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Statement on External Affairs

May 13, 1943.

The past few days have seen a number of significant anniversaries in the progress of the world-wide war for freedom. I spoke on Monday of the significance of the victory of the United Nations in North Africa. I described the campaigns of the past six months, both in the western desert and in Tunisia, as the final phase in the struggle for the whole continent of Africa - a struggle which began when Italy entered the war nearly three years ago. I added that the victories of Tunis and Bizerte marked the end of the first stage of the offensive from the west against the European Axis partners, and that North Africa had become a base for much greater offensives.

Last Monday, May 10th, marked the third anniversary of the Nazi invasion of the Low Countries and of the real assault upon France. Earlier than that, Hitler's forces had reached out into Denmark and Norway. It is already more than two years since Nazi armies smashed into Yugoslavia and Greece. By June, it will be two years since Hitler's forces stabbed at the Soviet Union.