

CONFIDENTIAL

Press Conference #875
Anfa Camp, Casablanca, French Morocco
(Sunday) January 24, 1943
at 12.15 P.M., G.M.T.

(this Press Conference was held jointly by the President and Prime Minister Winston Churchill of Great Britain, on the lawn at the rear of the President's villa, which adjoined the Anfa Hotel, and which was part of the general term "Anfa Camp," comprising the Hotel surrounded by 15 villas, which in turn was surrounded by barbed wire and troops)

(the newspapermen -- about 50 in number -- sat cross-legged in front of the President and the Prime Minister, who were seated in chairs)

THE PRESIDENT: This meeting goes back to the successful landing operations last November, which as you all know were initiated as far back as a year ago, and put into definite shape shortly after the Prime Minister's visit to Washington in June.

After the operations of last November, it became perfectly clear, with the successes, that the time had come for another review of the situation, and a planning for the next steps, especially steps to be taken in 1943. That is why we came here, and our respective staffs came with us, to discuss the practical steps to be taken by the United Nations for prosecution of the war. We have been here about a week.

I might add, too, that we began talking about this after the first of December, and at that time we invited Mr. (Josef) Stalin to join us at a convenient meeting place. Mr. Stalin very greatly desired to come, but he was precluded from leaving Russia because he was conducting the new Russian offensive against the

Germans along the whole line. We must remember that he is Commander in Chief, and that he is responsible for the very wonderful detailed plan which has been brought to such a successful conclusion since the beginning of the offensive.

In spite of the fact that Mr. Stalin was unable to come, the results of the staff meeting have been communicated to him, so that we will continue to keep in very close touch with each other.

I think it can be said that the studies during the past week or ten days are unprecedented in history. Both the Prime Minister and I think back to the days of the first World War when conferences between the French and British and ourselves very rarely lasted more than a few hours or a couple of days. The Chiefs of Staffs have been in intimate touch; they have lived in the same hotel. Each man has become a definite personal friend of his opposite number on the other side.

Furthermore, these conferences have discussed, I think for the first time in history, the whole global picture. It isn't just one front, just one ocean, or one continent -- it is literally the whole world; and that is why the Prime Minister and I feel that the conference is unique in the fact that it has this global aspect.

The Combined Staffs, in these conferences and studies during the past week or ten days, have proceeded on the principle of pooling all of the resources of the United Nations. And I think the second point is that they have re-affirmed the determination to maintain the initiative against the Axis Powers in

every part of the world.

These plans covering the initiative and maintenance of the initiative during 1943 cover certain things, such as united operations conducted in different areas of the world. Secondly, the sending of all possible material aid to the Russian offensive, with the double object of cutting down the manpower of Germany and her satellites, and continuing the very great attrition of German munitions and materials of all kinds which are being destroyed every day in such large quantities by the Russian armies.

And, at the same time, the Staffs have agreed on giving all possible aid to the heroic struggle of China -- remembering that China is in her sixth year of the war -- with the objective, not only in China but in the whole of the Pacific area, of ending any Japanese attempt in the future to dominate the Far East.

Another point. I think we have all had it in our hearts and our heads before, but I don't think that it has ever been put down on paper by the Prime Minister and myself, and that is the determination that peace can come to the world only by the total elimination of German and Japanese war power.

Some of you Britishers know the old story -- we had a General called U. S. Grant. His name was Ulysses Simpson Grant, but in my, and the Prime Minister's, early days he was called "Unconditional Surrender" Grant. The elimination of German, Japanese and Italian war power means the unconditional surrender by Germany, Italy, and Japan. That means a reasonable assurance of future world peace. It does not mean the destruction of the population of Germany, Italy, or Japan, but it does mean the

destruction of the philosophies in those countries which are based on conquest and the subjugation of other people.

(this meeting is called the "unconditional surrender" meeting)

While we have not had a meeting of all of the United Nations, I think that there is no question -- in fact we both have great confidence that the same purposes and objectives are in the minds of all of the other United Nations -- Russia, China, and all the others.

And so the actual meeting -- the main work of the Committee -- has been ended, except for a certain amount of resultant paper work -- has come to a successful conclusion. I call it a meeting of the minds in regard to all military operations, and, thereafter, that the war is going to proceed against the Axis Powers according to schedule, with every indication that 1943 is going to be an even better year for the United Nations than 1942.

THE PRIME MINISTER: I agree with everything that the President has said, and I think it was a very happy decision to bring you gentlemen here to Casablanca to this agreeable spot, Anfa Camp, which has been the center -- the scene -- of much the most important and successful war conference which I have ever attended or witnessed. Nothing like it has occurred in my experience, which is a long while -- the continuous work, hours and hours every day from morning until often after midnight, carried on by the Staffs of both

sides, by all the principal officers of the two nations who are engaged in the direction of the war.

This work has proceeded with an intensity, and thoroughness, and comprehensiveness, the like of which I have never seen, and I firmly believe that you will find that results will come from this as this year unfolds. You will find results will come from it which will give our troops, and soldiers, and flyers the best possible chance to gather new victories from the enemy. Fortune turned a more or less somber face upon us at the close of last year, and we meet here today at this place -- we have been meeting here -- which in a way is the active center of the war direction. We wish indeed it was possible to have Premier Stalin, and the Generalissimo (Chiang Kai-shek), and others of the United Nations here, but geography is a stubborn thing; and the difficulties and the pre-occupations of the men engaged in fighting the enemy in other countries are also very clear obstacles to their free movement, and therefore we have had to meet here together.

Well, one thing I should like to say, and that is -- I think I can say it with full confidence -- nothing that may occur in this war will ever come between me and the President. He and I are in this as friends and partners, and we work together. We know that our easy, free conversation is one of the sinews of war -- of the Allied Powers. It makes many things easy that would otherwise be difficult, and solutions can be reached when an agreement has stopped, which would otherwise be impossible, even with the utmost goodwill, of the vast war machinery which the English-speaking people are operating.

