I am convinced that the agreement on Poland, under the circumstances, is the most hopeful agreement possible for a free, independent and prosperous Polish State.

The Crimean Conference was a meeting of the three major military powers on whose shoulders rest the chief responsibility and burden of the war. Although, for this reason, France was not a participant in the Conference, no one should detract from the recognition there accorded of her role in the future of Europe and the world.

France has been invited to accept a zone of control in Germany, and to participate as a fourth member of the Allied Control Council of Germany.

She has been invited to join as a sponsor of the International Conference at San Francisco.

She will be a permanent member of the International Security Council, together with the other four major powers.

And, finally, we have asked that France be associated with us in our joint responsibility over the liberated areas of Europe.

Agreement was also reached on Yugoslavia, as announced in the communiqué, and is in process of fulfillment.

Quite naturally, the Crimean Conference concerned itself only with the European war and with the political problems of Europe—and not with the Pacific war.

At Malta, however, our Combined British and American Staffs made their plans to increase the attack against Japan.

The Japanese war lords know that they are not being overlooked. They have felt the force of our B-29’s, and our carrier planes; they have felt the naval might of the United States, and do not appear very anxious to come out and try it again.

The Japs know what it means to hear that “The United States Marines have landed.” And we can add, having Iwo Jima in mind: “The situation is well in hand.”

They also know what is in store for the homeland of Japan now that General MacArthur has completed his magnificent march back to Manila, and Admiral Nimitz is establishing his air bases right in the back yard of Japan itself—in Iwo Jima.

It is still a tough, long road to Tokyo. The defeat of Germany will not mean the end of the war against Japan. On the contrary, America must be prepared for a long and costly struggle in the Pacific.

But the unconditional surrender of Japan is as essential as the defeat of Germany—if our plans for world peace are to succeed.

For Japanese militarism must be wiped out as thoroughly as German militarism.

On the way home from the Crimea, I made a pilgrimage to meet personally King Farouk of Egypt, Haile Selassie, Emperor of Ethiopia and King Ibn Saud of Saudi Arabia. Our conversations had to do with matters of common interest. They will be of great mutual advantage because they gave us an opportunity of meeting and talking face to face, and of exchanging views in personal conversations instead of formal correspondence.

On my voyage, I had the benefit of seeing our Army and Navy and Air Force at work.

All Americans would feel as proud of our armed forces as I am, if they could see and hear what I did.

Against the most efficient professional soldiers and sailors and aviators of all history, our men stood and fought—and won.

This is our chance to see to it that the sons and grandsons of these gallant fighting men do not have to do it all over again in a few years.

The Conference in the Crimea was a turning point in American history. There will soon be presented to the Senate of the United States and to the American people a great decision which will set the fate of the United States—and of the world—for the future to come.

There can be no middle ground here. We shall have to take the responsibility for world collaboration, or we shall have to bear the responsibility for another world conflict.

I know that the word “planning” is not looked upon with favor in some quarters. In domestic affairs, tragic mistakes have been made by reason of lack of planning; and, on the other hand, many great improvements in living, and many benefits to the human race, have been accomplished as a result of adequate, intelligent planning—reclamations of desert areas, developments of whole river valleys, provision for adequate housing.

The same will be true in relations between nations. For a second time, this generation is face to face with the objective of preventing wars. To meet that objective, the nations of the world will either have a plan or they will not. The groundwork of a plan has now been furnished, and has been submitted to humanity for discussion and decision.

No plan is perfect. Whatever is adopted at San Francisco will doubtless have to be amended time and again over the years, just as our own Constitution has been.

No one can say exactly how long any plan will last. Peace can endure only so long as humanity really insists upon it, and is willing to work for it—and sacrifice for it.

Twenty-five years ago, American fighting men looked to the statesmen of the world to finish the work of peace for which they fought and suffered. We failed them then. We cannot fail them again, and expect the world again to survive.

The Crimean Conference was a successful effort by the three leading nations to find a common ground for peace. It spells the end of the system of unilateral action and exclusive alliances and spheres of influence and balances of power and all the other expedients which have been tried for centuries—and have failed.

We propose to substitute for all these, a universal organization in which all peace-loving nations will finally have a chance to join.

I am confident that the Congress and the American people will accept the results of this Conference as the beginnings of a permanent structure of peace upon which we can begin to build, under God, that better world in which our children and grandchildren—yours and mine, the children and grandchildren of the whole world—must live.

Office of War Information.

U.S.S.R.

Stalin's Address on Red Army Day

The following is the text of the Order of the Day No. 5 of Marshal Stalin, USSR, February 23, 1945

Comrades Red Army men and Red Navy men, sergeants, officers and generals!

