

moral enemy of tyranny. We are the moral opponents of any nation or any government which sets itself up as master of mankind.

For it is our national faith that men shall be free, and not be slaves; that they shall be equal before one another as they are equal in the sight of God, and not be subservient to false godheads of military might or political overbearance. We are the spiritual antagonists of racial hatreds and religious intolerance; of promise-breakers, of all who would trample and annihilate the dignity of man the wide world over.

Nor are these moral issues by any means one-sided. Our dislike for dictators is as nothing compared with their blood-hungry loathing of us. For as long as America stands she is a beacon in the sky, a promise in the heavens to all the down-trodden peoples of the earth. As long as the torch of liberty burns in our land, there is light upon the earth, there is hope, and there is incentive to rise against the oppressor.

No, there is no denying these moral enmities. There is no dodging the responsibilities. Even if we wished it, America could not help being the symbol of world-wide hope. We have been just that for three hundred years. It was to the New World that the victims of old oppressions began to look—back in the Seventeenth Century. It was to the North American colonies that the experimenters in workable democracy first came and set up constitutional, responsive governments.

It was on this continent that the first great and enduring union of free peoples was instituted. And it was to this Country, that the fugitives from aggressors migrated in search of what they could not obtain at home. Small wonder, indeed, if the eyes of Europe still turn west—some with longing; some with jealousy. And well may it be said of America—that she is loved for the enemies she has made.

But there are physical reasons, too, for our nearness to war. It has become trite, but remains important, to stress the shrinkage of space in modern times. Whereas the width of oceans once guaranteed us against surprise attack, these waters are almost as obsolete a defense as a moat around a medieval castle. Our watch towers can no longer be set up along the shores. They must be mobile and they must be far-flung to spot an oncoming armada.

The old ramparts of Fort McHenry can no longer turn back an invader who now takes to the skies. The old command, "Don't fire 'til you see the whites of their eyes," would be a suicide order on a modern Bunker Hill.

And just as space has dwindled, so our line of outpost has been extended. It is not enough to make sure that no enemy approaches the coast-line from Maine to Florida. Experience has shown that a peace-loving nation cannot idly await his coming and expect to resist his approach when he appears on the borders of the country.

The United States cannot submit to backdoor penetration, and you know, and every well-informed person knows, that we have an Achilles' heel in Panama that must be protected from the east as well as from the west.

For even if the American democracy were not a moral menace to dictatorship, the American continents would be a temptation.