
Washington, D.C.

August 2nd, 1939

Sir:

Some recent work by E. Fermi and L. Szilard, which has been communicated to me in manuscript, leads me to expect that the element uranium may be turned into a new and important source of energy in the immediate future. Certain aspects of the situation which has arisen seem to call for watchfulness and, if necessary, quick action on the part of the Administration. I believe therefore that it is my duty to bring to your attention the following facts and recommendations:

In the course of the last four months it has been made probable - through the work of Joliot in France as well as Fermi and Szilard in America - that it may become possible to set up a nuclear chain reaction in a large mass of uranium, by which vast amounts of power and large quantities of new radium-like elements would be generated. Now it appears almost certain that this could be achieved in the immediate future.

This new phenomenon would also lead to the construction of bombs, and it is conceivable - though much less certain - that extremely powerful bombs of new type may thus be constructed. A single bomb of this type, carried by boat and exploded in a port, might very well destroy the whole port together with some of the surrounding territory. However, such bombs might very well prove to be too heavy for transportation by air.
The United States has only very poor ores of uranium in moderate quantities. There is some good ore in Canada and the former Czechoslovakia, while the most important source of uranium is Belgian Congo.

In view of this situation you may think it desirable to have some permanent contact maintained between the Administration and the group of physicists working on chain reactions in America. One possible way of achieving this might be for you to entrust with this task a person who has your confidence and who could perhaps serve in an unofficial capacity. His task might comprise the following:

a) to approach Government Departments, keep them informed of the further development, and put forward recommendations for Government action, giving particular attention to the problem of securing a supply of uranium ore for the United States;

b) to speed up the experimental work, which is at present being carried on within the limits of the budgets of University laboratories, by providing funds, if such funds be required, through his contacts with private persons who are willing to make contributions for this cause, and perhaps also by obtaining the co-operation of industrial laboratories which have the necessary equipment.

I understand that Germany has actually stopped the sale of uranium from the Czechoslovakian mines which she has taken over. That she should have taken such early action might perhaps be understood on the ground that the son of the German Under-Secretary of State, von Weizsäcker, is attached to the Kaiser-Wilhelm-Institut in Berlin where some of the American work on uranium is now being repeated.

Yours very truly,

[Signature]

(Albert Einstein)
Bedside Note. In the early morning hours of September 1, 1939, President Roosevelt was awakened in his bedroom at the White House by a telephone call from his Ambassador in Paris, William C. Bullitt, who advised the President that Germany had invaded Poland and that several Polish cities were being bombed. After FDR gave orders that all Army commands and Navy ships be notified at once, the President wrote this unique “bedside note” documenting for posterity how and when he had received the news of the outbreak of World War II. From the President’s Personal Files.
Draft Pages from the Four Freedoms Speech. In his Annual Message to Congress (State of the Union Address) delivered on January 6, 1941, President Roosevelt warned the Congress and the nation of the peril faced by the United States and the world’s democracies from aggression abroad. The ultimate defeat of aggressor nations, he believed, would constitute a victory for the underlying principles of the democratic system of government. In this Fifth Draft of the speech, we can see Roosevelt’s own handwritten revision of the principles he defined as “four essential human freedoms”: Freedom of Speech and Expression, Freedom of Worship, Freedom from Fear, and Freedom from Want. Roosevelt’s concept of the Four Freedoms would guide his leadership throughout the war. *From the President’s Master Speech File.*
The first is freedom of speech and expression everywhere in the world.

The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way everywhere in the world.

The third is freedom from want — which translated into international terms means economic understandings which will secure to every nation everywhere a healthy peace time life for its inhabitants everywhere in the world.

The fourth is freedom from fear — which translated into international terms means a world-wide reduction of armaments to such a point and in such a thorough fashion that no nation anywhere will be in a position to commit an act of physical aggression against any neighbor anywhere in the world.

That kind of a world is the very antithesis of the so-called "new order" which the dictators seek to create at the point of a gun in Europe and in Asia.

