

DEFEND SEIZURE OF VICHY ISLES

Free French Express Surprise, Hint Rejection of U. S. Protest; Point to Plebiscite as Justification For Their Actions.

LONDON, Dec. 26 (U. P.)—A Free France spokesman, implying a tacit rejection of an United States rebuke, said today that Free French leaders had been asked to free St. Pierre Island from "Vichy dictatorship" and they saw no reason to alter the situation resulting from their action.

Shocked by the news that the United States State Department had denounced the Free French seizure of St. Pierre and Miquelon off the Newfoundland Coast, the leaders had conferred anxiously and it was reported that their men might be withdrawn.

But a spokesman said today that nothing official had been received from Washington or Canada and added:

"Our attitude is that the people of St. Pierre asked us to liberate them from Vichy dictatorship and we did so. As Frenchmen we see no reason to alter the situation. The results of the plebiscite, as per cent in our favor, confirm the eagerness of the population to be with us."

The spokesman denied that any agreement had ever been made by Free France Gen. de Gaulle leaders concerning St. Pierre.

Before the statement was made, it was reported that the Free French might withdraw in deference to American wishes, especially as British sources here said that the occupation was a surprise to them.

Later the Free French national committee charged that the radio station on St. Pierre had been broadcasting weather information "useful to the enemy."

DeGaulle Lauds Admiral

Regardless of future developments concerning the islands, it was understood that Gen. Charles de Gaulle, Free French leader, had sent congratulations to Admiral Emile Muselier, who commanded the expedition.

A Free France spokesman said "Admiral Muselier, commander of the Free French naval forces, went to St. Pierre and Miquelon because he was absolutely certain that the populations of these islands desired to resume the fight by the side of the Allies for the liberation of France and the cause of liberty in the world."

"The fact that he succeeded in taking control of these islands without any incident proves that he was acting solely in conformity with the will of the interested populations."

De Gaulle Hopes Damaged

Belief was expressed here that the State Department rebuke had set back the hopes of de Gaulle for early recognition by the United States of his Free France regime as a de facto government.

Well informed sources here expressed belief that the State Department rebuke was made in a desire to avoid provoking the Vichy Government, and possibly driving Marshal Henri Philippe Petain, Chief of State of the Vichy regime, toward closer relations with the Germans.

VICHY, Dec. 23 (U. P.)—The government today issued a communiqué expressing satisfaction at the American State Department's "public condemnation" of the Free French action in seizing the French islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon.

Claim St. Pierre Voted 65-1 For Coup by De Gaullists

ST. PIERRE, Dec. 26 (U. P.)—The Free French naval force which took over this Vichy controlled French colony Wednesday to the embarrassment of the United States and Great Britain, sailed from an Eastern Canada port, it was revealed today.

Vice Admiral Emile Muselier, commander of the Free French Navy, put out from the port on Monday with four corvettes for "maneuvers at sea." The ships maneuvered Monday and Tuesday. Wednesday they sailed between St. Pierre and Miquelon, the chief islands of the tiny dots off the Newfoundland coast that have been French for more than 100 years, and

only then did the crews learn their mission.

(The British announced in London that the ships had not sailed from an United Kingdom port. Free French leaders in London seem to indicate that they had known in advance of the excursion. The British announced that they hadn't.)

These further details of the surprising Christmas coup were made public as Admiral Muselier and the population in general rejoiced over the results of yesterday's plebiscite among St. Pierre males which showed 650 for the Free French and 10 for Vichy.

There was no indication whether a plebiscite had been held on Miquelon.

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SALE PRICE \$3

Lovely rayon alpacas and various wool contents in this big special purchase and clearance from our better dresses. Sizes for juniors, misses and women. This is a sale that every budget wise woman will want to attend, be here tomorrow morning sure.



Clearance Sale
WINTER COATS

Regular \$17.95, \$19.95, \$21.95, \$24.95

SALE PRICE \$14.88

Sizes for Juniors, Misses and Women!

Select group of higher priced coats for Juniors, Misses and Women reduced for this great After Christmas Clearance Sale! Included are: Loch Lomond plaid backs, full zipper lined wool tweeds and fleeces, large plaid, Commodore fabric dress coats with lambswool innerlining. All are priced far below their regular prices, priced to sell and help you save. Many styles will be smart for spring wear.

SALE Sport and Reversible COATS

Reg. \$10.95 and \$12.95 Values

SALE PRICE \$7.88

Manufacturer's closeout of smart reversibles. Plaids, tweeds, cavalry twills, and shetlands with reverse side of gabardine. Some with hoods and some with zipper closing. Sizes 9 to 17.

Clearance SALE!
Fur Trimmed COATS

Reg. \$39.95 to \$49.95 Values

SALE PRICE \$29.95

Prices slashed on our stocks of better fur-trimmed coats. Fur collars include Kit Fox, Dyed Squirrel, Marmot, Lynx dyed Wolf, Pieced Persian, Civet Cat and Norwegian Fox. Fitted and box styles. Blacks and colors. Juniors', misses' and women's. Botany all-wool fabrics included.

GIRLS' COATS REDUCED

Reg. \$10.95, Now \$7.88
Reg. \$12.95, Now \$10.99
Reg. \$13.95, Now \$13.99

Girls' and junior misses' coats in a sweeping sale. Gay plaids, fleeces and herringbone tweeds. Sizes 7 to 16 in the group.

