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Wm Hall  
My Speech file

It is very thoughtful and considerate of the members of the Rotary Club in Mexico City to set aside this weekly luncheon in commemoration of the Fourth of July, the anniversary of the independence of my country, and of the national holidays of the American Republics which fall within this month.

Your action in so doing is one more indication of the increasing recognition among the free peoples of the world of their interdependence and of the necessity of the closest collaboration between them. Just as you in Mexico are taking note of the independence day of the United States, so in my country, ever increasingly, the independence day of Mexico and the other American Republics is being celebrated.

The celebration of the Fourth of July and of the independence of the United States of America had for the people of my country an even deeper and greater significance this year. On more than one occasion since the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, the people of the United States have been obliged to defend that dearly won independence and existence as a sovereign and free people. They have learned that the price of liberty is eternal vigilance, and that no people can rest secure in its freedom in a world of aggression or in which aggression is possible.

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In the first world war the economic freedom of the whole world was threatened by the war lords and the economic over-lords of Germany. As a result of that dearly bought victory which drenched a good part of the world in blood and misery, economic freedom was again assured to the nations.

The supreme threat to the liberties of free peoples in large states and in small, in strong and in weak, has had to be met during the past few years. This time the totalitarian states threatened not only our economic freedom but our political freedom and everything in our institutions which we held dear. Germany, Italy, and Japan, in the hands of totalitarian governments, had proceeded on a program of world domination which involved as definite objectives not only the economic subjection of all other peoples, but political domination as well, and the complete abolition of liberty of all peoples except their own. In this great struggle, Mexico and the United States and the other American Republics have been side by side, true to their democratic principles and resolute in their determination to maintain their liberties. The power of the United Nations has brought about the defeat of these ambitions of Germany and Italy. In the Far East, the war against an equally dangerous enemy to human freedom ~~and progress~~ and to all that civilization has won for us is still in progress, but the eventual victory is certain and is now in sight.

The people

The people of my country have celebrated the Fourth of July this year in a spirit of thanksgiving mingled with grief. We are grateful for the victory which once again assures our freedoms, but we are filled with grief over the loss of our gallant soldiers and sailors and airmen who have made and who are still making the supreme sacrifice on farspread battlefields. We are deeply conscious that even when the final victory is won, for years we shall carry the burden and the responsibility which these aggressors against human liberty have brought on us.

I venture to express the firm belief that in my country and in Mexico and in all of the United Nations, we have determined that never again shall such aggression against human liberty and progress be possible. The United Nations in San Francisco have given expression to this determination in the formulation of the world charter of an organization for security and peace. We must all realize that human nature has not been changed completely even by the lessons and the sacrifices of this war not yet ended. We know that the weaknesses of human nature are in the aggregate the weaknesses of nations. We realize that in the course of a few months we could not formulate a charter for security and peace which is perfect, when humanity for thousands of years has been aiming at these objectives. We know, however, that in a spirit of collaboration and understanding and resolute determination which marked the Conference at San Francisco, a charter has been  
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forged which gives promise of maintaining security and peace. My country will ratify this charter without delay. The committee of the United States Senate, in an unprecedented action in our history, approved this document without a dissenting voice. This represents the will of the people of the United States, that so far as they are concerned, this threat to human liberty shall not have to be met again and that they will collaborate with the other peace-loving nations in the most complete manner so that it shall not happen again. This charter, we know, represents the ideals and the idealism of the free peoples of all the United Nations, and at the same time it is characterized by a deep sense of realism. We have recognized in this charter the fundamental consideration that world security and peace cannot be maintained only by treaties and good will, but that there must be behind this world organization for the maintenance of security and peace, the physical force of the United Nations which is necessary to hold in check any potential aggressor, great or small.

The people of the United States, as well as the people of Mexico and the others of the United Nations, have learned that the price of liberty is eternal vigilance and full and free and frank collaboration among peace-loving nations. This means that in every one of the United Nations it is the will of the people which is essential to make the world charter effective.

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It is only by keeping alive in our hearts the fires of liberty which imbued the revolutionary soldiers who won independence and who, since the days of the Magna Carta, have struggled for liberty against force, and by recognizing in practice that full-hearted collaboration among the peace-loving states is fundamental, that we will be able to make this world charter a living, effective instrument and eventually reach the perfection of the world organization, for which perfection we must constantly strive.