

PROPOSED INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT  
WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS  
January 22, 1950

(Welcoming remarks - prepared by the President)



The dedication of this Nation to peace is well known. I am convinced that peace is also the desire and goal of the people. On my recent visit abroad, I felt the strong desire for peace not only by Government leaders, but by the ordinary men and women who seemed anxious to add the hope and support they put out, and through me, to the United States. And the yearning for peace, the sure, was the hope for peace that was expressed in the peace proposals taken for granted.

As the leader of the free world, the United States has a special responsibility for peace, not the absence of war, but peace based on freedom and justice.

There are those who prefer to see our strength as a sign of weakness. Nothing could be further from the truth. I have determined that this Nation will not compromise its essential interests. I regard it as my duty to see that the kind of peace we seek is not a peace of mere expediency and compromise. I do not forget--that without military strength, we cannot determine what is necessary, and without peace we cannot prosper.

This brings me to the subject of our country's need for a more comprehensive program of civil defense.

As far as I am concerned, the program should be simple, and very simple. It should be based on the protection of the civilian population in the event of attack with nuclear weapons. It should be literally millions of dollars worth of money necessary to insure our continued existence.

Unfortunately, not so much money is being spent on our homeland from the effects of nuclear weapons. We have to spend. Neither is there any real effort being made to provide medical prophylaxis for our people. In fact, we have had for fallout shelters in the past year. It is hoped that they will not be used against us.

In these days, however, the government should be making every avenue which provides a means of escape from the destructiveness of nuclear war. It should be the responsibility of the government to provide for the long a nuclear weapons which are available to us. It is our responsibility that they must be used.

The only way of reducing the danger of nuclear war is by the provision of individual and collective protection.

Let me now turn to the second part of my address, the subject  
of this Conference, shelter. I would like to open my remarks  
for shelters--your presence here is a reminder of our common

in approaching this problem. The first thing you will want to know  
answers lies in a Federal policy which is part of our national law. I want  
to see, from the results of your work, the Government of New Mexico, like  
Juan, that you did not lose sight of the people, the people who are  
such an approach is surely a first step.

This brings me to the second part of my address, the subject of  
Shelter Policy. The first part of my address was on the subject of  
shelter on his own terms. The second part of my address was on the  
sense. The shortness of time and the complexity of the problem  
age make it imperative that we should provide the people with  
the people live and work. The second part of my address was on the  
corporated is now and shall be in the future, and it is especially  
inaccessible areas.

There are other parts of the shelter policy which are of the same  
sense. Survival from a disaster will impact on every part of our  
hardships upon everyone. It is my belief that we should make  
adjustment to these new conditions. They are of the same nature and  
social groups. We must be able to provide for the people who are  
helping them to prepare for the future. They will be able to





I was also gratified to be named Honorary Citizen of the State of New York that will help in the development of the State to obtain substantial protection against the possibility of fallout from radioactive fallout in the event of a nuclear war.

I am hopeful that this Conference will bring about a further improve the partnership effort of the Federal and State governments in promoting the construction of a better life. Many important projects end have been advanced, and I am sure that further progress will be made during this Conference.

Again let me express my pleasure in being your Honorary Citizen. I feel confident that these sessions will prove to be profitable. I should like to turn the activities of the world of the world over to the Director for Civil and Defense Planning, James O. Easton, Jr.

Proposed Cooperative Arrangements by the Governors

I am pleased to hear of the interest that you have in the proposals I indicated this morning. I can't help following through proposals that are vital for our defense. Your continued interest and the cooperation of the States to real progress in the program will be the key to success. Your continued and cooperation in attacking this problem are essential. I do not believe that more and more we need to work together to meet our military defense objectives. As a result of the work we have done in the protection for all of our people through the many problems that we face for continuing cooperative study and action by the States and the Federal governments.

I hope that the mutual and friendly exchange of views that you have had today can be continued and that through continued study and action we are able together to solve the problems of the States and work out a fair allocation of responsibilities for such problems among all levels of government. It is important that we move together to establish uniform standards, and with uniformity of action.

To that end, I am designating a representative, Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, of my State as a representative, to continue to work in cooperation with the Bureau and with the Governors' Conference and your State to carry out your duties as you see fit to designate. As the need may arise, you will be notified of any further action.

will also be pleased to have further information of the role which has been so constructive.

An example of what can be achieved by cooperative efforts is the significant progress in developing the State's legislative and plans for continuity of State government. I would like to commend you and the State legislature for the policy that has been followed. Since Governor Hoegh initiated the concept of independent action to ensure continuity of government measures, it is gratifying to see the acceptance of federally sponsored legislation in your State. With continued support of the Governor and the people of the State Governments, I believe we can continue to develop the fundamental legislative program.

I would like to say a word about the development of the last year in the field of intergovernmental relations. The establishment of the permanent Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations with which you are familiar has been most gratifying. Under the able chairmanship of Mr. [Name] and the cooperation of all levels of government, will continue to contribute to the defense of the country as well as in other areas.

Again, let me thank you for your efforts and suggestions. You may be sure that I will be most interested in the development of your recommendations.