

From the Office of  
Senator Hubert H. Humphrey  
140 Senate Office Building  
Washington 25, D. C.  
CApitol 4-3121, Ext. 2424

For Release: Tuesday a.m.  
February 25, 1958

STRENGTHENING UN AND NATO NEEDED IN SEARCH FOR PEACE, SENATOR HUMPHREY SAYS

The world needs the same "courage, patriotism, dedication, and willingness to sacrifice" in the search for peace that would be required in defense from hostile attacks, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.) declared last night in an Institute of Religion speech at Raleigh, North Carolina on "America's International Responsibilities."

"We need strength for peace, individually and collectively, just as we need strength to safeguard against attack," he declared.

Senator Humphrey outlined what he termed "four key requirements" in the "Price of Peace":

1. Strengthening the United Nations
2. Strengthening the NATO alliance
3. Strengthening ourselves--"our defenses, our economies, and our determination for peace"
4. Willingness to negotiate "with specific objectives in mind as to what we are negotiating for."

Excerpts from his remarks include:

"As a vital part of the price for peace, all peace-loving nations must bend every effort to strengthen the UN, both in terms of its political and diplomatic activities as well as its vital services to the world. This means strengthening WHO, UNESCO, UNICEF, FAO, and other specialized agencies of the United Nations. It means utilizing the UN for development of a World Food Bank to combat hunger everywhere. It means strengthening the UN multilateral technical assistance program. These are the works of peace that must back up our words of peace.

"We need to strengthen the UN and work through it in dealing with specific problem areas of the world, such as the Middle East and North Africa. We need a permanent UN police force. We need a UN 'Good Offices Commission' to work diligently toward finding solutions to perplexing disputes. Within the charter of the UN all of us can work with countries of the Middle East through creation of a Middle East Development Agency approaching acute developmental problems on a regional basis, serving the best economic interests of all concerned.

"Strengthening of the NATO alliance calls for greater emphasis on political, economic, and cultural ties, as well as bolstering our common military defenses.

"NATO needs, first of all, renewed 'inner strength'--a sense of confidence and direction. The NATO alliance needs steady and determined leadership.

"The purpose of NATO is not to wage war, but to prevent and stop aggression. NATO is an instrument of peace--a positive force for constructive growth and development. It is in this spirit that the policies for strengthening NATO must be conceived and designed.

(OVER)

"The Soviet threat is more than military. It is political, economic, and social. The Communist empire seeks to expand and dominate not only by modern military weapons, but by subversion, propaganda, economic warfare, infiltration--yes, unrelenting competition at every level of human activity. Therefore, if we seek to strengthen NATO, we must invigorate and equip it to meet Soviet competition on all fronts.

"The forces of freedom need to speak out in Europe with a united voice. We need a NATO public information program, just as we have a Voice of America program and the British Information Service. We need such a voice for NATO.

\* \* \* \*

and

"We should, /are able to, devote whatever is required to defend our shores, our fields, our industries, and our cities against the new weapons of mass destruction.

"But even when all this is done, the world will still be dangerously divided into two highly armed camps.

"It is essential that we search perseveringly for ways and means of securing a just and enduring peace, so that the terrible reality of the use of these weapons will never happen. We need the same courage, patriotism, dedication, and willingness to sacrifice in our search for peace that would be required of us in the defense of our nations from hostile attack.

"The danger, of course, is that our new efforts in missiles, rockets, and other weapons may, even if successful, become a Pyrrhic victory whose very process of achievement may squelch our search for positive approaches to peace, may weaken our endeavors to curb the weapons of war, and may cause us to lose our sense of perspective," Senator Humphrey warned.

"We must not let our fixation on security through more and bigger armaments lead to a stage where arms alone would control our policy, for this would invite our ultimate destruction.

\* \* \* \*

"The peace we seek must be more than the absence of armed conflict. It must be a peace that embraces the expansion of the areas of political freedom, the development of closer bonds of international cooperation among all nations and peoples. Peace is not a negative or sterile thing--it is positive, living, and vital. The peace which we seek is the promise and fulfillment of freedom for mankind everywhere. It is the privilege of healthful living, education, recreation, and enjoying the blessings of modern science and technology. It is freedom from want, freedom from fear.

"Our immediate task is to prevent the two great power systems of the Communist bloc and the free nations from colliding, either by design or accident, and thereby touching off World War III. The world needs time--time to think, to negotiate, to find answers--time to realize the utter futility of armed conflict, and the wonderful opportunities to be found in peaceful living. The world needs leadership, yes, inspired and humanitarian leadership--to patiently and firmly point the way to peace. But this peace we so zealously desire shall not come easily. Peace, like war, requires sacrifice. It requires the mobilization and planned use of our material and human resources.

"We must keep the door open for negotiations, particularly toward disarmament. We must be willing to break up the 'package' the West has insisted upon, and seek at least to achieve some first steps. We must never underestimate the difficulties. The bitter record of Soviet intransigence remains, and it would be naive to expect the Kremlin to turn overnight from an expansionist, totalitarian dictatorship into a cooperative, peace-loving member of the world community. But the stakes involve the whole future of mankind. I firmly believe that we must keep trying to negotiate as long as there is a faint hope of success. The people of this and all countries desperately want and need peace.



# Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.



[www.mnhs.org](http://www.mnhs.org)