

Strong Europe Believed Leading to the Gaulle

The following account of President Charles de Gaulle's view of Britain, the United States and the Common Market was written by Harold King, Reuters bureau chief in London, the day after the end of the Second World War and widely acknowledged as one of the best informed observers in the French capital. King, who has met and talked to de Gaulle many times in recent years, was one of the first correspondents to predict the general's return to power in 1958 and has since reported day-by-day and in detail on the evolution of the fifth republic.

By HAROLD KING
PARIS (Reuters)—Is Charles de Gaulle a far-seeing statesman or merely an outmoded, stannary nationalistic politician?

This is the question many in the United States are asking in the wake of the French president's brusque cold-shouldering of the bid for entry into the European Common Market at a press conference Jan. 14.

Two weeks after the press conference, negotiations in Brussels on the entire breakdown in disagreement between France, on the one side, and its "Market" partners—Germany, Italy, Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg—on the other.

Behind France's veto of British entry into the trade group under present terms was de Gaulle's grand design of building a strong-knit Europe able to be an equal military and economic partner with the United States.

The president's view is that, as matters now stand, Britain's joining the Market would constitute a perpetuation of American influence in Europe, preventing the continent from asserting itself as a world power.

Historians now must be left to decide whether the grand design is a feasible policy and, if so, whether it is desirable.

Views differ
Seen through French eyes, as noted by foreign observers in Paris, the prospect of a strong independent Europe is an attractive proposition for the French people, who have long criticized by some administrators and intellectuals.

De Gaulle is telling his people that it is not, and never has been, a question of cutting France out of the Atlantic Alliance, but of:

1. Preparing for the day when America's vital interests may lead the United States to base its nuclear defences on the North American continent alone and
2. Creating a European organization which can, if necessary, look after Europe's survival itself and which by its strength would in any event prove an additional force for the Western alliance.

De Gaulle himself would laugh at the idea that his policy is just the result of "anti-Americanism."

In this policy, leading eventually to a single European government—an ultimate objective of Gaulle by no means excluded—de Gaulle's objectives are supranationalism in the immediate future as unrealistic—the full co-operation of Britain would have been welcomed by the president.

It is really this divergence of attitude about the future between Europe and the United States that made de Gaulle finally a hard-line supporter of the interruption of negotiations for Britain's entry into the Common Market. An interview with a former leader in France were pressing for, in any case.

De Gaulle was more or less convinced British Prime Minister Macmillan was not an interested party. De Gaulle called "the great plunge."

De Gaulle thought Macmillan was prepared to bring Britain wholly into the Common Market as a partner in the defence and foreign policy of that of Europe in general and the United States in particular.

But the meeting between de Gaulle and Macmillan at Rambouillet near Paris, last December, proceeded by what the French affirm was growing respect for the part of the British negotiators in Brussels, left de Gaulle in a conviction that either Macmillan had never considered political and economic independence of the United States a necessary part of entering the Common Market or else he had abandoned such an intention because of growing opposition within Britain.

For de Gaulle, the Kennedy-Macmillan Nassau Polaris agreement in late December amounted to the surrender by Britain of any future independent defence policy. De Gaulle, he felt, made it impossible for the British to throw in their lot with the future European market in the Gaullist grand design.

WISCRACKING BREAK
While many French political leaders strongly disagree with the president's policy, they nevertheless approve of the temporary breaking-off of the European market negotiations with Britain at this stage.

For many months the organized French agricultural industry has been pressing the government to break off the talks, and the government would agree currently—Britain agreed to adopt from the start the same farm protectionism as the Common Market and agreed to deal with food imports from a whole Commonwealth nations accordingly.

Pressure was, incidentally, also brought to bear on the government by the approaching end of the expansionist opportunities of the first year of the Common Market, these groups feared the competition of British industry inside the Market's common external tariff.

On the agricultural issue, the French government was and still is, in a weak and vulnerable position.

The Common Market agreement was ratified by parliament on the strict understanding it would provide the solution for France's growing problem of farm surpluses in wheat and meat. For France, the Common Market treaty meant part transferring the burden of supporting French agriculture from the French taxpayer to the German taxpayer.

Thus, the Rome treaty setting up the Market in 1957 was ratified by the National Assembly with the concrete agricultural settlement being left for later. The rules for the common agricultural policy were finally agreed on by the six Market members only in January, 1962, after arduous and often acrimonious negotiations during which the French several times had to threaten to refuse further tariff reductions according to the Rome treaty timetable.

NOTHING SOLVED
Even so, the agriculture agreement was "in petto" only. It did nothing concrete to extricate the French from their farm problems.

In the negotiations with Britain, the reconciliation of British and French farm interests proved an enormous, if not insuperable, obstacle. But that was not all.

The common agricultural policy of the Community, which was set up in 1962, was based on more than 20 years of experience.

In all these circumstances, it is hard to see how it could have been subject to "considerable progress being made first in the Common Market." An example of current thinking, even by the opposition, is provided by Maurice Faure, president of the Racial Party and a firm anti-Gaullist member of the National Assembly. He has always been a proponent of a supranational Europe. This attitude would be the most successful of France's negotiators in the Rome treaty.

