

GEN. DE GAULLE AND MADAGASCAR

Following this evening's announcement of the Franco-British agreement on Madagascar, this statement was issued by General de Gaulle:

"The agreement which I have just signed with Mr. Eden restores the exercise of French sovereignty in Madagascar and obliterates the consequences of sad events which recently occurred in that territory. Thus our splendid African colony will be able, in her turn, and at the service of France, to make a substantial military and economic contribution to the war effort.

"It is common knowledge that Madagascar, and the whole French Empire, would whole-heartedly have continued the war in June 1940, after the defeat in Metropolitan France, had it not been for the criminal policy which prevented her from fighting against the enemy and which - on the contrary - ordered her to fight her allies.

"In Madagascar, as elsewhere, Fighting France will make amends for this and will at the same time restore the laws of the Republic, which cement the union of our Empire. The National Committee and I have the fullest confidence in the great experience and authority of the High Commissioner of France in Madagascar, General Legentilhomme.

"On the occasion of this agreement, I would like to emphasise the complete loyalty of which Great Britain, our old and trusty friend, has just given yet another proof. The French people, in its present ordeals, will observe with satisfaction that the British Government - despite currents, wind and tide - respects French sovereignty in the Empire and fulfils engagements most nobly and scrupulously. As far as Madagascar is concerned, the communique published on May 13 by the British Government (regarding the administration of the island) and the statement regarding the French National Committee made on July 13, have been fully applied.

"In those facts lies a fresh proof of alliance which France will not overlook."

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