

FDR, Churchill Plan 'Unconditional Surrender' of Axis at Conference

Washington Eyes Significance of Historic Session

By ERNEST BARCELLA

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23.—(U.P.)—The historic North African meeting between President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill produced at least two tangible results—a decision to launch great allied offensives in 1943 and military, if not political, unity among various French factors.

These were the conclusions drawn by Washington officialdom tonight from the announcements that the two statesmen had met at Casablanca in a parley without precedent.

The announcements made it plain that the magnitude of the military decisions reached dwarfed any political considerations. This was evidenced not only by the Roosevelt-Churchill statements but by the fact that they had with them their foremost military advisers—not diplomatic or political trouble-shooters.

The inference was plain, veteran observers said. They came to plot the "unconditional surrender" of the tri-partite alliance and the liberation of conquered and enslaved countries, not to determine the political future of France or any other subjugated land.

Tangle Played Part
The French factional political tangle played an inescapable role but, between the lines of the official pronouncements, it appeared that Mr. Roosevelt and Churchill approached this problem purely from a military viewpoint.

They finally brought about a meeting between Gen. Henri Giraud, high commissioner of French North Africa, and the president.

ALGIERS, Jan. 23.—(U.P.)—There was a growing conviction tonight among correspondents who attended the Roosevelt-Churchill press conference in Casablanca that the ten-day meeting was not devoted entirely to the "unconditional surrender" pronouncement contained in the official communiques.

Africa and Gen. Charles De Gaulle, leader of the Fighting French faction. And from the Giraud-De Gaulle meeting came an agreement that the main French objective is the liberation of France.

The French leaders agreed that the best way to achieve this end is "a union in war of all Frenchmen fighting side by side with all their allies." Thus, it appears that the Frenchmen have decided to pigeon-hole political problems and aspirations and prosecute the main task of freeing France.

Law Laid Down
Mr. Roosevelt and Churchill conceivably may have laid down the law to the leaders of the various factions; warning them that France cannot be resurrected by political bickering and it would do no good to quarrel over future leadership if there is no France to lead, and that a unified military support were necessary prerequisites to any campaign for freeing France.

It is possible, too, that they told the French leaders that the United States and Britain were doing their part in trying to liberate France and that now it was up to them to prove they had the interests of France at heart by subordinating factionalism and fighting

Momentous Feeling in Air Of Morocco

By WALTER LOGAN

CASABLANCA, Jan. 20.—(Delayed)—(U.P.)—When I arrived at Casablanca I sensed that something momentous was stirring and began asking questions.

I did not pass on any of the many rumors I heard but my probing had aroused the ire of G-2 (U.S. army intelligence) and they called me in and advised me I would be shot if I went near a certain white villa.

After that, I tried not to notice the many army and navy photographers, the influx of RAF pilots and of American pilots with recent news from the United States, civilians and consuls with Finnish and other baggage labels.

One of the most popular rumors was that the airport defenses had been instructed not to fire on any planes at certain hours despite the circumstances, which if true, meant that certain unfriendly planes were expected to land as well as certain neutrals.

Sitting around doing absolutely nothing while important meetings were underway has been one of the most nerve-racking experiences of my life.

Before my plane reached Casablanca I knew that something was up. An unusual number of airplanes of all types were dispersed on every airfield visible from my plane.

When I arrived at Casablanca airport, I also saw an unusually large number of guards and many officers carrying sidearms.

Knowing that the airport was one of the farthest removed from the front and such precautions were normally unnecessary, I felt a definite tension in the air and noticed that the guards were unusually attentive.

I had already concluded that Casablanca was to be the setting for the rumored meeting between Gen. Charles De Gaulle and Gen. Henri Giraud but that solution still did not satisfy my hunch that something else—truly tremendous—was under way.

I proceeded to the hotel where I had stayed on previous visits to Casablanca, mentally noting two new anti-aircraft batteries en route and attributing them to the recent air raid on Casablanca.

At the hotel I found thousands of rumors awaiting me. They involved the possible presence here of virtually every important personage imaginable.

Most of the conversation concerned the extraordinary precautions which had been put in effect around the beautiful residential district. Scores of persons, noting my correspondent's arm band, leaped to the conclusion that I had come to cover the meeting and freely volunteered the information that huge, impenetrable barbed wire barricades surrounded the residential section, that extra shifts of guards

Surprised Troops in North Africa Inspected by F.D.

By WALTER LOGAN

CASABLANCA, Jan. 21.—(Delayed)—(U.P.)—President Roosevelt, the first American chief executive to leave the United States in wartime and the first to fly the Atlantic, today inspected American troops in French Morocco—surprising them by his presence and leaving their faces wreathed in smiles.

