

We know it is not enough to garrison the 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, have already made it clear that you will never open to any aggressor the road across the Northern Bridge, so long as brave men survive to keep it closed.

That the United States was to share in keeping this Northern Bridge was the best of news. I find further encouragement in the words of President Roosevelt last Monday when he said: "I know I speak for the conscience and determination of the American people when I say we shall do everything in our power to crush Hitler and his Nazi forces." The most important step in crushing Hitler is to render wholly secure this island base from which the final attack must be launched.

We, in Canada, were greatly heartened when, three years ago, the President, after referring to the Dominion of Canada as part of the sisterhood of the British Empire, declared that the people of the United States would not stand idly by if the domination of Canadian soil were threatened by any other empire. In the name of our government, I reciprocated at once by recognizing Canada's responsibility to do what lay within her power to prevent attacks through our territory upon the United States. These declarations were the starting point of our agreement for joint defence.

#### *Deepening Interdependence of the Free World*

To-day, fortunately, we are witnessing the birth of still wider arrangements for joint defence between the British Empire and the United States. Your declaration, Prime Minister, that, in the Far East, Britain would stand at the side of the United States, is a sure sign of the deepening interdependence of the free world. A similar declaration on the part of the United States, as respects Nazi Germany, would, I believe, serve to shorten this perilous conflict. Such a declaration would be full of meaning for the German people. At the same time, it would constitute a realistic recognition that Britain is the one obstacle in the way of a Nazi attack upon the New World.

Without doubt, Britain could, if she would, purchase a temporary respite by agreeing to the continuance of the Nazi domination of continental Europe. Such a course you rightly refuse to consider because you know full well that all it would mean is an armed truce. You would face, and we in North America would face, an agony of prolonged uncertainty while Germany repaired her military machine and gathered fresh strength for a final assault on what remained of democracy in the world.