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Speeches Prepared for the Secretary

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(Bretton Woods) (Atlantic City Conf.)
Speeches Prepared for the Secretary

A-1

Treasury Department
Division of Monetary

Date 6/27/44 19

To:

Mr. Gaston phoned Mr. White at 1:05 with regard to the attached, which was sent via teletype. The Secretary wants comments or changes by noon tomorrow.

Mr. Fred ~~Smith~~ Smith has a copy, which he looked over and is taking to Washington with him this evening.

6/27 Or. and 2 copies to Mr. White.
6/28/44 (9:30 a.m) Mr. White phoned Mr. Gaston about suggestions.

MR. WHITE
Branch 2058 - Room 214-1/2

the Conference:

and an opportunity. I accept the with gratitude for the confidence it also with deep humility, for I hope to a significant degree the nature we - and the nature of the world in ourselves must round out their lives hopes. All of you, I know, share this

It clear that we are not asked to make any nation, but that proposals here for respective governments for acceptance not to negotiate but to confer, and to upon the measures which must be the establishment of a sound and us.

ly if we approach it not as bargainers as men who recognize that their common, upon mutual trust and joint endeavor before us, but I believe, if we devote most earnestly and sincerely, that what we

achieve here will have the greatest historical significance. Men and women everywhere will look to this meeting for a sign that the unity welded among us by war will endure in peace.

Through cooperation we are now overcoming the most fearful and formidable threat ever to be raised against our security and freedom. It may be, with God's grace, that the scourge of war will soon be lifted from us. But we shall delude ourselves if we regard victory as synonymous with freedom and security. Victory in this war will give us simply the opportunity to mould a world that is, in truth, secure and free.

We are to concern ourselves here with the foundation, indeed with the very cornerstone, of freedom and security -- a steadily expanding world economy in which the people of every nation will be able to realize their potentialities in peace, will be able, through their industry, their inventiveness, their thrift, to raise their own standards of living and enjoy, increasingly, the fruits of material progress on an earth infinitely blessed with natural riches.

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Now Delegates and Members of the Conference:

You have given me an honor and an opportunity. I accept the chairmanship of this conference with gratitude for the confidence you have reposed in me. I accept it also with deep humility, for I know that what we do here will shape to a significant degree the nature of the world in which we are to live - and the nature of the world in which men and women younger than ourselves must round out their lives and seek the fulfillment of their hopes. All of you, I know, share this sense of responsibility.

President Roosevelt has made it clear that we are not asked to make definitive agreements binding on any nation, but that proposals here formulated are to be referred to our respective governments for acceptance or rejection. Our task, then is not to negotiate but to confer, and to reach understanding and agreement, upon the measures which must be recommended to our governments for the establishment of a sound and stable economic relationship among us.

We can accomplish this task only if we approach it not as bargainers but as partners - not as rivals but as men who recognize that their common welfare depends, in peace as in war, upon mutual trust and joint endeavor. I do not mean to minimize the task before us, but I believe, if we devote ourselves to it in this spirit, earnestly and sincerely, that what we achieve here will have the greatest historical significance. Men and women everywhere will look to this meeting for a sign that the unity welded among us by war will endure in peace.

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