

“To Léon Blum”

We think every American who has read the accounts of the Riom trial would be glad to sign the cablegram which some 200 American writers, artists, professional men and women and public officials sent to Léon Blum in honor of his seventieth birthday today. We think all lovers of freedom everywhere would like to have M. Blum know that they deeply admire his “courageous stand in the cause of freedom and democracy”.

We need democratic heroes. We need soldiers like MacArthur who will stand like rock in the presence of the armed enemy. We need civilians like Léon Blum whose quiet words, spoken in the murky atmosphere of defeatism, compromise and intrigue, will clear the air like a stroke of thunder. When M. Blum was Prime Minister of the French Republic, he may have made errors of judgment. What man in public life hasn't done that? At Riom he spoke for the clear-eyed, heroic France that every free man on earth loves and respects: the France that sleeps at Vichy, the France that, being immortal, will arise again.

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