I think that the Press here have had rather a hard, provoking time, because it isn't possible to have everything organized at once when you throw yourselves on a shore. Some of our earliest and brightest hopes have not yet been fulfilled, and you gentlemen have no doubt felt baffled in the work you want to do, and therefore a trial is imposed upon you. I beg you to rise to the level of that; namely, not to allow the minor annoyances of censoring, etcetera, make you exaggerate these details. To keep your sense of proportion is a patriotic duty.

Tremendous events have happened. This enterprise which the President has organized -- and he knows I have been his active Lieutenant since the start -- has altered the whole strategic aspect of the war. It has forced the Germans to fight under the very greatest difficulties. And I think that it gives us in a very marked way the initiative. Once we have got that precious treasure into our hands, we must labor hard to keep it. Hitler said you never could tell what would happen, because he wasn't dealing with competent military experts but with military idiots and drunkards. He said he didn't know where he was, and that was a preliminary forecast of the explanation which he will no doubt offer to the Nazi Party for the complete manner in which he has been hoodwinked, fooled, and out-maneuvered by the great enterprise which was launched on these shores.

We are still in full battle, and heavy action will impend. Our forces grow. The Eighth Army has taken Tripoli, and we are following (Field Marshal Erwin) Rommel -- the fugitive of Egypt and Libya -- now wishing, no doubt, to represent himself as the

deliverer of Tunisia. The Eighth Army have followed him a long way -- 15 hundred miles -- from Alamein where I last saw them, now to Tripoli. And Rommel is still flying before them. But I can give you this assurance -- everywhere that Mary went the lamb is sure to go.

I hope you gentlemen will find this talk to be of assistance to you in your work, and will be able to build up a good and encouraging story to our people all over the world. Give them the picture of unity, thoroughness, and integrity of the political chiefs. Give them that picture, and make them feel that there is some reason behind all that is being done. Even when there is some delay there is design and purposes, and as the President has said, the unconquerable will to pursue this quality, until we have procured the unconditional surrender of the criminal forces who plunged the world into storm and ruin.

THE PRESIDENT: I think -- the Prime Minister having spoken of the Eighth Army -- that you should know that we have had a long talk with General (Harold R. L. G.) Alexander, Admiral (Sir Andrew) Cunningham, (Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur) Tedder. (Lieutenant) General (Dwight D.) Eisenhower has been here, as has (Major) General (Carl) Spaatz -- (Lieutenant) General (Mark W.) Clark too. We have had a pretty good picture of the whole south shore of the Mediterranean, at first hand.

This afternoon there will be given to each of you a communique from the Prime Minister and myself, which is really the

formal document stating the history of this conference, and the names of all the people who have taken part; nothing very much in it in addition to what we have talked about as background for you all.

You will want to know about the presence of General (Henri Honore) Giraud, and General (Charles) De Gaulle. I think that all that should be said at this time is that the Prime Minister and I felt that here we were in French North Africa and it would be an opportune time for those two gentlemen to meet together -- one Frenchman with another Frenchman. They have been in conference now for a couple of days, and we have emphasized one common purpose, and that is the liberation of France. They are at work on that. They are in accord on that, and we hope very much that as a result of getting to know each other better under these modern, new conditions, we will have French armies, and French navies, and French airmen who will take part with us in the ultimate liberation of France itself.

I haven't got anything else that relates to the United Staffs conference, but -- it is purely personal -- but I might as well give it to you as background. I have had the opportunity, during these days, of visiting a very large number of American troops -- went up the line the other day and saw combat teams and the bulk of several divisions. I talked with the officers, and with the men. I lunched with them in the field, and it was a darn good lunch. We had to move the band, because it was a very windy day, from leeward to windward, so we could hear the music.

From these reviews we went over to a fort -- I don't know

whether you can use the name or not -- that is up to (Brigadier) General (Robert A.) McClure. Actually, it was at the mouth of Port Lyautey where the very heavy fighting occurred and where a large number of Americans and Frenchmen were killed. Their bodies, most of them, lie in a joint cemetery -- French and American. I placed a wreath where the American graves are, and another wreath where the French graves are.

I saw the equipment of these troops that are ready to go into action at any time; and I wish the people back home could see it, because those troops are equipped with the most modern weapons that we can turn out. They are adequately equipped in every way. And I found them not only in excellent health and high spirits, but also a very great efficiency on the part of officers and men, all the way from top to bottom. I am sure they are eager to fight again, and I think they will.

I'd like to say just a word about the bravery and the fine spirit of the French whom we fought -- many of whom were killed. They fought with very heavy losses, as you know, but the moment the peace came and fighting stopped, the French Army and Navy, and the French and Moroccan civil population have given to us Americans wholehearted assistance in carrying out the common objective that brings us to these parts -- to improve the conditions of living in these parts, which you know better than I do have been seriously hurt by the fact that during the last two years so much of the output, especially the food output of French North Africa, has been sent to the support of the German Army. That time is ended, and we are going to do all we can for the population of these parts, to

keep them going until they can bring in their own harvests during this coming summer.

Also, I had one very delightful party. I gave a dinner party for the Sultan of Morocco (Sidi Mohammed) and his son. We got on extremely well. He is greatly interested in the welfare of his people, and he and the Moroccan population are giving to us the same kind of support that the French population is.

So I just want to repeat that on this trip I saw with my own eyes the actual conditions of our men who are in this part of North Africa. I think their families back home will be glad to know that we are doing all we can, not only in full support of them, but in keeping up the splendid morale with which they are working at the present time. I want to say to their families, through you people, that I am mighty proud of them.

This is not like a Press Conference in Washington. We have 200 to 250 that crowd into one rather small room, and it is almost impossible there to meet everyone personally. You are an elite group, and because it is not too big a group, the Prime Minister and I want to meet all of you.

One thing, before we stop talking -- on the release date of this thing -- sometimes I also am under orders. I have got to let General McClure decide the release date. There are certain reasons why it can't be for a few days, but as I understand it, one of your problems is the bottle-neck at Gibraltar. I think you have enough background to write your stories and put them on the cables, and General McClure will decide what the actual release

date will be. I told him that it should be just as soon as he possibly could.

