

HOFMEYER'S VICTORY MESSAGE TO NATION

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AWR EFFORT A MIGHTY FORCE FOR BUILDING A UNITED S.A.

Cape Town, Tuesday.... "This day of rejoicing," said Mr. J. H. Hofmeyer, Acting Prime Minister, when he broadcast a Victory message to South Africa this afternoon. "For close on six years we have been passing through the shadows and the darkness. On Sept. 1, 1939 - how long ago it seems to us Hitler flung down the gauntlet to the ideals of freedom and democracy, to human dignity and human decency.

"The lights went out over Europe. The clouds of war closed in upon us, with nothing to relieve them. The darkness spread from country to country, continent to continent.

For one long year after another it burdened our spirits. We wondered, sometimes despairingly, when the end would come.

"And now there is light again - light and victory and joy. The European war is over. In all simplicity, in all sincerity, we as a nation thank God for the deliverance. To Him our praise and gratitude go out for the gifts of victory and peace. The European war is over. Shattered, suffering Europe is again at peace. Humanity can breathe freely once again. This indeed a day of rejoicing and gratitude.

"And we in South Africa have special reasons for gratitude. We are ourselves emerging from the war; our land unscathed, our sacrifices far less than those of other peoples, our honour and prestige enhanced. We have suffered so much less than, having regard to the nature of the war, the course it took during the first disastrous years, we might have expected to suffer.

"We have made a so much larger contribution to the cause to which we were pledged ourselves than at first we dared hope we would be able to make. This has been a great period in our history. Viewed ~~aright~~ aright, it can become a mighty force for the building up of a great, a truly united South African nation.

"We think today of those who have made South Africa's achievement possible, who have helped to bring about the victory in which we today rejoice. We think of the men and women of the Forces, those who have upheld the honour of South Africa and the cause of freedom on land, in the air, at sea. We think of the workers and others who have enabled us to make a so notable a contribution in respect of munitions and supplies.

HOME FRONT

We think of all the others who have maintained the home front; of those who in one way or another have assisted in sustaining and strengthening our troops; sometimes it may be merely by their prayers, that being all they have had to give; of all who have played a part in South Africa's comprehensive war effort. May the happiness of today bring them some measure of reward.

"But deep and profound though the ground for our rejoicing may be, it cannot be entirely unqualified. There are those to whom the end of the war brings not so much happiness as an added poignancy to their sense of loss and suffering.

"All about them they see their friends rejoicing in the anticipation of reunion with their husbands and sons and friends in the forces- to them it means an added consciousness that their loved ones will never come back. There are others

again, the next-of-kin of prisoners of war, or of those still classified as missing of whom they think as being in the uncertain borderland between life and death.

THOUGHT OF OTHERS

"To-day, it may be, their sense of anxiety is quickened. Let those of us who are more fortunate, who have no grief or anxiety at heart, be mindful in our celebrations of those on whom the blows of the war have fallen more heavily than on us.

"And let us also in our rejoicing and our gratitude be not unmindful of that appropriate ~~gratitude~~ compliment of gratitude for the past - a quickened sense of responsibility for the future. The war in Europe is over but the hostilities are not yet at an end.

"There is still a war in the East, which is a matter of real interest and concern to South Africa. In it we must ~~play~~ play our part. Let there be no relaxation of our efforts to ensure that it is a worthy part. And apart from that, there are still the battles of peace to be won; in our own land, in the world.

BLEEDING HUMANITY

"At the end of a war there are always wounds to be bound up. It is the body of humanity that is bleeding today. There has been material destruction as never before. Men and women and children are enduring privation and want and suffering as never before.

"And I think it would be right to say that the soul of man has been ~~scared~~ ^{scared}

as never before. There is great work in human rehabilitation waiting to be done.

"It has been the passionate desire of the plain, ordinary man who has born the brunt of this war, as in no other war in history, that out of it should come a better life for the peoples of the world- for all the peoples of the world. It has been our desire also in South Africa.

MUCH TO DO

"We have much to do in our land to ensure the realisation of that desire, but we must not forget that South Africa cannot go very far in achieving a better life for its peoples unless the ideals of progress and ⁵prosperity are also attained in the world outside.

"Our work must, therefore, not be confined to our own land. We shall further our own welfare also by making such contributions as we can to the welfare of humanity.

"Let that thought not be absent from our celebrations to-day. So then, let us rejoice with all our hearts - and thereafter leap with joy ^{to} on the ~~many~~ tasks that lie ahead of us."

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