

PRESS CLIPPINGS

Office of
The Prime Minister

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You all know how eager our Canadian soldiers are for action against the enemy. I cannot make too clear that the policy of the Canadian Government is to have our troops serve in those theatres where, viewing the war as a whole, it is believed their services will count most. The Canadian people are proud today that our men are among the defenders of the very heart of the free world.

And here let me express our thanks for the hospitable way in which the Canadians have been received into your hearts and homes. The Canadian forces in your midst are at once the symbol of the unity of our cause and the most precious evidence we can give of our whole-hearted support.

Wider View Gained

One purpose I had in my present visit to Britain was to gain, from a point of vantage which Britain affords, a truer picture of the world conflict than is possible anywhere else. I am more than ever convinced that the dangers we face together are world-wide dangers. The very existence of this island is threatened.

At Suez and Gibraltar, throughout the whole Mediterranean basin, there is a constant danger of enemy attacks. From the West, from the East, the security of India is threatened. In the Far East menacing clouds hang over Singapore. The most vital sources of British supplies and routes of communication and transportation are everywhere in danger. To all this must be added the enemy's gains in a long list of conquered nations. No greater mistake could be made than to fail adequately to measure the magnitude of the task.

or to think that British interests alone are menaced by this world-encircling danger. The strength, resources and rapacity of the enemy are so great that no country which still possesses its freedom and independence is secure today.

We face today battles not of nations but of continents. If tomorrow the world is not to face a battle between hemispheres it is going to take all the strength all the free peoples can muster to keep the conflict in this hemisphere and finally extinguish it before the whole world is in flames.

More Aid Needed

In every country Hitlerism has found its most useful allies among those who believed they could save themselves by isolation and neutrality while others fought the battles of freedom. Although none will ever do more for freedom than the people of this island are doing in this greatest of all wars, Britain without aid far greater than any yet in sight cannot win the war for freedom the world over.

You, Mr. Churchill, said: "Give us the tools and we will finish the job." It was the appeal of a people who will never falter.

But in our hearts we know today the war will be far longer, far harder, far more desperate if all free men do not rally to your side while you are at the fulness of your strength. For the task that faces Britain and those who fight with her is, I verily believe, nothing less than the task of saving humanity.

In recent days you and I, Mr. Prime Minister, have crossed the great northern bridge which stretches through Iceland, Greenland and Newfoundland from the old world to the new.

The narrow seas between Scotland and Iceland, between Iceland and Greenland, between Greenland and Newfoundland, through which you voyaged to your historic conference with President Roosevelt, are the most vital strategic areas in the world today. As I spanned those waters and islands in the space of a single night I had a new and more vivid sense of our nearness in North America to the heart of the world conflict.

I felt a new pride, too, that from the beginning of the war Canada has been the keeper of that northern bridge. In Newfoundland and Iceland Canadian forces were pioneers from the new world. Across that bridge come vast supplies, war materials, foodstuffs, yes, and the fighting men, too.

Back across that same bridge if this island bridgehead should ever be lost, would move enslaving hordes of new barbarians.

Island Must Be Held

We know it is not enough to garrison a bridge itself unless we are prepared to defend this island which is its eastern bridgehead. That is why the fighting men of Canada are here in growing numbers to share in the task which is our defence as well as yours. By your action you, in Britain, already have made it clear you will never open to any aggressor the road across the northern bridge so long as brave men survive to keep it closed.