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XXV. Termination of Informal Relations With the French Antilles

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The text of a note delivered on instruction of the Secretary of State to Admiral Georges Robert, French High Commissioner, by Marcel E. Malige, American Consul General at Martinique, on April 26, 1943 follows:

"In November of last year, the Government of the United States informed the French High Commissioner that it was prepared to maintain its relations with the French territories in the Western Hemisphere on an informal basis. It pointed out, however, that in view of the imminent full German occupation of France, it regarded any regime which the Germans might permit to function in Metropolitan France as being under the complete domination of Hitler. This view was later confirmed by the completion of the German occupation of all French metropolitan territory and the final extinguishment of French authority in France. The Government of the United States also made it abundantly clear, in November and subsequently, that the new and changing situation would require a current reexamination with the French High Commissioner of problems of mutual interest and concern.

"Almost six months have passed and today the French islands in the Caribbean are the only French territories physically free from Axis domination which have no part in the struggle for French liberation and which profess allegiance to a regime under the direct control of Germany.

"It is a matter of common knowledge that the territory of Metropolitan France, contrary to the wish of the French people, is being used in an ever-increasing degree for active military operations against the United States and that the Vichy regime is now an integral part of the Nazi System.

The Government of the United States does not recognize Vichy nor will it recognize or negotiate with any French representative in the Antilles who remains subservient to or maintains contact with the Vichy regime.

“In the circumstances the Government of the United States does not consider effective or binding any informal understanding with respect to the French Antilles based upon past discussions and conditions, nor does it consider that those discussions can serve as a basis for either present or future relations with the French Antilles.

“For this reason the American Consul General at Fort-de-France is being instructed to return to the United States, leaving the Consulate in charge of a Consular Officer whose activities will be restricted to the protection of American interests and who will not be authorized to enter into or conduct any negotiations of a political character.”