(extra copy for Prime Minister
Winston Churchill, via the British
Ambassador)

(extra copy for Mr. Early)

(reported by Warrant Officer
Francis Terry)

(Captain Louise Anderson of the
WAACs also reported this on the
Stenotype)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #876
Executive Office of the President
(Tuesday) February 2, 1943 -- 10.55 A.M., E.W.T.

(the President returned from his airplane trip to Casablanca, French Morocco, on January 31. This Press Conference is being held upon his return, reversing the times for this week)

THE PRESIDENT: (to Earl Godwin) "Jedge," how are you?

MR. GODWIN: Pretty good, now that we have got everybody here.

THE PRESIDENT: (looking around him at the great number of people present) My Lord, what a gang!

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I thought today that the first thing I want to do before we get down to warlike things, is to thank the press and the radio of the United States for living up so very faithfully to the requests of the Offices of Censorship and Information, in regard to keeping the movements of the Commander-in-Chief and the other high-ranking officers secret. It was beautifully done, and I am very appreciative of it; and I think you all ought to know that I do appreciate how well it was covered.

Incidentally, on the whole trip -- the 22 days -- we were literally in constant touch, even when in the air, with

Washington; when I got various dispatches and things which were answered immediately, such as, for example, the -- the coal strike, which as you know took only a few hours between the time that I was told of the conditions before the reply came back from me somewhere in Africa -- the appeal to the miners to go back to work.

The conference itself, in fact the whole trip, was essentially a military conference -- military, naval, and air. And everything else had to be thought of in that particular light. In other words, it was a conference to win the war, to make plans for the winning of the war, as far as one can plan ahead, which in this particular case was the year -- calendar year 1943.

I want to emphasize what I said in the Annual Message to Congress -- just a short paragraph:

(reading): "I cannot prophesy. I cannot tell you when or where the United Nations are going to strike next in Europe. But we are going to strike -- and strike hard. I cannot tell you whether we are going to hit them in Norway, or through the Low Countries, or in France, or through Sardinia or Sicily, or through the Balkans, or through Poland -- or at several points simultaneously. But I can tell you that no matter where and when we strike by land, we and the British and the Russians will hit them from the air heavily and relentlessly. Day in and day out we shall heap tons and tons of explosives on their war factories, and utilities, and seaports."

And it was in fulfillment of that ex... -- that statement that we have worked with the other combined staffs, and have reached a unanimous agreement.

And, of course, we are in complete touch with Mr. (Josef) Stalin, and the Generalissimo (Chiang Kai-shek). I understand, although this is -- I didn't discover it until I got back, that there were certain people that thought we could very easily have Mr. Stalin and the Generalissimo in the same -- same conference, forgetting, of course, the fact -- which most people caught on to afterwards -- that Russia is not at war with Japan, and that China, while officially at war with Germany is so located geographically that Japan -- that China can do nothing in the way of an offensive against -- against Germany. However, that is a thing that -- a little thought on the part of anybody thinking it through will obviate mistakes of -- happy thought -- perhaps in the future.

The total mileage covered was 16 thousand, 965.

And then just -- just a few -- what do you call them? -- human interest touches. I had a birthday party in a plane, 8 thousand feet above Haiti, including a cake with 6 candles around it, and one in the middle. (laughter) And a lot of very nice presents which the -- my companions had discovered in -- in Trinidad.

Now I have been trying to think up some other things that happened. When we were in Casablanca, quite a lot of people, including George (S.) Patton -- (Major) General Patton,

were very much worried over air attacks, the general theory being that we ought to move from place to place about every 48 hours. But we were so comfortable in Casablanca, the accommodations were so delightful, that we decided to risk it and stay right there. And while we were there, we only had two "yellow" alerts, which was doing pretty well. And, needless to say, there were no German planes that actually arrived.

All kinds of rumors -- Oh, Washington wasn't a patch to Casablanca, and that's saying an awful lot -- (loud laughter, and some queries of "What did he say?") ---

MR. EARLY: (to the newsmen) Patch. Patch.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- rumors that we were being -- they are having an important conference with General (Francisco) Franco of Spain. And then there was a rumor that was generally believed, that King Victor Emanuel of Italy had come over to arrange a surrender. Then there was another story that the Emperor Haile Selassie (of Ethiopia) had arrived in Casablanca to confer with us.

Then, we were very well taken care of. We had an entire regiment of infantry, with barbed wire and all the accessories that surrounded the place where we were.

The Secret Service was extremely efficient, and devised some new gadgets -- I think it's all right to say that, John? ---

CAPTAIN McCREA: (interjecting) Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- for our protection.

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They felt that the Moorish population, which of course is about ninety percent of all Morecco, represented a very slim risk; but that some of the French "brethren" -- (laughter) -- might have got so excited about their own political affairs -- a little like Washington -- (more laughter) -- that they might get excited while I was traveling around by automobile to review the troops.

So I had in the jeep in front of me a couple of Secret Servicemen, and whenever they saw a European along the roadside ahead of me, just as they got to the European they both, "Oh, look! Look -- look!" -- (much laughter, as the President demonstrated the action by raising his eyes and pointing with his arm to the ceiling) -- with their hands pointing up, evidently at an airplane. Whereupon, the -- the suspects -- (more laughter) -- on the road said, "Ah! What is it?" (more laughter)

And then another stunt that they worked out in the jeep. One of them, when they came to a little group of people that they thought might be suspicious, he would pretend to fall out of the jeep, getting half-way out, and his companion would grab him and haul him back, thereby diverting attention from the next fellow in the next car. (laughter)

We went down to the -- last day -- Oh, I suppose, frankly, largely because we wanted to see it -- there wasn't any particular official reason -- we went down to Marrakech (map spelling), which is one of the most amazing cities that I have ever been in.

MR. EARLY: Spell the name, please, sir.

