

THE ELEANOR ROOSEVELT PROGRAM

May 21, 1951

Description: This recording was produced while ER was in Geneva, Switzerland. In the opening segment, ER and Elliott Roosevelt respond to a listener's question regarding the release of Robert Vogeler, an American journalist arrested in Hungary for alleged spy activities. In the following segment, ER interviews well-known travel writer, Alec Waugh.

Participants: ER, Elliott Roosevelt, Alec Waugh

[ER:] How do you do? This is Eleanor Roosevelt speaking to you from Europe, where I am attending the meeting of the United Nations Human Rights Commission.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Fiction writers have a special set of problems besetting them today—problems that are different from many faced by plot-builders since writers commenced their art. This is what Mr. Alec Waugh [1898-1981] claims, and as one of Great Britain's best known writers of both fiction and non-fiction, he should know. Mrs. Roosevelt will introduce him to you a little later on, but first we're going to hear from the sponsors who make our recorded program possible, and also Mother and I have a special item to discuss which we hope you'll find interesting.

(Break 0:54-1:04)

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Mother, I have a question here from a uh—one of your listeners who has been attending these uh-uh recording sessions uh for the program as it is shipped back to the United States coming to our audience from Geneva, and uh one of the questions that has come up in the last few days has dealt with the very interesting and strange case of Mr. [Robert] Vogeler and his release by the Hungarian government. As you remember, Mr. Vogeler's case—the United States made certain concessions uh and uh your foreign listener, who has shown a great deal of interest in your views, is that uh—they would like to know whether the US should have acceded to the demands for Mr. Vogeler's release and to have agreed to make the uh concessions that they did uh because wouldn't this set a precedence for further and more serious demands in the future?

[ER:] Well as I understand it, the United States refused to make certain—a certain concession which they did not feel they had the right to make. But they did make certain concessions on assets which the United States felt had been taken from Hungary and um therefore, perhaps Hungary had a right uh to have them back again. I don't know—I didn't read very carefully—what the other concessions were, but um, were there any others besides that on-on return of certain property? (2:58)

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well they did ask for the ancient crown of Hungary—[overlapping with ER]

[ER:] Oh the crown! That's just the one I meant.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] The ancient crown of Hungary to be returned—

[ER:] That was what I meant. They said they couldn't do that because that had not been taken by the Germans.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Right, and it was not owned by the United States government either.

[ER:] No-no-no.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] So it would be rather difficult for the United States government to just seize it and send it back.

[ER:] Yes, that's it.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well uh do you feel that uh having made these uh-uh concessions—

[ER:] No, I-I don't feel that way because uh I think probably what really brought about the release of Mr. Vogeler, if what I read was true, was the threat that certain um Hungarian uh-uh assets in the United States would be sold. Um I saw that, I don't know whether it was really so or not, but at the time I thought that it was far more likely to be a fear that that would happen. And it was uh the release of certain other assets which um I imagine if they'd had a little patience probably would have been returned to them anyway, and they probably knew it um, however— (4:20)

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well now, will this same procedure be followed by the Czechoslovakian government in the case of uh the AP correspondent who has just been incarcerated by the Czechs? [ER: Oh, very--] Will this be used as a means for them to at least make sure that the Czechoslovakian funds and assets in the United States are not sold at public auction?

[ER:] Very likely. But it's an unwise thing to bank on um—that that won't happen and it's uh—might uh, might be a mistake for them to be too sure that it wouldn't happen. And I-I don't think, I-I don't believe that our government um has made any concessions which it didn't think it was quite uh correct to make and I think that whatever government makes any demands will have to be very sure that their demands are demands which in all probability eh, will be conceded at some time in the future in any case. [Elliott Roosevelt: Well—now] I don't know that, I just think that.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well, I'd like to read—uh in this case they've listed some of the things which you've just mentioned that America has promised to do in return for the release of Vogeler, one of them being the reopening of the Hungarian Consulates in New York and Cleveland, Ohio, closed last year in retaliation. [ER:] Well they were only closed because of Mr. Vogeler's having been imprisoned in—

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Now the-the next thing, I think, is of very great interest, that the United States will lift the ban on travel by American citizens to Hungary. I am very much interested in that, as that seems to me to open up a very fine channel for our native-born saboteurs uh and uh underground Communists to find their way back into the arms of the Soviet Union.

