

AMERICAN NEWSPAPER COMMENT

The New York Herald Tribune today states: "In yesterday's dispatches the great Russian pincer offensive against the wings of the Stalingrad positions was still surging forward carrying with it possibilities so spectacular that one hesitates to contemplate them. Yet it is impossible to deny geography. By the obstinacy of their assaults on Stalingrad the Germans have already risked much; if the Russian drive continues, the risk will in a few days become a hundred times greater. Hitler's 'intuition' will be faced with the choice between cutting the losses and clearing out of the whole south eastern sector or hanging on at the possible cost of losing all the armies which have been committed there. .... The German armies .... are certainly not what they once were. They have been bled white; they are facing a winter for which they are probably not even now fully prepared; they are obviously short of the aviation which has hitherto ridden above their victorious battles, and with fresh enemies hammering at the gates far behind them even their morale may be shaken. So in Russia there is still another great beginning. The possibilities are immense. The realizing of them may prove another matter as it may in North Africa and elsewhere. But on every front the vast uneasy and unstable Axis empire now confronts not beckoning victory but dire menace".

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The New York Times in an editorial entitled "road of the dead" comments on the present Russian offensive at Stalingrad and the German losses in that sector. "It was a bitter thing to endure these losses and be halted in the outskirts of the city. It will be bitterer still to be thrown back at the end of a summer campaign from which Hitler hoped so much, of which he boasted so much, and to strew with the dead of a retreat the same road that was watered with German blood during the advance. Yet this is what the present Russian offensive northwest and southwest of Stalingrad may mean. .... Even Berlin does not attempt to deny that a campaign which was to have knocked Russia out of the war ... has turned out quite otherwise.

"Nineteen forty-one was to have been Hitler's year. Then it was to have been 1942. Now the end of 1942 is 37 days off. The 'road of the dead' leads toward Berlin, not away from it". ...

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The New York Times also states: "If further proof were needed of the wisdom, of the policy which our government is pursuing in North Africa, Dakar provides it. A victory of great strategic importance to the United Nations has been won without the firing of a single shot".

After discussing the manner whereby Dakar's "benevolent neutrality" was achieved the Times says, "We will accept help from whatever quarter it is offered provided the result is to drive the Axis out of Africa more quickly and hasten the day when we can break the power of the Axis over France herself. The policy is justified in practice if it saves the lives of American boys now fighting in North Africa; if it enables us to concentrate our full strength against our real enemies instead of dissipating our strength in fighting Frenchmen; ... if it speeds the hour for an Allied attack in force before the Germans have had time to strengthen their Tunisian defenses adequately"

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The New York Times also says: "A delicate problem of war censorship is raised by the mutual complaints of British correspondents in America and American correspondents in Britain. British correspondents here say that the American censorship will not let them send to their countries full accounts of criticisms here of British war policy. American correspondents make a like complaint about their inability fully to report British criticisms of America.

"It is not difficult to understand the motives of the censors. Recriminations across the ocean would endanger that harmony between the American and British war effort so essential to victory. But censorship of mutual criticism could easily have the opposite of the effect intended. It is good to know what our Allies think of our war policies. If these are wrong or mistaken we may change them in time. We may prevent a minor difference from growing unchecked into a serious one. Both the American and the British censors should reconsider their policy from this point of view. Censorship of a sort is certainly needed. But it should be mainly a voluntary censorship practised by the critics themselves and by the correspondents who cable the criticisms. Mutual candour if it is to be helpful must rest on mutual tact and on basic mutual esteem."

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The New York Times, discussing Africa as an air-base, says "..... Fleets of the air attacking from the perimeter of a great circle can strike anywhere within that circle. If the defending force is the weaker it suffers even more by dispersion. The coast of North Africa swings around Southern Europe in exactly such an arc. It is an unsinkable airplane carrier 2500 miles long.

"Allied air fleets are pouring into North Africa... their first function is plainly to drive Axis planes out of that continent. Their second function will be to establish the anchorage for a canopy under which Allied shipping can freely ply the Mediterranean and beneath which Axis naval forces dare not venture. Their third function will be to strike at the enemy on the opposite shore."

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The New York Times also states: "Admiral King was 64 yesterday. By a wise and fortunate exemption he is not subject to forced retirement at that age." After lauding Admiral King's brilliant career the Times adds, "Admiral King's part in that perfectly planned and perfectly executed combined movement on North Africa insures him a permanent high place in history....."

The New York Herald Tribune says "Secretary of State Cordell Hull has announced the conclusion of a new agreement with French authorities covering the French Caribbean Islands and French Guiana. And French West Africa is reported to have aligned itself with Admiral Darlan. The success of American policy in securing for the United Nations a great and vitally important region of Africa at slight cost in American lives and the speed with which French units took the field against Hitler in that area certainly will predispose Americans to look with favour on the practical results of the Caribbean arrangements."

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The Washington Post states: "It is still too early to gauge the dimensions of the large-scale offensive which the Red Army has launched in the Northern Caucasus and in the Stalingrad sector. The indications all point to the probability, however, that this offensive is no mere flash in the pan but a beautifully timed and perfectly co-ordinated action. This Russian offensive answers questions which have been in many minds of late. It answers the question whether the defensive fight which the Red Army has so magnificently been waging has exhausted its offensive capacity. It also answers the question whether the launching by Russia's allies of a second front would be seized upon by the Soviet to make possible a hard earned breathing spell by the weary Russian Forces.

The Washington Post also says: "President Arroyo Delrio of Ecuador who has just arrived in Washington on an official visit is assured of the warmest kind of welcome here. For no statesman of Latin America has been prompter to acknowledge the nature of the Axis threat or to combat it with all the means at his disposal."

Cleveland Plain Dealer states: "A lot of Axis myths are being shattered in Russia and Africa. Invincibility is a word no longer current in Berlin's lexicon. Air power superiority, long the prerogative of Reich's Marshal Goering, has passed to the enemy. The troops of Germany, Italy and the lesser allies of the New Order are on the defensive in every theatre of war. The tide of war has turned with varying tempo in favour of the United Nations ...

"Most amazing is the Russian counteroffensive to lift the three month siege of Stalingrad ....."

Atlanta Constitution: "They tell me that all over conquered Europe in the underground, the whisper is running 'the Americans are coming'. And hope lives and faith burns. They tell me that out in the desert when our soldiers were forced down in planes that the Arabs knew the American flag and were friendly with the men they found in the desert ... They tell me too that in the little nations of the world they are taking heart again. 'The Americans are coming' ... its a great tribute really. It ought to make us more thoughtful and more humble."

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Kansas City Star says: "We have much to be thankful for this year. An excellent growing season with only limited areas suffering from drought or from flood has resulted in the most bountiful harvest in the history of the country. This has furnished not only enough food for our armed forces but has contributed materially to the needs of our allies. The best fed army ever assembled provided with the best equipment both for defence and offense will eventually win."

San Francisco Chronicle states: "'Italy's hour has struck' cries Rome radio exhorting the people to prodigious effort to resist the attack ... from the North Africa springboard. The hour indeed has struck. We hope it is not the knell of Italy, of a people we have traditionally regarded as genial and antipathetic to the bestiality that Nazi barbarism expresses. We wish rather that it might be the end of silly bombastic leadership that has led Italians into darkness, and that freed of this they might grope their way back into their more characteristic mood."