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THE PRESIDENT: What? It's spelled three different ways! (laughter) Well, it's a question as to whether there are two "R's" or one "R." It's M-A-R-R-A, or M-A-R-A. And then the last syllable you can spell four or five different ways, I think; but the accepted version is K-E-C-H, some people saying K-E-S-H, some people saying K-I-C-H. (laughter) You can spell it any way you like, and I won't complain. (more laughter)

MR. EARLY: (aside) Like "generalissimo." Like "generalissimo." (the President apparently didn't hear)

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) We went down there because Winston Churchill had been there about -- I don't know, what? -- about ten years before, on a little pleasure trip. He said it was a most amazing place. Well, they have this old tower that was built, I think, to celebrate the capture of Spain by the Moors. Well, whatever the date is, I don't know; but it is somewhere between 1100 and 1300. Here is this city, which is in what might be called an enlarged oasis -- which, by the way, I suppose the best definition of an oasis is that it isn't dry -- (laughter) -- and you can look out and see this whole chain of the Atlas (Mountains) -- snow-covered. I think it's one of the most beautiful sights I have ever seen.

And the Prime Minister, he doesn't collect stamps, but he paints. And he had brought his painting tools -- I don't know what you call them -- with him. We got there around sunset, and I think he started some sketches of this wonderful scene. I left him at five o'clock the next morning. His whole outfit

was ready, and he was going to spend the day in Marrakech painting, and hop off that night for what was then, of course, undisclosed, for Cairo, and thence up to Syria for a meeting. I don't know where the meeting was actually held. I think it was just across the border, in (Adana) Turkey. He is going there to talk with President (Ismet) Inonu and his Prime Minister, in regard to a closer relationship with Turkey in the prosecution of the war. Well, you have had that story already.

Oh, Yes, I must tell you about the WAACs (Women's Army Auxiliary Corps). We found 5 WAACs -- I think the only ones in Africa. And there they were, doing the telephone work, and the stenographic work for the staff meeting. And I had them in to dine -- all five -- I had a nice little party for them. They had had a perfectly amazing experience. They had all been on the same ship in the time of the -- in December, and the ship was torpedoed. And two of them were taken off in boats. The other three couldn't get into the boats, and they were taken in tow by a British destroyer, I think. And finally all five of them were safely landed in Africa without any clothes whatsoever. (slight pause here, seemingly on purpose) They had nothing except what they had on their backs! And their -- (loud laughter) -- and their names were Louise Anderson, Ruth Briggs, Mattie Pinette -- P-I-N-E-T-T-E, Martha Rogers, and Aileen Drezmal -- D-R-E-Z-M-A-L.

We had a grand visit from the Sultan of Morocco (Sidi Mohammed), his Grand Vizier, his Chief of Protocol, and the Crown Prince. And the Sultan said -- I told him I hoped he

would come to Washington and see us all; and he said he would, he was going to try to do it just as soon as the war was over.

I don't think there is anything else that I can think of that hasn't already ---

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, could you tell us a little more about the Brazil phase of the trip?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think you all -- you all got the highlights of that.

In the first place, at -- at Casablanca, the -- as a part of the military agreements, we formally re-emphasized what we had all been talking about before, and that is we don't think there should be any kind of a negotiated armistice, for obvious reasons. There ought to be an unconditional surrender. Well, you all got that. You got the highlight of the conference, as far as -- as far as publicity went.

We got down to Brazil, and the highlight of that -- two things. The first was the very greatly increased effort of Brazil in combating the submarine danger in the South Atlantic. And the other was what had been started before, but never before formalized, and that was eliminating in the peace any future threat from the African coast against the portion of this hemisphere that lies closest to the African coast, which is a distance of only 1650 miles -- something like that -- it's awfully close.

And I think that it is just as well to have that clearly understood by people, not only in this hemisphere but also the people who have territories of various kinds on the -- on

the African coast. We don't want to have to go through this again. We want to eliminate military, naval and air threats from one hemisphere against the other hemisphere.

MR. GODWIN: With respect to that first point, the greatly increased efforts of Brazil against the submarine, is that an effort which has been made, is being made, or will be made?

THE PRESIDENT: I will give you a very simple example. They are building down there quite a number of destroyers, and nearly all of their materials have to come from here. Frankly, I think the thing paid, because the President of Brazil felt that they were not getting adequate priority on the material that goes into destroyers, and we felt, perhaps, that they ought to work three shifts on them instead of two. So that's in the process of being settled.

Also, they are getting the actual use of more planes on the -- on the air patrol than they have had before. It's a thing that is building up, I thought in a satisfactory way, but as a result of the visit I think it is going to be more satisfactory.

Q. Mr. President, did you enjoy the meals that the Army served you while you were over there?

THE PRESIDENT: I ate it all! (laughter) I had a real appetite.

Q. Mr. President, could you say anything more definite about that matter on the African coast? Does that mean post-war demilitarization?

THE PRESIDENT: It's a little difficult to -- to say that it means demilitarization, because it might be accomplished in several other ways, and the method has not yet been worked out. There are all kinds of problems on that West African coast which I had never visualized before until I went there.

Well, for example, from -- from Morocco -- Straits of Gibraltar -- down to and -- and including the Dakar area, it's almost wholly Moslem, Arabic, Berber -- portion of it -- with some -- quite a number of Negroes in it. And just below Dakar you come down to a very long strip, which is almost wholly Negro. Perhaps we don't realize that European control of that area dates back to about the time of Plymouth Rock; in fact, further back than that. It began to be taken over -- completely savage country -- not savage but wild country, soon after -- Oh, what was it? -- Vasco da Gama, the early discoveries in 1500 -- Oh, further back than that -- 1400 -- pre-Columbus. And there hasn't been very much progress in all these centuries -- singularly little.

Of course, from Dakar south, past the Congo, it's about as bad a climate for the health as there is anywhere in the world. You have all heard about the Gambia mosquito. There's a tremendous lot of tropical disease all through there, and on the whole very little control exercised over it. And you will find great territories in there, where there will be a hundred white people, or educated people -- including Negroes -- to a million natives with no education whatsoever, and living just as -- just as they did a great many centuries ago, which is one of the --

one of the portions of the earth which is going to be a problem for a great many years to come. And very little has been done, on the whole.