[ER:] Well that's alright. I don't think we have the slightest objection to having them go back to Hungary or the Soviet Union. It's coming back to the United States we object to, [Elliott Roosevelt laughs] and that they'll find just as difficult as ever [ER laughs].

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Alright then, the next one that they list is that, "The Voice of America will stop using the wavelength of Radio Munich for its broadcasts."

[ER:] Yes, but the Voice of America has another one that they'd rather use, I understand, and a better one. I-I don't know that but I have a, I have been—

[Elliott Roosevelt and ER overlap]

[Elliott Roosevelt:] You have a vague feeling that we're not giving up very much when we give up that. Well I feel a little bit better than that—

[ER:] No—well I don't think it's very vague.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] And the fourth one of course, is that the US government will help to return Hungarian property from the American zone of Germany, which we've already covered in our conversation. But I would like to go on to uh another point and that is that the British government also has a national who was arrested at the same time with Vogeler and according to the British press, they've made uh numerous advances to the Hungarian government requesting that negotiations be entered into for the release of this uh fellow employee of Mr. Vogeler's, and they have had no satisfaction whatsoever. And it seems to me that the United States should have operated in close cooperation with the British government to try to see that both men were released at the same time.

[ER:] Well I entirely agree with you there, I think that uh I-I think that is one of the places where uh we fall down. I think probably we fall down because um we are not accustomed to thinking in terms of um really acting in close cooperation with-with some other nation except in times of war, and then we set up all the machinery and we act in close cooperation. Now, in the present situation as regards the countries behind the Iron Curtain, it would be very well if we thought in terms of cooperation such as we would have in a war, and therefore we operated in close cooperation with our friends and when we do that, we'll get better results. (9:03)

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well that's what I feel very strongly and is one of the points that I think should be brought home to the American people, that after all, we can't win anything in this world in fighting for a free world unless we operate in conjunction with the other free peoples of the world. (9:21)

[ER:] Yes, but you have to remember, Elliott, we have a free press in the United States, and you and I would both say that we did not believe in doing anything which would curtail freedom of the press in any way. But there are moments when that means that you have to go more slowly in getting the real facts to the people, because um they don't always get the truth from certain parts of our press, and that being the case, uh they don't make their judgments either as based on the real facts quite as quickly. In the long run, they usually get the facts. [Elliott Roosevelt: Right.] And I always trust the long run judgement of the American people, but it takes longer to get it to them, and in this case, you will find a great deal of antagonism built up against the people whom, in the long run, we have to cooperate with. We've always had to in any crisis. And um, we-we go gaily on thinking we're not in a crisis, but uh-uh the crisis exists. [Elliott Roosevelt: It certainly does exist.] And therefore we have to cooperate, and the sooner that becomes apparent to all the people of our country the better. (10:55)

[Elliott Roosevelt:] And by that you mean that we should cooperate with the English people and that we together must work toward our own salvation together?

[ER:] Not-not only the British people. We should cooperate with all the free peoples of the world.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] And on that note I think we will end this particular part of our program today and turn it over to our announcer.

[Break 11:19-11:25]

[ER:] With me today, as my guest in London, is an author well-known on both sides of the Atlantic, in America in particular for his travel stories. He has some very interesting views on the trend in modern

writing which has really been the reason for his very wide travel throughout the world. It gives me great pleasure to introduce to you, Mr. Alec Waugh. (11:50)

[Alec Waugh:] It's a great pleasure for me to be here, Mrs. Roosevelt.

[ER:] Well first, Mr. Waugh, may I say that it's a particular pleasure for me to meet you again because we did meet so many years ago. I'm not going to say how many—[Alec Waugh: Yes, I had some very happy times possibly at your house.] It is a long while ago since you stayed at Hyde Park with us. Well now I wonder if you would uh tell me a little bit about your feeling uh of the difficulty in modern writing. (12:17)

[Alec Waugh:] Well I find the difficulty now in writing novels and short stories uh in England because the way of life in England has changed very considerably in the last fifteen years. There aren't so many differences between one's social class and another, and between one monied class and another. There's more of a levelling up and a levelling down. And that means that one doesn't get the same conflict in the character's minds between one set of ambitions and another set of ambitions. 'Cause in the old days, for instance, you could have the stock situation of a heroine who has one side, she's attracted by a man who represents a certain way of life, perhaps the intellectual way of life, without a great deal of money attached. And on the other side maybe a rich old family with uh princely mansions. On another side-side there may be a rich man who's made a big fortune in business in some way and each of these three men can represent quite a different pull to her personality. But there isn't quite that conflict now because each of the three would be living very much the same kind of life or rather more the same kind of life. (13:22)

[ER:] And that has—is uh what has led you really to travel as widely as you have uh—?

