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## Letter From Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson to Franklin D. Roosevelt, December 25, 1940

Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson

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December 25, 1940.

The President,  
The White House,  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. President,

Your recent statements indicating your determination to see to it that Britain shall receive adequate help from our country are heartening. They are sure to be approved by all informed and unprejudiced people who care for the future of America.

That future depends upon the boldness and realism of your leadership right now. Our government is representative. Events will not wait until the whole mass of citizens comprehend the complicated set of facts that show the United States to be in deadly peril today.

You realize, of course, that America simply cannot afford even a possibility of Britain's going down; that unless we help Britain now, to whatever extent necessary to keep command of the seas and the air from passing to our enemies, then all our costly armaments will be ready to late to save us. Indeed cooperation of the English-speaking people is America's only sure defense. If Britain and the British fleet should fail, America would face an indefinite future of humiliation and suffering.

Our war industries and ship-yards should be on a twenty-four hour basis. The grave national emergency should be recognized and proclaimed. So-called "neutrality" laws, that change international law to the detriment of those who fight our battle, should not be permitted to hamper maximum help to Britain. Even participation in the war on sea and in the air now would be far preferable to the fate in store for the United States,--if Britain and the British fleet should fail.

Realizing all these things, and bearing such an appalling responsibility, will you not, Mr. President, in your forthcoming addresses, put all these hard facts before the American people? Once awakened to the facts, they will be ready, I am sure, for all necessary sacrifices, and will follow your leadership whole-heartedly. And if you arouse their latent idealism, they will rally also to the cause of civilization vs. barbarism, of freedom vs. tyranny. the

With sincerest wishes for your success in awful duties that are upon you, I am, my dear Mr. President,

Yours very faithfully

F. M. Huntington-Wilson.