



Issued by
**THE GREATER NEW YORK
INDUSTRIAL UNION COUNCIL
C. I. O.**
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...democracy
will live or die...



"ON THE BATTLEFIELDS OF RUSSIA DEMOCRACY WILL LIVE OR DIE"

The great crowd, previously warned not to interrupt with applause, hushed and strained for every word.

Thus they listened for fourteen minutes to Charles Chaplin, the great people's artist of America, as he spoke to them by telephone from Hollywood.

In the early evening of July 22, 1942, sixty thousand trade unionists, members of civic, fraternal, veteran, community and church organizations and others gathered at Madison Square Park in New York to rally in support of President Franklin D. Roosevelt for the immediate opening of a Second Front to hasten the final victory over Hitler and the axis.

The rally sent a message to the President, pledging every needed sacrifice to carry out his policies to win the war, and to carry into immediate action his historic agreement with the British and Soviet governments on the urgency of establishing a second front in 1942.

The sponsors of the great demonstration were the 250 unions affiliated with the Greater New York Industrial Union Council, CIO. Wendell L. Willkie, Philip Murray, Sidney Hillman and many other prominent Americans sent enthusiastic messages to the rally.

Bright skies favored the occasion. The flags of the United Nations flanked Old Glory on the speakers' platform and placards with slogans of support for the President and slogans

for opening the Second Front dotted the sea of people that choked the streets around the park.

Lucy Monroe led the singing of the Star Spangled Banner to open the meeting, and Jane Froman, Arlene Francis and several other popular stars of the American Theatre Wing entertained. United States Senators James M. Mead and Claude Pepper, Mayor F. H. LaGuardia, Lieutenant Governor Charles Poletti, Representative Vito Marcantonio, Michael Quill and Joseph Curran, president of the New York CIO Council were the main speakers.

Said Senator Mead: "We shall win this war only when we have enlisted the vast masses of people in Asia, in conquered Europe, in Africa, wholeheartedly and enthusiastically in the struggle for freedom." And Senator Pepper: "He who hampers our efforts, who cries for restraint, is an enemy of the Republic." And Joseph Curran: "We have the men. We have the materials. We know the one way to win—and that is to open a second front now."

The massed crowd cheered with united voice every mention of the President, of the Second Front and of our heroic allies, the courageous fighters and people of the Soviet Union, Britain and China.



SUPPORT THE PRESIDENT RALLY FOR A SECOND FRONT NOW!

ADDRESS OF

CHARLES CHAPLIN

via long distance telephone

MADISON SQUARE PARK, JULY 22, 1942



WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?

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 35 miles from the Caucasus. If the Caucasus are lost 95% 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. 95% of our convoys successfully arriving in Europe. Two million Englishmen fully equipped, raring to go. What are we waiting for when the situation is so desperate in Russia?

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 10 or 20 years. In my estimation this is putting it optimistically. Under such conditions and against such a formidable enemy the future would be very uncertain.

WE CAN TAKE IT

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 a victorious Hitler. They will say: "It is useless to sacrifice any more American lives—we can make 'a good deal' with Hitler."



BEWARE THE NAZI SNARE

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

A SECOND FRONT NOW!

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 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.

THIS WILL MEAN VICTORY

Let us aim for victory in the spring. You in the factories, you in the fields, you in uniforms, you citizens 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.