

REMARKS

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY

LAUNCHING, U.S.S. DULUTH

BROOKLYN NAVAL SHIPYARD

AUGUST 14, 1965

I am privileged to have a part in these ceremonies. And I am proud that our daughter Nancy has been asked to participate.

The DULUTH will join a fleet which plays an indispensable role in keeping the peace in this troubled world.

DULUTH is a ship of war built by a nation passionately and wholeheartedly devoted to peace. It is a demonstratable fact that never in history have a people

worked harder for peace . . . sacrificed more to attain it . . . or given more unselfishly of their time, their talent, their treasure, and yes, their lives in pursuit of peace than have the American people.

But it is equally clear that we have not yet achieved our purpose.

Thousands of miles away we are actively engaged today in resisting armed aggression in Southeast Asia. This ship may yet play a part in that struggle.

We have deep commitments, too, in other parts of the world.

Is it a paradox that we who seek peace build ships of war, expend our national resources for defense, and commit our forces to combat half the globe away?

No.

Peace will not come to a world which countenances aggression.

Peace will not come to a world in which aggressors are permitted to destroy their neighbors' freedom at will.

We have learned that there is no peace in isolation. We have learned that to retreat from aggression is to invite further aggression.

We have learned that tyranny can cross a national border by stealth and subversion just as surely as by the smashing, open assault of massed armies.

Most importantly, we have learned that aggression -- when used against free men anywhere -- is equally aimed at free men everywhere.

Thousands of miles away we fight in Viet Nam-- not just for the Vietnamese people but for millions in other lands, and, make no mistake about this, ultimately for our own freedom.

This country was founded by men who dreamed not just of a nation, but of a world in which liberty, justice and human decency prevailed. We must not give up that dream.

We have made and will keep our commitment to a freer and safer world.

This ship and the men who will sail her are part of the evidence of our resolve.

DULUTH in a few short months will steam proudly at sea as part of a Navy which now, as always, serves selfless and in dedication.

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This ship will become a part of that tradition and her seamen and Marines will continue and enhance it.

We wish for her and those who will sail her fair winds and following seas.

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