I was very much interested in seeing the Firestone plantation. They are doing a very excellent job in getting out rubber. The manager told me that they -- I didn't know anything about rubber, more than you people do, but I know a little about it now. I saw it running out of trees -- latex. Hitherto, they had taken this strip -- diagonal strip around the tree in -- in one direction. But now -- nobody knows whether it will hurt the trees in the long run -- they not only have the diagonal strip running down in one direction, but they are also putting in a diagonal strip that runs in the other direction. (the President demonstrated this with gestures) So they expect to increase their output of rubber this year from 16 or 18 -- what? -- million pounds, to 22 or 3 million pounds from the same trees, by putting in the other diagonal cut in the tree itself.

Q. Mr. President, ---

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, ---

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, I believe in your communique after the (Casablanca Press) Conference you said that Prime Minister -- Premier Stalin had been informed of your decisions. Have you heard from him since?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, Yes. Oh My, Yes.

Q. Is he in agreement with your decisions which you and the Prime Minister reached?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think we can talk about

agreement or disagreement on any -- any of those things. Of course they are highly confidential -- part of the war effort; and things are going extremely well. When I say that, please don't infer from my unwillingness to read you the telegrams between Mr. Stalin and myself -- (laughter) -- that anything is going wrong. It is going extremely well.

Q. Mr. President, do you hope to meet with Mr. Stalin at some later time?

THE PRESIDENT: Hope Springs Eternal! (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, while you were away, Mr. (Cordell) Hull (Secretary of State) has been taking some hard knocks about the political situation in North Africa. Would you care to say anything about it?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I don't think so, except that after all things are going along there pretty well. It's a military -- military problem there, essentially.

(picking up some papers on his desk) I don't know whether this has been printed in our papers or not. I only got it this morning, from the State Department. And it isn't -- it isn't a bad statement.

This came out -- you all know who Philip Jordan is -- (London) News Chronicle.

No -- that's the wrong one.

Manchester Guardian -- you have heard of that.

Well, wait a minute, I think I am wrong again.

(laughter)

I have got it now. This is Guy Ramsey's story to the

News Chronicle. He is the North African correspondent, and he says he had an interview with (General Henri Honore) Giraud.

(reading): "In this excellent interview, Ramsey states that Giraud, quote, 'spoke with amazing frankness of many of his problems, for he believes it is essential that Britain and Washington should fully understand both what these problems are and his methods of solving them -- methods which he states may be open to criticism from people who are not so intimately acquainted with France or with French Africa, as he is.'"

And then Ramsey goes on -- I think this is -- you probably all got it in your offices anyway -- he goes on and says, for instance,

(continuing reading): "Why, half the population of Algiers still calls (General Charles) De Gaulle a traitor, because they believe his only reason for coming to Britain was to gain decorations, high rank, or money. And while it is commonly said that the two French generals are like a couple of prima donnas maneuvering for the center of the stage, General Giraud said bluntly, quote, 'The British are right to support De Gaulle. He is the only Frenchman who has spoken for two years with the voice of France. I am not only in accord with him, I am one of his greatest admirers as a soldier and for what he has done from London.'

"Here is a second example of General Giraud's grip on problems. 'Doubtless,' he said, 'it is being asked why I do not clear out every man of Vichy from my government. I will tell you why. In the first place, I need trained administrators.

There are not so many trained men in North Africa available. In the second place, not all men who have held office under Vichy are -- in the sense one uses the phrase -- men of Vichy. For instance, (Pierre) Laval is a man of Vichy, and so is (Marcel) Peyrouton. That is both -- that is, both held office under the Vichy regime. Peyrouton knows this country. He is an able man. The man he replaced was not sufficiently energetic."

This is Algiers.

(continuing reading): "'Do you think I would have called in a man like Laval, no matter how able? There are good, decent men who have worked for Vichy; and it is folly to call them men of Vichy merely because they have held office. Peyrouton, for example, is no man of Vichy in that sense. If he had been, I would not have sent for him. (Pierre) Boisson is another -- he is the Dakar governor. I have been down to French West Africa. It is magnificently administered. I have been down the Ivory Coast, and in all the other colonies under his jurisdiction, and all are equally well governed. And Boisson, although holding office under Vichy never allowed a Boche in Dakar. Do you think I am going to throw out men like that -- men like that -- men who are capable patriots?'

"Urging necessity of proceeding gradually, in order to avoid 'revolution' and unnecessary bloodshed, Giraud went on to say to Ramsey, 'I have the Moslem problem, and the Jewish problem, and I am dealing with both progressively. I am not going to try to solve them all by a stroke of the pen, or a stroke of the sword. I know North Africa.' I have made my

career here, and I knew that too swift reversals in this country mean trouble. I do not want trouble. The only trouble I want is trouble for the Boche.'

"Giraud went on to emphasize that he would use members of the Sol, or Communists or Conservatives, or anyone, under the sole criterion that they want to fight the Germans, and not engage in politics."

Which is not a bad line for any country these days.

(laughter)

(continuing reading): "He made an eloquent plea for modern arms for his army as soon as possible. 'I believe I am convinced that they will come.'"

And incidentally there, I think he raised his sights, since we reached -- we agreed, General Giraud and I -- he said he had 250 thousand men, most of whom have had some military training in the past, and that he could get an army of 250 thousand men, provided he got certain weapons for them to use. And we are working very hard on that at the present time, to get modern equipment -- not our old stuff, 2, 3, 4 years old, but our latest, modern equipment that is going to our soldiers -- for his 250 thousand men.

Then he goes on.

(continuing reading): "'I am' he went on, 'as for me, I am not thinking only of North Africa. I am thinking of France herself, and I am thinking of one million, two hundred thousand Frenchmen imprisoned in Germany. I have been a prisoner, and every day those men remain prisoners, every day that France

remains enslaved and occupied, every one of those days, for me, counts double. I have seen my men fight. They are fighting now and they are fighting well. But with what? With what equipment? And especially when they see British and American equipment beside them, and know they have got to be helped in every action by British or American troops for the very reason of this equipment, what will happen to their morale if they have to wait too long?'

"For look, I have been in France since my escape from Germany. I know that France is ready to rise and fight as we are fighting. I know my own men are highly trained enough to handle rapidly whatever modern weapons are given them. And it is right that France should fight to free herself. It is not the duty of Britain or America to free France. It is the duty of France to free herself, with British and American help. France must regain her old Frenchness, her old confidence. Then only will France really be free. Above all, it is necessary for Britain and America to understand our problems, and even my problems.'

