

DECLASSIFIED

17/67-tog

HEADQUARTERS, FIRST MARINE AMPHIBIOUS CORPS, IN THE FIELD.

November 18, 1942.

CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM TO: Col. G. E. Monson, USMC.

Subject: Hienghene Area Survey, recommendation for.

1. It is reliably reported by informant (rating a) that the natives in the Hienghene Area were incited to their recent rebellion (November 10-11, 1942) by a Catholic priest named Father Rouel.

2. Investigation reveals the following facts:

(a) Father Rouel was instrumental in fomenting native trouble in 1917-18 in the Hienghene Area.

(b) In January, 1942, Father Rouel was deported to Australia as a potential trouble-maker. However, the former Governor, Admiral D'Argenlieu (Head of the Carmelite Order in civilian life) is believed to have used his influence, and Father Rouel returned to New Caledonia.

(c) Father Jusserand at Poindimie--approximately fifty miles south of Hienghene--is very friendly with Father Rouel and is listed by the Army Base Command G-2 as a definite suspect.

(d) Both priests have shown a pronounced anti-United Nations attitude, and Father Jusserand is suspected of signaling to units of the Japanese Fleet.

3. The principal area of former Japanese influence on New Caledonia was centered at Hienghene. An informant (rating b) stated that there was an undetermined number of Japanese-Canaque half-castes still living there. These persons, the known attitudes of Fathers Rouel and Jusserand, and the inherent resentment of local tribes against the whites generally, seem to add up to a situation that is inimical to our interests.

4. Inasmuch as the north-east coast of New Caledonia is not covered at this time by coast-watchers, counter-intelligence agents, or United Nations troops in any appreciable

DECLASSIFIED

Subject: Hienghene Area Survey, November 18, 1942.
recommendation for (con't).

force, it is recommended that a survey be initiated of the area in the very near future in order to determine such possible aspects of enemy espionage as may exist.

H. E. M. Thompson,
Lieutenant, USNR.