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GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

On this night of the coming of Santa Claus we find Christmas merrier than it has been for years. That is -- in this land of ours. We are fortunate. While in some other parts of the world Christmas comes with anxiety and misgiving.

This was amply reflected in two radio broadcasts today.

One by President Roosevelt, the other by Pope Pius. The President ~~spoke~~ ^{spoke} to this nation, the Pontiff spoke to the world. The former had a message of cheerful optimism, the latter had grave and anxious words. In one respect the two broadcasts were alike,. Both the President and the Pontiff laid stress on international affairs.

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Mr. Roosevelt has Pan-American matters much at heart ~~and~~ since his recent visit to open the Peace Conference at Buenos Aires. So his Christmas message today stressed peace and good-

will among the nations of the Western Hemisphere.

"They," he said, "make the contribution to Christmas with a gift of friendship."

For the ills of peoples and nations the President prescribed -- the ~~Sermon~~ Sermon on the Mount. He said it would fill human and national needs today, just as it did two thousand years ago.

So much ^h~~x~~ for the Presidential words -- now the Papal.

POPE

Today's message from the Eternal City of Rome was one of peace and good-will, but you could hardly call it -- glad tidings. The Christmas Eve broadcast delivered to the world by Pope Pius had a tragic note of personal suffering and worldwide anxiety.

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In the voice that came from the loud speaker you could ~~hardly~~ hear the growing weakness of the aged Pontiff afflicted with grave illness. To those ^{who}~~that~~ heard the broadcast it will not be surprising to be told that after he had spoken his last word into the microphone, Pope Pius fell back exhausted. His physician quickly gave him a cup of hot broth, which revived him. Then he sank into a deep sleep.

The doctors had not wanted him to make the radio address at all. They knew what a strain it would be for a man so old and so ill. ^RIt would have been a thing of pathos, even had the Papal message been cheery and glad -- bright hopefulness to a world without anxiety or misgiving.

But let's see what Pope Pius had to talk about on this Christmas Eve. In one place he used these words: "Signs and

portents of the terrifying reality that is being prepared for Europe and the whole world." Meaning -- war, the peril of a universal outbreak of strife.

The Pope had especially in mind the Spanish Civil War. He called it a sorrowful note amid the joys of Christmas, described it as a horror of hatred, carnage and destruction.

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The spirit of the aged Pontiff was burdened by the one thing he looks upon as the profoundest menace of all -- Communism. He spoke of the Red doctrine as "The propaganda of the enemy and its constantly renewed attempts to bring about the ruin of the most fundamental principles of human society, of the family, and of the individual." He called for a union against Communism and the atheistic agitation of the Reds.

But the Pope went beyond that. He used the phrase, "The malevolence of many misguided enemies of the Divine Child." ~~He~~ ^{ing} ~~meant~~ not only Communism but some of those who are attacking Communism. And here it appeared that he was referring to Germany -- especially when he spoke of those who were trying to stamp out religion in the young and in the hearts of the young.

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This is made the more pointed by the fact that the Papal broadcast was not officially heard in Germany today. It was not put on the air by any of the German radio stations. A dispatch from Rome explains that there is a new flare-up in the quarrel between the Hitler Government and the Vatican, [^]their quarrel over the education of Catholic youth. Several days ago Papal representatives in various countries arranged ~~fr~~ for rebroadcasts of the Pope's Christmas Eve address, but in Germany the pape⁹ NUNCIO was told -- that this could not be done.

Beyond this German exception, the broadcast was one hundred percent Christmas Eve and worldwide. It was so timed that it was received all over the globe at some hour on Christmas ^{—that is the day of Christmas Eve.} Eve, [^]New Zealand got it just a couple of hours before midnight ~~x~~ ushered in the holy day. In this country the Pope's voice was heard at six o'clock this morning.

