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AMERICAN DAY TALK

Mr. Hunter

Good morning, everyone.

I am happy to have this opportunity to talk to you on America Day. It gives me a chance to mention a few of our mutual problems and to invite your attention to some of the things both our governments hope to accomplish in order to make more secure our common goal of peace.

We are struggling against an elusive enemy - time. Half of the Marshall Plan years have passed. As you all know your government - with your help - has made a solid contribution to the success of the European Recovery Program.

Holland is a small country in area but it ranks fifth among the cooperating nations in the amount of Marshall aid received. The Dutch people are getting the largest sum per capita of any of the ERP nations. That you have put this aid to good use is known to everyone. Obviously, no one knows better than you do, the nature and seriousness of your own problems.

For this America Day program, however, I should like to tell you a little about America's problems, the views of her people and about American thinking as to our joint efforts for peace and economic well-being of free peoples. Then, I should like to explain and emphasize our hopes for the accomplishment of European integration which would mean a single ever-more-prosperous market of 270,000,000 people.

But, first, to tell you a little about the American people. I think that sometimes, when one reads in the newspapers - or hears over the radio - extravagant phrases about billions of dollars, hundreds of millions of guilders -

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huge figures - almost fantastic programs - one is likely to forget that, after all, Americans are real people. Workmen giving their best to their jobs in order to educate and to rear their children. Industrialists struggling with knotty problems of cost and supply. Individuals like you and me - each with his own hopes, his frustrations, and his dreams of the future.

So I would ask you to think for a moment about these American people as individuals. I would ask you to realize that, when you speak of America, in reality, you are speaking of steel-puddlers, shop-girls, clerks, musicians, lumber-men, coy-boys, printers, fishermen, executives, street-car conductors, bankers, butchers, movie actors, scientists, farmers, teachers and so on without limit.

And when we talk of Marshall Plan dollars we mean that all these people, after exhaustive study by their elected representatives, have decided to help with their money. Translated into actual work-terms, it means that the American farmer, worker and businessman is supporting European recovery by contributing about two week's wages of their entire year's income. Or, to put it another way, about 13 percent of all the taxes the average American pays to the United States Government flows into the work of the European Recovery Program.

Now, we can say a number of things about the average American. We can say he is generous. We can say he is hard-headed. Being of a practical nature, we can also say he is interested in results. Being also of an idealistic turn of mind, we can also say he is interested in his own peace and economic security. Two world wars and a terrible depression hurt him and have made some things clear. Without prosperity in Holland and the rest of Europe, his own economic well-being will suffer. It is also clear to him that - the world being what it is - wars have a way of spreading. Wars take him far from his family. Wars threaten him personally.