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XVI. United States Objectives in India and the Far East

Statement by the President

(The Department of State Bulletin, Vol X, No. 241, February 5, 1944)

The American objectives in India or elsewhere in continental Asia are to expel and defeat the Japanese, in the closest collaboration with our British, Chinese, and other Allies in that theater.

Our task in expelling the Japs from Burma, Malaya, Java, and other territory is military. We recognize that our British and Dutch brothers-in-arms are as determined to throw the Japs out of Malaya and the Dutch East Indies as we are determined to free the Philippines. We propose to help each other on the roads and waters and above them, eastward to these places and beyond to Tokyo. No matter what individual or individuals command in given areas, the purpose is the same.

There will, of course, be plenty of problems when we get there. Their solution will be easier if we all employ our utmost resources of experience, good-will, and good faith. Nobody in India or anywhere else in Asia will misunderstand the presence there of American armed forces if they will believe, as we do at home, that their job is to assure the defeat of Japan, without which there can be no opportunity for any of us to enjoy and expand the freedoms for which we fight.