[Alec Waugh:] It has a good deal to do with it because if I go to a country with a different climate and a different history, then I do find these differences. I find that um a character who has lived, say, in the West Indies, is different from a character who has lived in London all of his or her life. (13:44)

[ER:] Oh yes, and you do find still there uh in a great many parts of the world the great differences uh between let's say the rich and the poor and rather a minority of rich. [Alec Waugh: Yes.] And um also uh you—you find um certain types of uh of pulls that are more evident in those societies. [Alec Waugh: Yeah.] For instance, I think uh you spent some time in Puerto Rico, and I know Puerto Rico a little bit.

[Alec Waugh:] Well you are the first person I think really who called attention to the tradition of people in Puerto Rico. (14:25)

[ER:] Well um I went there when my husband uh-uh became interested in-in uh trying to see what could be done in Puerto Rico to meet certain problems that had never been met. Now there is in Puerto Rico a tie-up, and I think it's a very interesting tie-up, because it's a tie-up between absentee ownership of certain industries, um a-a rather dominant um religious uh belief that goes into all the economic life as well as [Alec Waugh: Yes.] the intellectual life of the people. [Alec Waugh: Yes.] And uh then a-a lack of education, a lack of opportunity for the people as a whole um which when you begin to bring it in makes the old life much more difficult, [Alec Waugh: Yes.] and I-I think you can see in that small land um pictures of various tensions that arise perhaps much more clearly than in a bigger country. (15:51)

[Alec Waugh:] I always prefer myself to go to a small island because if I go to a small island then I can see uh practically everyone in the island or someone representing each way of life in the island. If I go to a large country, it's too complicated for a-a traveler who has to move rather quickly.

[ER:] Yes, you'd have to really live a long while before you—

[Alec Waugh:] I did find Puerto Rico, in point of fact, rather too big an island for me. [ER: Rather too big an island?] Yeah. I'd-I'd prefer something a little smaller, like St. Lucia or Grenada or St. Thomas there.

[ER:] Well St. Thomas of course would have many of the-of the same tensions.

[Alec Waugh:] I only gave myself ten days in Puerto Rico, and I think I ought to have given myself ten weeks at least.

[ER:] Yes.

[Alec Waugh:] I-I rather want to go back there again.

[ER:] Yes, I think you would have to have. What parts of the world have you found um-uh give you an insight into the problems that are really dividing the world today? (16:56)

[Alec Waugh:] I think I learned quite a lot from the Seychelles where I went last year. That is a very small uh British colony in the middle of the Indian Ocean. And it was originally French and we took it over during the Napoleonic Wars and we left the French customs, and the French language, and the French faith, so it-it remained very largely French. And they remained very much um 'ancien regime' type of people, and they hadn't realized how much change has taken place in the world and they're rather shocked by the um advanced ideas being brought into them by the present colonial administrators. (17:35)

[ER:] Uh what um do you find—do you find the conflict necessary there between the old and the new?

[Alec Waugh:] It's simply more um marked there than it would be in an entirely British island because the, it has a very big French background and the French um proprietors who've lost touch with their own country and haven't had so very much touch with England: they don't realize how much we have advanced in various ideas. They can't quite have the idea—if we think that everyone has the right to a certain standard of living, which the colonial administrations are bringing into the Seychelles, and they put up perhaps more opposition to the modern idea than I would find in St. Lucia, say. (18:22)

[ER:] Well now what-what happens when the new colonial administrator comes in with these ideas. Uh the-the people themselves are not prepared for these ideas, neither are the owners I imagine--I mean the, what you might call the governing class in—[Alec Waugh: Yes.] Then what happens? What do you work on? (18:43)

[Alec Waugh:] Um in the Seychelles as a matter of fact, uh things happened a little bit too fast, I think; that they um uh tried to bring in a good many laws before the people were-were quite ready for them. And—

[ER:] Well there was no demand, in other words, from the people for the reforms which were coming in, therefore it's too soon?

[Alec Waugh:] It seemed to be a little bit too soon, that they tried to arrange um uh extra payment if they did extra work, and they didn't really want to do any more work. And there were some very good offers made to the planters that if they would um build new houses, the government would take the greater part of the cost, but they didn't uh build the houses because they thought that people didn't really need them.

