

satisfied with the support that the civil defense program is receiving and let their elected representatives know their desires.

I hope that when talking about civil defense we are talking about a program which is a deterrent to war and therefore a force for peace. All of us have the greatest desire for peace, and it is my judgment that home front preparedness is one of the steps that will prevent war in the world. An unprepared home front is an inviting target for an enemy and weakens our diplomats at the bargaining tables of international negotiations.

I was most impressed by the needs for civil defense as explained at the Governor's Conference in Puerto Rico last summer, and I have watched with interest the actions of other of our governors in pushing the program in their states. I assure you publicly this evening, as we dedicate this new structure, that as long as world conditions warrant, I will press for a strong and efficient civil defense in Maryland.

I congratulate all those who have had a hand in the planning and construction of this building and I pray that it will be used only in peace.

ADDRESS, ANNUAL MEETING OF COUNTY CIVIL
DEFENSE OFFICIALS

ANNAPOLIS

June 15, 1961

It is a pleasure to me to meet again with civil defense officials of our Maryland counties and the City of Baltimore.

As I have said before, the local civil defense officials—you who have day-to-day contact with the people—constitute a main line of defense against disaster for our civilian population. If our people are to survive a potential enemy attack they must look mainly to the civil defense leaders of their home community for advice.

Some of you may recall that I spoke at the State Control Center on March 29, 1960, when that structure was dedicated. I was proud of Maryland's achievements up to that time. And since then we have not stood still, but on the contrary we have continued to make sub-