

COMMERCIAL EXCHANGES IN NORTH AFRICA (MURPHY-WEYGAND AGREEMENT)

Memorandum of conversation between Robert D. Murphy, American Counselor of Embassy in France, and Maxime Weygand, French Delegate General in North Africa, initialed by General Weygand at Algiers February 26, 1941
Confirmed by France March 10, 1941

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The general phases of the supply of French North Africa with commodities essential to maintain the economic structure in that area were discussed. It was emphasized in the conversation that any agreement on this subject would be, of course, for negotiation between Marshal Pétain's Government and the United States Government in Washington.

However, for the purpose of establishing immediately the progress made in the conversations at Lisbon and Tangier on this subject, and to permit the shipment at once of certain goods already ordered in the United States, it was considered necessary to prepare this memorandum, subject naturally to Marshal Pétain's approval.

The proposal of the American Government which General Weygand is disposed to recommend to Marshal Pétain contemplates that the shipment of supplies to French North Africa: (1) will not result in building up excessive stocks of commodities; (2) that steps will be taken to insure that such goods, as well as similar goods, shall be consumed in French North Africa and shall not be reexported in any form; (3) with the foregoing in mind the American Government would be authorized to designate American officials for control purposes at ports and on the railways; (4) in the event of a violation of the understanding that such goods would not be reexported, American economic cooperation with French North Africa would automatically and permanently terminate.

The American Government, it was understood, would be prepared to facilitate the supply of the essential needs of French Morocco, and also Algeria and Tunisia—as well as to unblock adequate French funds now in the United States for the purpose, subject to the foregoing conditions.

It was also thought desirable for the successful operation of this understanding that an economic and trade expert, qualified in French African affairs, would be appointed in the United States. Such expert would be attached to the French Embassy in Washington.