

AMERICAN NEWSPAPER COMMENT

POST-WAR PROBLEMS

The New York Herald-Tribune, reviewing the accomplishments of the 11th annual Herald-Tribune Forum on current problems held last week says:-

The discussion by Sumner Welles of post-war problems ranks in importance with his address of last spring in its authoritative statement of the Administration's general attitude toward these questions.

What Sir Stafford Cripps said in one of the most inspiring utterances of the sessions must equally be viewed as a definitive statement of the British Government's outlook.

If this Forum had done nothing else than elicit these two landmarks in post-war discussion it would have contributed notably to the broad field of study that lies open before the United Nations.

Ranking with all these individual and governmental speeches was undoubtedly the declaration by the great Generalissimo of China. Here was history in the making, and history of a character to justify all the faith that Americans have so long placed in the greatness of the Chinese people. An old friendship of peoples was there sealed in the noble declaration of unselfish purpose which every one of the United Nations, including America, could read and study with profit.

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PACIFIC AND JUTLAND

Recent Allied successes in New Guinea, on Guadalcanal and in the waters around the Solomons have done more than inspire the United Nations with confidence in their ability to hold the Japanese within the bounds of their earlier conquests, comments the New York Herald-Tribune

They have raised the possibility of an offensive or series of offensives that will really start the Japanese rolling back towards their native islands.

The crescendo of Japanese sea losses, which really began in the Battle of the Coral Sea, has already reached impressive proportions.

But it would be foolish to believe that more than a good beginning has been made in the difficult and costly task of whittling down the Japanese Navy. References to Jutland in discussions of the November 13-15 battle must be accepted with caution.

Since the naval strength of the opposing powers in the Pacific is far closer to parity than it was in the North Sea a quarter of a century ago it can hardly be expected that the Solomons action will have similarly conclusive results.

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## BRITAIN AND INDIA

There are many people today who believe that England is holding on to India chiefly because of the profit that the English make out of India, says the New York Times. In this connection some very interesting figures were recently made available by T.A. Raman, formerly London Editor of the United Press of India.

After noting that India pays no taxes to Great Britain; that British industries in India have an estimated capital value of less than two billion dollars with profits in recent years running about \$70,000,000 annually; that British loans outstanding in India have been almost wiped out since the war began and now bring in little or no interest; that only about 10,000 British make a living in India and that Indian foreign trade vis-a-vis England is now overwhelmingly in India's favour, the New York Times concludes:-

Great Britain, as Mr. Raman sums it up, has no more economic interest in India than in the free commonwealths of Canada, Australia or in an outside country like Argentina. India's defence expenditure has mounted since the outbreak of the war but by the terms of an agreement with the British, India pays only for the internal expense of her defence, the balance being paid by the British Government.

As a result of this, two-thirds of the defence cost of India - about \$600,000,000 - was met by Britain last year. This year the British share is estimated to amount to one and a half billion dollars.

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## MORE SWEAT, LESS BLOOD AND TEARS

Out of the past month, even out of the past two weeks, has come one of the most astounding reversals in all military history, says the New York Times.

Indeed, it is more than a military reversal. The victories of the United Nations in Egypt and in French North Africa, the terrific blow which our Navy has inflicted upon the Japanese in the Solomon Islands' waters, have echoed in peoples' hearts and minds around the world.

They have brought to a standstill those calculating statesmen who made their bets on an Axis triumph. Self-interest alone will bring into the camp of the United Nations many who hitherto have stood aloof. They will be welcomed - with proper precautions.

We can reach an understanding with our fair-weather friends. They are a part of the world in which we must live, just as our beaten enemies will some time be.

We have a right to be hopeful. But our hopefulness must not betray us into any slackening of effort. Our fighting forces will not let us down. They know that the enemy is still formidable, still capable of making destructive use of any lack of vigilance, any failure in supply.

There is no harm in hoping for a one year road to victory. There is great danger in preparing for any such short cut.

We have to be ready, materially and in our minds, for as many years as it will take. Let us not deceive ourselves. Our enemies are planning. They have too much at stake to permit an easy victory.

It is natural to draw a breath of relief, to relax. We cannot afford to indulge that impulse. We can shorten this war only by unrelenting effort.

To the civilian population it can be said in sober truth that the more sweat now the less blood and tears in the future.

As President Roosevelt declared last week, "there can be no coasting to victory."

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MEDITERRANEAN ISLANDS

With our invasion of North Africa all the islands of the Mediterranean have assumed a new importance. We now see the larger islands not merely as outposts of the Axis but as potential stepping-stones to Europe, writes the New York Times.

The smaller islands fall into a new strategic pattern with such dots on the map as Malta and Pantalleria about to reverse their previous roles in defence and attack.

The whole string of islands from Gibraltar to Suez is under strain and counter-strain. Fast-moving events will determine what parts they are to play in the great battle which is now beginning.

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