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4 (e) Other developments in Africa

As a result of the rallying of French North Africa to the Allied cause, the assistance of French West Africa has also been assured. Darlan announced on November 23rd that the facilities of the port of Dakar were to be made available to the United Nations. The arrangements subsequently made for the use of this highly important base of operations represent a gain of immense value.

In the large and strategically important island of Madagascar, resistance of Vichy-led forces was finally brought to a close. By an agreement signed by Mr. Eden and General deGaulle in London on December 14th, the administration of the whole of Madagascar has been transferred to the Fighting French National Committee, though certain British forces will remain in the island for defensive purposes.

French Somaliland, most recently of all, has rallied to the Fighting French cause, and its support has been assured through an agreement signed on December 29th. Access to the port of Jibuti is, of course, of considerable strategic importance to the United Nations.

The Fighting French forces under command of General Leclerc have fought with the greatest tenacity and usefulness. Their ~~for~~ march from Equatorial Africa across the desert to join the British Eighth Army was an heroic epic in itself. That heroism has been renewed many times over in the Fighting French share of the offensive against Rommel's forces.