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to be carried out as a duty on behalf of the United Nations. The Azores and Dakar, for example, might come under the strategic control of the United States. In his view the United Kingdom should seek no territory. If pressed we might agree to undertake certain responsibilities in certain areas, but only on condition that the cost should be met from United Nations' funds.

He felt that the matter should be approached on high principles. The peace and safety of the world should be our object. But with the assumption of strategic responsibility, the Power concerned would also have to undertake to maintain certain standards of native well-being. There must be no question of despoiling the weak. The British Commonwealth was the only body of nations still in the struggle which had drawn the sword for honour alone. We must take care not to tarnish it. He would like himself to see some statement of the principles he had in mind made to the world.

MR. FRASER said that he entirely agreed with Mr. Churchill. The only honourable course was to approach the matter from the point of view of peace and safety for mankind. As regards the Marshall and Caroline Islands, they fell naturally into the United States sphere of responsibility. This suited New Zealand, as it safeguarded her outermost defence line. It should suit the United States as it secured their route to the Philippines. He did not think that the United States would ~~contemplate~~ <sup>assume</sup> ~~assumption~~ of sovereignty. He thought that they would prefer to assume strategic responsibility on behalf of the United Nations as Mr. Churchill had suggested. He agreed with Colonel Stanley's remark that the United States probably hoped to have world absolution for occupation of the islands but did not wish world supervision. He felt that the objectives which they had in mind would be assisted by some statement on the lines Mr. Churchill had suggested. As regards areas in which regional commissions should be established, he hoped that provision would be made for Australian association with the more northerly area which had been mentioned, as Australian and New Zealand interests were involved as far north as Malaya. His Government would co-operate as fully as possible in the South Pacific where they were already contributing to the best of their ability towards the defence and development of the neighbouring British territories. In his opinion the Dutch and the French must be associated with the work of the commissions. One point on which he sought clarification was the manner in which it was proposed to ensure that a reasonable standard of administration was maintained, particularly in areas like Indo-China if restored to their former owners. He felt that there must be some central international body to which parent states should be required to report. For our part we had nothing to fear from such supervision, and the local inhabitants in other colonial territories would surely stand to gain.

COLONEL STANLEY explained that he contemplated an obligation being placed on colonial powers to make reports, but felt that the question of supervision could best be left on a regional basis.

In reply to questions by Mr. Fraser and Mr. Curtin, MR. CHURCHILL assured them that no change was contemplated in our sovereignty at Hongkong. It would, of course, be for the proposed World Council to indicate the points at which they considered it strategically necessary for facilities to be provided. At such points the parent Power or the Power which assumed responsibility on behalf of the United Nations would undertake the provision of such facilities as were required by the forces of the United Nations. In the Pacific the main burden must inevitably fall upon the United States.

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