

Sub-head:

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Immediate  
consequences  
of the outbreak  
of hostilities

40651—Mr King's Speech—

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The chiefs of staff were called into conference with the government during the evening. At the conclusion of the meeting, it was announced that, pending formal declaration of war, Canada's armed forces had been ordered to engage the enemy wherever found.

Defence plans made months ago, many of them jointly with the United States and Great Britain, are now being put quickly into effect. The machinery for economic and financial control which had been set up during recent months was brought into operation against Japan. All necessary security measures have been taken and censorship regulations put into force.

This afternoon, I notified the Japanese Minister that the Japanese Legation and Consular staffs will be given their passports as soon as satisfactory arrangements have been made for the return to Canada of Canadian diplomatic and trade commissioner staffs in the Far East.

The action of the Government has been based upon continuous consideration over many months of the situation in the Far East. There has been, throughout, the closest consultation between the Canadian Government and the Governments of the United Kingdom, the other nations of the British Commonwealth, and the Government of the United States.

One effect of the outbreak of war between Canada and Japan has been the automatic abrogations of treaties and agreements heretofore existing between the two countries. This includes the Immigration Agreement which was effected in 1928 and which allowed a small number of Japanese immigrants into Canada each year.

I wish especially to refer to the position of Japanese residents of Canada. All Japanese nationals will, in principle, be treated in the same way as nationals of Germany and Italy. Those who are considered dangerous are being interned at once. All other Japanese nationals, and Japanese naturalized since 1922, will be required to report to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and to sign the undertaking required of all enemy aliens.

As a precautionary measure, persons in Canada of Japanese origin have been registered and finger-printed. The competent authorities are satisfied that the security situation is well in hand.

May I say a word also with reference to China. To-day, the free nations of the world have joined forces with China in resistance to Japanese aggression. The cause of freedom in the west has been united with the cause of freedom in the Far East in a struggle which has become one and indivisible. We are now fighting not only to preserve civilization in the west, but also to save what is best in the ancient civilization of the Orient.

China is now in the fifth year of unbroken war against Japanese aggression. If any nation ever fought against an evil it had done nothing to deserve, that nation is China. The sufferings of her patient people are as great as were ever visited upon one country. The uncomplaining courage of the Chinese has not been surpassed in the annals of human resistance. The assurance that the nations of the British Commonwealth and the United States are sharing in their struggle for freedom will give new hope to the Chinese people.

From all of the developments of yesterday, it is certain that Canada's course of action, the direction of our war effort, the whole underlying motive and driving force of our national life, will now have to be guided by the visible evidence of conflict, on and across, not one ocean, but two oceans, waged with growing intensity among the most powerful nations of the whole world.

In Parliament and out of Parliament, from the very beginning of the war, I have stressed two things: the first, the world aspect of the danger; the second, the moral character of the issue.

It has taken the past two years for most countries to come to see the all-encompassing aspect of the conflict. Nazi aggression against a single country in Europe rapidly developed into aggression over the face of the entire continent. From Europe, it spread to Africa. In Asia, Japanese aggression began years ago with an attack on China. Japan's attack upon United States' and British possessions in the Orient has brought the war to the continent of America. It is now a war of hemispheres as well as of continents. To the Battle of the Atlantic has been added the Battle of the Pacific. The world-encircling danger has grown into actual conflict in all quarters of the globe. This continent has, through the combined actions of the axis powers, been drawn into the world conflict to the extent of its entire resources. We have all come to see that no nation is sufficient unto itself, no continent and no hemisphere great enough in its own strength to maintain its freedom. The struggle has now reached the point where it has become nothing less than a matter of saving freedom itself, and of saving the world from a condition of universal anarchy and chaos.

As to the issue, there can be no longer any question. Japan's latest aggression proves beyond doubt that the axis partners are joined together in an attempt at world domination. The conflict fundamentally is one between reliance upon force and reliance upon reason; between pagan barbarism and Christian civilization; between a social order which ignores the individual and one which respects the sacredness of human personality. It is a conflict between tyranny

Sub-head:

New hope  
for the  
Chinese  
people

Sub-head:

A world-  
encircling  
struggle  
between  
freedom and  
slavery