At last reports, Pope Pius was resting in comfort, after an event without precedent;— ~~An~~ aged, ailing Pontiff ^{to the world} speaking [^]from his sickbed. Delivering by radio a Christmas Eve message of worry and anxiety for ~~a~~ troubled [^]man[^]kind. ~~world.~~

EUROPE

And it's indeed a complicated world! We have an example of that in the declaration by Pope Pius against Communism -- also against those arch enemies of Communism, the German Nazis. Today we find the capitals of Europe worried by the fear that Hitler may use the holiday season as an occasion for one of his sudden strokes -- that he may hand the apprehensive world a Nazi Christmas present.

Today's Papal broadcast calling for action against Communism was excluded from Germany. But what are the statesmen afraid that Hitler will do? They're afraid he'll launch something of his own against Communism. The acute anxiety is that the expected Hitler stroke might take the form of sudden powerful intervention against the Left Wingers in Spain.

It looks to me like a good guess that no such thing will happen. Hitler likes to do the unexpected. The Christmas season is normally an unexpected time for a heavy political stroke. But since Hitler is expected to do the unexpected right now, why that isn't unexpected any more, so he won't do it -- if you know what I mean. However, Europe takes the possibility so seriously

that London is buzzing with apprehensive talk and the French Government is said to have given a serious warning to the German Ambassador to Paris. The French Foreign Minister is reported to have told the ambassador quietly but firmly, that Germany must stop sending fighting men to Spain, where thousands of Nazis are already fighting. If there isn't an end to this kind of intervention, the French Government will be compelled to act on its own account and send its forces to help Madrid. That's what the Paris Foreign Minister is supposed to have said. A late dispatch claims that Paris has new information about Germany intervention in Spain. The report is that Franco has asked Hitler for 60,000 regular troops to help him crush the Left Wingers - and that the Nazi Government is considering the request.

There is word that London has joined Paris in taking a firm stand toward Germany in the Spanish embroglio. The Franco-British stand is described as all the more confident, because Mussolini is reported to be cooling off toward Hitler and those Spanish entanglements.

On top of that, the French Chamber of Deputies has passed a bill to make a huge loan to Poland. This financial transaction indicates that the ties between France and Poland have been strengthened, their old alliance reaffirmed. Since France is on one side of Germany and Poland on the other - the logic is obvious.

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There has been a dangerous threat in the Spanish rebel seizure of a Soviet Russian ship -- stories of burning the vessel and killing the crew. Tonight another story of seizure, but it's the other way round -- the Left Wingers capturing a German ship. It's reported that a war craft of the Socialist Government stopped a German freighter and took it to the Left Wing port of Bilboa. The Russians are angry about their ship and I suppose that now is the time for the German^S to be angry about their own.

SPAIN

And how about Spain?

Spain celebrated Christmas Eve with a pitched battle, a clash of arms, a flare of what Pope Pius called -- "terrible reality."

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We have been hearing that the Christmas spirit had softened even the bitter hatreds of the Civil War, and that both sides were taking a holiday in the battle for Madrid. That's true enough today so far as Madrid is concerned. There where shouts of Christmas greetings one side to the other. There's a pleasant story of a Rebel officer who wanted to spend Christmas with his family in the Capitol, and this was permitted by the Left Wingers. A Socialist officer went over to Franco's lines to be held as hostage for the safety of the Rebel in his Christmas at home. The ~~is~~ beleaguered Capitol was cheered by truck loads of Christmas presents. General Franco got a truck-load of champagne for a yuletide present. This he sent to his fighting men in the battle line.

But these displays of Christmas spirit are only part of the story from Spain tonight. There was no holiday spirit to the North of Burgos. For days Left Wing battalions from the

North have been pushing toward that old city which is Rebel headquarters. Without stirring up headlines, they have been advancing dangerously. So today Franco's men struck. Instead of waiting for the attack on Burgos they took matters into their own hands by launching an attack on their own. There was a battle to the North of the city, several hundred left dead on the field. It seems to have been an indecisive affair, neither side claiming much of a victory. Just some of that "terrible reality" the Pope deplored.

55
The latest is that in Madrid the Christmas spirit is ended. The informal armistice was limited to Christmas Eve, and the shelling has begun again -- Rebel cannon bombarding the heart of the capital.

