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**"GRAND ASSAULT NEXT YEAR... FIELD MARCHAL SMUTS.**

Once again Britain welcomes to her shores her number one friend and counsellor General Smuts. Addressing a meeting at London's Guildhall, he delivers another of his brilliant surveys of the war, from which we present these extracts -

**" I come to you on this visit a much happier man than on my visit last year. And for this I have very good reasons.**

The destruction of the German army at Stalingrad sent a shiver and a shock right through the entire German line from end to end of Russia, and their long line has ever since been bending and reeling back, until now it rests temporarily and uneasily behind the Dnieper.

The Axis debacle at El Alamein spread over the whole Italian North Africa until now, with the British and American approach from the West, the Mediterranean has been cleared, Italy has been beaten out of the Axis and the War, and the Allied forces are marching on Rome. The Italians are out and the Germans are retreating everywhere.

We can confidently reckon on still further advances, especially in Southern and South-Eastern Europe, and by the coming winter we shall have closed in on Hitler's central fortress of Europe and be making our dispositions for the grand assault by all arms next year.

Let the greatest war in human history become the prelude to the great peace. To make it such would be the greatest glory of our age and its noblest bequest to the generations to come."