"For that very reason I am hoping to send to London and Washington a small commission of first-class men, who know England and the English, and know the Americans, to create real liaison. Meanwhile, if you can do anything to present the true facts, and our true colors, you will not only be the friend of France, but you will help more than a little to win the war."

Well, that was the general spirit of things, and I think that there is going to be a greater coordination and

cooperation between the two leaders and their staffs, as a result of getting them down there to Casablanca and talking things over. The old thing of sitting at the same table. And I think it's working.

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, what about De Gaulle's army and his need for troops? Has he got an army?

THE PRESIDENT: He has between 15 and 20 thousand men. Those I think are -- represent the only striking force, because of its location, and that is the one in French Equatorial Africa, which is -- a large part of which has come north over the desert. Now, of course -- of course, he has certain troops in places like -- Oh -- Madagascar, and Réunion. I don't know whether he has any in New Caledonia or not. We have. But it is about 15 to 20 thousand troops.

MR. GODWIN: Would he be entitled -- did he ask for this modern equipment? And is De Gaulle's column included in this modernization of Giraud's ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Oh, Yes. The British have been doing that. The British have been doing that.

MR. GODWIN: I didn't mean any such comparison.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, No. Oh, No. De Gaulle's troops, what he has that are available, have all been given modern equipment by the British. But you see, the point is -- the point is this, Earl. His available population ---

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- with which he can create an army is very, very small ---

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) I didn't know that.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- in French Equatorial Africa.

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) Yes, I see.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I don't know whether he can get any troops in Madagascar or not. But it's a long ways off.

MR. GODWIN: Isn't that the column that started from Lake Chad?

THE PRESIDENT: That's the one.

MR. GODWIN: It has never been spoken of as De Gaulle's.

THE PRESIDENT: It's his column. It's his column.

MR. GODWIN: All right.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. One very nice thing about it, when I was there. Here was (Brigadier General Jacques) Le Clerc's column that had come clear across the desert, and was about 200 miles south of the Mediterranean, in Tripoli. And here, at that time, on our Tunis front -- the right -- the right flank -- was a large body of General Giraud's troops.

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) Well, Le Clerc's troops and Giraud's troops were separated by about 300 miles. They got in touch with each other by radio. They got the location of each force, there was the possibility of air communication, and they immediately put through aircraft communications and have been in physical contact by air ever since.

MR. GODWIN: Yes, sir.

Q. Mr. President, was the Peyrouton appointment discussed by you ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No.

Q. (continuing) --- and the Prime Minister?

THE PRESIDENT: No, ---

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- and just a little -- little piece of advice, off the record, ---

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- perhaps you might find out what Peyrouton did to Laval when he was a member of (Admiral Jean Francois) Darlan's cabinet -- quite a while ago.

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) It's a part of the story that I haven't -- I haven't checked very well, and I haven't seen printed over here.

Q. You said Darlan's cabinet, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

Q. (continuing) --- is that correct?

Q. He had them placed under arrest, didn't he?

THE PRESIDENT: He did.

MR. GODWIN: Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: Check up on that. It's a story.

MISS MAY CRAIG: But Mr. President, do I understand that you approve of the Giraud position there outlined?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, because it dovetails in directly

with the De Gaulle position.

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, do you understand

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) You can't -- you can't get a dispute out of it, May. That's the point. Now any effort to create disputes by the staff of Giraud or the staff of De Gaulle is an actual help to our enemies. They have to remember that.

Q. Mr. President, do you understand from General Giraud's statement that all Frenchmen who wish to fight the Germans have been released in North Africa?

THE PRESIDENT: I think practically all.

Now on these stories about the prisoners, they have all -- practically all been released, unless there's something else "agin" them. I am talking about the political prisoners that are under investigation. Some of them might have committed other crimes. You have to check on those before you open all the doors.

Q. We got reports that it is considered a crime to support De Gaulle now. Do you know whether that is correct?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, No. That's not true at all. That's an absolute lie.

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I saw in the paper this morning that they were taking the ban off the De Gaulle paper which was put on -- I don't know, what? -- two years ago. So that's another illustration.

Q. Mr. President, is your route still a secret?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Could you give us your route, or is that a secret?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. What about it, Steve?

MR. EARLY: I wouldn't think so.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. EARLY: I wouldn't think so. I wouldn't think it was a secret now.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I won't give you the times:

Washington to Miami -- first day.

Miami to Trinidad -- second day.

Trinidad to Belem -- third day -- Brazil.

Brazil to Bathurst, Gambia -- fourth day.

Gambia to Casablanca -- fifth day.

Q. What was that fifth day again, Mr. President?

MR. GODWIN: Fifth.

THE PRESIDENT: Fifth day.

Q. Casablanca?

THE PRESIDENT: That includes the rail trip from here to Miami, and then at Casablanca.

I got there the afternoon of the 14th; and on the 21st did the long drive -- and the inspection trip of the American troops up there -- to Rabat, which is the capital, and Port Lyautey.

And then on the 24th to Marrakech by motor.

And on the 25th back to Bathurst, Gambia.

And on the 27th to Roberts Field, Liberia, and back the same night to Bathurst.

Q. 25th and then the 27th, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

And on the 27th -- that same night -- was the Liberia trip, and hopped off and got into the town of Natal, Brazil, next morning, and met President (Getulio) Vargas.

And left the next morning, the 29th, for Trinidad, and spent the night.

On the 30th, Trinidad to Miami.

And on the 31st, back here.

And my only complaint is that they got me up -- this flying stuff -- at an average of about half-past four or five in the morning. And I don't like it! (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, what kind of aircraft did you fly in?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. What kind of aircraft did you fly in?

THE PRESIDENT: When we were flying over land we used land planes, and when we were flying over the sea, we used sea-planes. (laughter)

Q. I take it they were United States built aircraft?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. I take it they were United States built aircraft?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, this question is possibly malapropos, but there were stories here by correspondents who said they thought they saw Finnish and Italian planes, in connection with your conference, which might lead to a question?

THE PRESIDENT: I hope there weren't any Finnish or Italian planes there.