Girls' Better DRESSES

Reg. \$2.00 Value Reg. \$3.00 Value Reg. \$3.00 Value

\$1.39 \$1.99 \$2.99

Clearance of girls' rayon crepe dresses in broken sizes and color assortments. Sizes 7 to 16.

Girls' Better Quilted RUBES

Reg. \$1.99

Better robes for girls. Quilted cotton and rayon robes. Broken sizes and colors.

Girls' Better Snow SUITS

Reg. \$1.99, now \$1.99

Wool robes and skirts with fitted jackets and fully lined skirts. Broken colors. Sizes 7 to 16.

Girls' Flannel Skating SUITS

Reg. \$1.99, now \$1.99

Wool robes and skirts with fitted jackets and fully lined skirts. Broken colors. Sizes 7 to 16.

Girls' Better Quilted RUBES

Reg. \$1.99, now \$1.99

Wool robes and skirts with fitted jackets and fully lined skirts. Broken colors. Sizes 7 to 16.

Girls' Reg. \$2 Wash DRESSES

Reg. \$1.69

Slightly soiled and counter mused wash dresses. Broken sizes and colors.

Girls' \$2 and \$3 Skirts, \$1.39 and \$1.99

Plaid and solid color skirts in a large clearance sale. Sizes 7 to 16 in the group.

Infants' and Tots' Wear

Infants' Reg. 59c Sweaters.....39c

Infants' 59c Knit Leggings.....39c

Infants' Bootie Sets.....\$3.00

Infants' Blankets, reg. \$1 to \$1.59.....89c

Infants' Handmade Dresses, regular 59c, now.....39c

Infants' 59c Handmade Creepers.....39c

Infants' 79c Wool Knit Creepers.....39c

Tots' \$6.98 3-Piece Snow Suits.....\$5.00

Tots' \$3.98 Coat and Hat Sets.....\$2.99

Toddlers' 89c Wool Sweaters.....59c

Tots' \$3 Rayon Velvet Dresses.....\$1.99

WOMEN'S SPORTWEAR

Drastically Reduced

Reg. \$3.98 to \$7.98 Winter

Jackets.....\$1.98 to \$4.89

Fitted and boxy styles in flannel and corduroy fabrics. Many colors. Broken sizes.

\$1.00 Cotton Blouses.....89c

Long and short sleeve styles, convertible and Peter Pan collars. White and colors. 32 to 40.

\$1.78 Wool Sweaters.....\$1.29

Long and short sleeve styles, convertible and Peter Pan collars. Sizes 32 to 40.

\$2.55 Boxy Cardigans.....\$1.69

Wanted winter colors in boxy cardigans. Ribbon trim and large pearl buttons.

\$3.00 Boxy Slip-on Sweaters.....\$2.99

Heavy knit boxy silhouettes in bright and pastel colors. Sizes 32 to 40.

\$2 "Fruit of the Loom" Blouses.....\$1.69

Washable rayon crepe blouses with convertible neckline. French cuff. White and colors. Sizes 32 to 40.

\$1.75 Long and Short Sleeve Sweaters.....\$89c

Wool sweaters in long or short sleeve styles. White, black, blue, red or maize. Broken sizes.

\$3.00 Winter Skirts.....\$2.49

Dark colored skirts in pleated and flared styles. Zipper closing. Sizes 24 to 32.

\$3.98 Winter Skirts.....\$2.98

Associated popular colors in winter skirts. Deep pleats, all with zipper closing. 26 to 32.

Women's Better LINGERIE

1/4-1/3-1/2 OFF

Plain and printed rayon crepe nighties, two-piece pajamas, slips, chemise and bed jackets. Tailored and lace trimmed. Sizes 34 to 40 in the group.

Women's Rayon Slips.....78c

Rayon crepe and rayon satin slips. Rayon pencil stripe. V tailored and lace top. Bias and 4-gore. 32 to 44 in the group.

Women's Porto Rican Gowns.....89c

Solid colors or printed batiste Porto Rican gowns. V and round neckline. Sizes 34 to 42.

Sheer Batiste Swirl Gowns.....88c

Moon and stars patterns in white or red on blue. Sizes 32 to 40.

Women's Flannelette Gowns.....65c

Long sleeve styles with double yoke, button throat. Sizes 16 to 20 in stripes and teardrops.

Women's Plain Rayon Undies.....35c

Rayon briefs, panties, stepins, bloomers and vests. Elastic run at waist. Sizes 34 to 42 in teardrops. Seconds and firsts.

Cotton Princess Slips.....65c

Cotton knitted princess slips, built-up shoulder, floss finish. Small, medium and large.

Women's Cotton Union Suits.....35c

Built-up shoulder, tight and sheer knee reinforced. Sizes 36 to 44 in teardrops.

2-Piece Pajamas or Gowns.....\$1.00

Brilligan and tuckstitch pajamas and gowns. With contrasting fabric. Sizes 34 to 42 in teardrops.

Discontinued Styles in Undies.....25c

Rayon briefs, panties, stepins or bloomers. Elastic run at waist. Tailored hem. Sizes 27 to 31 in teardrops.

"Famous Name" DRESSES

Cotton dress by a famous maker. \$1.00

Fast color percale. Broken assortments of styles and colors.

Regular \$2.25 Rayon Dresses.....\$1.89

Bias only in better cotton dresses. Assorted prints, colors and styles in the group. Broken sizes.

Regular \$2