[ER:] People didn't really want them.

[Alec Waugh:] People didn't seem to want them particularly.

[ER:] Well that was one of the things that I remember my husband said about Liberia, that there the rubber company which uh had started in with the idea they would have to build the natives better houses and they built a better house, and the natives wouldn't live in it. And then they gradually came down until they had built the same kind of huts they had lived in, but with perhaps some little improvement: like a little more air, or a little more—better place for the fire, for the smoke to go out that you cook with or whatever it might be, some little thing, and then the natives were willing to live in it but not otherwise. Well uh it's going to take a long while isn't it to—(20:18)

[Alec Waugh:] I think it's going to take quite a long while. And I think that uh we have to be careful not to move too fast. I think the example of India having been given freedom, which India was very likely ready for, and was prepared for, and could make use of—uh that doesn't make a very good example for some less forward races. They still think—

[ER:] And yet throughout Asia there seems to be today a great emotional wave for freedom. You take your-your um-um Dutch islands, [Alec Waugh: Yes.] Indonesia. Um there seems to be this wave, uh and yet they don't seem to be, some of them, particularly well prepared to accept the responsibility. How is that to be met? (21:10)

[Alec Waugh:] Well I think the trouble is that they will want to have freedom, but at the same time they expect a paternal government to uh advance them money for any-any trouble they get into and produce a free ticket if they get into trouble. So I think they're trying to want it both ways.

[ER:] Yes well they want uh—that's a little bit like Puerto Rico with us. Puerto Rico would like to be completely free, but it would like to retain every advantage of being a part of the United States. It would like to pay no duties on anything, um it would like to feel protected, uh but it would like to be completely free. Now have you found that everywhere? (21:51)

[Alec Waugh:] I've found that in a good many uh islands, particular in the smaller West Indian islands.

[ER:] Well what is your answer to that? 'Cause can—you can't have both.

[Alec Waugh:] I think we've got to give them their freedom very slowly.

[ER:] You've got to give them what?

[Alec Waugh:] Let freedom come slowly. [ER: And--] And that uh-uh that we mustn't hand things over to them.

[ER:] And though a proportion of them demand it? That's one of the things that brought about uh the um very violent feeling which resulted in an attempt on the President's life this last year. That violent feeling—what would you do with them? (22:25)

[Alec Waugh:] I think it's the minority, isn't it really in Puerto Rico? The nationalist movement. [ER: Yes. Yes.] The-the-the minority.

[ER:] It is the minority. You would just go along calmly anyway?

[Alec Waugh:] Yeah, I'd go along calmly, and—

[ER:] Well I'm sorry; we have to have one minute for our announcer and then we'll come right back.

(Break 22:41-22:49)

[ER:] Now we come back to our talk with Mr. Alec Waugh, who is known as an author on both sides of the Atlantic. We've been talking, Mr. Waugh, about um your travel books and the reasons why you turn to travel. It must be rather difficult for an Englishman uh to travel these days, isn't it?

[Alec Waugh:] Um well it is always possible to get currency if one uh has a good excuse for getting it.

[ER:] I see.

[Alec Waugh:] And actually in point of it, I am a resident of the United States at the moment.

[ER:] Oh you are?

[Alec Waugh:] Yes.

[ER:] So that you um—

[Alec Waugh:] So that I can move my dollars that I earn in the United States uh into any place I want to.

[ER:] Well that is very—that's convenient.

[Alec Waugh:] Right—I took up residence about eighteen months ago but I'm always on the move, so it hasn't really made very much difference, except that I have the good fortune to be more an American than I would have been otherwise.

[ER:] I see, well that's—that's very interesting. Now can you find um no conflict to write about in the United States?

[Alec Waugh:] I don't really know enough about the backgrounds of the people I'm meeting in the United States uh to write about them except rather shortly and superficially in short stories. I like to introduce American characters and bring them over to Europe and show how Europe affects them. Because the more I uh see of America, the-the more I realize how little I know about it. Because I don't know what the people wear at school; I don't know what they were doing in their early years. [Overlapping speech with ER.] I'm learning a lot, I hope as I go along, but I don't-I don't-I don't really know enough about the characters.

[ER:] That's very interesting that you feel that. Well now um, I wonder uh if uh you intend to go on uh writing novels but uh making them more um with their stories in the places that you've been travelling lately?

