

STATEMENT BY J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA, COMMENTING ON "CRUSADE FOR FREEDOM". SEPTEMBER 27, 1950.

Original
J. Strom Thurmond
Governor

"The CRUSADE FOR FREEDOM has been endorsed by the highest American officials, and, as Governor of South Carolina, I join in a whole-hearted endorsement of this program. It is my fervent hope that every citizen of South Carolina will sign the Freedom Scroll and contribute financially in accordance with his or her ability."

The CRUSADE FOR FREEDOM, headed by General Lucius D. Clay, former military governor of Germany and leader of the Berlin airlift, is an activity of the National Committee for a Free Europe, which is a private organization of public-spirited Americans formed to combat Russia's stranglehold on the captive countries behind the Iron Curtain. The NCFE operates Radio Free Europe, which daily pierces the Curtain with "freedom" broadcasts to the prisoner peoples of Eastern Europe from a station in Frankfurt, Germany.

The basic aim of the CRUSADE FOR FREEDOM is to mobilize all Americans in a great campaign of truth to communicate our ideals of world freedom and friendship and nail down the continual and deliberate lies of Communist propoganda. If millions of Americans will join this moral struggle against Soviet aggression and falsehood, the tide of the Battle of Ideas can be turned.

The United States has suffered severe setbacks in the ideological war. Communist propoganda is loud, lying, and unceasing.

The CRUSADE FOR FREEDOM is just such an effort by the American citizenry to reach the minds and hearts of the people of the world.

But the CRUSADE FOR FREEDOM must be a people's movement if it is to succeed; its message affirming America's belief in human rights and dignity of the individual must come from a vast army of Americans.

Symbol of the CRUSADE is the massive 20-ton Freedom Bell,

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which was cast in Croydon, England on July 27. It arrived in this country for a nation-wide tour on Labor Day, September 4, the day that General Eisenhower officially announced the six-week CRUSADE campaign with an address over all radio networks. Eight feet high, the Freedom Bell bears an inscription paraphrased from Abraham Lincoln's words at Gettysburg "THAT THIS WORLD, UNDER GOD, SHALL HAVE A NEW BIRTH OF FREEDOM."

The climax of the CRUSADE will come on United Nations Day (Tuesday, October 24) when the Freedom Bell will be installed and dedicated in the shadow of the Iron Curtain in Berlin. On that day, the Bell will peal forth its message of hope, encouragement and determination to resist Red aggression.

Freedom Bells will be scrawled on walls and sidewalks, just as the "V" symbol was used against the Nazis. The basic unity of all free peoples in the fight against Communism will be told as never before.

CRUSADE committees have been formed throughout the nation, with representatives in all regions, states and cities. Starting October 1st, all Americans will have an opportunity to sign "Declaration of Freedom" scrolls which read (in part):

"I believe in the sacredness and dignity of the individual.

"I believe that all men derive the right to freedom equally from God.

"I pledge to resist aggression and tyranny wherever they appear on earth".

All of these Freedom Scrolls, when signed and completed, will be sent to General Clay in New York, and flown to Berlin for the Bell dedication ceremonies on October 24. There they will be enshrined in the foundation of the bell tower which will house the Freedom Bell as a permanent testimony of the American people's dedication to the cause of world freedom and peace.

At the time of signature, small contributions will be accepted to pay for the Freedom Bell, and to expand the facilities of Radio Free Europe, which now consists of one transmitter. It is hoped that five to eight higher powered stations can be constructed in order to intensify American efforts to reach the people behind the Iron Curtain.