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GENERAL SMUTS ADDRESSES THE MOTHER OF PARLIAMENT IN LONDON.

The setting of this unique gathering was a spacious and stately chamber in the heart of London. For the first time an Empire Statesman was to speak to a combined assembly of the Lords and Commons.

The arrival of General Smuts in company with the Prime Minister and Mr. Lloyd George was the signal for a great outburst of applause. Then after a short address the father of the House of Commons said :-

"I call on Field Marshal Smuts to address you.

GENERAL SMUTS.

"I appreciate this honour which I have not deserved, and which but expresses your goodwill and interest in me and in the country and young nation I am privileged to represent.

One occasionally hears idle words about the decay of this country, about the approaching break-up of the great world group we form. What folly and ignorance, what misreading of the real signs of the times! In some quarters, what wishful thinking!

Let the enemy say "Gott Strafe England". "God Bless England" has been the response from the victims of this most fiendish onslaught in history.

This is its glory... to have stood in the breach and to have kept the way open to man's vast future. And when after a long absence, I see today this flame of the spirit above the flame of the blitz, I feel that I have come to a greater, prouder more glorious home of the free than I ever learnt to know in its palmiest days.

Other Allied Nations - each in its own degree - share in this spirit. Think of China and its five years of suffering at the hands of the Japanese war lords, busy with their so-called "co-prosperity sphere" in Asia. Think of Russia and its unbroken spirit amidst the hardest blows and most cruel sacrifices of this war. Look at the wonderful resurgence of the brave little nations of Western Europe, whom no adversity, no defeat, dangers or chains can hold down.

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The appalling blood-letting which is necessary ~~inf~~ for Hitler's ultimate defeat is being administered by the Russians, and they alone can do it.

We have now reached the fourth year of this war, and the defence phase has now ended. The stage is set for the last, the offensive phase. Let me set your minds at rest at once. I am not going to discuss the future offensive strategy of the war. The amateur strategists can do that with greater freedom and less responsibility in the Press. I only wish to emphasise that one phase has ended, and another must now begin.

Once the time has come to take the offensive and to strike while the iron is hot, it would be folly to delay, to over-prepare, and perhaps miss our opportunity. Nor are we likely to do so - of that I feel satisfied.

I now pass on to another point and wish to emphasise the deeper significance of the struggle on which we are engaged.

Persecutions, domination, [↑]suppression, enslavement of the free spirit of man, ~~aye~~, extermination - those are the dominant features of the new creed as practised in the occupied countries.

This at bottom is a war of the spirit, of man's soul. Hitler has tried to kill this spirit and to substitute it for some ersatz thing. He has trampled on the Cross and substituted for it the Crooked Cross... fit symbol for the devil worship which he has tried to impose on his country and the world.

The suffering he has inflicted on Jews and Christians alike, the tide of horrors launched under his Gestapo regime over the fair West, constitute the darkest page of modern history.

This in the last analysis is what this war is about. At bottom, therefore, this war is a new crusade, a new fight to death for man's rights and liberties.

I therefore come to the question. What is the sort of world that we envisage as our objective after the war? What sort of social and international order are we aiming at? A great deal of thought is no doubt already being given to these matters, and one may hope that we shall approach the peace much better informed and equipped than we were last time. Certain points of great importance have already emerged. Thus we have accepted the name of "The United Nations". This is a new conception much in advance ~~fm~~ of the old concept of a League of Nations.

Again we have agreed on certain large principles of social policy... involving social security for the citizen in matters which have lain at the roots of much social unrest and suffering in the past.

With honesty and sincerity on our part it is possible to make basic reforms both for national and international life which will give mankind a new chance of survival and of progress.

And may Heaven's blessing rest on our work in War and in Peace.

CHURCHILL'S SPEECH.

My Lords, and members of the House of Commons. When I met General Smuts in Cairo I laboured to persuade him to come and visit us here in England. I laboured hard because I saw I was struggling for a great prize.

In will not detract from anything he has said by entering upon the topics which he has covered.

I ask you, all of you, to signify your feelings by rising and giving him the acclamation which his character, his life's work equally deserve.

(Cheers)

Our commentatop.

Someone set the key a little high, but what it lacks in melody, it makes up for in sincerity as the illustrious company pays vocal tribute to a "Jolly good fellow".