To that "new order" we oppose the greater conception, the moral order. A good society is able to face schemes of world domina-
tion and foreign revolutions alike without fear. It has no need either for the one or for the other.
Draft of December 8, 1941 Message to Congress. President Roosevelt was having lunch in his White House study on December 7, 1941 when he received word of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and other Pacific installations. A few hours later, the President dictated a short address to be delivered to a Joint Session of Congress the following day. His handwritten revisions—visible in this December 7 draft of the speech—made the “Day of Infamy” speech one of the most memorable in American history. From the President’s Master Speech File.

PROPOSED MESSAGE TO THE CONGRESS

December 7, 1941.

Yesterday, December 7, 1941, a date which will live in infamy, the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.

The United States was at that moment at peace with that nation and was, in the words of the Emperor said at Tokyo, still in the conversation with its Government and its Emperor looking toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific. Indeed, one hour afterJapanese air squadrons had commenced bombing in the Pacific, the Japanese Ambassador to the United States and his colleague delivered to the Secretary of State a formal reply to a recent message from the Secretary. This reply contained a statement that diplomatic negotiations must be continued at an end, contained no threat no hint of armed attack.

It will be recorded that the distance of Hawaii from Japan makes it obvious that these attacks were deliberately planned many days ago. During the intervening time the Japanese Government has deliberately sought to deceive the United States by false statements and expressions of hope for continued peace.
The attack yesterday on Pearl Harbor and on the island of Oahu has caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. Very many American lives have been lost. In addition, American ships have been torpedoed on the high seas between San Francisco and Honolulu.

Yesterday, the Japanese Government also launched an attack against Malaya.

Japan has, therefore, undertaken a surprise offensive extending throughout the Pacific area. The facts of yesterday speak for themselves. The people of the United States have already formed their opinions and well understand the implications the attacks to the safety of our nation.

As Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy, I have directed that all measures be taken for our defense.

Long will we remember the character of the onslaught against us.

No matter how long it may take us to overcome this pernicious menace, the American people will in their righteous might win through to absolute victory.
I speak the will of the Congress and of the people of this
country when I assert that we will not only defend ourselves to
the uttermost but will see to it that this form of treachery shall
never endanger us again. Hostilities exist. There is no mincing
the fact that our people, our territory and our interests are in
grave danger.

I, therefore, ask that the Congress declare that since the
unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, December
seventh, a state of war exists between the United States and the
Japanese Empire.
Draft Joint Declaration of the United Nations. In December 1941, shortly after America entered World War II, Prime Minister Winston Churchill visited President Roosevelt in Washington D.C. The two leaders drafted a joint declaration of principles to be signed by all the Allied nations fighting against the Axis Powers. This declaration became the foundation for the modern United Nations Organization. Roosevelt and Churchill engaged in lengthy discussions about which nations should be included in the declaration and the order in which they should appear. Roosevelt prevailed, and the British colonies were listed as separate nations for purposes of the declaration. The formal joint declaration was signed at the White House on January 1, 1942. *From the President’s Secretary’s Files.*

JOINT DECLARATION BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CHINA, THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND, THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS, AUSTRALIA, BELGIUM, CANADA, COSTA RICA, CUBA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, EL SALVADOR, GREECE, GUATEMALA, HAITI, HONDURAS, NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND, NICARAGUA, NORWAY, PANAMA, POLAND, SOUTH AFRICA, AND YUGOSLAVIA.

The Governments signatory hereto,

Having subscribed to a common program of purposes and principles embodied in the Joint Declaration of the President of the United States of America and the Prime Minister of Great Britain dated August 14, 1941, known as the Atlantic Charter,

Being convinced that complete victory over their enemies is essential to defend life, liberty, independence and religious freedom, and to preserve human rights and justice not only in their own lands but everywhere, and that they are now engaged in a common struggle against savage and brutal forces seeking to subjugate the world, DECLARE:

(1) Each Government pledges itself to employ its full resources, military or economic, against those members of the Tripartite and its adherents with which such government is at war.

