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This Week In Congress Radio Address: Observance of Military Maneuvers In Panama, 1957 April 29

Speaker: Senator J. Allen Frear Transcribed by: David Cardillo

[00:00]

Announcer: The Week in Congress, recorded on April 29th, 1957.

Senator Frear:

As the United States and other nations move more deeply into the development of intercontinental missiles, and as we project similar efforts toward the successful completion of space satellites, our thoughts naturally turn to the overall significance of these actions and their relationship to the long-sought reality of World Peace. Within the past few days, I have witnessed certain military maneuvers in the area of Panama, designated and designed to demonstrate the potential striking force of our various military units. It is encouraging to note the interest and the dedicated determination with which our officers and men carried out these exercises. At the same time, it was comforting to realize that for the moment, at least, these activities were being executed as training maneuvers and not in actual conflict. But every American present, as well as all observers from the Western world, could speculate on the nature of similar activities, which are probably taking place constantly in nations opposed to our way of life. What would happen to civilization in the event of another world war? Carried on with today's nuclear, and other advanced weapons? It is frightening to contemplate. Thus, it is understandable that peace-loving people look hopefully to the possibility of successful disarmament arrangements as a course of action to prevent global conflict. History discloses that previous disarmament agreements have been only temporary in nature and were followed by massive military buildups, and then more. But terrible as earlier battles among nations have been, they may have been infinitely less damaging than any future war. Because of the precarious situation in such areas as the Middle East and other parts of the world, it is incumbent upon our country, and those of our allies, to maintain a state of constant readiness and to be prepared for resisting armed aggression wherever it occurs. It is, of course, our philosophy in the present international climate that if we are strong enough, no aggressor will risk the start of another conflict. But there is the common danger that the potentials for making way will sometime be put into use if they are available. For that reason, efforts to bring about a mutual and acceptable arrangement for reducing armaments should be steadfastly encouraged. As each of us has his personal ideals, so it would be equally desirable if every nation could seek, as its great and immediate objective, a substantial reduction of those weapons capable of almost unlimited destruction. I strongly hope that affirmative results from current disarmament talks will

be forthcoming, and that at long last, an understanding can be reached which will contribute to the stability and preservation of world peace. From personal conversations with citizens from many parts of the world, which I have been privileged to visit from time to time during the past ten years, it is overwhelmingly evident that World Peace is a burning and hopeful desire. If the collective hopes of all such individuals could be expressed, the result would be an almost unanimous expression against even the thought of another war. We, then, of the United States, because our leadership is recognized by almost every other nation on Earth, must continue our earnest quest for an effective formula to resolve the present period of crisis and to proceed in a determined and confident manner toward the attainment of world disarmament. The future of all mankind and of civilization itself is the goal at stake.

[End 05:15]