

Radio Talk, August 17, 1941

Delivered in person, W.S.M.

Good Morning, Friends:

The ghost of Woodrow Wilson must have walked the waves of the Atlantic as President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill met and conferred. These two men on a ship, the chief magistrates of the worlds, two great democracies, held the riveted attention of the world. They offered the world a choice - an alternative to the "new order" proclaimed by Hitler and his associates.

Another World War brought them together - another World War which Woodrow Wilson foresaw if the peace loving nations of the world did not unite and organize the world for a permanent peace. And now as war rages on three continents, ever broadening its scope, President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill must have wondered if it might not now be different if the United States had embraced and supported the great vision and dream of Woodrow Wilson to create and join an international authority which would bring law and order to govern the relationship of nations, thus vouching safe the rights and the freedom of all peoples.

The United States was unwilling to shoulder her share of this responsibility. Other nations lapsed into complacency and a new wave of war and aggression more fierce and more threatening than ever, is upon us.

There must have been no lull in the conversation between these two great leaders of the world's forces of freedom. There was certainly no dearth of problems to be discussed. War is threatening in the Pacific where Japan is ready and anxious to move whenever she can safely do so.

The Vichy government in France is capitulating to Hitler's demands. They must have discussed the French Navy. They must have discussed the possibility

of Germany gaining control of the French colonies, thus allowing a base for German operations in the South Atlantic at Dakar. They must have discussed Hitler's demands on Spain and Portugal - the Cape Verdi and Canary Islands. Of course, they discussed the desperate plight of Russia and the urgency of more aid to Russia if she is to continue as a potent and fighting ally of Great Britain.

The Battle of the Atlantic could not have escaped their thought. Unless Great Britain can keep open her supply line to North America, her cause would be well nigh hopeless. And, then, too, both Churchill and Roosevelt are enthusiastic sailors and the fact that they were conferring upon the high seas in open defiance of lurking submarines must have added zest to their meeting.

There was present the high commands of British and American armies and navies. And it was said that there were many maps and charts. More important, however, than the talks of strategy, more important than the meeting of two great personalities will be the effect of the eight-point declaration upon the thinking of the teeming millions of the world's people.

In this meeting, President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill were not only statesmen staging an unprecedented conference at the climatic moment of the widening war. They were more than that. This is a war of personified forces, leaders performing as and for nations, human wills and passions blown up into storming forces. Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Winston Churchill incarnate in their own persons the determined force of democracy.

This meeting dramatized that force. This meeting dwarfed the meeting of Hitler and Mussolini in their armoured trains at the Brenner Pass. This bold encounter

upon the high seas showed to the world that Great Britain and the United States had a friendly and determined hands-across-the-sea policy. Perhaps no other act of the United States or Great Britain could have so dramatically and forcefully and unmistakably notified the world that the two great democracies are united by a common idea and are determined to pursue together to the end their common purpose.

A meeting of the heads of the two great nations which remain free, the two nations which together command the seas and a vast part of the material resources of the world, the 2 nations which stand out as the champions for democracy and christianity, must sink deep into the minds of men everywhere. It has been said that President Wilson's fourteen points did more to undermine the morale of the German people during the other war than did the American Army. This statement is perhaps an exaggeration, but we all know that wars are not won or lost alone by armed forces. Victory comes from the devotion of the people to an ideal, from the forces of a people's aspirations.

Now, what were these eight points of the Roosevelt-Churchill declaration? What will it mean to countries tottering on the brink of the totalitarian abyss? Indeed, what will it mean to the oppressed millions now ground beneath the Dictator's heel who are searching for a ray of hope?

The declaration is a statement of war aims and peace aims. By this declaration the British Empire and the United States assure the world that they seek no aggrandizement, territorial or otherwise. They desire no territorial changes which <sup>are</sup> ~~is~~ not in accord with the freely expressed wishes of the people concerned. They uphold the right of all peoples to choose their own form of government and they desire to see the right of self-government restored to those from whom it has been forcibly taken. After the destruction of Nazi tyranny, they base their hopes for a better future for the world upon free access to raw materials, freedom of the seas, disarmament of aggressor nations, and the fullest collaboration between nations to establish a peace which will afford to all nations the means of dwelling in safety and security.

Hitler and his associates offer what Hitler calls a new order, and by this he denies both the right and the ability of people to be free and to govern themselves. By Hitler's new order he means that children will only read the books which suit the purpose and fancy of the dictator. By this so-called new order

he means the substitution of worship of state for worship of God. By this Hitler means that the dictator will say whether a man or woman works in the field or factory or wastes away in concentration camps.

As an alternative to Hitler's new order, the Roosevelt-Churchill declaration offers freedom and equality to all peoples. Surely there can be no doubt as to which of these the people of the world would choose. Man's quest for freedom has been a centuries old struggle. Through the oppression and despotism of the dark ages man yearned to walk in dignity and equality before the law. He strived for a government by law instead of by men. Surely, surely mankind does not now want to return to the tyranny of the dark ages.

President Roosevelt, as leader of the United States, and Prime Minister Churchill, as leader of the British Empire, have taken the offence for peace, not a peace with Hitler, no indeed - a peace in which the world would be freed from Hitlerism, tyranny and conquest. That is an ideal of breath-taking magnitude.

Yes, the spirit of Woodrow Wilson must have hovered about this conference between those two great men and maybe from heaven he prayed, "Peace on earth, good will to men."