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SUMMARY WITH EXCERPTS of a speech by Gen. De Gaulle to the Provisional Consultative Assembly at Algiers on 18 March 1944:

Addressing the Assembly on March 18, Gen. De Gaulle reviewed the plans of the Committee of Liberation for the internal reconstruction of France and the role which she would play in post-war Europe. He referred to the many immediate and difficult problems which would confront the Committee on its return to Metropolitan France and emphasised that nothing could be done except under conditions of order. "There could, therefore, and I state this with emphasis," he said, "be no public authority other than that emanating from the responsible central administration. Any attempt, even partial or disguised, to maintain the Vichy organization--or any artificial formation of an authority outside the government--would be intolerable and condemned in advance. The action of the Government in assuring the life of the country and reinstating the laws of the Republic will, of course, not wait until the whole of French territory is liberated from the enemy. The task of rehabilitation will be begun without delay as the armies of liberation advance. In this connection it is obvious that exercise of administrative powers in the zones in which battles will be fought will call for collaboration between the Allied Military Command and the local authorities set up by the Government. In order that such collaboration may be simple and effective, it must include previous arrangements between the Committee of Liberation and our US and British Allies. The French Government has drawn up and imparted to London and Washington the draft of these arrangements as far as they are concerned.

"Today France has at her disposal considerable military means. They are not to be compared with those before the defeat, but, thanks to the recruiting effort in the Empire, 14 percent of her population have joined up in the fight. Thanks also to the armaments, ships, and aircraft sent by the United States, Great Britain, and Soviet Russia, our military forces are able to play a great role in the coming battle of France. Their role will be all the greater when they are joined by the fighting elements

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of the interior of France, when the national rising against the invader really begins.

"Thanks to our attitude of patience and vigilance, the fundamentally friendly relations of the French people with their Allies remain excellent. In this 30 years' war France at Verdun saved the world. After June 1940 Churchill's Britain saved the world. Russia lined up on the east is saving the world today. The United States will also have saved the world by the decisive support they have given through their men and material. There will be no salvation save through the combined power of these great States remaining united."

Speaking of the essential part which France must play in European and world reconstruction, Gen. De Gaulle said: "The policy of the Government is directed to setting up and preparing--even while fighting--France's future European role, a role which she is to play for the advantage of all. But if the restored Continent is to recover a balance corresponding to the conditions of our times, it seems to us that certain groupings will have to be formed, without however encroaching on the sovereignty of each element. As regards France we think that some form of Western group realised with us, chiefly on an economic basis and as extensive as possible, could offer great advantages. Such a group, extended to Africa and in close relation with the Orient--and notably the Arab States, which are legitimately seeking to unite their interests--and of which the Channel, the Rhine, and the Mediterranean would be like arteries, should be able to constitute a vital nucleus in a world organisation of production, exchange and security. Like all tasks of the near future, this one must be prepared. The French Government is prepared to undertake all necessary studies and negotiations in common with other States concerned.

"The completion of the task of the provisional Government of the Republic will be determined by the very date on which the sovereignty of the nation can express itself. From that moment onwards the working of our institutions, interrupted by the force majeure of the invasion and usurpation, will take up

its legitimate course and the de facto authority that we assumed to direct the national war effort and to ensure the liberation of the sovereign element--I mean the captive people--will immediately cease to be justified. The permanent characteristics and form that the French community will assume tomorrow do not, therefore, depend on the provisional Government or on any Assembly which is not the product of free, direct, and general elections held in suitable conditions of national stability. It is democracy, renewed in its institutions, and above all in its traditions, that our people want. French democracy must be a social democracy, one ensuring to all the right and freedom of work and guaranteeing the dignity and security of all in an economic system planned with a view to developing fully the nation's resources and not to the profit of individual interests. Such a political, social, and economic regime will, no doubt, be completed by fitting into the French community the destiny of nations linked with our own. Finally, relations of all kinds between all nations will have to be co-ordinated through an international organisation so that in a world in which interdependence will be the rule, each nation may develop in conformity with its own genius and without being subjected to any kind of political or economic oppression."