

Europe as a nazi stronghold. We can all be profoundly grateful that in the nazi path, Greece and Yugoslavia have become active obstacles.

But the chief obstacle to nazi ambitions is still Britain, and Britain can afford to devote but a part of her effort to the Balkans. The threat of invasion of her own island has not passed; that danger will grow as the spring advances. The battle of the Atlantic has not been won and it is, as we all know, the most vital struggle of all. The unsettled state of France and the presence of the nazi army of occupation on the Spanish frontier, constitute a source of danger to Gibraltar and to British communications in the western Mediterranean. The situation in the far east also is by no means without its dangers.

In a world struggle, events must be viewed in perspective. The conflict must be seen as a whole. Facile optimism and exaggerated expectations may be just as dangerous as abject fear. We must be prepared, in the new phase of the war which has now actively begun, for a bitter struggle. In the end, the spirit of freedom will conquer. Meanwhile, there is certain to be frightful destruction of life and property, and we must be prepared for setbacks and disappointments. The heroism of the Greeks and the determination of the Yugoslavs may well fill with fresh courage all of those who love liberty.

Some may be inclined to feel that hostilities in the Balkans are very remote from this continent. The truth is that the outbreak in the near east, far from being remote, has in fact brought the conflict closer to us than ever. In a realistic calculation of this world struggle, it should not be forgotten that the subjugation by Germany of each new country amounts, in fact, to the addition of another slave state as a dependency of nazi power. In the nazi design for Europe—the so-called “new order”—Germany would be the workshop and arsenal of the European continent. Within her borders, or under her control, the important and highly technical industries would be concentrated, while the conquered territories became hewers of wood and drawers of water, ministering to the nazi war machine, and adding to its staying power. It is important that all should realize that, sooner or later, the successful accomplishment of this great nazi design, were such a thing ever to come about, would in fact result in world domination by the nazi power. Apart from what it would mean to the survival of Britain and the continuance of the British commonwealth, its effect upon this continent, in other respects, would quickly make itself felt. While it might not of necessity be followed by an attempt at mili-

tary invasion of this continent, it would, through competition of standards, drive North America into economic isolation and to the use of totalitarian methods in seeking its survival. Nazi control of Europe would in fact involve the outflanking of North America. It is, of course, inconceivable that so long as free men are able to resist, this dark day will ever come to pass.

Hon. R. B. HANSON (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the house and the country will be obliged to the Prime Minister for the statement which he has just made. I have no desire to make any addition to it. My mind has been running along the same channels as his statement indicates ever since we heard the announcement. I should like, however, to ask the government whether any consideration has been given to Canadian participation in the battle of the near east.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The leader of the opposition I am sure will be the first to realize that the disposition of troops is a matter which comes pretty much exclusively within the purview of the high command. The government has every reason to believe that the high command in Great Britain, in the disposition that it is making of troops, is following the course which it believes, in the interest of all, it is wisest to take. I am afraid I cannot add more to that statement.

VISIT OF GENERAL SIKORSKI

JOINT DECLARATION OF PRIME MINISTERS OF CANADA AND POLAND

On the order for motions:

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): I should like to place on *Hansard* a declaration of friendship which was made at the close of last week as a result of the visit to Canada, and to Ottawa in particular, of General Wladyslaw Sikorski, Prime Minister and Commander in Chief of Poland.

General Sikorski has come to this continent to visit both Canada and the United States on an important mission which relates to Poland's effort, assistance and cooperation in the present great war. As a result of General Sikorski's short stay in Ottawa, the following statement was signed by the general and myself on Saturday afternoon and later in the day was given to the press:

Ottawa, April 5th, 1941.

The visit of the Prime Minister of Poland to Canada has permitted a helpful interchange of views between the governments of Poland and Canada, and an examination of mutual problems arising out of the war. With profound pride we have reviewed the heroic resistance of the Polish nation against the enemy