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“Declaration of War”

When you take the oath of office, you take the fate of a nation in your hands. I have never felt this responsibility as keenly as I do at this moment, standing before you, asking for a declaration of war.

I have now served as prime minister of this country longer than anyone, man or woman. Even so, this moment is unique. I have never had to ask so much from this country’s government or its people. And I had hoped never to have to ask for this from you. But circumstances dictate otherwise. Those who wish to destroy us have gathered their forces and are working feverishly with one goal: to hasten our doom.

Over the past week, they have sunk fifteen of our ships. Three on Tuesday, five on Wednesday; and as the sun set yesterday, we’d lost another seven. With each day’s sunrise, we wake to the sound of their planes over our heads. Indeed, the enemy is quite literally at the gate. We must act quickly—and surely.

Elizabeth I, rallying her troops as they braced themselves, declared, “I know I have the body but of a weak and feeble woman, but I have the heart and stomach of a king.”

I say this to you today. I, too, am a woman. I have given birth, and it pains me beyond any pain I have ever felt to send my own daughter, a naval commander, and your daughters and your sons into battle. Some will die. But all will be fighting for what is right. All will be defending what they love and value most in the world.

Our enemies think they can defeat us. They cannot. Their assault only hardens us, like steel that’s forged through heat and hammering. We decide at this moment what shape that steel will take. Vote with me now to make our will and our power a shield that defends our nation.