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ADDRESS BY
ADMIRAL R.A. SPRUANCE, U.S.N.
AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
ON 27 OCTOBER, 1947

IN CONNECTION WITH NAVY DAY

TWO YEARS AGO OUR NAVY HAD -- ONLY THREE MONTHS BEFORE -- FINISHED IN THE PACIFIC WHAT WAS THE GREATEST NAVAL WAR IN HISTORY. THIS WAR WAS WON THROUGH THE COOPERATION OF ALL AVAILABLE FORCES OF THE ARMY AND THE NAVY UNDER THE SPLENDID LEADERSHIP OF ADMIRAL NIMITZ AND GENERAL MACARTHUR.

FOR THE FIRST YEAR OF THAT WAR WE WERE ON THE DEFENSIVE, BECAUSE OUR FORCES WERE TOO INFERIOR TO THOSE OF THE JAPANESE FOR US TO BE OTHERWISE. DURING THE SECOND YEAR WE WERE BUILDING UP OUR STRENGTH AND WE COMMENCED TO MOVE SLOWLY FORWARD. AFTER THAT WE HAD BECOME STRONG ENOUGH TO ROLL OVER THE ENEMY WHEREVER WE HIT HIM.

WHAT ENABLED US TO WIN THE WAR WAS THE GREAT OUTPUT IN THE UNITED STATES OF SHIPS, AIRCRAFT, WEAPONS AND SUPPLIES OF ALL KINDS, AND THE RECRUITING AND TRAINING OF THE MEN TO USE THEM IN COMBAT WITH THE ENEMY. HAD WE NOT HAD THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES UNITEDLY BACK OF THE WAR EFFORT, WE MIGHT READILY HAVE LOST THE WAR.

TODAY, MORE THAN TWO YEARS AFTER THE FIGHTING CEASED, WE FIND THE PEACE TREATIES WITH GERMANY, AUSTRIA AND JAPAN STILL NOT AGREED UPON. WE FIND THE WORLD DIVIDED BY IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES INTO TWO GROUPS, WITH WHAT HAS BEEN CALLED A STATE OF "COLD WAR" EXISTING BETWEEN THEM. SOVIET RUSSIA AND THE UNITED STATES ARE THE LEADING PROPONENTS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE GROUPS OF TWO DIFFERENT IDEOLOGIES.

SOVIET RUSSIA ACCEPTS THE FAITH OF KARL MARX, AS INTERPRETED BY LENIN AND STALIN. SHE IS GOVERNED BY A TOTALITARIAN DICTATORSHIP, CALLED THE "DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT" TO MAKE IT

MORE PALATABLE TO THE MASS OF THE RUSSIAN PEOPLE WHO HAVE TO LIVE UNDER IT.

WHETHER THE MEN OF THE POLITBURO, WHO GOVERN THE SOVIET UNION AND WHO DIRECT THE POLICIES OF THE SATELLITE COUNTRIES AND THE COMMUNIST PARTIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, ARE USING RUSSIA TO PROMOTE COMMUNISM, OR ARE USING COMMUNISM TO PROMOTE THE NATIONAL INTERESTS OF RUSSIA, I DO NOT KNOW. ALTHOUGH THE RESULTS TODAY MAY APPEAR TO BE THE SAME, I BELIEVE THAT A FANATICAL BELIEF IN COMMUNISM AND THE DESIRE TO SPREAD ITS GOSPEL BY FORCE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD HOLDS THE GREATER DANGERS FOR US. WE MAY BE FIGHTING A MOVEMENT WHICH CAN BE COMPARED TO THE OUTBURST OF THE ARABS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF MOHAMMEDANISM THAT STARTED IN THE 7TH CENTURY. IF SO, NO SOLUTION OF OUR DIFFERENCES BY COMPROMISE AND ADJUSTMENT APPEARS LIKELY, SO LONG AS THE PRESENT SOVIET REGIME REMAINS IN POWER IN RUSSIA.

THE UNITED STATES, ON THE OTHER HAND, AND THE COUNTRIES WITH WHICH IT IS COOPERATING IN THE UNITED NATIONS, HAVE A LONG HISTORY OF HUMAN FREEDOM. WITH THEM THE STATE EXISTS FOR THE CITIZEN, AND NOT THE CITIZEN FOR THE STATE. WE HAVE HAD A SYSTEM WHEREBY THE INITIATIVE OF THE INDIVIDUAL HAS BEEN ENCOURAGED UNDER A MINIMUM OF NECESSARY LEGAL RESTRAINTS. THE COMPETITION WHICH GOES ON UNDER THIS SYSTEM PROVIDES OUTLETS FOR THE ABILITIES OF OUR ENERGETIC AND AMBITIOUS CITIZENS IN MANY FIELDS. IT ALSO PROVIDES A VERY EFFICIENT METHOD OF GETTING THE BEST MEN IN POSITIONS OF LEADERSHIP IN THESE FIELDS. I BELIEVE THIS LEADERSHIP DESERVES A GREAT DEAL OF THE CREDIT FOR

THE ENORMOUS OUTPUT IN THE UNITED STATES OF GOODS OF ALL KINDS ON WHICH SO MANY OTHER COUNTRIES ARE DEPENDING FOR THEIR REHABILITATION.

