

55. I opened the conference by stating the general conditions of the occupation of Diego Suarez by British forces. These allowed for the port remaining under French administration, to be handed back to them after the war, for payment of salaries and pensions to all who would co-operate, and for repatriation of those who would not, excluding wives and families who, however, could be evacuated by private arrangements at their own risk.

56. As evidence of our good faith to regard Diego Suarez as French, subject to temporary control by us, I expressed a wish to see a tricolour ceremony and, though coldly received at the time, this suggestion was complied with a few days later.

57. After considerable discussion over matters of detail, general agreement was reached and the following document embodying the surrender terms was signed by myself and Colonel Claerebout, Officer Commanding the Defences of Diego Suarez:—

Conditions agreed upon regarding the French Naval, Military and Air Force in the Diego Suarez area.

1. Hostilities on Land, Sea and Air between the British Forces and the Forces under the command of the French Officer Commanding the defence area of the Naval Base of Diego Suarez will cease as from the time of signature of this document.

2. The French Forces will be accorded the honours of war. Officers will be treated as prisoners on parole in so far as the Military situation shall allow.

3. All arms will be deposited at a place to be notified later with the exception of officers who will be permitted to retain either one revolver or pistol.

4. The area of the French minefields in the Diego Suarez and neighbouring waters will be described exactly to the British Naval Authorities and all maps.

5. The conditions of repatriation to Metropolitan France as described by Commander-in-Chief of the British Force will apply, viz.:—
“If any civil and military employees do not wish to co-operate they will, provided they can claim the right to residence in Metropolitan France, be repatriated as and when shipping becomes available.” No objection will be raised to the evacuation of families of the men therein referred to under arrangements to be made by them with the approval of the British Military Authorities.

6. The British Military Authorities will consider particular cases, not exceeding 100 (one hundred), of European members of the French Forces who, after engaging themselves in writing not to take up arms against British Naval, Military and Air Forces or their Allies in Madagascar or surrounding waters, wish to reside in the unoccupied part of the Island.

7. The repatriation of Senegalese native troops up to 400 (four hundred) will be carried out in accordance with instructions to be sought from His Britannic Majesty's Government.

8. Malgash native troops will be demobilised under arrangements to be made by the British Military Authorities and returned to their homes.

9. The French Authorities hereby undertake to do all such things necessary to carry into full effect the provisions of this Agreement.

Signed at Diego Suarez on 8th of May, 1942, at 1625 hours by

E. N. SYFRET, *Rear-Admiral,*
Commander-in-Chief, British Forces.

CLAEREBOUT,
Commandant le Défense du Point d'appui de la Flotte.

TRANSLATION OF THE ULTIMATUM.

On Board the British Flagship,

3rd May, 1942.

Your Excellency,

The strategic position of Diego Suarez requires that it should not fall into the hands of the Japanese and that the territory should be available for those forces which are fighting to restore freedom in the world and secure the liberation of France and French territory. It cannot be allowed to suffer the fate of Indo China.

I therefore request that in order that bloodshed may be avoided you will surrender the territory under your control to me unconditionally and instruct your officials and Armed Forces to obey the orders which I shall issue.

The action which I am now taking on the instruction of H.M. Government has the full approval of the Government of the United States.

In order to assist you in reaching a favourable decision I have been instructed by H.M. Government to inform you of the following:—

(1) Diego Suarez is French and will remain French, and will be restored to France after the war. H.M. Government have repeatedly made it clear that they do not covet an inch of French territory. I repeat this assurance.

(2) Funds will be made available to meet the salaries and pensions of all personnel, Civil and Military, who elect to co-operate with the United Nations.

(3) If any Civil and Military employees do not wish to co-operate, they will, provided they can claim the right to residence in Metropolitan France, be repatriated as and when shipping becomes available.

(4) The trade of Diego Suarez with the United Nations will be restored. H.M. Government will extend to Diego Suarez all the economic benefits accorded to French territories which have already joined the United Nations.

(5) There must be no destruction of Civil and Military installations, W/T Stations, War Stores, etc. Those responsible for any such sabotage will not benefit by conditions (2) and (3) above.

Your reply to this communication should be sent to me immediately in plain language by radio on 500 kc/s (600 metres) using call sign GBXZ.