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4 (d) The United Nations' Offensive in North Africa

The successes of British arms in the Western Desert were but a prelude to the main offensive in North Africa which followed the landing of both United States and British forces at various points in Morocco and Algeria. This expedition represented the most impressive demonstration of planning and co-ordinated action of modern times. More than 800 vessels, many of which crossed the Atlantic, made up the formidable Armada which brought the United Nations forces to Africa. After some resistance by French forces in occupation, the whole of French North Africa passed over to the Allied side. At first Admiral Darlan undertook the maintenance of French interests generally throughout North Africa, and though he was shortly disavowed by the now powerless group at Vichy, he managed to command the support of the ^{great} ~~vast~~ majority of Frenchmen on the spot.

Darlan was assassinated on Christmas Eve, and his place as head of the forces was then assumed by General Giraud. Statements made by President Roosevelt as early as November 17th emphasized that the arrangements made by the military commanders of the United Nations forces were temporary only. Civil liaison officers have now been appointed by a number of governments. It is expected that ^A ~~a~~ meeting ^{will} ~~may~~ ^{soon} ~~shortly~~ take place between General deGaulle, head of the Fighting French, and General Giraud. The form of the future administration of this extensive territory which has now ~~re-allied~~ ^{allied} to the allied cause will certainly be determined in the ^{near} ~~future~~.

Conference