

Cable, Franklin Roosevelt to Joseph Stalin, August 18, 1942. FDR's conviction that Germany was America's primary foe is clear in this August 18, 1942 message to Joseph Stalin. The President notes recent progress by U.S. forces in the Southwest Pacific, but reassures his ally that 'I know very well that our real enemy is Germany, and that our force and power must be brought against Hitler at the earliest possible moment.'

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AUGUST 18, 1942

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FROM: OPNAV
TO: ALUSNA, MOSCOW

FOR MR. STALIN FROM THE PRESIDENT INFORM STANDLEY.

I AM SORRY THAT I COULD NOT HAVE JOINED WITH YOU AND THE PRIME MINISTER IN THE MOSCOW CONFERENCES. I AM WELL AWARE OF THE URGENT NECESSITIES OF THE MILITARY SITUATION, PARTICULARLY AS IT RELATES TO THE SITUATION ON THE RUSSIAN FRONT.

I BELIEVE WE HAVE A TOEHOLD IN THE SOUTHWEST PACIFIC FROM WHICH IT WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR THE JAPANESE TO DISLodge US. OUR NAVAL LOSSES THERE WERE SUBSTANTIAL BUT IT WAS WORTH IT TO GAIN THE ADVANTAGE WHICH WE HAVE. WE ARE GOING TO PRESS THEM HARD. ON THE OTHER HAND, I KNOW VERY WELL THAT OUR REAL ENEMY IS GERMANY, AND THAT OUR FORCE AND POWER MUST BE BROUGHT AGAINST HITLER AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT. YOU CAN BE SURE THAT THIS WILL BE DONE JUST AS SOON AS IT IS HUMANLY POSSIBLE TO PUT TOGETHER THE TRANSPORTATION.

IN THE MEANTIME, OVER ONE THOUSAND TANKS WILL LEAVE THE UNITED STATES IN AUGUST FOR RUSSIA, AND OTHER CRITICAL SUPPLIES, INCLUDING AIRPLANES, ARE GOING FORWARD.

THE UNITED STATES UNDERSTANDS THAT RUSSIA IS BEARING THE BRUNT OF THE FIGHTING AND THE LOSSES THIS YEAR. WE ARE FILLED WITH ADMIRATION OF YOUR MAGNIFICENT RESISTANCE. BELIEVE ME WHEN I TELL YOU THAT WE ARE COMING AS STRONGLY AND AS QUICKLY AS WE POSSIBLY CAN.

ROOSEVELT By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.

Released at 1400, EWT, August 18, 1942.

By W. J. Stewart Date Apr 6, 1972

EDWIN I. CARSON
Ensign, U.S.N.R.

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