

SPEECH FOR OXFORD, NOVEMBER 13th, 1948

It is with a feeling of great humility that I accept the great honor that Oxford University has conferred upon me today. I recognize the fact that the ties created during the last World war, between the United States and Great Britian were built in large part through the cooperation of my husband and your great war leader, Mr. Winston Churchill.

I realize full well the appreciation that the British people have for the role which my husband played in bringing the United States to a full realization of Great Britain's courageous stand alone against the onslaught of nazism and fascism. My husband's sympathy helped to strengthen the British people in their darkest hours, and in return the gratitude of  
your great

your great nation is constantly expressed.

In conferring this honor on me, you are through me, also expressing your appreciation to the people of the whole United States. I am sure that every generous gesture of this kind adds a strength to the bond which draws our two countries together. We may differ on many questions, but in our basic beliefs and loyalties, we always find in times of trouble a common meeting ground.

Since the war, the British people have shown a staunchness in helping their country to recover from the losses of war that should bring them the respect of the people of all the nations of the world. I hope that with the aid that is now coming to Europe through the Marshall Plan, it will before too long, be possible for Great Britain to arrive at a position

position where her people can return to a greater ease of living, and to higher standards for all people as a whole even than was possible in the past.

All of us have learned, from the lessons of the war, and the even harder lessons which we are now facing, what are the values that we feel we must live by in the future. For the United States and Great Britain I think it is clear that the people want peace with all their hearts, but they also want freedom. That combination of peace and freedom is difficult to achieve in some parts of the world. That is because of the fact that we are still beset with serious difficulties in world cooperation. We haven't yet found a way whereby the great

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nation which shuts her people away from the rest of the world and whose government acts through decrees instead of through the democratic processes familiar to us, can be brought to cooperation with other parts of the world.

Where people move freely; are allowed to make their own observations and decisions and have some control over their own government and its actions when they choose to exercise it, it is difficult not to be suspicious of areas which are closed, and naturally the governments of these nations must be fearful of free contacts with other nations.

This is really the major problem that our people are facing at this time and the solution of it spells for the future peace - or chaos in the world. Solidarity between our two nations,  
and other

and other states bordering the Atlantic, will, we hope, spell greater economic security, better living conditions for the people of our nations and therefore a gradual demonstration that in freedom, the democracies can develop and bring about through the action of the people themselves, the same ends which the Soviet states feel can only be brought about through the wisdom of a few people at the top level and the control of the life of their people. This is a demonstration of two opposing ways of achieving what we believe are the objectives of all nations. Since as individuals we must each of us work in our own small sphere to bring our ideals and those of our nation to practical reality, I hope you in this great university will feel that in conferring this

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degree upon me you have made me more conscious of the need to strive with such small gifts as have been granted me, to achieve these great ends.

Every recognition of a woman is in a way a recognition given to all women and so I thank you today for your recognition of women and of their contribution to the new world which is slowly and painfully evolving. Women the world over want peace. They want better conditions and greater security for the future generations and every opportunity given them for greater participation in responsible fields of work, means I believe, hope for the eventual achievement of the ends which not only women but all humanity desires.