

VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

ADDRESS TO THE COMMON MARKET

FEBRUARY 8, 1968

Jean Rey Luncheon
Department of State

Mr. President and Mr. Vice President, gentlemen.

I have said to President Rey that we would like to keep this intimate gathering as informal as possible and between Congressman Bogg, Senator Hickenlooper, and myself we have been prevailing upon the President to share with us some of your views. Somebody was even so bold as to say: "Why don't you give us a candid report of your observations of Washington?" And I said: "This I don't think I can take. It's been tough enough just to even believe what I've wanted to believe, much less hearing the truth."

We're very honored, Mr. President, to welcome you and your distinguished colleagues once again to our nation's Capital. And we're particularly pleased to greet you on the occasion of your first official visit as the President of the new, merged Commission of the Free European Community, the Common Market, EURATOM, and the coal and steel community. This is almost, you can say, sort of a special celebration and we friends of the great new community can join together in celebration of this merged effort of united Europe.

It was not quite one year ago, Mr. President, that my party and I were guests in Brussels. We were visiting about this a little while ago, and I remember quite well the evening that we spent and, as my American friends would know, it was a long evening. Talking long into the night not only about the Kennedy round, trade negotiation which was then in a critical stage but also about the pending nuclear non-proliferation treaty, about assistance by the developed or the rich nations for the poor, about the so-called technology gap, about monetary reform, about the building of peaceful bridges towards the East, and, in short, we sort of covered every subject. I won't say that we found all the answers, but we enjoyed a wonderful evening of fellowship and conversation. We talked about the entire agenda of pending business within our Atlantic partnership. I shall always remember that evening. Some of our associates who were with us on that occasion are here. Mr. Andreas, our friend from up home in Minnesota, was along with me. He came away feeling that that was our

most pleasant and rewarding experience in our very worthwhile journey in Europe.

I was struck then, as before and since, by the essentially outward viewpoint of you and your colleagues, by your willingness and -- not only your willingness -- your desire to look forward to a free and open Europe playing its role in the world conflict rather than towards any inward problem, concerned only with its narrowly defined self-interest. And as I visited with you a few moments ago you recalled what I had said then about what I felt were some of the more dangerous signs here within our own American community. I put it in a rather crude -- but as we would put it at home, a rather commonplace frame of reference, I said: "I smell some danger about."

Well, since then, in no small part due to your personal effort, Mr. President, the Kennedy round has been brought to a successful conclusion, and the way has been opened to a new economic growth around the world. There has been progress, too, in all the other areas that we discussed -- less perhaps than we would prefer but that's not unusual, but far more than

the pessimists would have predicted.

One thing that I've learned about this distinguished, honored guest to our country is that he is known as an optimist and I want to say how happy I am to find one more. I'm about the only one left here on the American scene. I joined the Optimists' Club. We do actually have a civic organization known as that because the competition within its ranks is rather limited and, therefore, you can get ahead quickly. There are so many confirmed and world-developed pessimists in our midst that I look for a more pleasant environment, and I've noticed that even some of my early club members have disassociated themselves. And it's gotten down now to President Rey and Vice President Humphrey. But I want you to know that I'm very happy to be in your company.

Now we are faced with the beginning of a new period and I think it very important and, as we can imagine, a rather challenging and difficult period. The period in which we in the Atlantic partnership and the citizens of our respective nations must determine whether our successful post-war path is to be maintained or whether we're to fall back into a new isolationism. Gentlemen, I think that's the question for this country and every other country. I'm sometimes perplexed by the very nature of

the question because the success that we've made thus far would indicate that we ought to follow the path that we designed for ourselves and on which we've been walking. And yet there are those who say turn away. What you do and what we do in these next months, years, will have a great deal to do with whether or not our partnership is to keep its vitality. With whether it will continue to be _____ as you put it, stated it in your New Year message that we have youth on our side and that the future is ours. President Johnson affirmed to you yesterday our continued dedication to our partnership. I am included in that limited way and that limited way of optimists and your grandson, too. I learned not long ago that he wrote a paper on optimism. I want to get that because I want to memorize every word of it.

We remain dedicated to the policies of growth and of international cooperation, of inter-dependence among nations. The President has told me of his very fruitful and very reassuring visit with you. We are not and we know that you are not deterred by any temporary setbacks on our road to a freer and a more

prosperous and, hopefully, a more peaceful world. When you look back over the years, you sometimes wonder what we were so worried about. He said to me earlier today: "There is every reason to be optimistic."