But Faure now has said: "I will not give much for the future of the Common Market if by the end of the year no progress has been made in solving agricultural problems, its relations to the setting up of at least a modest political union."

OTHER PARTIES APPROVE
Socialist and Communist members told this correspondent soon after de Gaulle's January press conference: "If we were in power we would have had to do the same thing."

How decisive this farm situation and the prolonged rejection of the five Common Market partners to implement the common agricultural policy can be seen in these ways:

The growing frankness with which the French press, politicians and cabinet ministers in private are talking about the danger to the life of the Common Market if the five other members do not "come across" with their agricultural promises to France; their still unimplemented agreement to help the former French African nations; and a reasonable settlement on tariffs for meat, sugar, milk, rice, oilseeds and tobacco.

WISCRACKING HAS REACTION
VANCOUVER (CP)—Earle Gray wisecracked himself off the radio when he was asked by the FBI in Seattle with this bit of dialogue:
"Stowaways? You would you mind moving your case, sir?"
Gray: "Sure. You mean the one with the bomb?"
The incident occurred Wednesday aboard a United Air Lines plane taking for take-off from Seattle for Vancouver. It had prompt repercussions in the Common Market.

The stewardess headed for the pilot's cabin, the plane stopped, security police searched Gray's attache case and handed him over to the FBI for questioning.

Gray, a sales and service engineer who lives in nearby Burnaby, caught the next plane.
"It was one of those things," he said Thursday. "Apparently what I went through is normal procedure in such cases."

Winter Works Plan Extended Another Month
OTTAWA (CP)—Extension of the municipal water works program for an additional month to May 31, was announced here by the labor department.

A statement by Labor Minister Starr said the move was in response to many requests from municipalities. There were complaints that severe cold had delayed work on some projects.

Under the program the federal government pays half of the payroll costs for approved municipal public works projects designed to provide employment for the winter months.

Federal payments under the current year's program have been \$38,000,000, compared with \$34,500,000 at the same time last year.

Russian Planes Watch Carriers
WASHINGTON (CP)—Four Russian long-range reconnaissance planes flew over the United States aircraft carrier Forrestal southeast of the Azores last week, Defence Secretary Robert McNamara has announced.

McNamara told a press conference that other U.S. carriers in the North Pacific and north over four engine planes called Bears since Jan. 27. Shuttle range planes have flown over U.S. ships but the long-range visits are new. He acknowledged that "we periodically overfly Soviet vessels."

No one here makes any secret any longer of the fact even de Gaulle's offer to Britain of association with the Common Market instead of full membership is subject to "considerable progress being made first in the Common Market."

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Macmillan Discusses NATO Nuclear Arms
LONDON (Reuters)—Prime Minister Macmillan has told the House of Commons a responsibility subject to "considerable progress being made first in the Common Market."

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Nuclear Bomb Dump Built At Canadian German Base

By DAVE McINTOSH
ZWEIBUECKEN, West Germany (CP)—A nuclear bomb dump is being built at the end of one runway at the RCAF CF-104 low-level jet bomber base here.

The dump comprises several small buildings surrounded by barbed wire. At \$100 each, the RCAF has bought 34 German police dogs which will patrol the dump.

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two days from one every three days. The total order is 300 planes, worth some \$480,000,000.

Altogether, eight squadrons will be formed and this job is expected to be completed by December.

The CF-104 is only some five minutes' flying time from the Iron Curtain. Its range is some 500 miles. Its targets would be set by NATO to fit in with the west's over-all target system.

Through the RCAF describes the CF-204 as a strike-reconnaissance plane, the reconnaissance part of the task is regarded as limited. Cameras for the plane are on order but none has been delivered yet to the air division.

Senior officers also say no other role than low-level bombing is possible for the RCAF CF-104 except at heavy cost and long delay in changing the plane's electronic innards.

JUST ATTORNEY GENERAL
MONROVIA, Liberia (Reuters)—Attorney-General Joseph Cheson was relieved of his post Wednesday, it was officially announced. An attorney-general, he was in charge of internal security. Cheson's replacement came in the wake of an announcement earlier this month of a plot to assassinate President William Tubman.

The second of the two squadrons to be based here was partially formed and now is flying. It has 12 of its 18 planes, Deliveries of the CF-104 to the RCAF Air Division in Europe from the Canadair Limited assembly plant at Montreal have been stepped up to one every



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Stock Exchange Head Sees Threat From C

CHICOUTIMI, Que. (CP)—Eric Kierans, president of the Montreal Stock Exchange, said today here Social Credit promoters do not understand the "disaster they are bringing to Canada's financial movement."

He said Canadians would have a stable currency—gold, United States dollars or Swiss francs—money would flow out of the country and Canada would collapse into a depression.

He said if the money supply was increased as Social Credit

spokesmen recommended on the ground people would have money to spend, the actual results would be an increase in prices, costs and wages, a devaluation of the dollar in the markets for its goods, and a shutdown of industries and unemployment.

The Canadian dollar would be devalued, a balance of payments crisis would occur and there would have to be new austerity measures, import taxes and tariffs.

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