[Alec Waugh:] I used, before the war, to write a novel every eighteen months or two years, and I've written only one novel in the last ten years and I hope to do a few more novels, but not more than about—past four or five. Um one great difficulty is—I'm finding at the moment is, is the same difficulty I had after the first war: that one hasn't got a very long period of time to move in, that one wants to show uh the effect of time on a character, one has to begin the story after the war is over in 1945, late '45.

[ER:] 1945 doesn't give you much time.

[Alec Waugh:] It doesn't give you very much time. Because if one places the story further back say, in 1936, the reader knows the war is coming in and any situation, any confusion you get your hero and

heroines into, they can be solved arbitrarily by uh somebody being bombed or—the reader feels he or she has been cheated by that. And I—after the first war—because I began writing rather young, I published my first book in 1917—I couldn't get started on a novel, a longish novel, 'til about 1925. So there's always this problem of time. (26:05)

[ER:] Yes, and that uh that does make it very difficult uh uh I think now to write-write a novel. Um, well do you expect to live more in the United States and make more of a study there of the people?

[Alec Waugh:] Yes, I want that to be my base and then to travel out from it.

[ER:] Travel out from the United States?

[Alec Waugh:] And spend about four or five months every year there.

[ER:] Have you any place there that you've settled down to live in?

[Alec Waugh:] My legal address is the Algonquin Hotel, and I—

[ER:] That's not um—I-I know the Algonquin well and that's a wonderful place to see literary people but uh I shouldn't call that the best um place to really get at the roots of the American people. (26:48)

[Alec Waugh:] Well I'm-I'm a townsman. And I-I was brought up in London.

[ER:] You're a townsman. You must live in a town!

[Alec Waugh:] I love-I love cities; it seems I always had a flat in London. I've got uh—I don't have an apartment in the Algonquin well uh actually because I'm not there enough, but I keep about uh seven or eight pictures and whenever I go back to the Algonquin I put these pictures up so I feel that I'm back in my own home again.

[ER:] Back in your own home. The only difficulty is that I think the United States is still a country, in spite of its big cities, and in spite of its increased population, it is still a country where the rural areas have the greatest influence on the development of the people. So that—and-and even the big cities are so dependent on the rural areas that you have to see the tie-up or uh you um will not understand, I don't think. There is of course today um a very interesting difference in different parts of the country. Um what you described in um your little British islands in the Indian Ocean um I think could more nearly be approximated in some of our Southern states because there people have lived um making up gradually for the harm done by the "War between the States," the Civil War, um and trying to return to a life that existed before the Civil War um and unwilling to accept the fact that not only had the rest of the United States changed, but the rest of the world had changed. [Alec Waugh: Yes, yes.] So you see a little bit of um that same sort of uh-um "life that has gone by," [Alec Waugh: Yes.] Uh which uh you see in the small islands. (29:01)

[Alec Waugh:] I think you said in one of your books that um your husband got a great sense of the country through traveling about in trains a lot.

[ER:] He got a great deal out of traveling in trains. He would always make the trains when he was president go rather slowly so he could see um a good deal as he went along. And he um, he was a very remarkable observer of-of people. And of course campaign trip meant that he got out onto the platform, the back platform at stations and stopped, and people would gather and he would talk to them, and they would answer. [Alec Waugh: Yes.] They would tell him what was going on in that area if it was a tobacco

growing area, or a um cotton growing area, or whatever it might be, uh um they would uh tell him what the conditions were. And he got so that he could tell a great deal by just watching um whether the houses were painted, whether the um—how the children were dressed, how-what cars looked like, what kind of wash hung out on the line [Alec Waugh: Yeah.] and all those things. He got a good deal out of train travel. But mostly our trains go too fast. (30:22)

[Alec Waugh:] I actually came back from California this spring by Greyhound Bus, and I thought I was getting quite uh [ER: Oh, that's a good way.] 'cause I talked to people in the Greyhound Bus, and saw a certain amount of the scenery, and I was reading your book just after that and I thought, "Well, perhaps I'm following a good example by—"

[ER:] That-that would be an excellent way I think. I think a Greyhound Bus uh where you have to sit by someone and you-you get a chance to talk and—

[Alec Waugh:] The passengers change from one small stop to another and—

[ER:] And did you talk to a great many people?

[Alec Waugh:] A good-good many different people. And I had a great feeling of how much the country is at war now, going through some of the states, and seeing the soldier sitting by their kit bags waiting for their bus to start, all of them going on furlough, and they're all going off to join their units—

[ER:] Well, it's been uh a great change again.

