

# U.N. Conference on International Organization

San Francisco, 25 April - 26 June 1945

## Perspective

It was 1941 and the world was in chaos as United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt championed a new foundation for world peace. Building on his '4 Freedoms Speech' to Congress in January of 1941, he began meeting with world leaders during the intervening years in preparation for a world order in which peace was the central and sustaining element. Roosevelt proposed a new organization to replace the ailing League of Nations. As a result of his efforts, the United Nations Conference on International Organization was held in San Francisco in April of 1945, resulting in fifty nations attending and their representatives signing a new instrument of peace - the 'United Nations Charter'.

## Highlights

Specially prepared stationery was provided to conference representatives to carry official correspondence of the new organization. 35 surviving covers are recorded (3 included in this exhibit), representing the most important postal history items of this world body.

## Exhibit Plan

1. The Road to Peace
  - Roosevelt and the Four Freedoms*
  - The Yalta Declaration*
  - San Francisco Welcomes United Nations*
2. In Commemoration of Peace
  - The Commemorative Stamp Issues*
3. Representatives and Delegations
4. An Instrument of Peace
  - The Charter*
  - Charter Signatories*
    - (not all representatives were signatories)
  - Safeguarding and Delivering the Promise*

Items presenting an unusual challenge in acquisition are matted in dark blue

1.

## Roosevelt and the Four Freedoms



President Roosevelt promoted four freedoms — freedom of speech, religion, hunger and fear. These freedoms are the tenants on which the United Nations was founded.



'Honor the Four Freedoms' Roosevelt  
Overprint offset on rear

*"In future days, which we seek to secure, we look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms. The first is the freedom of speech and expression - everywhere in the world. The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way - everywhere in the world. The third is the freedom from want - which translated into world terms, means economic understandings which will secure every nation a healthy peace-time life for its inhabitants - everywhere in the world. The fourth is freedom from fear - which, translated into world terms, means a world-wide reduction of armaments to such a point and in such a thorough fashion that no nation will be in a position to commit an act of physical aggression against any neighbor - anywhere in the world."* - Franklin D. Roosevelt



Holyoke, Massachusetts to Bern, Switzerland, 22 March 1943, International surface rate 5¢, 1¢ overpaid

"RETURN TO SENDER / NO SERVICE AVAILABLE"

Delay for censor subjected letter to PB 18571 (24 March 1943) - suspended service to Switzerland