

GREEK PREMIER TALKS TO V ARMY

(Colonel Britton's Twenty-fourth Weekly Talk)

This is Colonel Britton, speaking to the V. Army.
It is almost exactly a year ago that Greek troops won a great victory against the Italians.

Fighting with great gallantry and skill the Greek soldiers drove Hitler's Italians out of their country and on November 22, the Greek High Command announced that Koritza had been taken.

It seemed appropriate on this anniversary of a Greek triumph that a representative of this great nation should speak to the V Army, and I invited the Greek Prime Minister, M. TSOUDEROS, to come to the studio with me to talk to you.

He is with me now and I have asked him to tell you something of what Greece is doing on her section of the European front against the Nazis.

The Greek Prime Minister:-

M. TSOUDEROS

This war is truly a war between two orders: the one is the order of justice, freedom and democracy which all the civilised peoples are determined to defend until it is once more secure: the other is the so-called "New Order" of Nazi Germany which Hitler assisted by his Italian and Bulgar confederates is seeking to impose upon the world. In reality it is a very old order - that of murder, rapine and destruction with which, throughout the ages, barbaric people have sought to dominate their peace-loving neighbours by weight of numbers and by brute force.

But history has shown that in the end the spirit always triumphs over more violence for if this were not so how would civilisation and prosperity have grown from strength to strength as the years proceed across the fields of Time?

I am confident all Greeks, in Greece and abroad, have not for one moment ceased from being confident that once again the spirit will affirm its superiority over material strength, and not for one moment shall we desist from the struggle until Victory is won, as it will be won.

Greece fights on with her Navy, Army and Air Force in the Middle East, while at home the Greek people, though oppressed under an odious triple yoke, are opposing a sustained and courageous resistance to the German, Italian and Bulgar forces that have swooped down upon them from the north like a pack of ravenous wolves.

But the spirit of the Greek people is not to be crushed either by the oppressive rule of the Germans and Italians or by the rapacity of the Bulgars. In the mountains of the mainland and in Crete guerilla warfare goes on. In the towns behind the back of the hated Gestapo resistance lifts its menacing hand and the invaders are uneasy.

When the day of liberation draws near in Greece - in all the oppressed countries of Europe - a formidable army of resistance will rise up and drive the miserable aggressors out, as the armies of the free nations of the world push forward the banners of liberty to the final Victory which will crown our common effort.

/Thank you

COLONEL BRITTON

Thank you Sir.

I'm sure you will agree that there's also very much that can be done - that is being done - now by the oppressed countries of Europe to bring that day of liberation nearer.

A week ago Hitler, speaking at Munich, said that 350 million people throughout Europe were working for the Nazis. This, of course, is quite untrue.

But there are still too many factory-owners who are trying to increase production for the Nazis. We must warn these people that they're following a very dangerous course. Members of the V Army, who are carrying on the "GO SLOW" offensive, can help by writing to anyone who helps the Nazis and warning them.

I want to emphasise again that the Nazis are getting short of oil and petrol. Anything you can do to waste oil or petrol is extremely valuable.

One word more. I would like to say how gallant a part is being played by the younger men and women of the V Army. The Nazis have paid much attention to youth, for two reasons - one, because they have wanted to use the strong muscles of the young men and the second, because they were afraid of the sturdy feelings of independence and rebelliousness that are characteristic of civilised youth. The Nazis had good reason to be afraid; our young men and women are not afraid of them. Reports that I've seen show that Europe can be proud indeed of her young men and women.

I would like especially to pay tribute to the students of Czechoslovakia. Two years ago, on November 16, they were the first student martyrs in the resistance of the oppressed peoples to Nazi domination.

M. TSOUDEROS

May I interrupt you, Colonel Britton?

I too would like to pay tribute to those brave Czech students. The Nazis have since extended their persecution to the universities and cultural institutions of all the European countries; and in all those countries the young men and women have been quick to follow the example of the Czechs. Freedom to learn is the birthright of civilised peoples and our young men and women of Europe have been worthy of this birthright.

COLONEL BRITTON

Greece's history of culture gives the Greek Prime Minister the right to speak for civilisation in this matter. We must thank him. And we thank you, for the V Army, for the gallant way in which you continue the struggle for civilisation.

Good luck to you.

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