(2) Each Government pledges itself to cooperate with the other Governments signatory hereto and to continue war against, and not to make a separate armistice or peace with the common enemies or any of them.
The foregoing declaration may be adhered to by other nations which are, or which may be, rendering material assistance and contributions in the struggle for victory over Hitlerism, towards the defeat of members or adherents of the Tripartite Pact.
United Nations Organization sketch by FDR.  By late 1943, FDR was formulating ideas for the postwar peace. Critical to his thinking was a new United Nations Organization. This sketch, made by the President in November 1943 during the Teheran Conference, reflects his early concept of how such an organization might be structured. It includes a main body consisting of the forty United Nations in the Allied coalition, a smaller Executive Committee, and what FDR termed the “4 Policemen”— the United States, Great Britain, the Soviet Union and China. *From the Harry L. Hopkins Papers.*
Early Report from Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower on the Progress of the D-Day Invasion, June 6, 1944. The Normandy invasion began during the predawn hours of June 6. Back in Washington, President Roosevelt and his advisers, including Army Chief of Staff Gen. George C. Marshall, waited anxiously for early news about the operation. At 8:00 a.m. London time, on June 6, Gen. Eisenhower cabled this top secret preliminary progress report. From the President’s Map Room Papers.

To: War Department
Nr: 90016, 6 June 1944
90016 from SHAEF CP to AGWAR personal from Eisenhower to General Marshall for his eyes only.

Local time is now eight in the morning. I have as yet no information concerning the actual landings nor of our progress through beach obstacles. Communiqué will not be issued until we have word that leading ground troops are actually ashore.

All preliminary reports are satisfactory. Airborne formations apparently landed in good order with losses out of approximately 1250 airplanes participating about 30. Preliminary bombings by air went off as scheduled. Navy reports sweeping some mines but so far as is known channels are clear and operation proceeding as planned. In early morning hours reaction from shore batteries was sufficiently light that some of the Naval spotting planes have returned awaiting call.

The weather yesterday which was original date selected was impossible all along the target coast. Today conditions are vastly improved both by sea and air and we have the prospect of at least reasonably favorable weather for the next several days.

Yesterday I visited British troops about to embark
Nr: 90016, 6 June 1944

and last night saw a great portion of a U.3. Airborne Division just prior to its takeoff. The enthusiasm, toughness and obvious fitness of every single man were high and the light of battle was in their eyes.

I will keep you informed.

End

ACTION: General Handy
INFO: CCS
       General Arnold
       General Bissell
       Admiral King
       Colonel Park
       Field Marshal Dill
       LOG

DECLASSIFIED
R. 0. 11682, Sec. 3(B) and 5(D) or 8(B)
OSD letter, May 8, 1972
By DBS Date: APR 17 1973

CAM-IN-4441 (6 Jun 44) 1018Z eJv

EYES ONLY

SECRET

COPY No.

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN
Reading Copy, D-Day Prayer, June 6, 1944. On the night of June 6, 1944, President Roosevelt went on national radio to address the American people about the Normandy invasion. His speech took the form of a prayer. This is the copy of the speech from which the President read during that historic broadcast. The date and time of the Normandy invasion had been top secret. During a radio broadcast on June 5 about the Allied liberation of Rome, FDR had made no mention of the Normandy operation, already underway at that time. When he spoke to the country on June 6, the President had felt the need to explain his earlier silence. Shortly before he went on the air to read his prayer, he added several handwritten lines to the opening of the speech that addressed this point. From the President’s Master Speech File.

PRAYER READ BY THE PRESIDENT ON THE RADIO
THE WHITE HOUSE
JUNE 6, 1944

MY FELLOW AMERICANS:

Last night when I spoke with you about the fall of Rome, I knew that within but a few moments to bring about the end of the war. I knew that it would be a time of rejoicing for the Allies. In this poignant hour, I ask you to join me in prayer:

Almighty God: Our sons, pride of our nation, this day have set upon a mighty endeavor, a struggle to preserve our Republic, our religion, and our civilization, and to set free a suffering humanity.

