

*The War—International Situation*

unless it recalled the fact that China is now in her fifth year of unbroken war against aggression. If any nation ever fought against an evil which it had done nothing to deserve, that nation is China. The sufferings of her patient people are as great as any ever visited upon any country. The uncomplaining courage of the Chinese has not been surpassed in the annals of human resistance. Like the Russian peasants and workers who within the last few months have been so mercilessly slaughtered, the Chinese continue to die in staggering numbers in defence of their humble habitations and the good earth which for countless generations has given to the ancestors they revere and to themselves their scanty sustenance. The Chinese ambassador in London, speaking recently to the people of Great Britain, used words which go far to make clear the spiritual foundations as well as the underlying unity of the cause of the democracies:

"China's resistance," said Dr. Wellington Koo, "is sustained by her faith in the ultimate triumph of good over evil. In the Chinese view violence and aggression are a curse to humanity and contrary to the will of providence as manifested in the gospel of love, good-will and friendliness which should rule amongst nations as amongst governments. The Japanese invasion is a great wrong, and China's defence is a righteous cause which cannot fail to prevail in the end. And the more energetically this cause is defended the sooner will it be able to vindicate law and order, liberty and justice, peace and security."

Now I come to a reference to the United States. The survey I have given of warfare, actual and potential, as it has spread in the course of two years throughout Europe, Asia and Africa, should be sufficient to disclose its menace to every other portion of the globe. It is not surprising, therefore, that the world-encircling danger, which already has engulfed the eastern hemisphere, should have increasingly aroused the peoples of North and South America to an awareness of the encompassing threat to the security of the western hemisphere.

The sweep of the nazi hordes to the waters of the Mediterranean; the German penetration of north Africa; the prostrate condition of the once free nations of Europe, emphasized to-day by horrors and atrocities too ghastly to recount; the present struggle of titanic forces in Russia; the continuous siege of Britain by sea and air; the unconcealed nazi designs to obtain bases which would bridge the Atlantic in the north via Iceland, Greenland and Newfoundland, and on the south, from the northwestern coast of Africa to the most eastern coast of South America via the Cape Verde islands and the Azores;

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

the combined threat of Germany and Japan to the whole vast regions of Asia; the movements of Japanese fleets and armies along the whole western Pacific shores from Thailand and Malaya to the waters that divide Siberia from Alaska; the threats to Singapore and the Philippines, to the Netherlands Indies and Australasia;—all these developments, and much else, have combined to destroy the myth of American isolation.

The ever-increasing dangers have brought opinion in the United States to the point where even a nominal maintenance of official neutrality has long since ceased to be a part of national policy. The idea of neutrality implies two nations at war and a third in friendship with both. Officially, such a position seemed possible in the fall of 1939. Even to appearances, it has long since ceased to be countenanced. Instead, the whole trend of American opinion and official decision has been to regard neutrality as a mask and to throw it off altogether.

The aggressor nations, by their acts, have brought down upon their own heads the wrath of the United States. The methods by which nazi Germany has invaded the several countries of Europe; has manifested her intention to dominate on sea, as well as on land; and has, in collaboration with Italy and Japan, demonstrated her ambitions of world conquest—all of these, in corresponding sequence, have provoked the United States to increasingly vigorous protests and acts of self-defence.

It will be recalled that on May 27, the President of the United States proclaimed a state of unlimited emergency. On June 14, the day on which our parliament adjourned, German and Italian assets in the United States were "frozen." Two days later the German consulates were ordered to close, and shortly afterwards the Italian consulates were closed. Three days following Hitler's attack upon Russia, United States assistance, which previously had gone mainly to Britain and China, was offered also to Russia. On July 7, to forestall German attack, United States armed forces were stationed in Iceland. Two days following July 23, on which date Japan again intervened in Indo-China, Japanese assets in the United States were "frozen," and, within a week, an embargo was placed by the United States on the export of aviation gasoline.

In August came the historic meeting at sea between President Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill. In the middle of August, the president joined Mr. Churchill in proposing a three-power conference with Russia. Three days later, the American ferry service for combat planes to the middle east was announced. On