

Script

1942

GIVE US MORE BOMBS OVER BERLIN

Charles Chaplin



(This fearless challenge was delivered over the air to Washington and London—Charlie's home town.)

ON THE battlefields of Russia, democracy will live or die. The fate of the Allied Nations is in the hands of the Communists. If Russia is defeated, the Asiatic continent—the largest and richest on this globe—would be under the domination of the Nazis. With practically the whole Orient in the hands of the Japanese, the Nazis will then have access to nearly all the vital war materials of the world. What chance would we have then of defeating Hitler?

With the difficulty of transportation, the problem of our communication lines thousands of miles away—the problem of steel, oil and rubber—and Hitler's strategy of divide and conquer, we would be in a desperate position if Russia should be defeated.

Some people say it would prolong the war ten or twenty years. In my estimation, this is putting it optimistically. Under such conditions—and against such a formidable enemy—the future would be very uncertain.

The Russians are in desperate need of help. They are pleading for a second front. In the Allied Nations there is a difference of opinion as to whether a second front is possible now. We hear that the Allies haven't sufficient supplies to support a second front. Then again we hear they have. We also hear that they don't want to risk a second front at this time in case of possible defeat; that they don't want to take a chance until they are sure and ready.

But can we afford to wait until we are sure and ready? Can we afford to play safe? There is no safe strategy in war. At this moment the Germans are thirty-five miles from the Caucasus. If the Caucasus is lost, ninety-five per cent of the Russian oil is lost.

When tens of thousands are dying and millions are about to die, we must speak honestly what's on our minds. The people are asking themselves questions. We hear of great expeditionary forces landing in Ireland; ninety-five per cent of our convoys successfully arriving in Europe; two million Englishmen—fully equipped—raring to

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go. What are we waiting for when the situation is so desperate in Russia?

Note, Official Washington and Official London: These are not questions to create dissension. We ask them in order to dispel confusion and to engender confidence and unity for eventual victory. And whatever the answer is, we can take it.

Russia is fighting with her back against the wall. That wall is the Allies strongest defense. We defended Libya—and lost. We defended Crete—and lost. We defended the Philippines and other islands in the Pacific—and lost. But we cannot afford to lose Russia, for that is the aggressive front line of democracy. When our world—our life—our civilization are crumbling about our feet—we've got to take a chance and save them.

If the Russians lose the Caucasus, it will be the greatest disaster to the Allied cause. Then watch out for the appeasers, for they'll come out of their holes. They will want to make peace with the victorious Hitler. They will say, "It is useless to sacrifice any more American lives—we can make 'a good deal' with Hitler."

Watch out for this Nazi snare. These Nazi wolves will change into sheep's clothing. They will make peace very attractive to us—and then before we are aware of it, we will have succumbed to the Nazi ideology. Then we shall be enslaved. They will take away our liberty, control our minds, change our language and dominate our lives. The world will be ruled by the Gestapo. They will rule us from the air. Yes—that's the power of the future.

With the power of the skies in Nazi hands, all opposition to the Nazi order will be bombed and blasted out of existence. Human progress will be lost. There will be no minority rights, no workers' rights, no citizens' rights. All that will be blasted, too. Once we

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listen to the appeasers and make peace with a victorious Hitler, his brutal order will control the earth.

Watch out, you guardians of democracy, you lovers of liberty and free speech! Never let them police us from the air. Watch out for the appeasers who always crop up after a disaster. But if we are on the watch, and if we keep up our morale, we have nothing to fear. Remember morale saved England. And if we keep our morale, victory is assured.

Hitler has taken many chances. His biggest one is the Russian campaign. God help him if he's not able to break through the Caucasus this summer. God help him if he has to go through another Winter around Moscow. His chance is a precarious one, but he's taken it. If Hitler can take chances why can't we?

Give us action. Give us more bombs over Berlin. Give us those Glenn Martin sea-planes to help our transport problem. Above all, give us a second front—now!

Let us aim for victory in the Spring. *You* in the factories, *you* in the fields, *you* in uniforms, *you* citizens of the democracies, *you* in all the occupied countries of the world, let us work and fight towards that end. *You*, official Washington, and *you*, official London, let us make this our aim—victory in the Spring.

If we hold this thought, work with this thought, live with this thought, it will generate a spirit that will increase our energy and quicken our drive.

Let us strive for the impossible. Remember—the great achievements throughout the history of mankind have been the conquest of what seemed the impossible.