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AMERICAN NEWSPAPER COMMENT

THE OFFENSIVE PHASE

From the New York Herald Tribune:- 'we are now passing from the defensive' said Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden in Glasgow yesterday. "It was not exactly news perhaps but it gave a sort of official character to an impression which had been forming on the worlds battlefronts - an impression of a war which seemed to rest for a night on dead centre and then slowly began to swing into a new phase. It was a cheering sensation for those nations battling to hold the long lines against aggression, viewing the vast expanses gained by the aggressors, to think that at last the time had come to fight back across the lost battlegrounds.

"In this popular frame of mind, that longed for the day when the offensive might be assumed in force, lies the drive that will win the war. But the longing is not sufficient in itself. The United States took an offensive step in the Solomons; the issue is still in doubt.....

The United Nations have launched their third offensive against the Axis in Africa. The previous attempts brought such disappointments in their train that there will be little disposition to cheer prematurely..... moreover victory in the Solomons if it can yet be wrested from the Japanese; victory in Egypt if the wily Rommel can be blasted from his positions, will not strike at the heart of the enemy. Much will still remain to be done in the Pacific if Guadalcanal is held and Hitlers European bastions must be breached if he is driven out of Africa.

In sum the offensive is no magic wand which with a mere wave will dissipate the foe. It is not a single charge to be made with a cheer against a single citadel. Nor is the war a pendulum which of its own momentum moves inexorably through a curve plotted by natural laws. In this offensive phase upon which the United Nations are now embarked there must be courage to meet failure, wisdom to seek out the sources of failure, patience to await results, and above all the iron resolution to march from failure to success, or from success to success, to final victory. If the enemy no longer confronts weak and disunited opponents, he himself is still strong and wily. If he no longer can win cheap and easy triumphs neither will he furnish any. The offensive phase will be a hard phase - but it offers victory as the goal. To attain that the popular will to attack will stiffen itself for the costs and the strain of the great assault."

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Samuel Grafton in the New York Post says:-

"President Roosevelt has said that we are giving up the program of building ~~sixty~~ thousand planes this year in favour of building perhaps a smaller number of planes each of which however will be carefully designed for some special use. This is more than a more technical decision. It is a profound change from defensive thinking to offensive thinking. When you are on the defensive you want a lot of planes; it, hardly matters what kind but more more and more. When you change to the offensive you must know how you intend to use your planes and the emphasis shifts at once from numbers to kind and quantity The President's new decision takes the war off the work bench and into the field. For the first time it subjects our war effort to the test of what we have to do to the enemy rather than to the test of how many airplanes we produced last year. We are beginning to fight Hitler. As a trend-spotter I should say that our emphasis is shifting from production to use, from program to battle."

GERMANY'S MEDICAL SERVICES

The New York Times discussing Germany's medical troubles says:-

It is admitted that there is now only one doctor for every twelve thousand Germans. In fact the German case is so bad that Professor Doctor Brandt said to be an S.S. Oberfuhrer has been appointed Commissar General for Medical Health Service to act as liaison between the military and civilian sectors and to receive orders directly from Hitler. The appointment testifies to the difficulties that have arisen in apportioning both personnel and medical supplies, with the army receiving about all that it needs and civilians what is left.

Though Hitler has done virtually nothing to alleviate the shocking condition of the countries he has enslaved he cannot ignore this condition utterly. That his representatives feel it necessary to placate conquered peoples is evident from the admissions published in the German controlled press in the Balkans and Greece and assembled by the journal of the American Medical Association. Czechoslovakia is asked to rejoice because a solitary X-ray ambulance was promised to the town of Budejovice with specialists to examine the potentially tuberculous free of charge. The Athenian press is similarly compelled to acclaim the medicines that Germany is doling out to Greek hospitals and the organization of an epidemic service, but not without the confession that quinine must be rationed under police supervision and that pharmacists decline to compound prescriptions for those who cannot pay exorbitant prices. Typhoid is so rampant in Slovakia that twenty eight thousand had to be inoculated this summer. Such reports bode no good for Germany or the occupied territories.

In the light of the German medical situation and Nazi inability and unwillingness to care for any population outside of Germany there is every reason to predict an appalling aftermath of the present conflict. The western democracies will have to reckon with a Europe which must not only be fed and helped to its economic feet but doctored and nursed back to health."