

THREE POWER CONFERENCE IN NORTH AFRICA.

N. Africa

Mr. Churchill called at Malta on his way out to ~~Suez~~, and as might have been supposed, his welcome was warm and hearty in George Cross Island. The Premier had not been to Malta since he held the office of Colonial Secretary some ~~thirty~~ ^{forty} years ago.

Then, in the garden of a villa ~~near Suez~~ ^{in N. Africa}, the cameras lined up on what has been described as the most important meeting since Versailles. And Hitler doesn't like this one any better. With the three leaders was Mme. Chiang Kai Shek, who flew from Chungking with the Chinese Generalissimo despite the eye trouble from which she has lately been suffering. This meeting was ~~not~~ mainly concerned with the war against ^{Japan} ~~Hitler~~--- a reason why the long hoped-for meeting with Stalin once again did not materialise.

Service Chiefs of Britain, the United States and China, were also present at these talks ~~in Suez~~; and it was stated afterwards that future military operations against Japan were discussed and agreed. It was further declared that the war aim in the Far East is to strip Japan of all her territorial conquests; not only in 1941; not only since the invasion of Manchuria, in the early nineteen-thirties; but back into the nineteenth century.

Civil administrators of the three great Powers were present, too. They have not overlooked the fact that we have a hard and long road yet to travel before Japan is beaten; but they aim to take from this Far Eastern enemy the means of waging war in future; to smash the military power of Japan; ~~to destroy for all time her power to wage war and carry disaster to her neighbours; to frustrate her long-cherished ambition to conquer the world. There's no denying that's a full-time job; but it's a job that will have to be done if there's to be any peace in the future.~~

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M. L. ...

THE THREE-POWER CONFERENCE --- LONG AWAITED MEETING OF THE THREE LEADERS AT TEHERAN.

Wings over the mountains by Baghdad and the Dead Sea; three planes from the supreme headquarters of Britain, the United States and the U.S.S.R. bring to the capital of Persia the leaders of the war against Germany. This is for the three-way Conference so long expected, so often postponed. For a few days Teheran becomes the centre and focus of the world. Soon after the war began, British and Red Army soldiers joined hands here in Iran; it was the only land communication we had; it was fitting that this first meeting of Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin should be here.

The Embassies and Legations used for the meetings were closely guarded: the German Intelligence Service had guessed that the meeting was taking place; ~~and it was in this neighbourhood~~ how much importance Hitler attaches to the meeting may be judged from the fact that he is at such pains to point out that it is not important. The growth of Allied strength, and the confidence we have in the future may also be ~~judged~~ judged from the outstanding fact that Hitler's meetings no longer worry us.

You will recognize many familiar figures on this great world stage; Anthony Eden; ~~Foreign Secretary was there~~; with him, Sir Alexander Cadogan, Permanent Chief of the Foreign Office; and Sir Archibald Clarke Kerr, British Ambassador to the Soviet Union.

X This is Marshal Voroshilov, Soviet Commissar for Defence. ^

At the Soviet Embassy on the fourth day a special ceremony was planned; it was not concerned with the future, but with the glorious ~~past~~ past; Mr. Churchill was to present to Marshal Stalin the Stalingrad Sword; the ~~gift~~ ^{gift} from our King on behalf of all the peoples of the British Empire, to the heroic defenders of the great steel city in ~~the~~ Southern Russia; acknowledgment of the most gallant and most desperate stand in all this war; the victory snatched from defeat, which turned the tide of fortune against the German invaders. Behind the swordbearer who unfortunately obscures the camera's view, you may see how Stalin kissed the sword of honour.

Chiefs of Britains Royal Air Force, Army and Navy were of course present for the staff talks; and many other high-ranking staff officers of all three nations whose business it is to devise the plans whereby the fighting men may finish the war most quickly. We are no longer concerned with the question of how to win the war; the question is --- how soon? Mr. Churchill is obviously in good spirits about it as he stands here ^{with} chatting ~~with~~ the young Shah of Persia.

This Three-Power Conference ran over a date with another special significance; it was the Premier's 69th birthday; and Mr. Churchill wore the uniform of the 4th Hussars for the occasion, when he inspected men of the Persia and Iraq Command. They had clubbed together to present him with these ~~gifts~~ gifts, which were handed to him by non-commissioned officers of the regiments represented.

After the presentation the Prime Minister told the troops to come closer; and they did.

The Conference ended, as all big conferences do, with groups posed for the benefit of Newsreel and Press. Superficially, they *always* seem very much the same kind of picture; but it requires very little imagination to read into the lines behind the picture. This one stands for the attempts by the three greatest nations fighting Germany, to reach common ground and understanding; to act as Allies should; to deliver the most telling blows at the enemy; in the most vital places; at the right time. These pictures stand for the hope that we all feel, that doubt and suspicion on which tragedy and bloodshed feed, ~~should be~~ should be removed once for all. The man in the street does not expect to know what is said in the secret consultations of his leaders; he can only judge by present appearances and results to come. Present appearances suggest that the men who guide our destiny have found the common factor that will bring victory, and follow it with peace. That is the best we ^{can hope for, and} ~~we have a right to expect~~ the least we have a right to expect.