

MESSAGE  
OF THE  
PRESIDENT  
TO THE SEVENTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS  
ON THE  
STATE OF THE UNION  
JANUARY 7, 1943, at 12.30 PM., EST.  
RADIO BROADCAST

MR. VICE PRESIDENT, MR. SPEAKER, MEMBERS OF THE (SENATE AND OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES) SEVENTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS:

(The) This Seventy-Eighth Congress assembles in one of the great moments in the history of (this) the Nation. The past year was perhaps the most crucial for modern civilization; the coming year will be filled with violent conflicts -- yet with high promise of better things. (applause)

We must appraise the events of 1942 according to their relative importance; we must exercise a sense of proportion.

First in importance in the American scene has been the inspiring proof of the great qualities of our fighting men. (applause) They have demonstrated these qualities in adversity as well as in victory. As long as our flag flies over this Capitol, Americans will honor the soldiers, sailors and marines who fought our first battles of this war against overwhelming odds -- the heroes, living and dead, of Wake and Bataan and Guadalcanal, of the Java Sea and Midway and the North Atlantic convoys. Their unconquerable spirit will live forever. (applause)

By far the largest and most important developments in the whole world-wide strategic picture of 1942 were the events of the long fronts in Russia: first, the implacable defense of Stalingrad; and, second, the offensives -- the offensives by the Russian armies at various