Lead them straight and true; give strength to their arms, stoutness to their hearts, steadfastness to their faith.

They will need Thy blessings. Their road will be long and hard. The enemy is strong. He may hurl back our forces. Success may not come with rushing speed, but we shall return again and again; and we know that by Thy grace,
and by the righteousness of our cause, our sons will triumph.

They will be sore tried, by night and by day, without rest -- till the victory is won. The darkness will be rent by noise and flame. Men's souls will be shaken with the violences of war.

These are men lately drawn from the ways of peace. They fight not for the lust of conquest. They fight to end conquest. They fight to liberate. They fight to let justice arise, and tolerance and good will among all Thy people. They yearn but for the end of battle, for their return to the haven of home.

Some will never return. Embrace these, Father, and receive them, Thy heroic servants, into Thy kingdom.

And for us at home -- fathers, mothers, children, wives, sisters and brothers of brave men overseas --
whose thoughts and prayers are ever with them -- help us, Almighty God, to rededicate ourselves in renewed faith in Thee in this hour of great sacrifice.

Many people have urged that I call the nation into a single day of special prayer. But because the road is long and the desire is great, I ask that our people devote themselves in continuance of prayer. As we rise to each new day, and again when each day is spent, let words of prayer be on our lips, invoking Thy help to our efforts.

Give us strength, too -- strength in our daily tasks, to redouble the contributions we make in the physical and material support of our armed forces.

And let our hearts be stout, to wait out the long travail, to bear sorrows that may come, to impart our courage unto our sons wheresoever they may be.
And, O Lord, give us Faith. Give us Faith in Thee; Faith in our sons; Faith in each other; Faith in our united crusade. Let not the keenness of our spirit ever be dulled. Let not the impacts of temporary events, of temporal matters of but fleeting moment -- let not these deter us in our unconquerable purpose.

With Thy blessing, we shall prevail over the unholy forces of our enemy. Help us to conquer the apostles of greed and racial arrogancies. Lead us to the saving of our country, and with our sister nations into a world unity that will spell a sure peace -- a peace invulnerable to the schemings of unworthy men. And a peace that will let all men live in freedom, reaping the just rewards of their honest toil.

Thy will be done, Almighty God.

AMEN
Tube Alloys Aide-Memoire. Following the Second Quebec Conference in 1944, President Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill met at FDR's home in Hyde Park to discuss the further development of an atomic weapon, which the British code-named “Tube Alloys.” The result of their meeting is this September 18, 1944 aide-memoire that defines the Anglo-American agreement as to the weapon’s first use, post-war collaboration between the two powers on atomic research, and the importance of keeping the new technology a secret from the Soviet Union—a foreshadowing of the post-war tensions to come. From the President's Map Room Papers.
Undelivered Jefferson Day Address, April 13, 1945. President Roosevelt was scheduled to deliver by radio a speech to the annual Jefferson Day Dinner, a major event on the Democratic Party calendar. On April 11th, the President read through the initial draft of his speech that set forth his vision for a peaceful post-war world. As was his custom, he made handwritten revisions, re-arranged paragraphs, and inserted new language. At the end of the speech, he added the simple but powerful phrase "Let us move forward with strong and active faith." They were the last words that Franklin Roosevelt wrote for public utterance. He would die the next day, and the speech would remain undelivered. From the President's Master Speech File.

My friends:

Knowing that you are gathered tonight in cities, in towns, from one end of the country to the other, to give expression to your loyalty, I wish that I had the power, just for an evening, of being in a thousand places at once.

I, too, feel the old need of a homecoming, the old urge to show up among the folks, and to take pride with you in the fact that we are Democrats.

