

# “World Peace Ways Program”

RADIO ADDRESS OF  
Honorable Homer Cummings

*Attorney General of the United States*

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# “WORLD PEACE WAYS PROGRAM”

HOMER CUMMINGS



I DEEM it a distinct honor to be privileged to take part in tonight's program. Its significance and value can scarcely be overrated. Nothing is more fundamental than peace. Its preservation is a problem which confronts all well-disposed governments in all parts of the world. I have said, with respect to the work of the Department of Justice in the field of crime, that unless our persons and our properties are safe, unless the lives of our families are secure from the menace of violence, unless the sanctity of our homes is free from invasion, unless we are permitted to transact our business under conditions of order and peace, there can be no hope of the sound or orderly disposition of the multifarious questions with which we, as a Nation, are called upon to deal. If this be true in the domestic field, how much more obvious is it in the wide area of international relationships? How can Governments devote the necessary thought, time, initiative, and enterprise to the application of ameliorating remedies for the evils and inequities that afflict their respective peoples unless the peril and threat of war cease to exist?

Those who expected that the dream of international peace would be realized without serious effort and in some immediate and miraculous manner have been grievously disappointed. Moreover, there are a large number of people who seem to resent the idea that war can be prevented and insist that human effort in this direction is futile. There are, also, large groups in all lands who appear to take a perverse delight in crying "failure" when peace movements prove abortive or when treaties are threatened or broken. Yet nothing could be more ill-advised than the thoughtless cry of "failure" in connection with these great adventures. The word "failure" is far more applicable to those who are not even willing to try.

Each nation, of course, must approach this problem within the genius of its own institutions, in the light of its own growth, and according to the will and temper of its people. So far as concerns our own country, I think our Government has given a true reflection of the national thought in the recent steps that have been taken to promote peace and to protect our Nation against involvement in controversies in which the United States has no legitimate part.

Manifestly we should follow with sympathetic interest all well-considered projects which have for their purpose the establishment of international good will and should be glad to aid, in any way properly within our power, all intelligent efforts to deal with existing difficulties in a spirit of fairness and reason.

Peace is not a gift; it is an achievement. The world will win its way to peace, when it deserves to have it.

Despite many discouraging events, it is not in vain that the struggle for peace goes forward. To rid the

world of the fear of war would be to liberate man from his ancient, bitter thralldom. More and more the desire for peace, the utter need for peace, is taking a firm hold on human thought. We are beginning to learn that life is the common adventure of all mankind, and that the intimate contacts of modern civilization have made it also a common destiny. We are beginning to realize that war has become so all-inclusive in its sweeping disasters that there can be no peace except a peace common to all the world; and no lasting prosperity unless shared by all.