

AMERICAN NEWSPAPER COMMENT (ADDITIONAL MESSAGE)

Pertinax for the North American Newspaper Alliance writes: - "Diplomatic reports disclose to the surprise of many that Admiral Jean Darlan might shortly succeed Pierre Laval as head of the Vichy Government. According to these reports Darlan's true objective when he started on his tour through French Africa a fortnight ago was to ingratiate himself with Germans.

Among the Nazis in France two rival powers compete for supremacy. - the Army Command and the Gestapo. They are now agreed that the days of Laval's usefulness to the 'New Order' are passed. He must rely on Von Ribbentrop's lone support.....

was

Darlan/dismissed from office last April on the German request because the help he had given to the Axis on the high seas (convoys and patrols) in Syria, in Indo-China and in Libya, hampered as it was by the protest of the French population, gradually slowed down. Laval was called in as an expert politician able to handle public opinion and reverse its trend. This he has conspicuously failed to do..... To date his attempt at conscripting labor is a complete failure. The respite granted to Laval is believed to come to an end by November fifteenth. Will Laval then have better returns to show than formerly? It is unlikely. Therefore it can be said that after another two weeks the Germans will have to reach a decision about the whole range of French affairs. Either they will be content to transport to their own country skilled workers forcibly recruited in the occupied zone and seek for a new modus vivendi with Vichy or they will plant garrisons all over the whole metropolitan France. Bolster up some low-grade puppet like Jacques Doriot, the French Fascist leader, and seize whatever French overseas possession are within their grasp.

With this problem hanging in the balance Darlan reappears in Vichy. Fresh from his trip to Dakar, Casablanca and Algiers he boasts of his readiness to fight Americans and British if they infringe on French territory and even to dislodge General Charles de Gaulle's Fighting French from their positions in the Cameroons and French Equatorial Africa. The Nazi authorities will consult with the Admiral before making up their minds.