ENGLAND

Over in England - what's the toast for Christmas Eve? Many an Englishman looked forward to the festive occasion to clink glasses and cry out, "To His Majesty, King Edward the Eighth" but Britishers have had to amend that toast. Tonight in London the proper form is, "To His Majesty, King George the Sixth, the Queen, ^{— and} Queen Mary, and other members of the Royal Family", but as many of them drink, they'll be thinking of the Duke of Windsor, having his Christmas in a castle in Austria.

(The Ex-King celebrated Christmas Eve with a telephone call to the woman he loves. From the ~~Rochschild~~ castle in Enzesfeld, Austria, he put in a call to Mrs. Simpson at Cannes, and they exchanged Christmas ~~greetings~~ greetings.)

Then the Duke of Windsor presided at a Christmas Eve festival in the castle, and helped to distribute gifts among the children of the neighborhood.

56
Cuba entered a new and critical period today -- with the inauguration of a new President. (Sharply at noon Dr. Federico Laredo Bru took the oath of office as President of the island republic.) Ordinarily, an inauguration, especially one on Christmas Eve, should be a cheerful sort of event, but let's look at a few facts of recent Cuban history.

(The new head of the State is the tenth President Cuba has had in four years. His predecessor, ^{Señor} Gomez, was the first Cuban President elected constitutionally since the overthrow of the Machado regime four years ago. ^{And} Now he has been forced out by the army iron man, Colonel Batista. Of course, the proceedings were constitutional in form, Gomez impeached before the Cuban Senate with all legal formality.) Nevertheless, the hand of the military chief is visible at every point in the proceedings. Batista was determined to put through his program of taxing sugar to establish army controlled schools for rural children. The ^{- Gomez -} President opposed, and so ~~out~~ went the President.

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(Gomez, made no real attempt to defend ^{Cuban} himself before the court of the Senate that tried the impeachment. He declared

he hadn't a chance, said he knew that Batista was in control. He denounced the present state of affairs ~~a~~ a Democratic form of government with an army iron man in the background. He added that it would be cheaper and better if Batista were to become openly the dictator. "It would be logical and sincere," he declared, "were the reform apostle of the new era (meaning Batista) to install himself in the Presidency."

Anyway, Gomez is out, and the vice-president succeeds him -- as on this Christmas Eve Cuba enters a new administration of perilous politics.

Tonight's theme of a troubled world began in the Eternal City of Rome. Let's end it in the Holy City of Jerusalem.

Two thousand years ago there was the shining of the Star of Bethlehem. Today it was the glistening of bayonets -- Jerusalem under heavy military guard, patrols of soldiers marching through the streets.

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This year the usual celebration of Christmas is at a minimum. The seasonal swarm of pilgrims has failed to arrive. Of American tourists, who customarily flock to Jerusalem on the Day of the Nativity, only a few were to be observed in the streets today. The crowd of celebrants ~~was~~ smaller than in years.

The Nineteen Thirty-Six commemoration of the great Christian feast is impeded by the strife in the Holy Land -- the strife between the Mohammedans and the Jews, Christianity uncomfortably in the middle between Islam and Israel. There's imminent danger of ^{another wild} flare-up between the Arabs and the Zionist colonists. So a less joyful, a less festive Christmas dawns for Jerusalem this year.

HOBOS FOLLOW JERUSALEM

But let's put aside all those thoughts of dark misgiving. Let's go on to the glad tidings that properly come for Christmas. Here's something -- something that should cause many a joyful cry tomorrow -- the cry, "Father is home for Christmas!"

Word from Cincinnati tells of a proclamation issued by one who calls himself King of the Hoboes. In fact the King has issued an ultimatum to his subjects. He has ordered all hoboes to return home for Christmas. "We want all the boys off the road," he says, "and at their firesides on Christmas Day."

So, as the hoboes go home far and wide the glad cry will ring out at many a happy fireside: "Look! father is home for Christmas!"

So, Merry Christmas to all -- and so long until Christmas.