Q. Mr. President, do you expect to nominate another Minister to Australia soon?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes.

MR. P. BRANDT: How about the reports about Mr. (Joseph C.) Grew (former Ambassador to Japan)?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. P. BRANDT: How about the reports that Mr. Grew is going to Australia?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't made any decision yet, Pete.

Q. Mr. President, do you have any specific job in mind for (Brigadier) General (Patrick J.) Hurley here, instead of ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) We just missed each other. He was flying north from Belem the day that I was flying south to Belem, so I sent a note and asked him if he would stay over here until I got back. He is coming in today to see me.

Q. Mr. President, just a little matter of human interest. There was a good deal of interest the night of your birthday as to whether you were hearing that (radio) program that was put on for you?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I wasn't.

Q. You didn't hear it?

THE PRESIDENT: No, because -- what was it? -- Saturday night?

Q. That's when you were flying?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I wasn't actually flying when that happened. I was on the train.

MR. EARLY: No.

THE PRESIDENT: I was 3 hours out of Miami.

MR. EARLY: No, not Saturday night, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Not the night of the birthday? Sure.

MR. EARLY: That's right.

THE PRESIDENT: Sure, sure. I was on the train, and there was a radio set on the train, ---

MR. EARLY: (interjecting) That's right.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- and the darn thing wasn't working. That's what happened. (laughter)

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, what did you get out of seeing those American troops there? What was your reaction to them individually? How did they look to you?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, they were magnificent. I don't know -- I had a sort of a feeling up there -- these two divisions and combat teams and everything -- I felt closer to having tears in my eyes than at any other time, because they were headed up for the front fairly soon, and nearly all of those troops that I reviewed had had actual combat experience in the -- in the landing back in November.

There were one or two things that -- I think you have got pictures of them -- there was this port -- Fort Mehdia -- M-E-H-D-I-A -- I think it's just at the mouth of the river, at Port Lyautéy. And it was an amazing illustration of the fact that you can't win a war just with artillery. It's an old, old

Moorish fort, that is hundreds of years old. It's made of sun-baked brick -- a great tower, and very high, thick walls.

Well, this is not derogatory to the American Navy, but it's an illustration: part of the American Navy stood off-shore -- 8 or 10 thousand yards -- and hammered the living lights out of it -- firing, firing, firing. They knocked off a corner of the tower. They knocked off the top of a wall, and they dropped shells all afternoon all over this old, sun-baked brick fort.

And there were about -- as I remember it -- about 400 French troops in it, who the night before had been told -- the night of November 7th -- by their commanding officer that the Americans were about to land. And they all cheered. They were just thrilled by the fact that the United States was going to use North Africa as a striking point against the Germans.

About two hours later, the commanding officer, who had assumed that there would be no opposition to our landing, gets orders from his general -- definite orders -- that the American landing was to be opposed.

And he went out and told his men in the fort about the orders he had gotten, and he said, "We have to obey orders. We are soldiers." They immediately resisted, as soon as our boats started to land, and gave us some pretty heavy casualties in the landing.

And the next day, the Navy -- the 8th -- the Navy shelled the place very heavily, killing a large number of them. And it wasn't until, as I remember it, the third day -- am I right, John (McCrea)? -- (no oral reply) -- that the Army got

some artillery ashore and fired at this -- at this same fort at point-blank range. And it wasn't until they had made an actual -- this sounds like old-fashioned warfare of two hundred, three hundred years ago -- until our artillery had made a definite breach in the inner wall -- the land side of the wall of this fort -- that the final act took place. And part of our infantry surrounding the fort dashed in through this breach, and actually took the fort by assault.

And as I remember the figures very roughly, we lost 94 men killed, and the French, out of a garrison of 4 hundred, lost about 2 hundred.

Well, most of those -- all of our boys, and a good many of the French, are buried in two cemeteries which are side by side -- one with the French Tricolor flying over it, and the other with the Stars and Stripes flying over it.

But the interesting thing about it was that those Frenchmen who had fought with extraordinary bravery -- and that was true all over -- it was true of Casablanca, where our casualties were very heavy -- several thousand killed -- but when the order "cease fire" took place, there was a complete fraternizing of both forces. In other words, the Frenchmen had carried out their duty. They had obeyed their orders. They didn't want to fight us. From that time on the -- even the -- the families of the men that were killed came to our people and said, "Yes, I suppose it had to happen, because we had to obey orders." It was a very interesting example of the -- of the complete loyalty of the French to their own command, and an

understanding of it by their families. And today there is, on the whole, a very -- a very good feeling between the French troops and the French navy with our people.

Q. Mr. President, could you tell us the present status of the man who issued those orders?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Could you tell us the present status of the French commander who ordered them to fire?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I don't know.

Q. Could it have been General (Auguste) Nogues?

MR. EARLY: (aside) That's enough.

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't the faintest idea.

MR. EARLY: (aside) That's enough.

VOICES: (loudly) Thank you, Mr. President.

(laughter)

(extra copy for Mr. Early)

(Notebook XII-PC -- page 129 -- JR)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #877
Executive Office of the President
(Friday) February 5, 1943 -- 4.10 P.M., E.W.T.

THE PRESIDENT: Won't keep you long today.

Q. Good.

MR. GODWIN: Haven't got a very good house today.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. GODWIN: Haven't got a big house today.

THE PRESIDENT: I have got nothing. Even Steve (Early) says I have nothing.

Q. (aside) Me either.

Q. I have got two 64-dollar questions, Steve.

MR. GODWIN: (aside) 64-dollars!

MR. EARLY: You'll get a 30-cent answer. (laughter)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: There isn't any news today whatsoever. I caught up with almost everything except sleep, and I am going to hibernate over the weekend, and you can put the lid on.

(pause)

Don't all ask questions at once! (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, in view of the latest edict of the (War) Manpower Commission, I have been asked to ask you if you can give us any idea how you feel on the future of professional baseball? (loud laughter)

MR. GODWIN: (aside) That's a good question.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that question came up in my mail yesterday, and I referred it to a committee of two -- Mac and

Steve. (laughter) And I have had no recommendation yet.

