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The Chair now calls upon the representative of Liberia.

MR. SIMPSON: Mr. President, Fellow Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen: This opportunity to address the plenary session of the United Nations Conference on International Organization is indeed a great privilege.

On behalf of the Liberian Delegation, I desire to say that we associate ourselves with other delegations in paying tribute to the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt, whose foresight was chiefly responsible for the convening of this historic Conference in this delightful city of San Francisco.

The death of this great humanitarian and liberal is a severe loss not only to his country, but to all nations regardless of their size or potentiality.

I should like to observe that the Liberian Delegation cannot but have mingled feelings on an occasion such as this. Speakers who have ascended this tribune have had occasion to refer to the brutal warfare and carnage which their countries have undergone over a number of years. I allude in particular to the representatives of China, France, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, the Philippine Commonwealth, Yugoslavia. Ethiopia also has had her baptism of war.

Superior forces invaded, raped, and conquered their countries--our hearts and hopes went out for them, and we still have a feeling of the agony which they underwent and must still endure. But we now rejoice that ultimately their liberation has come and that meanwhile their souls still remained unconquered.

It is indeed a truism that might may at times seem greater than right, but in the final analysis right and justice must and will prevail. Mr. President, I cannot refrain from making an especial reference to the heroic struggle which China for eight long years has made for survival and the maintenance of world peace. Some day recorded history will correctly appraise the indomitable character of the Chinese people.

To Soviet Russia we are indebted for the victories of her mighty armies in Europe, and particularly the epic struggle at Stalingrad, which will ever remain fresh in memory.

To the Delegation of the United Kingdom may I observe that great praise and credit are due to your Government and people for your gallant struggle during the dark days of the war--I refer to the battle of Britain--when hope seemed lost, and a democratic world was then hanging in fateful balances. It was then that His Majesty's Government and the people of London were determined and resolved that Britons would never, never be slaves.

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It was with this conviction that Prime Minister Churchill said: "We will defend every village, every town, every city . . . we shall tolerate no terms, we shall tolerate no parley, we may show mercy, but we shall ask none."

Last, but not least, the natural gifts of leadership and vision of the late President Roosevelt, and of his capable and wise assistants, the industrial power and resources of the United States Government, have contributed most effectively to the prosecution of the war, the last phase of which we are now happily witnessing in Europe. The United States of America has indeed and in truth been called the Arsenal of Democracy.

I crave forgiveness for the time utilized, but members of the Liberian Delegation are mindful of the narrow escape which their country had at the hands of Germany. We realize that the physical and economic servitude imposed upon other countries might have also been inflicted upon us, and it is for this reason that we are inspired to speak a word of praise to representatives of these countries whose struggles, whose sacrifices in toil and blood, have enabled us to survive and permitted civilization and democratic ideals to remain on the face of the earth.

It may be useful to state that at the outbreak of hostilities in Europe, the Government of Liberia assumed and consistently maintained an attitude of strict neutrality toward the respective belligerent powers. While Liberia originally endeavored to stand aloof from the conflict, yet the methods pursued by Germany to vindicate what she pretended to be her national rights and honor by the adoption of such means as the sinking, without warning, of unarmed passenger vessels of her enemies and neutrals, the bombardment of unfortified towns and villages, and the violation of the rights of small states, were such flagrant violations of the rules of civilized warfare as to justly create on the part of the Liberian Government grave apprehensions and fears of the eventual permanent establishment of the doctrine of might over right in the realm of international relations, which doctrine would only result in the complete subjugation and elimination of all small and weak states from the association of nations.

Hence, the Government of Liberia could not any longer continue to view with indifference and unconcern the great world conflict of arms.

Accordingly, it registered a solemn protest against the unlawful and inhumane acts on the part of the Axis powers by severing all relations with these governments.

A plan of collaboration between the Governments of the United States and Liberia was concluded and announced, whereby United States forces were stationed in Liberia, thus fixing the

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