

Marshal. I do not think we should be in any hurry about recognizing him in this capacity. It is to be noted that the scope of Darlan's proclamation was limited to North Africa and that it did not purport to set up a provisional government for these territories, let alone a provisional French government. I am afraid that the American Army and State Department have acted without consultation with the United Kingdom or any of their Allies in achieving a minor coup d'état in Algiers. Darlan's is not a name to conjure with inside or outside of France. He has been identified with some of the uglier features of Vichy policy and the collection of Generals who are named as supporting him in North Africa are mostly Tories and reactionaries, who found the quasi-fascist atmosphere and policies of Vichy very congenial. To my mind, they do not represent the spirit of the real France nearly as faithfully as do the Fighting French, whose earnestness of purpose has been tested during the last two years. I think it would be both disloyal and shortsighted to throw them overboard now and rush to recognize Darlan and his associates as the continuing government of France. In this war we must welcome and work with all kinds of allies, and the adhesion of Darlan and his Generals may prove to be a real source of military strength in North Africa. It may also prove to be a certain liability on the political plane.

I feel very strongly that we should wait and see how the situation develops and how Darlan's proclamation is received in France and overseas before committing ourselves to any recognition of a provisional government under his leadership in Algeria or of any representative he may designate in Canada as "French Minister".

34.

DEA/4587-40

Le sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures au ministre de France
Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs to Minister of France

Ottawa, November 14, 1942

Dear Mr. Ristelhueber,

After reporting our conversation of yesterday afternoon to the Prime Minister, I have been asked by him to return to you our note No. 24 of November 11th, which you brought back to me yesterday.

Yours sincerely,

N. A. ROBERTSON

35.

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Le haut commissaire en Grande-Bretagne au
ministre de Suisse en Grande-Bretagne
High Commissioner in Great Britain to
Minister of Switzerland in Great Britain

London, December 4, 1942

The High Commissioner for Canada presents his compliments to the Swiss Minister and has the honour to refer to His Excellency's communication of the 16th November[†] regarding the protection of French interests in Canada.