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Imperial and Foreign

S. AFRICA AND
THE WARSUPPORT FOR
SMUTS

From Our Correspondent

BLOEMFONTEIN, Nov. 3

By 28 votes to 18 the Central Head Committee of the United Party of South Africa this morning endorsed the policy of General Smuts, the new Prime Minister, as enunciated in Parliament on September 4, thereby rejecting General Hertzog's neutrality policy.

General Smuts paid a tribute to General Hertzog for his leadership of the party in the past six years, for his work as Prime Minister, and for the benefits which accrued to the country during the régime of cooperation under General Hertzog.

General Hertzog acknowledged the tribute, but said that he regarded the action taken in Parliament as a breach of the terms and spirit of the fusion agreement. He and his supporters left the meeting, leaving General Smuts and his followers to continue as the Central Head Committee of the United Party in South Africa.

Making his first political speech from a public platform since becoming Prime Minister, General Smuts this afternoon was given a great welcome by 2,000 supporters in Bloemfontein. He said it was one of the greatest receptions ever given him.

The final break with General Hertzog had come this morning, but he (General Smuts) and his followers would pursue the course of fusion. He pleaded for tolerance and the end of racialism. First Dr. Malan had broken away from the United Party; now General Hertzog. These two were to amalgamate. But he would carry on with the ideals of cooperation.

The situation in South Africa had quickly settled down since the outbreak of war. Now an era of prosperity was dawning. Could this have been so had South Africa chosen the dishonourable course of remaining neutral? South Africa was no fair weather friend. With Great Britain buying South African products and the British Navy protecting South Africa's shores and convoying her ships, markets remained open.

The choice had been between a gradual extension of Nazi domination to South Africa and remaining true to old and tried friends. Honour had been saved by the declaration of war against Germany.

General Smuts declared that he was deeply grateful for the tremendous measure of support given to him in all parts of the country.

ITS PROMISE"

DEFENCE OF BRITISH
TERRITORIES

BLOEMFONTEIN, Nov. 3.—In his speech General Smuts assured his hearers that the Union of South Africa would keep its promise to defend British territories in Africa if they made an appeal for help.

"The vast majority of Englishmen in South Africa (he said) are just as good South Africans and as patriotic as any Afrikaner in the country." The motion introduced in Parliament on September 4 [proposing severance of relations with Germany and continued cooperation with the British Commonwealth] was a risky business. People did not like being led into war and there was a danger of a landslide in the direction of neutrality; but this had not happened.

General Hertzog had resurrected the "British jingo" spook. But General Hertzog's idea of a jingo was an Englishman who did not agree with him.

The Union was going into the future with strong friends. She was proceeding on the lines of freedom and the ideals of government she had learnt in the British Commonwealth of Nations. She was not going to be under Nazi control where she never wanted to be.

CABINET DISCUSSIONS

Referring to incidents before the declaration of war, General Smuts said the first news he received of the neutrality motion which General Hertzog intended to introduce on September 4 was on September 2, when he called to see General Hertzog, who was with Mr. Pirow, former Minister of Defence, and Mr. Havenga, former Minister of Finance.

General Smuts immediately said that the neutrality envisaged was impossible, and he spent the rest of the day arguing about the motion. It was on his advice that a meeting of the whole Cabinet was called on September 3. He never suspected that General Hertzog would make such a proposal.

When Hitler took over the whole of Czechoslovakia at the beginning of this year the world realized that he was aiming at the domination of the whole of Europe. Mr. Chamberlain, who had been working strenuously to preserve peace—(cheers)—realized that Hitler must not be allowed to go farther. Hitler invaded Poland, knowing that this meant war with Great Britain, and his action amounted to a declaration of war against Great Britain. The whole world put that construction on Hitler's action. Now it was a struggle of life and death between Hitler and Great Britain and France.

"You hear to-day from Mr. Pirow, who is now playing up to Dr. Malan [leader of the Nationalist Party], that he is going to give a lead if I should venture beyond the Limpopo. Let him. I am prepared to fight this lead."

[General Smuts was referring to Mr. Pirow's public statements that the Defence Act only required troops to serve inside the boundaries of the Union and that orders for dispatching them outside the boundaries of the Union would be contested.]

"Mr. Pirow in his capacity as Minister of Defence, and therefore on behalf of this country, told the British Government that if there was an appeal for help to the Union from other portions of British Territory in Africa, the Union would keep its promise; and now I am convinced that if there is such an appeal there will be an immediate response from the whole of the Union. I will keep this promise which Mr. Pirow made.

"Mr. Pirow may change his politics as often as he has changed his shirt, but South Africa does not change its honour like that."—*Reuter.*