

ner holding out as she did, all would have been ended, and there would have been a complete collapse of civilization.

As I look around me today I am pleased to note that a great soldier has been made secretary of state for the United States. I refer to General Marshall, who has succeeded the other great head of that department, Secretary Byrnes, who had to retire because of illness. General Marshall did not have what is known as the tradition of American politics as horse trading, but the fact remains that they have given him this office. General Marshall brings to his task the qualities of a first-class soldier, and he has taken office at a crucial time in the history of the world. He has won for himself the high regard of those Britishers who were associated with him in the war. I believe the new secretary of state is a man of great culture and high intellectual attainments.

It is my belief, however, that sooner or later his country will become isolationist, because it has never had a foreign policy. They have fought four wars without having had a foreign policy. Two of them were fought in our generation against Germany; one against Spain and one against the Philippines. Then they took part in the first great war. Yet they have come down to the time of the last great war without having had a foreign policy.

Another important subject will be taken up next week in Moscow. I refer to the subject of the bases. The principle of the joint Anglo-American use of bases is now in full operation. But the precedent of long-term leases of bases from Newfoundland to British Guiana, under the fifty-destroyers agreement of 1940 contains the seeds of future conflict. That agreement, which confers 99-year leases on the United States, does not provide for the British use of these bases and apparently contains no release clause in any form. If bases are to be held jointly such arrangements should be made on terms of strict reciprocity. In the present case, the use of land and the cost of bases in allied territory should be charged to lend-lease account and an agreement should at the same time be made to terminate the 99-year lease and cancel it and to transfer the costs of the destroyers to lend-lease account.

An agreement should be made along these lines, and I hope it will be made in Moscow next week. The true cost of those destroyers should be charged to lend-lease account; in fact, that should have been done long ago. Those ships had very little value in the war, because at that time the battle of the Atlantic was being fought, and the British navy was bearing the brunt of it.

I would say as the great Kipling said in "The English Flag":

"And what should they know of England who only England know?—
Never was isle so little, never was sea so lone.
But over the sand and palm trees an English
flag was flown."

Wordsworth said on the death of Milton:
"Milton! thou should'st be living at this hour:
England hath need of thee!"

So I can say: Kipling, thou should'st be living at this hour; Britain hath need of thee.

One of the outstanding events in recent days has been the visit of Their Majesties and the two princesses to South Africa. They landed at that beautiful city of Capetown, from H.M.S. *Vanguard*, and have seen that magnificent country, with its flowers and historic beauty. Drake on his tour of the world called it a great harbour. Their Majesties and the princesses have gone through that country, just as they went through Canada shortly before the war broke out in 1939, at which time they won the admiration and affection of all our people. In no part of Canada did they get a warmer reception than in the province of Quebec. They are beloved by all the people of this country.

It was Field Marshal Smuts who prepared the speech from the throne. The king is the King of Canada; he is also the King of South Africa. They are now trying to build up a republic in South Africa. During the war Field Marshal Smuts rendered a service of great value. His life's work has been devoted, however, to the establishing of a republic in that great country.

A few days ago I referred to what I considered were three very important matters. First is India. Then comes the abandonment of the Suez canal, which was called by Mr. Churchill the jugular vein of the British empire. Equal in importance is the issue in Palestine. These are the most important matters at the present time. Then, one must consider the preservation of Greece. I do hope that we will arrive at some solution of these problems in the days ahead, because the British empire has been one of the greatest agencies for good that the world has ever known.

As we look around us we see a tendency toward the dissolution of the empire. Many people do not believe in empire; I gave their names last night, and some of them would have it liquidated. I fear a great mistake has been made by Great Britain in respect of India, and I hope some solution will be found before it is too late; because, after all is said and done, Great Britain has given India peace, security and justice for over 100 years,