

Message of Congratulations

To: PRIME MINISTER KWAME NKRUMAH AND THE PEOPLE OF GHANA

ON MARCH 6, 1957, THE FREEDOM-LOVING PEOPLE OF GHANA WILL HAVE achieved independence. On that day the world will have witnessed the climax of an historical, though peaceful, struggle for justice and freedom.

We Americans of all political affiliations and from every sector of the nation salute you and the people of Ghana in your hour of triumph. We have followed with sympathy and support the momentous efforts to secure your rightful place among the community of free nations.

Because of our own struggle to emerge from colonial status to national independence, we can fully appreciate your desire to govern your own destiny. Your historic struggle has been a brilliant one — an example for all Africa still under colonial status. Your success, we sincerely hope, will serve to speed the day when all the peoples of Africa achieve their independence.

As we Americans know too well from our own experience as a new nation, the path ahead will not be easy nor will it become less difficult as you undertake to make secure the freedom you have just achieved. But, with the same measure of vision and responsibility already demonstrated by your leaders, we are convinced you will succeed and thereby give added hope to the millions of Africans who look to you for proof of our common belief — that all men can and should govern themselves.

We Americans welcome your choice of the democratic way to fulfill your destiny. So long as you stand firm in the service of our common heritage of freedom and the dignity of the human spirit, we pledge you and the people of Ghana our enthusiastic support in your endeavors to build a free, just and prosperous society.

March 1957

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
Dr. Channing Tobias
*Co-Chairmen,
Gold Coast Celebration Committee*

Please regard this statement as confidential and not for release to the press. It will be released, together with the full list of signers, on the date of presentation to Prime Minister Kwame Nkrumah.