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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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*France: The major purpose of De Gaulle's press conference yesterday seems to have been to posit France's freedom from foreign entanglements as an example for those nations which hesitate to follow his advice.

He offered nothing new in a 90-minute monologue extolling France's independent role in world affairs. He conceded that NATO, the UN, the IMF and similar organizations have a purpose, but he insisted that they should not limit the freedom of any state to arrive at its own decisions without outside interference. France's success in attaining nuclear-power status had "broken the spell" cast by the permanent opposition of the two superpowers, he boasted. France, he went on, is intent on breaking the "stifling rigidity" of the cold war.

He declined to formulate any peace plans for Vietnam, because "at present peace is impossible." He repeated the basis for a future settlement he had presented at Phnom Penh: the US should pull its troops out and prepare to pay for the economic development of Vietnam. No agreement on Southeast Asia can be valid, he insisted, without China's participation.

The Atlantic Alliance remains as it was established in 1949, he stated, with no French forces subordinated to a foreign authority. The manner in which he enumerated the various allied units that he wants out of France in five months suggests that he is preparing the way to appear to be making concessions when all US installations on French territory are not completely dismantled next April. His reference to "case by case" authorization for overflights may also be a reminder that any attempt to exclude France from such NATO ties as it intends to maintain can be costly to the other NAC countries.

He wound up his presentation with a lengthy catalogue of the accomplishments of his regime. This was a reminder for the French electorate that reckless voting in next spring's parliamentary election could return France to the political instability of the Fourth Republic.

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NOTE

Yemen: Following a futile interview with the Yemeni foreign minister, the US chargé in Taiz fears an attack on Americans and US property as the anti-American propaganda campaign mounts. The chargé considers that the atmosphere in the capital has become dangerous as a result of the attempts of the Egyptian-dominated Yemeni information service to inflame the populace. Although the Egyptians themselves may not want riots--which might turn against them--the situation shows signs of getting out of hand.

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