The president reviewed the troops from a jeep driven by Staff Sgt. Oran Lass, from Kansas City, Mo., who was the proudest soldier in the U. S. army but maintained an air of impeccable dignity throughout.

Rides in Jeep
Riding in the jeep with the president were Lieut. Gen. Mark Clark, commander of the U. S. fifth army; Charles Fredericks, the president's personal bodyguard, and the general officer commanding during the inspection of the troops. Immediately behind the presidential jeep was another with bodyguards and the following jeep contained Maj. Gen. G. S. Patton, Jr., commanding U. S. troops in French Morocco; Rear Adm. Ross McIntire, the president's physician; and Harry Hopkins, presidential adviser.

Riding in another car were Robert Murphy, American minister for French Africa, and W. Averell Harriman. The soldiers reviewed were totally unaware of the president's presence in Africa and confessed later that they had assumed the party was "another bunch of brass hats" when they rehearsed yesterday for the review. Standing rigidly at attention and unable to look in the direction from which the president was coming, each was surprised in turn as Mr. Roosevelt's jeep drew opposite him.

Their eyes literally popped when they saw the president and commander-in-chief passing only six feet away with a big smile on his face. Few soldiers were able to wipe off their own smiles of pleasure when the presidential car

had been established and that no one could get near the area "without all sorts of special passes."

It took two days to sort the wild rumors and check factually before I had a fairly definite idea of what it was.

Meanwhile, I lunched at a seaside resort and saw battery after battery of anti-aircraft guns. Expressing amazement, I was informed the entire area was impregnated with them.

An inquiry at the hotel about missing acquaintances brought the disclosure that they had moved out, vacating 50 rooms for villa residents who had been temporarily turned out of their rooms.

Although this virtually confirmed that top personalities were meeting or about to meet, I could not grasp the full scope of the situation.

Then the flood of rumors subsided—either because someone clamped down on the population or people were afraid to gossip

had passed.

The presidential convoy formed at 9:30 a. m., skirted Casablanca and drove directly to the review area some miles north. The only correspondents present were Ollie Stewart, negro reporter for the Baltimore Afro-American; Sam Schulman, International News photographer, and myself.

Correspondents Summoned

We were summoned at 9 a. m., uncertain what was in store for us. We passed guards at a gate in the barbed-wire barricade and waited in a swanky reception room. Finally we crossed the room which had been partitioned into an office for the United States undersecretary, Scotland Yard and secret service agents, American military police and Royal Marines were present.

Our convoy consisted of official limousines and armored scout cars with 50-caliber machine guns and weapon carriers bearing official signal corps photographers and ourselves—about 20 altogether. We were preceded and followed by military police on motorcycles.

The convoy drove past the airport where scores of fighters took off to form a vast air umbrella which protected us throughout the day. The president, wearing a grey felt hat, a grey suit with a white pin-stripe, and a white pullover sweater, rode in the limousine of Lieut. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, allied commander-in-chief in North Africa.

Morning Chilly
The morning was chilly and somewhat cloudy when we started but the warm African sun shone brightly as the convoy sped around winding roads through the hills. Soldiers, not knowing whom they guarded, were stationed along the road at regular intervals. Every pass, every bridge was guarded by armed soldiers who had taken their stand many hours before.

At some of the bridges we could see half-tracks and other army vehicles in ravines commanding

in connection with such important things. Casablanca became an eerily quiet place and the black-out was observed more rigidly than ever.

About the only night traffic was officers carrying Tommy-guns en route to and from guard duty. Whether the meeting was now known among civilians was something I did not find out because I no longer wanted to ask questions.

Hotel chambermaids and other domestics, however, began whispering that De Gaulle and Giraud were in town and they seemed immensely pleased.

After G-2's warning that I would be shot if I tried to go near a particular villa, my behavior became more circumspect than ever and I literally squirmed when anyone mentioned the place or important dignitaries.

I heard many chance remarks like "saw Elliott Roosevelt the other day and understand John's here," or "I saw Sumner Welles at the airport."

COMMUNIQUE TEXT

CASABLANCA, Jan. 24.—(Delayed)—(U.P.)—The following is the text of the communique issued at the joint press conference of President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston Churchill:

"The president of the United States and the prime minister of Great Britain have been in conference near Casablanca since January 14th. They were accompanied by the combined chiefs of staff of the two countries, namely, for the United States:

Gen. George C. Marshall, chief of staff of the U. S. army; Admiral E. J. King, commander-in-chief of the U. S. navy; Lieut. Gen. H. H. Arnold, commanding U. S. army air forces and for Great Britain:

Admiral of the Fleet Sir Dudley Pound, first sea lord; Gen. Sir Alan Brooke, chief of the Imperial staff; Air Chief Marshal Sir Charles Portal, chief of the air staff.