We look beyond ourselves to the great paths that lie ahead in this last third of the 20th century. Slightly over twenty years and that's not a long time, the people of western Europe have rebuilt a war-torn continent. They have built strong, prosperous, free societies and they have held to their path of unity far beyond what anybody could have ever dreamed possible. And if we maintain our solidarity and our cohesion and, most of all, our common will and I emphasize the word "will", the next twenty years can bring the final healing of Europe's old wounds and divisions. At least it will bring the beginning of the healing of those wounds, and the replacement of the Iron Curtain hopefully with the open door. And a chance to meet new priorities in which our partnership will be devoted, not only to our welfare, but to the far greater challenge of nation building, people development all around this earth.

You see, Mr. President, we welcome you again and thank you for your visit. We are so grateful that members of your family live in our country; that you have seen fit to visit us on several occasions. We are most grateful for what you are, what you stand for, and for your constant and very persuasive leadership in the world of the cent and its affairs. We salute you for your enterprise and salute you for your honesty, your steadfastness, and, above all, your idealism in a time when those qualities are desperately and sorely needed. Now, gentlemen, if you will join with me, I'll go over here and bring my glass. I'd like to ask you to stand and join with me in a toast to a very great world citizen. To the President of the Commission of the European Community and to our Atlantic partnership. To you, Mr. President.

Thank you, gentlemen.

JEAN REY LUNCHEON

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PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION, THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Mr. President, we are honored to welcome you and your colleagues once again to Washington. We are particularly pleased to greet you on the occasion of your first official visit as President of the new merged Commission of the three European Communities -- the Common Market, Euratom, and the Coal and Steel Community.

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evening we spent -- talking long into the night not only about the Kennedy Round trade negotiation, which was then in a critical phase, but also about the pending nuclear non-proliferation treaty ... about assistance by the rich countries for the poor ... about the so-called "technology gap" ... about monetary reform ... about the building of peaceful bridges toward the East -- in short, about the entire agenda of pending business within our Atlantic Partnership.

I was struck then -- as before and since -- by the essentially "outward" viewpoint of you and your colleagues ... by your willingness to look toward a free and open Europe playing its role in a world context,

rather than toward any "inward" club concerned only with its narrowly-defined self-interest.

Since then -- in no small part due to your personal efforts, Mr. President -- the Kennedy Round has been brought to a successful conclusion, and the way has been opened to new economic growth around the world.

There has been progress, too, in all the other areas we discussed -- less, perhaps, than we would prefer ... but far more than the pessimists would have predicted.

Now we are faced with the beginning of a new period. It is a period in which we in the Atlantic Partnership, and the citizens of our nations, must determine whether our successful post-war path is to be maintained, or whether we are to fall back into a New Isolationism.

What you do, and what we do, in these next few months will have a great deal to do with whether or not our Partnership is to keep its vitality ... with whether it will continue to be true,

as you put it in your New Year message, "that we have youth on our side and that the future is ours."

President Johnson reaffirmed to you yesterday our continued dedication to our Partnership. We remain dedicated to policies of growth, of international cooperation, and of interdependence among nations.

We are not -- and we know that you are not -- deterred by any temporary setbacks on our road toward a freer, more prosperous and peaceful world.

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We look beyond ourselves toward the great tasks that lie ahead in this last third of the 20th century.

In slightly over 20 years the peoples of Western Europe have rebuilt a war-torn continent. They have built strong and free societies. They have held to their path of unity.

If we maintain our solidarity ... our cohesion ... and, most of all, our common will, the next 20 years can bring the final healing of Europe's old wounds and divisions ... the replacement of the Iron Curtain with the Open Door ... and a chance to meet new priorities in which our Partnership will be devoted not only to our own welfare but to the far greater challenge of nation-building

and peace development all around this earth.

Mr. President, we salute your enterprise. And we salute you -- for your honesty, your steadfastness, and your idealism in a time when those qualities are sorely needed.

To the President of the Commission of the European Communities and to our Atlantic Partnership.

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TOAST

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY

LUNCHEON FOR JEAN REY, PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION,
The EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

STATE DEPARTMENT

FEBRUARY 8, 1968

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What you do, and what we do, in these next few months will have a great deal to do with whether or not our Partnership is to keep its vitality...with whether it is to remain a symbol of the future for hopeful people around the world.

As President Johnson reaffirmed to you yesterday, we in America remain for our part dedicated to our Partnership. We remain dedicated to policies of growth, of international cooperation, and of interdependence among nations.

~~And we ask you~~

We are not---and we know that you are not---deterred by any temporary setbacks on our road toward a freer, more prosperous and peaceful world.

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and a chance to meet ~~the new priorities of nation-building and peaceful development~~ in which our Partnership will be devoted not only to our own welfare but to the far greater challenge of nation-building and ~~all around the world~~ peace development all around this earth.

Mr. President, we salute your enterprise. And we salute you---for your ~~honesty~~ ^{steadfastness} and your idealism in a time when those qualities are sorely needed.

To the President of the Commission of the European Communities and to our Atlantic Partnership.



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