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February 14, 1941

The following is a letter addressed to President Roosevelt by a large number of citizens whose signatures have been invited by a group consisting of

Mrs. Hendrik Willem Van Loon, Jr.
Henry P. Van Dusen
Henry Sloane Coffin
Francis P. Miller
Mrs. Henry Goddard Leach
James P. Warburg

It is sent for your information and also for your signature. If you care to affix your signature and the signatures of your friends who may care to join, please notify this office.

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University
of
Toledo Library
Toledo, Ohio

Dear Mr. President:-

You have said that, in order to keep the war away from America, we must give full aid to the nations who are resisting the onslaught of Axis aggression.

You have said that we must make ourselves into an arsenal of democracy - that we must supply ships and planes and tanks and guns to those who are defending not only their own homes but the cause of civilization.

You have said this, and the American people overwhelmingly agree with you. The legislation you have proposed to this end will, we trust, become law within a few days. This should make possible our becoming an effective arsenal.

U.S.
World War 1939-
PAMPHLET OFFICE

But the gallant garrisons of democracy may need more than arms, Mr. President. They may need food.

Hitler boasts that the submarine sinkings to date are only a foretaste of what is to come - soon.

Men, no matter how brave, in order to fight victoriously on land and sea and in the air must know that starvation cannot threaten the homes they are defending. It is within our power to see that such a threat does not materialize.

We cannot directly help the conquered peoples whose food is being stolen from them to feed the German armies of occupation - they can be helped only by being freed from the yoke of the oppressor.

But we can see to it that their only hope of liberation is not destroyed - as it would be if the British Isles should be reduced by starvation.

We ask you, Mr. President, to take such steps as may be necessary to make us not only the arsenal but the larder of democracy.

We ask you to make it possible for us not merely to put arms into the hands of the beleaguered garrisons, but to insure food for those who sleep underground - who in their waking moments work and fight and die in order that democracy may live.

We ask this, Mr. President, for the sake of the heroic peoples whom you have already determined to aid, for the sake of the conquered peoples, and in the name of all humanity. We ask it for the sake of our own homes and our own families.

Henry Sloane Coffin
Mrs. Henry Goddard Leach
Francis P. Miller
Henry P. Van Dusen
Mrs. Hendrik William Van Loon, Jr.
James P. Warburg