IT WAS THIS HIGHLY COMPETENT LEADERSHIP IN ALL FIELDS OF ENDEAVOR WITHIN THE UNITED STATES WHICH ENABLED US TO TURN SO QUICKLY FROM PEACE TO WAR PRODUCTION IN 1941 AND 1942. INTELLIGENT COOPERATION BETWEEN MILITARY AND CIVILIAN LEADERS GAVE US THE WEAPONS WE NEEDED TO FIGHT WITH IN EVER IMPROVING QUALITY AND EVER INCREASING QUANTITY.

IT IS OFTEN SAID THAT THE MILITARY MIND IS ALWAYS GETTING READY TO FIGHT THE NEXT WAR LIKE THE LAST ONE. INsofar AS USING THE LESSONS OF PAST WARS AS A GUIDE TO WHAT MAY HAPPEN IN THE FUTURE, THIS IS AND SHOULD BE TRUE. INsofar AS FAILING TO ADOPT NEW SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENTS TO MILITARY USES, THIS IS NOT TRUE.

THE APPLICATION OF NEW SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENTS TO MILITARY USES MAY COME ABOUT IN TWO WAYS. ONE WAY IS THAT SOMETHING NEW MAY APPEAR IN THE SCIENTIFIC WORLD, AND THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES WILL STUDY IT CAREFULLY TO SEE IF IT HAS ANY APPLICATIONS IN THEIR FIELD. RADAR IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE APPLICATION OF A SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY TO MILITARY USES. I NEED NOT ELABORATE ON THE TREMENDOUS DEVELOPMENT THAT TOOK PLACE IN THE FIELD OF RADAR UNDER THE STIMULUS OF THE WAR, NOR OF THE ADVANTAGES WHICH WE POSSESSED OVER THE JAPANESE BECAUSE OF OUR INITIAL SUPERIORITY IN THAT FIELD AND OUR CONTINUED SUPERIORITY IN ITS APPLICATION THROUGHOUT THE WAR. WE WERE AHEAD TO START WITH, AND THEY COULD NEVER CATCH UP WITH OUR PROGRESS.

THE SECOND WAY IN WHICH SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CAN HELP OUR MILITARY EFFORT OCCURS WHEN WE ARE CONFRONTED WITH A MILITARY PROBLEM FOR WHICH WE DO NOT HAVE THE ANSWER. IF WE HAVE THE COOPERATION OF THE SCIENTIFIC WORLD AS WE HAD DURING WORLD WAR II, WE GO TO THE SCIENTISTS, POSE OUR PROBLEM TO THEM, AND THEY WORK OUT AN ANSWER.

AS AN EXAMPLE OF THIS, I MAY MENTION THE SPLENDID WORK WHICH WAS DONE FOR THE NAVY DURING THE WAR BY CAL. TECH. ON ONE OF MY TRIPS BACK TO THE COAST IN THE FALL OF 1944, DR. MILLIKAN INVITED ME TO SEE WHAT THEY WERE DOING FOR US IN THE LINE OF AIRCRAFT TORPEDOES AND ROCKETS.

AT THE BEGINNING OF THE WAR THE JAPANESE TORPEDOES WERE GREATLY SUPERIOR TO OURS. THEIR ATTACK ON THE SHIPS AT PEARL HARBOR ON DECEMBER 7TH WAS LARGELY SUCCESSFUL BECAUSE THEY HAD AN AIRCRAFT TORPEDO WHICH WOULD FUNCTION IN SHALLOW WATER WITHOUT HITTING BOTTOM IN ITS INITIAL DIVE. OUR TORPEDO HAD TO BE STRENGTHENED SO THAT IT COULD BE DROPPED FROM GREATER ALTITUDES AND AT HIGHER SPEEDS AND STILL NOT DIVE TOO DEEP.

THE NEED FOR AIRCRAFT ROCKETS WAS BROUGHT HOME TO US WHEN WE CAPTURED TARAWA. MUCH OF THE DEFENSE OF THAT ISLAND CONSISTED OF PILLBOXES BUILT OF COCONUT LOGS AND SAND OR CORAL. THEY WERE HARD TO SEE FROM A SHIP, AND THEY NEEDED A DIRECT HIT TO KNOCK THEM OUT. ROCKETS MOUNTED ON THE WINGS OF OUR PLANES ENABLED US TO SEE AND TO HIT THEM. NEEDLESS TO SAY, THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF DR. MILLIKAN AND HIS SCIENTISTS AT CAL. TECH. WERE OF GREAT VALUE TO US.