Those were assisted by: Lieut. Gen. B. B. Somervell, commanding general, services of supply, U. S. army; Field Marshal Sir John Dill, head of the British joint staff mission in Washington; Vice Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten, chief of combined operations; Lieut. Gen. Sir Hastings Ismay, chief of staff officer to the minister of defense, together with a number of staff officers from both countries.

They have received visit from Mr. Murphy (Robert Murphy, the president's minister to North Africa) and Mr. MacMillan (Harold MacMillan, British minister to allied force headquarters; from Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, commander-in-chief of the allied expeditionary force in North Africa; from Gen. Carl Spaatz, air commander of the allied expeditionary force in North Africa; from Gen. Mark W. Clark, U. S. army, and from Middle East headquarters, Gen. Sir Harold Alexander, Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur Tedder and Lieut. Gen. F. M. Andrews, U. S. army.

The president was accompanied by Mr. Harry Hopkins and was joined by Mr. Averell Harriman. With the prime minister was Lord Leathers, British minister of war transport.

For 10 days the combined staffs have been in constant session, meeting two or three times a day and reporting progress at intervals to the president and prime minister.

The approaches, while others were stationed in ridges some distance from the road. An advance motorcycle guard halted traffic while a rear guard turned back several cars which tried to pass.

The convoy proceeded to the review area where troops were lined up for at least a mile in front of their tanks, half-tanks, scout cars and artillery of all sizes and calibers. The convoy stopped and the president mounted his jeep, which, after a band had played the national anthem, drove slowly in front of the soldiers. Our truck, containing some photographers as well as correspondents, flanked the presidential jeep a few feet away.

Mr. Roosevelt's secret service bodyguards, wearing armored corps battle jackets, walked by the sides of his jeep.

Most of the troops were lined up beside the road under eucalyptus trees. Other units were stationed on the horizon, guarding the area.

The president occasionally laughed and joked with the general staff accompanying him. Several times he spoke to the men. Mostly he appeared deadly serious.

The reviewing party passed into an open field swept by a brisk wind. The president laughed when his hat blew off. It was caught by General Clark.

Mess Sgt. Joseph Baer, from Sharon, Wis., had a field kitchen set up near 20 small tables with folding chairs. The president opened and inspected "K" concentrated emergency rations. Then he was introduced to 50 representative men and officers who were decorated with silver stars and purple hearts for their part in the initial occupation.

Included was Col. Arthur Rogers, whose regiment was stationed at Hyde Park during the visit there of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth in 1939. The president chatted several minutes with Colonel Rogers, who was in Alaska during the initial phases of war activity there and who landed at Fedala during the occupation of Morocco.

Army Lunch Served

Sgt. Baer served a typical infantry field lunch of ham, green beans, sweet potatoes, coffee, bread liberally spread with butter, mixed fruit, strawberry preserves. The president and all of us ate from mess kits.

During the meal a band from the engineers played the president's favorite tunes.

Among the photographers at the review from Tunisia was Corp. Robert Hopkins, who saw his

father for the first time in months.

It began to cloud up as the party re-entered cars and drove a mile further where three companies of troops and armored vehicles were lined up in an open field. The president drove among them in his jeep and then took up a position and the vehicles passed in review.

The convoy proceeded to Port Lyautey, the scene of the hardest fighting in the North African campaign. It paused in front of the colorful Kasbah Mehdi, the 400-year-old Portuguese fort around which hand to hand fighting raged for three days.

The president's limousine stopped in front of the next cemetery along the Kasbah, adjoining the ancient French cemetery, where he laid a wreath at the foot of the flagpole. The cemetery, bearing a sign "U. S. Military Cemetery" in English, French, and Arabic, is bounded by a white picket fence and the graves of officers and men bear white crosses.

The president paused on a ridge overlooking the Atlantic beaches and the valley where a tank battle had raged. Col. Frederick de Rohan, Washington, explained the operation which had taken place there. He used a huge chart to demonstrate.

The convoy returned to Casablanca, 108 miles away, through a drizzling rain. Word of the president's passing early in the morning apparently spread

throughout various roads and roads were closed as the convoy passed. Troops lined up on the sides of the road and high humor and good natured soldier yelled at the president as he waved his hand.

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