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STATEMENT ON NEUTRALITY REVISION

Under the circumstances that have developed since Congress adjourned it is imperative that the present neutrality legislation be repealed and that we return to the traditional rules of international law:

1. The present embargo upon arms, ammunition and instruments of war gives a distinct advantage to Germany. It puts a premium upon aggression deliberately planned and prepared for. For several years the Nazi Government dragooned the whole nation into making ready for war and subordinated all other aspects of economic life to this end. In the hope of avoiding war Great Britain and France postponed re-armament as long as possible, and tried constantly to maintain something like a normal economy suitable for free nations. As a consequence Germany now has an advantage in equipment for war and maintaining the arms embargo would help to preserve the balance in favor of Germany.
2. The repeal of embargo is necessary to offset the advantage to Germany of having access to the markets of Russia when Poland is defeated, while the market of the United States will be closed to Great Britain and France. It would be a strange paradox if supplies from Russia strengthened the aggressive armaments of Germany, while the denial of supplies from the United States weakened the defensive armaments of Great Britain and France.
3. Germany has violated the Kellogg Pact and done a grave wrong to the United States. We are therefore fully justified in repealing legislation which gives an advantage to Germany and returning to the traditional law of neutrality.
4. If Germany, with the aid of Russia, should defeat Great Britain and France, it would not be long before a direct challenge was made by Germany to the Monroe Doctrine. There have already been attempts by Germany to dominate the foreign trade of some Latin American countries so as to influence them politically. At the Lima Conference many Latin American states were concerned about the inroads of the Nazi Bunds, supported by German agents. It is not at all unthinkable that if Germany is victorious it will attempt to establish air and naval bases in the western hemisphere. This challenge is not the product of fevered imaginations. It may become cold reality. If it comes, it will have to be met by the United States; and it will require doubled and redoubled expenditures upon armaments if we are to meet it alone, with the British and French navies eliminated.
5. The United States has a vital interest in the maintenance of international law and order. To defend that interest is not to "take sides" in this conflict but to be seeking first our own national safety which is certain to be menaced if the dictators triumph. The best way to keep the United States out of war, this war or a later one, is for us to make the resources of our country available to those who are fighting against the power which, if it wins in this struggle, will ultimately challenge us.