

DOCUMENT C

**WINSTON CHURCHILL, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT/FUTURE
WAR-TIME PRIME MINISTER OF GREAT BRITAIN**

I will begin by saying what everybody would like to ignore or forget but which must nevertheless be stated, namely, that we have sustained a total . . . defeat. . . . The utmost he [Chamberlain] has been able to gain for Czechoslovakia and in the matters which were in dispute has been that the German dictator, instead of snatching his **victuals** from the table, has been content to have them served to him course by course. . . .

I have always held the view that the maintenance of peace depends upon the accumulation of **deterrents** against the aggressor, coupled with a sincere effort to **redress** grievances. . . . After the [German] seizure of Austria in March . . . I ventured to . . . pledge that in conjunction with France and other powers they would guarantee the security of Czechoslovakia while the Sudeten-Deutsch question was being examined either by a League of Nations Commission or some other **impartial** body, and I still believe that if that course had been followed events would not have fallen into this disastrous state. . . .

I venture to think that in the future the Czechoslovak State cannot be maintained as an independent entity. You will find that in a period of time, which may not be measured by years, but may be measured only by months, Czechoslovakia will be **engulfed** in the Nazi regime. . . . We are in the presence of a disaster of the first magnitude which has befallen Great Britain and France. . . . This is only the beginning of the reckoning.

Source: *Winston Churchill to the House of Commons, October 5, 1938.*

Vocabulary

victuals: food

deterrents: prevention strategies

redress: to make right

impartial: fair and just

engulfed: consumed

