

GENERAL DE GAULLE'S BROADCAST

Broadcasting at 9.25 p.m. tonight to the French nation, General de Gaulle said that the new Vichy government was just another stage in the game Hitler had started playing against France and the world in June 1940.

"Apparently," General de Gaulle said, "Hitler has decreed certain transfers and promotions among the Vichy traitors. We were expecting this formality. The position in which his armies are placed has now led him to strengthen the guarantees he received just 22 months ago from unworthy military and political leaders regarding our territory, our fleet and our Empire. He now thinks fit to have recourse to men who are still more obviously unworthy."

".... His determination to pervert France in order the better to subjugate and exploit her, prompts him to select certain people who are particularly conversant with the arts of corruption and terrorisation, to enforce the measures of oppression.

"But that is merely a matter of convenience and opportunity. Fundamentally, nothing has been changed or nothing that alters the essential factors of the terrible game Hitler has started playing against France and the world, taking advantage, as he always does, of infamy and treason.

"Fighting France, of course, never had even an hour's doubt as to the strategical process which will inevitably be followed by Hitler. Fighting France was never for a moment deceived by any foolish illusions as to the possible recovery of leaders who had sunk deep into the mire. Fighting France never for an instant imagined that the men who surrendered France's weapons to the enemy, ordered the Empire and the Fleet to cease fighting, unless against Frenchmen and the Allies of France, and who, on the quivering soil of the martyred motherland, even went so far as to join hands with Hitler, could ever return to the path of honour.

"But events will perhaps show that it is high time for men of good will, in both the Old World and the New, to see matters as clearly. This war is not only a battle between conflicting armies. It is a struggle between falsehood and truth, between darkness and light, between evil and good. We can only win it by attacking evil, dispelling darkness, and hounding down falsehood.

"Today, the duty of all Frenchmen and women is exactly the same as it was yesterday. But it is more obvious. It is the duty of every Frenchman and woman to struggle actively by every possible means, both against the enemy himself and against the men of Vichy, who are the enemy's accomplices. ...

"The French people have begun to show how and why Hitler was mistaken concerning them. We believe they will continue this demonstration. Hitler may be beaten because he though he could dispose of France."