

AMERICAN NEWSPAPER COMMENTMR. CHURCHILL'S CONFIDENCE

Others may have failed to catch the 'dull low whining note of fear' which Mr. Churchill heard in Hitler's recent tirade, says today's New York Herald Tribune, but none can mistake the confidence which breathes through the Prime Minister's answer. It is so marked, indeed, that one cannot avoid a wonder as to whether it may not rest on more than the specific facts he adduces to support it....it is possible that Mr. Churchill is....reflecting the new feeling that seems to be abroad in the European air. The slow burning unrest is spreading, breaking out into sudden flames at more and more points in the uneasy slave Empire; the Germans have already taken a great psychological defeat before Stalingrad which may develop into a material one; their difficulties are certainly growing no less and their dangers are increasing. Again in millions of minds there is the sense that a new phase of the war is coming....

WHAT BRITAIN IS FIGHTING FOR

The same paper also states: "The dinner tables, the radio waves, Herr Dr. Goebbels and, quite understandably, our British allies are much agitated at the moment over the latest blow to Anglo-American unity administered by - of all people - the editors of 'Life'. These earnest gentlemen, going down into a long and eminently highminded wrestle with their souls and the nature of the universe, have unluckily come up with an 'open letter to the British people' which might, to say the least, have been more happily phrased. It conveys the somewhat obscure idea that if the British merely fight this war for the preservation of their Empire instead of for something else, not precisely defined as being something 'as big as all outdoors', they will lose the war because 'you will lose us'. This has left the British, who have labored for three hard years under the impression that they were fighting for a great deal more than the preservation of an Empire and who have even suspected at times that one result of their fight would be the preservation of the United States, fit to be tied.... This in turn has left the editors of 'Life' dismayed that anyone could imagine that their innocent words were ever intended to mean what they so obviously imply.... It is lamentable that so much agitation could be spread among the angels simply by the human inability to understand that large loose highminded and high sounding generalizations are an inadequate substitute for practical thought in this rather intensely practical world.... for there is not the slightest doubt that all parties to this imbroglio (except Dr. Goebbels) are on the side of the angels.... It hardly seems necessary to assure our British allies, friends and partners that such exercise of an individual vocabulary bears no relation to the mind of the American people. There is an interest in war aims in this country, a deep one. But it is much too far from definite conclusions to be expressed in any such boyish sermon as that in which 'Life' in a moment of relaxation, indulged.

/MR. SUMNER WELLES

MR. SUMNER WELLES STATEMENT

The New York Herald Tribune also says: "President Rios of Chile has postponed his journey to this country and the Argentine Government has formally protested to the State Department because of remarks made by Under Secretary of State Sumner Welles at the National Foreign Trade Convention on October 8. Mr. Welles, trained for the last twentyeight years in diplomacy would never have risked such a reaction by an off the record remark or by careless phrasing of what he has to say for publication. It is thus to be presumed that his statement was made only after careful calculation and after consultation with our representatives in Chile and Argentina.....Mr. Welles is known throughout Latin America as one of the leading proponents of Pan American solidarity, his words.....must have been spoken in order to serve a deliberate purpose. The presumption is that this was to hearten the other Latin American nations in their devotion to the common cause of fighting the Axis and to warn the people of Argentina and Chile that a change of policy would create a better impression elsewhere in the Americas.....Coming from an administration in this country which has done so much to cement Latin American friendship, it cannot be twisted into a threat or an unfriendly diplomatic gesture."

+ + +

ITALIANS IN AMERICA

"In his Columbus Day speech last evening Attorney General Biddle stated that out of six hundred thousand Italians in this country classified ten months ago as 'enemy aliens' only 228 had so conducted themselves as to merit internment, says the New York Times, and that he had therefore with the President's approval issued an order effective next Monday removing Italians from the 'enemy aliens' list.

"On the evidence he could not do otherwise. The six hundred thousand Italians of alien citizenship, the six million Americans of Italian ancestry have proved their loyalty to American principles. Fascism may have hypnotised some of them for a time. It hypnotised some Americans of the older stock. When the test came Fascism died among them. They looked again at Mussolini and saw that tiny man as he is; a strutting pygmy unworthy to tread the soil honored by Mazzini. They remembered Garibaldi crying in the teeth of the appeasers: 'he who still has faith in Italy, let him follow me'. They saw the shame and misery into which their beloved homeland has been led: Italy as truly conquered, as truly betrayed, as France has been.

"More than Italy and the Italians is involved in this open hand extended to the nation's friends and in the proposed legislation.....lifting the requirements of the literacy test for the older generation of aliens who are otherwise eligible to become citizens. What these policies say is that.....our friends exist not only among the foreign born here but in Italy, in France, in the whole of conquered Europe."

CHILE AND ARGENTINA

The Washington Post states: "It would not be too much of an exaggeration to say that something in the nature of a showdown is in the offing in our relations with the sole remaining neutral nations in this hemisphere, Chile and Argentina. Certainly recent developments make it clear that American patience with the ^{equivocal} policies pursued by these countries is rapidly being exhausted. The time has come for every nation to stand up and be counted, they must choose whether they are prepared directly or indirectly to aid the enemies of world freedom or to sever their relations with the forces of evil."

UNITED STATES OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION