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NSC BRIEFING NOTES

24 June 1954

✓ MENDES-FRANCE'S INDOCHINA POLICY

- I. French Premier firm on achieving "satisfactory cease-fire" by 20 July.
 - A. Obtained Assembly majority largely due promise to resign if fails.
 - B. Knows his main interest--economic reform--depends on settlement:
 1. Program impossible while war drain continues.
 2. Needs prestige of settlement to put program through.
- II. Plans for negotiations:
 - A. He will conduct them personally:
 1. Met Chou at Bern yesterday as first step.
 - B. Hopes current nine-power discussions will lead to agreement permitting foreign ministers return Geneva by 12 July.

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- C. His terms not clear.
 - 1. Laniel fears he may trade EDC for minor concessions.
- D. This connection, reported Cabinet line-up on EDC (Info. Date: April)-
 - 1. More than 1/3 pro-EDC.
 - a. Faure, Guerin de Beaumont, however, have publicly favored delay or modification since report date.
 - 2. Less than 1/4 opposed.
 - 3. 1/3 undecided.

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