

AMERICAN NEWSPAPER COMMENTNew York,
Tuesday.APPEAL TO ITALY

What made Churchill's Sunday broadcast particularly notable was the direct appeal it carried to the Italian people, says the Kansas City Times, while the Denver Post comments that the speech was a "last call" to the people of Italy to get rid of Mussolini, throw off the Axis yoke and seek peace before it is too late.

The Italians cannot depend upon Hitler to protect them, the Denver Post continues, he cannot even protect his own German cities against Allied bombing.

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ARCH-FIEND

Stories of the deliberate Nazi policy of exterminating the Jews in German-occupied Europe are so astoundingly horrible as to challenge belief - yet they are all too sadly true, writes the Portland Oregonian.

The Jewish population of Warsaw has been reduced from 500,000 to 100,000 by means of systematic methodical murder.

As the prospects grow darker for him the arch-fiend cannot be expected to stay his bloody hand. Let us remember that there can be no talk of peace nor of compromise of any nature until the sadist monster is crushed.

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PRELUDE TO INVASION

The most striking part of Prime Minister Churchill's broadcast, according to the Atlanta Journal, was his warning and appeal to the Italian people.

The losses, shame and sufferings they have incurred and the far greater tragedies now drawing near to them are chargeable to their vainglorious and guilty Dictator. Before he led them into an ignoble alliance with Hitlerism, Italy and England were friends traditionally and naturally so.

The swaggering Mussolini struck down that wholesome friendship. The British and Allied bombing of Genoa, Turin and other centres of Italian industry and shipping is only a prelude to vaster invasions by land, sea and air.

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TRIBUTE TO MME CHIANG

Mme Chiang Kai-Shek surely is no sheltered lady of the Old East. She is a great deal more than one admirable individual. She is a symbol and example of the democratic womanhood of Young China, says the Chicago Sun.

Through all Free China innumerable women, young and old, are leading their country's renaissance. They do so with a spirit of infectious independence.

In greeting Mme Chiang we are greeting the kind of national womanhood that America loves.

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RE-EMERGENCE

The core of what was once the world's third largest navy lies at the bottom of Toulon Bay. Probably the Laval clique would have delivered the fleet to Hitler but when the crisis came their wish did not prevail, says the Dallas News.

They could not stem the tide of true French sentiment and the will to honourable action.

The French Fleet has gone down but in its sinking we see a re-emergence of the honour, hope and fighting spirit of the French people.

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WELCOME BACK

The Dallas News also, commenting on the Churchill speech, says: The high point in the address was in the words to and about France.

There was a tone of exultation in his words as he welcomed the French people back into the ranks of fighting democracy.

And there must have been a feeling of exultation in the breasts of all free people who heard him.

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SYMBOL OF RE-UNION

There is a pleasant symbolism as well as a concrete achievement in the occupation of the Island of Reunion by Fighting French Forces, writes the New York Herald-Tribune.

The French National Committee has announced that there was only slight resistance by one coastal battery, no lives were lost, the Government speedily came to terms - and it was strictly a matter among Frenchmen.

The Fighting French initiated this re-union in Reunion. The civil population and officials "rallied spontaneously to General Charles de Gaulle".

The accession of Reunion is another manifestation of a tendency that has been gaining momentum since the Allied landing in French North Africa and Hitler's dissolution of the Franco-German armistice.

Reunion, most happily named, is only one example of this tremendous development.

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AXIS WEAKENING IN THE AIR?

The New York Herald-Tribune declares that the progress of the North African offensive is impressive and adds:-

The cutting of the Bizerta-Tunis railway by the British First Army puts the Allies within a few miles of Tunis and implies that they are taking a stranglehold on the vital corner of Africa which the Axis has made such efforts to defend.

To get as far as that within three weeks despite the confusions of landing and deployment is doing very well.

Such an advance would seem to reflect the greatest credit on Eisenhower's forces. But it also raises some question as to why the Luftwaffe was not able to stop it; and here again there appears to be evidence that the German air strength is at last wearing down.

If the famous Luftwaffe is really giving out at last it would be a fact of the first importance.

An officer returning from the Solomons comments on the great decline noted in the quality of Japanese aviation and a rapid growth of American air superiority in that area as a striking feature of our recent successes there.

In Europe the Luftwaffe seems to be no longer really dominant on any front.

It is less and less easy to believe that this is merely because great reserves are being held back for future employment. Our enemies advanced to their victories under the cover of their air forces; if these are beginning to fail it will mean dramatic changes in the picture of the war. For those of the United Nations are still growing stronger every day.

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ORDNANCE OF MERCY

The New York Times, discussing the official story of the civil defence of Britain, Front Line, 1940-41, which has just been issued in London says:-

Britain stood alone taking blows she could not yet return. She stood in heroic splendour.

What explanation can be offered for this steadfastness?

We cannot say that Britons are braver than the rest of humanity. We probably have to say that they were presented with a choice between servitude and death and that common sense was mingled with courage when they refused to consider servitude. They felt that evil could not finally triumph.

If bombing from the air did not conquer Britain, can it conquer Britain's enemies?

In part this is a highly technical question. In part it is again a question of hope and common sense. Britain as a member of the United Nations is not carrying on war to enslave anybody.

As has been witnessed in North Africa the banners of the United Nations bring food and freedom.

We have a weapon that the Nazis long ago threw away: the ordinance of mercy and goodwill.

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