

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

PSF
Great Britain;
King & Queen

June 15, 1939.

This was the formal release of the Toast to the King at the White House dinner on June 8, 1939. The actual Toast was extemporaneously given by me but it included all of the general thoughts in this release.

In addition, I offered a Toast to the Queen after the one to the King had been drunk.

F. D. R.

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Toast given by President Roosevelt to King George VI at a dinner given in honor of Their Majesties. The changes are in the handwriting of President Roosevelt.

PS F Queen of Britain;
King & Queen

Your Majesties:

In the life of a nation, as in that of an individual, there are occasions that stand out in high relief. Such an occasion is the present one, when the entire United States is welcoming on its soil the King and Queen of Great Britain, of our neighbor Canada, and of all the far-flung British Commonwealth of Nations. It is an occasion for festivities, but it is also fitting that we give thanks for the bonds of friendship that link our two peoples.

I am persuaded that the greatest single contribution our two countries have been enabled to make to civilization, and to the welfare of peoples throughout the world, is the example we have jointly set by our manner of conducting relations between our two nations.

It is because each nation is lacking in fear of the other that we have unfortified borders between us. It is because neither of us fears aggression on the part of the other that we have entered no race of armaments, the one against the other.

The King and I are aware of a recent episode. Two small uninhabited islands in the center of the Pacific

became of sudden interest to the British Empire and to the United States as stepping stones for commercial airplanes between America and Australasia. Both nations claimed sovereignty. Both nations had good cases. To have entered into a long drawn out argument could have meant ill-will between us and delay in the use of the Islands by either nation. It was suggested that the problem be solved by the joint use of both Islands by both nations, and, by a gentleman's agreement, to defer the question of sovereignty until the year 1989.

If this illustration of the use of methods of peace, divorced from aggression, could only be universally followed, relations between all countries would rest upon a sure foundation, and men and women everywhere could once more look upon a happy, a prosperous and a peaceful world.

May this kind of understanding between our countries grow ever closer, and may our friendship prosper.

Ladies and gentlemen, we drink to the health of His Majesty, King George VI.

*Life of nation - high relief - K. & A. Give Thanks - bonds friendship
Greatest contrib. civ. life: example conduct relations
Because each look for - in heart, neither aggress. no race
upwards
If this illust. can be followed.
May n understandings grow closer - friendship closer - Drink Cheers*