August 21, 1943 [FDR/Churchill – French Committee of National Liberation] 1477

FDR Speech File

August 21, 1943.

The President and the Prime Minister ~~have felt that the time has come to~~ announce that Great Britain and the United States accept relations with the French Committee of National Liberation in the continuation of the mutual war effort against the Axis powers.

This constitutes in no sense recognition of that Committee in speaking for the people in France or for a future Government of France.

It does constitute recognition of the French Committee of National Liberation for the purpose of functioning within specific limitations on behalf of French territory ~~and colonies~~ outside of France.

In view of the paramount importance in the common war effort, the relationship between our two Governments ~~with~~ and the French Committee continues to be subject to the military requirements of the Allied Commanders.

The simple purpose is cooperation with all patriotic Frenchmen working ~~to~~ for the liberation of the French people and territories from the oppression of the enemy.

Accordingly we welcome the establishment of the French Committee of National Liberation. It is our understanding that the Committee has been conceived and will function on the principle of collective responsibility

OF ALL ITS MEMBERS TO THE PROSECUTION OF THE WAR.

OBVIOUSLY, IT WILL BE FOR THE FRENCH PEOPLE THEMSELVES ~~TO SETTLE THEIR OWN CONSTITUTION AND~~ TO ESTABLISH THEIR OWN GOVERNMENT AFTER THEY HAVE HAD UNTRAMMELED OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES WITH THE UTMOST FREEDOM.

IN AN EARNEST EFFORT TO PROMOTE OUR ~~[illegible]~~ mutual CAUSE, WE ARE AGREEING TO THE RECOGNITION OF THE COMMITTEE ~~[illegible]~~ on the assumption ~~THE HOPE~~ THAT IT WILL ACHIEVE FURTHER UNITY ~~WITHIN ITSELF~~ for the cause of ~~and~~ ~~AND CONTINUED COOPERATION WITH~~ France and THE UNITED NATIONS.

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May the restoration of France come with all speed.