

Franklin Delano Roosevelt
Radio Speech (excerpts)
Delivered December 29, 1940

... Nine days ago I announced the setting up of a more effective organization to direct our gigantic efforts to increase the production of munitions. The appropriation of vast sums of money and a well-coordinated executive direction of our defense efforts are not in themselves enough ...

I want to make it clear that it is the purpose of the nation to build now with all possible speed every machine, every arsenal, every factory that we need to manufacture our defense material ...

As planes and ships and guns and shells are produced, your Government, with its defense experts, can then determine how best to use them to defend this hemisphere. The decision as to how much shall be sent abroad and how much shall remain at home must be made on the basis of our over-all military necessities.

We must be the great arsenal of democracy. ...

Source: Franklin D. Roosevelt, "Fireside Chat on National Security," December 29, 1940, in *The Public Papers and Addresses of Franklin D. Roosevelt. 1940 Volume* (New York: MacMillan, 1941), 642–644.