Eleanor Roosevelt EXCERPT, ACWA CONVENTION SPEECH March 21-25, 1956

I want you to realize that what you invest in the United Nations and in foreign aid is not a loss. It is an investment, which will bring you returns in a prosperous country in which we hope our children will grow up to have better standards of living, even, than we have today, and we have better standards of living than almost any other country in the world......

I think the United Nations is important, because it will remind us constantly, through our delegates there and their contacts, that our leadership must be leadership that speaks for actual accomplishment in our own country. That is why it is important that we move with knowledge and understanding, but with determination and calmness, towards achieving equality for every American citizen.....

An curiously enough, that is why, to me, the union movement is tremendously important. Of course, you in the unions, do not yet represent all of labor. But I hope some day you will, because I believe that it is through strength, through the fact that people who know what people need are working to make this country a better place for all people, that we will help the world to accept our leadership and understand that, under our form of government and through our way of life, we have something to offer them which cannot be offered by the communists......

I humbly hope that you will have courage, that you will develop vision, and that you will think first of what you can do in this country and then of what you can do in the world. The two are tied together, and I wish you blessing in all you do.

Source: Excerpt, Eleanor Roosevelt's Speech, Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America Twentieth Biennial Convention Proceedings, March 21-25, 1956, Kheel Center, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.