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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
25 September 1954

TO: Deputy Director (Intelligence)

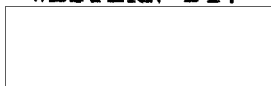
SUBJECT: Mendes-France and the General Labor Confederation

Until last December, French governments had tended to treat the Communist-controlled General Labor Confederation (CGT) as a pariah. Finance Minister Faure's reception of CGT representatives in December along with the representatives of the non-Communist Force Ouvriere (FO) and the Christian Workers Confederation (CFTC) was the first indication of a reversal of this trend and was considered a remarkable departure.

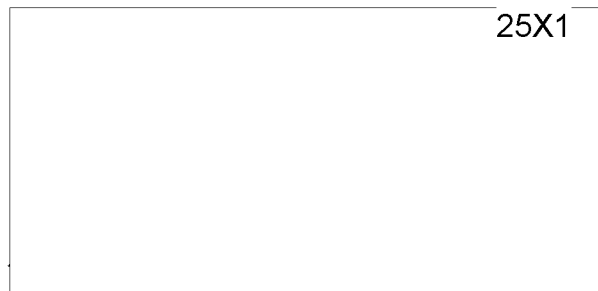
The one notable change in government-labor relations under the Mendes-France regime has been the new cabinet's show of willingness to deal with the CGT. Mendes-France's realistic approach would, in any case, incline him to acknowledge the right of the CGT, which controls over 50% of organized labor in France, to be regarded as a legitimate spokesman for labor on an equal footing with other unions. In recent weeks, CGT delegates have been received as a matter of course by the finance and labor ministers and in the premier's own office. At the end of July, a French friend of an FOA official wrote him that government officials are reported to have stated that "the CGT is behind him (Mendes-France)."

KNIGHT W. McMAHAN
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