[Alec Waugh:] Yeah.

[ER:] We've practically gone back of course to um conditions uh because we-we so quickly uh gave up everything that had to do with the war, and all the strength that we had built uh-uh which is characteristic of the United States, we've done it after every war. Uh but uh the feeling has been so intense that there had to be strength uh if we were to prevent a war um that it seems to me, just as it did to you, that we are back almost as we—as if we were at war, which of course, we're not. (31:54)

[Alec Waugh:] I did have a feeling of the immensity of the-the efforts being made when I was doing this Greyhound Bus trip because very often staying at the Algonquin Hotel, I might not have recognized it, but [ER: No.] Taking about ten days coming right through New Mexico and Nashville and Louisville and these places I—

[ER:] I think you get the—you get the feeling of the—and it's a very great uh effort. I mean there are, I get letters from-from women a great deal, from—and um I get letters frequently saying, "All three of my sons are now in the war in Korea," [Alec Waugh: Yes.] Or all—we had a rather sad little incident the other day. A mother had written in—uh she'd written um to the Secretary of War and said that she had three sons in Korea, that one of them had served in the last war, and one of them had been in long enough to be wounded and to have gone back on the front. And that um she really felt that one of them should be allowed to come home. And they asked her which one and she chose one, the one who'd been wounded and gone back to the front. [Alec Waugh: Yes.] And she got word that he was killed right after being told he could come home. [Alec Waugh: Right as—that's really tragic.] [ER:]—really tragic.

[Alec Waugh:] Yes it is.

[ER:] But that of course is-is the difference that has come to us—[Alec Waugh: Yes.] It's the uh Korean War. But that I think might give you many stories, a Greyhound Bus trip, might give you many stories. (33:26)

[Alec Waugh:] I hope to do a great deal more trips in the Greyhound buses because it's a nice way of traveling and I-I do see people I wouldn't have ordinarily come across.

[ER:] No you wouldn't-you wouldn't, and you see a variety of people. I-I-I hope you will take some more trips, and I hope that now that I know you're living in New York that when you come back to the Algonquin, you'll let me know. [Alec Waugh: Yes.]

[ER:] I'm sorry to say we're really at the end of our time; we have to stop this talk, but I um want to thank you very much for coming this afternoon.

[Alec Waugh:] It's been a great pleasure for me.

(Break 33:58-34:11)

[ER:] And now Elliott, I see that we have just enough time left to let our listeners hear a recording of something very interesting that was said on our NBC Sunday afternoon television program.

[Recording begins]

[ER:] Today our television program originates in the BBC studios in London. I flew to England yesterday from Switzerland where I am attending the meetings of the United Nations Human Rights Commission. Here in England, just as in the United States, the question of President Truman's dismissal of General MacArthur has aroused strong public reaction. On my right, Mr. W. J. Brown. Mr. W. J. Brown has had a very active life in British public affairs. He has twice been a Member of Parliament. He will stand in the next election as an independent with Conservative party backing for a London constituency. There is a body of opinion in the United States which suggests that the dismissal of General MacArthur is the result of British domination of the American State Department.

[W. J. Brown:] Well now, Mrs. Roosevelt it would be idle to pretend that there hasn't been a good deal of feeling in Britain about General MacArthur. Um part of that feeling is centered upon his policy, and part of it is centered upon his person. As regards policy, there is a substantial difference of emphasis between the American and the British point of view about the relative importance of Asia and Europe. That's the policy point of view and I will doubt that other questions will bring us nearer to that particular point. As regards the personal point of view, it is implicit in the whole English outlook that it is for governments to determine policy and it is for generals to carry out the policy. That doesn't prevent the general from having a view, which he can express to his government. Uh it doesn't prevent him resigning if he finds the government policy intolerable. But what was quite inconceivable to the British mind was that General MacArthur, who is greatly admired in this country for his soldierly qualities, should stay on as commander-in-chief of the United Nations Forces making speeches plainly critical of the policy of his government, writing letters to political opponents of the government, and in short behaving in a fashion that nobody else behaves in in England except Mr. Aneurin Bevan.

[Recording ends]

[Elliott Roosevelt:] This is Elliott Roosevelt speaking and reminding you that you have been listening to the Eleanor Roosevelt Program which comes to you each Monday through Friday at this same time.

Today's program was recorded in London, and we wish to thank the BBC for making their facilities available to us.

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