

Authoring World Peace

International Delegates and the United Nations Charter

Perspective

The world of 1941 was at war as President Franklin D. Roosevelt championed the cause of world peace. Building on his '4 Freedoms Speech' to Congress in January of 1941, he proposed a new organization to replace the failing League of Nations. This effort resulted in the United Nations Conference on International Organization held in San Francisco from April through June of 1945. Fifty nations attended and their representatives presented their ideas, debated, authored and signed a great new instrument for world peace - the 'United Nations Charter'.

Highlights

Specially prepared stationery was provided to conference representatives to carry official conference correspondence. 14 official delegation covers are recorded, three are in this exhibit.

Exhibit Plan

1. The Road to Peace
Roosevelt and the Four Freedoms
San Francisco Welcomes United Nations
2. Representatives and Delegations
3. The Instrument of Peace
The Charter
Charter Signatories
Safeguarding and Delivering the Promise

Special items matted in dark blue

1.

Roosevelt and the Four Freedoms

The four freedoms of speech, religion, from hunger and from fear, are the founding tenants of the United Nations Charter.



"In future days, which we seek to secure, we look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms. The first is the freedom of speech and expression - everywhere in the world. The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way - everywhere in the world. The third is the freedom from want - which translated into world terms, means economic understandings which will secure every nation a healthy peace-time life for its inhabitants - everywhere in the world. The fourth is freedom from fear - which, translated into world terms, means a world-wide reduction of armaments to such a point and in such a thorough fashion that no nation will be in a position to commit an act of physical aggression against any neighbor - anywhere in the world." - Franklin D. Roosevelt

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