

I am sincerely sorry that I have not been able this year to fulfil my pledge to Chicago University and visit the United States and my American students.

I am convinced that the democratic American people fully comprehend the significance of this war of ours against Hitler and Fascism. Hitler and his allies destroy all that is dear to every democrat, to every free man who respects the freedom of others; we therefore oppose Hitler and all other defenders of a regime of tyranny and violence. I do not attempt to conceal my pleasure at the fact that the United States and its people are endeavouring, within the framework of their laws, to aid materially and morally the democratic nations in Europe in their struggle against Nazism. All the more do we value the manner in which public opinion in the United States will continue to give us and our Allies great support.

More than any other nation, the Czechoslovaks are grateful for this help. They were the first to suffer the supreme shock of the Nazi onslaught, they are convinced democrats and they love freedom above all else. Perhaps that is why a million and a half of them live in the United States, perhaps that is why they are so glad to be loyal American citizens and at the same time are helping us here in Europe with all the means at their disposal. They joyfully received the news that our Army in France was saved and evacuated to Great Britain, and is already continuing the struggle against Hitler, and that the Czechoslovak Provisional Government has been recognised in London.

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Indirectly the United States, too have their part in this success, for they have never ceased to recognise the independent Czechoslovak Republic, and to condemn the violent action committed by Hitler's regime and army on March 15th 1939. For this also we shall always be grateful to the American people and its democratic Government.

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