

JAN 27 1943

TORONTO TELEGRAM

**ALLIED LEADERS PLAN OFFENSIVE
FOR ALL THEATRES OF WAR.**

In December, 1941, following the disasters suffered by the American and British fleets in the Pacific, President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill met on the Atlantic, to devise plans for a co-ordinated effort that would prevent an Axis break-through. In June, 1942, the break-through prevented, they met in Washington to plan the expedition that was to land in French North Africa following the anticipated British victory in Egypt. Now, with almost the whole of North Africa in their possession, they have met again, to lay plans for a year in which the United Nations will be on the offensive from the beginning and in which they will "maintain the initiative in every theatre of war."

The result of their meeting, as stated in a modest communique given out at Casablanca, is complete agreement "upon war plans and enterprises to be undertaken during the campaigns of 1943 against Germany, Italy and Japan, with a view to drawing the utmost advantage from the markedly favorable turn of events at the close of 1942." That agreement means the complete agreement of the army, navy and air experts of both the United States and Great Britain; it means that in the ten-day conference plans have been drafted for attacks on Europe—possibly at more than one point—and in Asia; it means that the commanders of the various forces have already been chosen, and that the two great English-speaking democracies, now devoted to the single purpose of war, are working together in complete and cordial harmony.

At the same time and the same place the leaders of the two principal French factions, General de Gaulle and General Giraud, have met, have shaken hands and have, in their own words, "registered entire agreement on the end to be achieved, which is the liberation of France and the triumph of human liberties by the total defeat of the enemy." This end, they say, "will be attained by the union in war of all Free Frenchmen fighting side by side with the Allies." By this meeting and declaration is laid the bogey that has troubled critics of General Eisenhower's dealings with Darlan and Giraud, and the event has completely justified the general's action.

In their planning for the year 1943, the leaders and their advisers have agreed on the maximum aid to Russia and China. Of their intentions in this respect, and of their military plans, both Premier Stalin and Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek have been informed, and the leaders of these two great fighting nations will be able to lay their own plans on the basis of the information received. It is possible that among the "enterprises" planned is the attack on Burma which General Wavell has

been preparing. This, if successful, would reopen the Burma road and allow the freer passage of aid to the Chinese republic.

There will be much speculation, in our own and in enemy countries, on the subject of the coming offensives. Where these will be launched anyone can guess—Italy, the south of France, the west of France, Norway, Greece—and any guess may turn out to be right. This time, when Hitler guesses, he will not consider himself faced with "military imbeciles," and he will leave no vulnerable point unfortified. We on our side know that this is going to be a year of tremendous events, a year in which the United Nations will be on the offensive in all theatres, a year in which the Canadian army will have an honored post in the van of attack. More than that we cannot know but we can rest confident that the men who have planned so well in the past, have once more made plans that will take us far on the way to victory.

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WAR
EUROPEAN
1939
BRITAIN
CHURCHILL
ROOSEVELT
MEETING
CASABLANCA
1943