

NAME GAMELIN AND DALADIER FOR INDICTMENT

Both War Leaders Are
Already Interned as
Charges Are Prepared

TRY TO FIX 'GUILT'

(By G. H. ARCHAMBAULT.)
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Vichy, Sept. 18.—The public prosecutor specially assigned to the Supreme Court at Riom has presented to it a request for the indictment of Edouard Daladier and General Gamelin. This brief announcement, issued tonight from the Ministry of Justice, marks an important step in the eventual trial of those political and military leaders, as well as their subordinates, who may be considered responsible for the war and the subsequent defeat.

The prosecutor already has requested indictments in absentia against Pierre Cot and Guy la Chambre, both of whom are reported in America. The court has not yet taken a decision in the matter. The rumor is current here tonight that la Chambre had decided to return to France in order that a warrant for his arrest recently issued may be executed.

The war Premier and former Commander-in-Chief were "administratively interned" in the Chateau Chazeron by Government order Sept. 7. Prior to this date Daladier had been residing in the Chateau de Vernue, not far from Vichy, while Gamelin, it is now learned, since his downfall had been living in a large estate in Dordogne Department belonging to A. Gaboriaud, former publisher of the now-defunct

Ere Nouvelle, which reflected the views of Edouard Herriot, who though in late years was no longer official leader of the Radical-Socialist Party nevertheless remained extremely influential in directing its course.

Before the exact nature of the charges against Daladier and Gamelin are revealed, the indictments must be formally returned. It is known, nevertheless, that, if preferred, these charges will be concerned in the case of Daladier with responsibility for declaring war as Premier without consulting Parliament, and as Minister of War for many years, for failing to equip the army with the necessary material. The latter charge would extend, furthermore, to a period between the declaration of war and Daladier's resignation in March, during which, it is alleged, he neglected to assure the production of war material in the necessary quantities. Doubtless there will be other charges, but the above will be the main counts in the indictment.

Against Gamelin the charges assuredly concern his conduct of operations after the German invasion of the Low Countries when he engaged the bulk of his forces on a very extended front between Breda in Holland and the Swiss border, with the consequence that there were insufficient reserves to stem the enemy advance when it broke through on the Meuse. Another allegation against him is that he tacitly accepted the policy of military unpreparedness.