MR. EARLY: (aside) I can give you mine, sir.

MR. GODWIN: What does Mac know about baseball? That's another kind of ball (he knows about).

THE PRESIDENT: No. I will tell you what -- the question was brought up by one of the -- one of the minor league people. He said he did not see how he could keep his team going in his minor league, and very much hoped that I would confine baseball -- and recommended that it be confined to the major league. Well, I know nothing about the situation, and that is why I turned it over to these two experts. (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, in view of your conference yesterday with our Minister (H. F. Arthur Schoenfeld) to Finland, can you tell us anything new about our relations with Finland?

THE PRESIDENT: No. He just reported to me, that was all -- not another thing. He told me what happened up to the time he left.

Q. Mr. President, since the Casablanca conference, there have been numerous reports that a unified command for the whole North African theater -- including the army moving east and the army moving west -- had been agreed upon. Is it appropriate to ask now for comment upon that?

THE PRESIDENT: That's a brand-new one on me. You have got a unified command there, at the present time. (Lieutenant) General (Dwight D.) Eisenhower is in command ---

Q. (interjecting) Is he?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- and on the Libyan army,

General (Harold R. L. G.) Alexander and (Lieutenant) General (B. L.) Montgomery are in command. Period.

Q. Is there a hyphen?

THE PRESIDENT: What? A period. Anything further is what you might call prognostication. It's a good thing to leave prognosticating on military matters out of our vocabulary for some time.

(pause)

MR. GODWIN: (aside) What about it? Thank you,

Mr. ---

Q. (interposing) Do you have any further ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What?

Q. (continuing) Do you have any further comment on the North African situation, in view of the report on the release of political prisoners there, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) No.

Q. (continuing) --- and what you said at your last Press Conference?

THE PRESIDENT: No. It justifies what I said.

Q. There seems to be a rather ticklish situation which has been raised in connection with Spanish Republican prisoners, shown in this report to be over five thousand, in connection with the possibility that the Franco government may ask a voice in their -- in their treatment -- they are supposed to go to Mexico. Do you have any comment on that?

THE PRESIDENT: I wouldn't know.

Q. Mr. President, have you anything on coal today?

THE PRESIDENT: No, except my coal at Myde Park is going to run out in about three weeks. (laughter)

Q. Yes, sir. Well, I was talking about John (L.) Lewis.

Q. Mr. President, back to the Finnish situation, is it still understood that Mr. Schoenfeld will return to Helsinki?

THE PRESIDENT: As far as I know. I hadn't heard anything to the contrary.

Q. Thank you, sir.

Q. Mr. President, isn't there something on that situation on Mr. Lewis's wage demands and the effect on inflation -- on wage policies ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I think in the five days (since my return) I never heard it mentioned, except what I read in the press.

Q. You are not talking about anthracite?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no. Talking about Mr. Lewis. I hadn't heard any official of the Government mention his name.

Q. Mr. President, under the terms of their bituminous contract, they are supposed to begin negotiations March 14, and the contract expires March 31.

THE PRESIDENT: Thanks very much for the information. I didn't know it. (laughter)

Q. Yes, sir. Would you say anything about the advisability of speeding up the negotiations?

THE PRESIDENT: No. As I say, I never heard of it, that particular phase, until you told me. I am glad to know it.

Q. Usually use several months to get anywhere on these things. It's pretty serious, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Again, thanks very much. (laughter)

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

(much laughter)

(Notebook PC-XII -- page 173 -- JR)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #878.
Executive Office of the President
February 12, 1943 -- 10.58 A.M., E.W.T.

Q. Good morning, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: (heartily) Good morning.

MR. GODWIN: (espying a sheet of one-cent Victory stamps) What's that stamp?

THE PRESIDENT: That's the new stamp just out today. It has got the Four Freedoms on it.

MR. GODWIN: Oh, Yes? That's swell. Is that your collection sheet?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. GODWIN: Your collection sheet, this one?

THE PRESIDENT: It's just out of the Post Office Department.

MR. GODWIN: Yes. I mean do you collect them by the sheets?

THE PRESIDENT: I do American stamps, when I can get them without too much cost. I couldn't afford a sheet of five-dollar stamps. (laughter)

MR. GODWIN: It's a lot of free mail. That's a one-cent stamp?

THE PRESIDENT: It's one-cent, Yes.

Q. How much does that cost you, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: A cent apiece. (laughter)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: Steve (Early) says I have nothing. It's

better to wait until tonight, anyway, which I know will rejoice all of you so well, because you can write your stories before you come to the dinner (White House Correspondents' Association Smoker, which the President will attend).

Q. Can we, Mr. President? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. That's awfully good news.

MR. GODWIN: (aside) We get it afterwards. All right.

How about going?

THE PRESIDENT: I really don't know another thing.

Q. Can you tell us about the stamps, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Can you tell us about the stamps?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, this is just one of the new series of three stamps that have come out -- Victory stamps. I think the others are out. This is the one-cent one, and has the Four Freedoms on it. I don't think there's much more news about it, except that, as usual, I had a little to say about the design.

Q. Mr. President, will those stamps circulate in North Africa?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, sure. You don't have to. They are there all right. They will be very shortly. You can write free mail on it, if you want -- if you want to help the Government and pay postage.

Q. Then, sir, they will circulate throughout the United Nations' world?

THE PRESIDENT: Wherever there are American troops, if

people want to buy them. They don't have to.

Q. Mr. President, you have never told us whether you are a short-snorter?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, am I a short-snorter? I should say so. And I have signed my name since I became a short-snorter more times than ever before in my life. Everybody's short-snorter bill they have brought to me for signature -- eight and ten a day. It's terrible. I quit. (laughter)

Q. Are you prepared to oblige here now, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: What? I always have my bill with me. I never got caught yet. (more laughter)

MR. EARLY: That would be terrible.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. Mr. President, what would you say about a State like Michigan going off war-time?

THE PRESIDENT: I didn't know they had.

Q. Their legislature has passed such an Act.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I haven't thought of it at all.

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

(much laughter)

MR. GODWIN: (aside) That's all right.

(Notebook PC-XII -- page 179 -- JR)