I have spoken to my doctor about my inability to be in more than one spot at a time, but he tells me the condition is chronic. There is nothing he can do about it.

But I am with you in heart. And in these times of trial, this greatest of all tests of men and the leaders of men, of nations and the community of nations — up to this decisive hour I know that you have stood, and you stand now, most loyally side by side with me.

Let me tell you that I am strengthened by that knowledge. Let-me
tell you that I am strengthened by that knowledge. Let me assure you that my hand is the steadier for the work that is to be done, that I move more firmly into the task, knowing that you -- millions and millions of you -- are joined with me in the resolve to make this work endure.

The work, my friends, is peace. More than an end of this war -- an end to the beginnings of all wars. Yes, an end, forever, to this impractical, unrealistic settlement of the differences between governments by the mass killing of peoples.

Even as I speak these words, I can hear, in my mind's ear, an old, old chorus. You have heard it too. You will hear more of it as we go forward with the work at hand.

It is the chorus coming from the defeatists, the cynics, the perfectionists -- all the world's sad aggregation of timid souls who tell us, for one reason or another, it can't be done.

They have been afraid to come along with us as we approached this task of destiny. And they will shrink, they will pull back and try to pull us back with them, as we get further into it.

Oh yes, they will agree, war is horrible. War is hell.

And yet, in their pale, anaemic minds there is a kind of worship
of this same horror of war. They tell us there can be no end to it.

They endow it with immortality. They certify it to us as the ultimate
fate of mankind on earth.

Now, you and I don't stand in such awe and adoration. We don't
think war deserves it.

You and I are not willing to concede that we were put here on earth
for no better purpose. And from here on, the wars that would come if
we let them would leave precious few of us to argue to the contrary!

You and I call war stupidity -- not plain stupidity, but enormous,
brutal stupidity, but enormous, brutal stupidity, a crime that makes no
more sense to its perpetrator than it does to its victim.

Well, today that cult of the faint-hearted, the credo of those
creeping adorers of a criminal precedent, is on its way out. And in a
span of time as far back as history goes, that is something new under
the sun.

To me there is no greater hope for humanity, there is no better sign
in the world of our time, than the fact that this abject worship of war
has become -- for the first time -- a minority belief. We have struck
boldly forward in the inner world of our thinking, in the world that we
project for our kind, and we have discovered that that world is not flat.

True, if there are new corporals who will want to become rulers
of the earth, we cannot legislate wild fancies out of their minds. And
if there are other impractical dreamers who must indulge themselves in
their private nightmares -- the pipedream that war is inevitable -- we
cannot pass laws abridging the freedom to dream.

But we can and we will stop these murderous hallucinations from
reaching us. We can and we will keep them confined to the dream-world
of would-be conquerors and of the defeatists who are their accessories
before the fact. We can stop them from wrecking the lives of sane, sound,
peace-loving, practical humanity. This we can do. And this we will do.

I say "we", for I know that I am only one in many millions who
share this belief and are so resolved. We have had it proved abundantly
to us in America that our people, whether Democrats or Republicans, want
to strike boldly against the threat of war. They have demanded a sane,
practical end to it. And they have their feet on the ground.

To this I can add -- for I have seen it just as abundantly in my
recent travels — that the other peoples of the world will be with us every step of the way. The thin-blooded timid souls who are now in a minority in our country are also in a minority in the world.

I remember saying, once upon a time in the long, long ago when I was a freshman, that the only thing our people had to fear was fear itself. We were in fear then of economic collapse. We struck back boldly against that fear, and we overcame it.

Today, as we move against an even more terrible scourge, and as we go forward towards the greatest contribution that any generation of human beings can make in this world — the contribution of lasting peace — that little admonition of thirteen years ago comes back to me.

I ask you to keep up your faith. I measure the sound, solid achievement that can be made at this time by the straight-edge of your own confidence and your resolve. And to you, and to all Americans who dedicate themselves with us to the making of an abiding peace, I say:

The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today. Let us move forward with strong and active faith.