To-day we are celebrating the 27th Anniversary of the Red Army's existence. Created by the great Lenin to defend our Motherland from the attack of foreign invaders, and reared by the Bolshevik Party, the Red Army has traversed a glorious path in its development. It has fulfilled with credit its historic destination and is rightfully the beloved child of the Soviet people. In the years of civil war the Red Army defended the young Soviet State from numerous enemies. In the great battles of the Patriotic War against German invasion the Red Army has saved the peoples of the Soviet Union from German-Fascist slavery, upheld the freedom and independence of our Motherland, and helped the peoples of Europe to cast off the German yoke.

Now we are celebrating the 27th Anniversary of the Red Army in the midst of fresh historic victories over the enemy. The Red Army has not only freed its native land of the Hitlerite filth, but also hurled the enemy for many hundreds of kilometres back beyond those lines from which the Germans launched their bandit
attack upon our country, carried the war into Germany's territory and now, together with the armies of our Allies, is successfully completing the rout of the German-Fascist Army.

In January of this year the Red Army brought down upon the enemy a blow of unparalleled force along the entire front from the Baltic to the Carpathians. On a stretch of 1,200 kilometres it broke up the powerful defence of the Germans which they had been building for a number of years. In the course of the offensive the Red Army by its swift and skilful actions has hurled the enemy far back to the West.

In stiff fighting the Soviet troops have advanced from the frontiers of East Prussia to the lower reaches of the Vistula—270 kilometres, from the Vistula bridgehead south of Warsaw to the lower reaches of the Oder—370 kilometres, and from the Sandomierz bridgehead into the depth of German Silesia—480 kilometres.

The first consequence of the successes of our winter offensive was that they thwarted the Germans' winter offensive in the west, which aimed at the seizure of Belgium and Alsace, and enabled the armies of our Allies in turn to launch an offensive against the Germans and thus link up their offensive operations in the west with the offensive operations of the Red Army in the east.

In forty days of the offensive in January-February, 1945, our troops have ejected the Germans from 300 towns, captured about 100 war-plants manufacturing tanks, aircraft, armaments and ammunition, occupied over 2,400 railway stations and seized a network of railways totalling over 15,000 kilometres in length. Within this short period Germany has lost over 350,000 officers and men in prisoners of war and not less than 800,000 in killed.

During the same period the Red Army has destroyed or seized about 3,000 German aircraft, over 4,500 tanks and self-propelled guns and not less than 12,000 guns.

As a result, the Red Army has completely liberated Poland and a considerable part of the territory of Czechoslovakia, occupied Budapest and put out of the war Germany's last ally in Europe, Hungary, captured the greater part of East Prussia and German Silesia and battled its way into Brandenburg, into Pomerania, to the approaches to Berlin.

The Hitlerites boasted that for more than a hundred years not one single enemy soldier had been within Germany's borders, and that the German Army had fought and would fight only on foreign soil. Now an end has been put to this German braggadocio.

Our winter offensive has shown that the Red Army finds more and more strength for the solution of ever more complex and difficult problems. Its glorious soldiers have learned to batter and annihilate the enemy in accordance with all the rules of modern military science. Our soldiers, inspired by the realization of their great mission of liberation, display miracles of heroism and selflessness, and ably combine gallantry and audacity in battle with full utilization of the power and strength of their weapons. The Red Army generals and officers in masterly manner combine massed blows of powerful equipment with skilful and swift maneuver.

In the fourth year of the war the Red Army has grown stronger and mightier than ever before, its combat equipment has become still more perfect and its fighting mastery many times higher.

Comrades Red Army men and Red Navy men, sergeants, officers and generals! Complete victory over the Germans is now already near. But victory never comes of itself—it is won in hard battles and in persistent labor. The doomed enemy hurls his last forces into action, resists desperately in order to escape stern retribution. He grasps and will grasp at the most extreme and base means of struggle. Therefore it should be borne in mind that the nearer our victory, the higher must be our vigilance and the heavier must be our blows at the enemy.

On behalf of the Soviet Government and our glorious Bolshevik Party, I greet and congratulate you upon the 27th Anniversary of the Red Army! To mark the great victories achieved by our armed forces of the Soviet State in the course of the past year I order:

To-day, February 23, on the day of the 27th Anniversary of the Red Army, at 8 p.m., a salute of 20 artillery salvoes fired in Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev, Minsk, Petrozavodsk, Tallinn, Riga, Vilnius, Kishinev, Tbilisi, Stalingrad, Sevastopol, Odessa and Lvov.

Long live our glorious Red Army!
Long live our victorious Navy!
Long live our mighty Soviet Motherland!
Eternal glory to the heroes who fell in the struggle for freedom and independence of our Motherland!
Death to the German invaders!

J. STALIN, Marshal of the Soviet Union,
Supreme Commander-in-Chief.

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