I MAY MENTION TWO OTHER PROBLEMS WHICH WERE SOLVED FOR THE NAVY BY SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT. ONE WAS THE HIGH SPEED, LIGHT WEIGHT DIESEL ENGINE, AND THE OTHER WAS THE RAMP-TYPE LANDING CRAFT.

THE NAVY'S DEMAND FOR A LIGHT WEIGHT, HIGH SPEED DIESEL ENGINE CAME AFTER WORLD WAR I. WE NEEDED IT FOR OUR SUBMARINES AND TO REPLACE THE GASOLINE ENGINE IN OUR MOTOR BOATS. USUALLY, THE NAVY DOES NOT HAVE FUNDS ENOUGH IN PEACE TIME TO FINANCE, BY ITSELF, A DEVELOPMENT OF GREAT MAGNITUDE, UNLESS THERE IS AT THE SAME TIME A SIMILAR COMMERCIAL DEMAND, OR THE PROBABILITY THAT A COMMERCIAL FIELD CAN BE OPENED UP SUFFICIENTLY GREAT TO REPAY THE DEVELOPMENT COSTS. IN THIS CASE, THE NAVY GOT THE SUBMARINE DIESEL WE NEEDED AND THE RAILROADS GOT THE ENGINE THEY NEEDED FOR THE DIESEL LOCOMOTIVE. THE SMALL BOAT DIESEL BECAME AVAILABLE FOR BOTH NAVAL AND CIVILIAN CRAFT.

WITHOUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RAMP-TYPE LANDING CRAFT, WHICH I HAVE MENTIONED, OUR AMPHIBIOUS OPERATIONS COULD NOT HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL. THE NEED FOR BOATS WHICH COULD BEACH, LAND THEIR TROOPS AND SUPPLIES, AND THEN BACK OFF AND GO FOR ANOTHER LOAD, HAD LONG BEEN RECOGNIZED BY THE MARINES AND THE NAVY. OUR REGULAR SHIP'S BOATS WERE USELESS FOR THIS WORK UNDER MOST CONDITIONS. THE PROBLEM WAS STUDIED AND DESIGNS WERE MADE, BUT IT WAS NOT UNTIL THE LATE 1930'S THAT FUNDS COULD BE OBTAINED TO BUILD AND TEST SOME OF THESE DESIGNS. FORTUNATELY, WE GOT THE RIGHT ANSWERS, AND THE RAMP-TYPE LANDING CRAFT AND THE AMPHIBIOUS TRACTOR -- OR ALLIGATOR AS IT WAS COMMONLY CALLED -- ENABLED US TO MAKE LANDINGS AGAINST HEAVY OPPOSITION AND TO MAKE THEM STICK.

AS LONG AS WE HAVE THE ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC OCEANS ON EITHER SIDE OF THE UNITED STATES, THESE OCEANS WILL SERVE AS THE MAIN HIGHWAYS BETWEEN US AND THE REST OF THE WORLD, ALWAYS EXCEPTING CANADA AND MEXICO. THE DEPLETION OF OUR MINERAL RESOURCES, ACCELERATED BY THE DEMANDS OF WORLD WAR II, EMPHASIZES OUR GROWING NEED OF THESE OCEAN HIGHWAYS BOTH IN PEACE AND WAR.

THE NAVY EXISTS AS AN INSTRUMENT OF NATIONAL POLICY IN TIME OF PEACE. IT GIVES STRENGTH TO OUR DIPLOMACY, AND IT HELPS TO OBTAIN FOR OUR IDEAS AND OUR IDEALS A RESPECTFUL HEARING IN THE COUNCILS OF THE WORLD. IN TIME OF WAR A STRONG NAVY IS NEEDED TO CARRY THE WAR TO THE ENEMY AND TO KEEP OUR OWN TERRITORY SAFE FROM MAJOR HOSTILE ATTACK.

THE NAVY OF THE FUTURE WILL NEED THE HELP AND COOPERATION OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY TO KEEP IT OUT AHEAD IN THE MARCH OF PROGRESS, TO SOLVE PROBLEMS UNSOLVED TODAY, TO DEVELOP NEW WEAPONS BASED ON NEW PRINCIPLES AND NEW IDEAS, AND THEN TO WORK OUT THE DEFENSE AGAINST THESE NEW WEAPONS. KEEPING OUT AHEAD IN THE MARCH OF PROGRESS COSTS MONEY, BUT IT IS MONEY WELL INVESTED, AND I BELIEVE THE CONGRESS AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE REALIZE THIS TODAY.