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FIELD MARSHAL SMUTS agreed with the policy outlined by Mr. Churchill and Colonel Stanley. It appeared to him to be the only wise and sensible course. As regards Africa, he would first call attention to the value of Madagascar and its magnificent harbour at Diego Suarez. How were we to apply the principles which had been described? Were we to hand back the island to France and inform her that the United Nations would regard her as responsible for the provision of facilities and for the safety of the island? He foresaw dangers in such a course and suggested that the interest of the United Kingdom and of his country in the future of the island was comparable to the United States' interest in Dakar.

MR. CURTIN agreed and said that the position was analagous to that of New Caledonia.

MR. CHURCHILL felt that the solution lay in supervision by the proposed World Council which would be empowered to address the French Government if necessary and request the provision of proper facilities and defences. He recalled that at the time of the negotiations for the release of bases to the United States in the West Indies, his thought had been not so much of the immediate benefit to us in the shape of destroyers, but rather of executing an arrangement to the common advantage of two powers whose only concern was mutual security. These islands were only of strategic use to a power which wished to attack the United States or to the United States for her own defence. We had regarded the defence of the United States as part of our own safety. In Madagascar facilities could be claimed for fleets moving under the authority of the United Nations, and the French could be required to ensure that the island did not fall into the hands of possible aggressors.

FIELD MARSHAL SMUTS said that he would like to have the views of the naval and military authorities regarding the Madagascar problem. In Africa itself the only territories where a change of sovereignty would be called for were the former Italian colonies.

MR. CHURCHILL said that he had been careful not to commit himself to any suggestion that Italy should recover her overseas empire. He thought that the solution might lie in some of these territories being placed under the care of the proposed World Organisation which could delegate its authority and the responsibility for administration to powers of good repute.

COLONEL STANLEY pointed out that the Italians, having only a small overseas empire, had been able to spend money on development on a scale far exceeding that of which we were capable. The territories, which lacked resources, would be a considerable burden to any power undertaking their administration.

Comment was made in general discussion upon the manner in which Powers such as Italy had produced easily demonstrable results in the shape of roads, buildings and other public works in their territories, without any real endeavour to achieve progress towards freedom and social betterment for the native inhabitants.

COLONEL STANLEY remarked that the northern frontier of Kenya had been more peaceful during the Italian administration of Abyssinia than when that country was under the Emperor.