

*Lothian Marquess of Speke (Chicago 100/7/40
Jan. 4)*

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*Copy sent to
Chicago in P.L. No. 2.
P.L.-2.*

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

January 10th, 1940.

No. 45

My Lord,

I have the honour to report that on January 4th and 5th I paid what I might call a semi-official visit to Chicago for the principal purpose of delivering a speech before the members of the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations. My two days spent in the city were replete with engagements which, in addition to the Council's dinner at the Palmer House attended by approximately a thousand people, included a tea given in my honour by the English Speaking Union, two private lunches given by friends at which I met many leading representatives of business and a tea given by His Majesty's Consul-General (with whom I stayed) for about forty members of the faculties of Chicago and Northwestern Universities. On each occasion I took the opportunity to explain as best I could His Majesty's Government's attitude in regard to the war and the peace to follow as well as to answer questions on these matters and on the actual prosecution of the war. The dinner of the Council on Foreign Relations was a very large and representative affair presided over by a well-known lawyer, Mr. Donald McPherson, who introduced me briefly. My own remarks were somewhat lengthy, lasting some fifty-six minutes, but I was attentively listened to from beginning to end. From the comments gathered from various listeners by

The Right Honourable
The Viscount Halifax, K. G.,
etc., etc., etc.

L:CB:LMG:CL

Mr./

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Mr. Bernays and others the speech was well liked and welcomed as a long sought manifestation of the British point of view in an important political centre which had "cried" for such enlightenment for a long time.

2. Except for a few minor criticisms in quarters in which this could normally be expected I have not come across any unsatisfactory reactions in the press whether in the East or Mid-west and in such organs as the New York Times my remarks were printed verbatim. In general the speech, which was, I think, frank and outspoken, has been welcomed as clarifying the issues on the war and the British attitude thereto. I was particularly impressed by the friendly attention shown towards me by Mr. Edward J. Kelly, Mayor of Chicago, and I regret that his absence from the city made it impossible for me to make his acquaintance. Mr. Kelly sent a representative to meet me at the station, expressed his desire to fly the Union Jack on City Hall, though whether this was carried out I have not yet ascertained, and provided me with extremely efficient and courteous police protection both when moving from place to place and at all buildings visited. In a city which has long been regarded as a centre of anti-British propoganda and feeling this has been a satisfactory symptom. In conclusion I wish to express my high appreciation of the energy and skill shown by His Majesty's Consul General, in spite of ill-health, in making/

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END

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making the somewhat complicated arrangements
necessary to ensure the smooth accomplishment of
my task.

I enclose three copies of the press release
of my speech and am sending a few printed copies in
the next bag.

10 sent
on print
Dutch 22/1

I have the honour to be,
With the highest respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient,
humble servant,

(SGD) LOTHIAN