King Leopold Pledges Fight On an Invader

Belgian Monarch Asserts Nation Will Resist if It Is Attacked, as in 1914

Calls Present Army 10 Times Stronger

Hopes U. S. Will Support Him 'for Good of Peace in Civilization's Service'

The address at the fifth session of "Belgium," by Leopold III, King of the Belgians, is a broadcast from Brussels, following:

I am honored by speaking from the same platform as your great President. When the Forum kindly asked me to give a short message to the American audience Belgium’s position in this war—a position entirely consistent with the will, the courage and the integrity of my people.

In my capacity as head of the Belgium state, I welcome this opportunity of setting out clearly the following facts:

In 1914 we, under the command of my father, King Albert, accepted after a hard battle the progress of a cruel invasion. If we were attacked, and pray God this may not happen, in violation of the solemn and definite undertakings that were given us in 1837, and were renewed at the outset of the present war, we would hesitate to fight with the same conviction, but with forces ten times stronger. Once again, a single-minded nation would support its army.

But we cannot believe that the hooligans would fail to respect our neutrality. We trust in the law they have given us; and have proclaimed before the world, just as they may rely on our loyalty and which, following the example set by our beloved father, I am resolved never to avert as the sovereign of a free and gallant people.

In conclusion let me express the hope that the American nation, to whom we so closely drawn by ties of common aspirations and by the similarity of our institutions. We are prepared to exert our entire strength in order to uphold our independence.

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In conclusion let me express the hope that the American nation, to whom we so closely drawn by ties of common aspirations and by the similarity of our institutions, will encourage and support as in the statute we have adopted for the good of peace in the service of civilization.