

WEEKEND READING FOR THE PRESIDENT

REFER TO DOS

21-22 February 1970

ContentsFRENCH POLICY UNDER POMPIDOU

1. André Fontaine, "Pompidou as Policy Maker: The Art of the Feasible," Le Monde (Weekly Selection), February 11, 1970.

This article from LE MONDE, and the one which follows, may be of interest to you in connection with President Pompidou's visit. They deal with the new style and aims of French policy under Pompidou.

André Fontaine notes that the new French President "has acquired such a taste for foreign affairs that he now prefers it to domestic matters," even though his prior training and expertise lay mainly in the latter. A clearly defined new policy line -- more down-to-earth than his predecessor's -- has already emerged. "National interest" rather than "world mission" receives the emphasis now, and Pompidou's aims are more consonant with France's means.

2. Jacques Fauvet, "French Mediterranean Policy -- A Need for Clarification," Le Monde (Weekly Selection), February 11, 1970.

Jacques Fauvet takes a more critical view of Pompidou's approach, seeing in it the same scandalous assertiveness that characterized deGaulle's foreign policy. The only difference is that the geographical range of Pompidou's action is more localized, limited as it is to the Mediterranean and North Africa. "Libya is Georges Pompidou's 'Free Quebec,'" Fauvet suggests. Some of the features of Pompidou's policy run counter to public and parliamentary feeling, and need to be clearly explained, he concludes. (An attached item from another issue of LE MONDE confirms this, noting that 60% of the respondents in a recent French poll disapproved of the Libyan arms deal.)

3. Michael J. Brenner, "France's New Defense Strategy and the Atlantic Puzzle," Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, November 1969.

An American writer analyzes French defense strategy in the post-deGaulle era, as it was set forth in an article by French Chief of Staff General Michel Fourquet in May 1969. After a strategy review begun under President deGaulle, the French abandoned the idea of a defense posture directed against possible enemies at "all points of the compass." The new French strategy is one of reasonable independence within the framework of common Western preparations for dealing with the potential enemy to the East.

USSR

4. Andrei A. Amalrik, "Will the USSR Survive until 1984?" clandestine publication, Moscow, 1969.
 - a. Summary: ATLAS, February 1970.
 - b. Text: SURVEY: A Journal of Soviet and East European Studies, Autumn 1969.

This essay by a young Soviet intellectual presents an apocalyptic vision of the Soviet state disintegrating into anarchy by 1984. Amalrik foresees an "inevitable" full-scale Sino-Soviet war beginning sometime before 1980, leading to the collapse of the Soviet system before 1985. But the essay is remarkable for its thoughtful analyses of the problems of the Soviet regime at home and abroad, more than for its sensational predictions. Amalrik discusses, for example, the origins and prospects of the dissident movement in the USSR, the mentality of the Soviet bureaucracy and leadership, the ethnic divisions and economic problems of the USSR, the military and political context of the Sino-Soviet conflict, and the diplomatic intricacies of the US-USSR-China triangle.

Enclosed are a published 5-page summary and a complete 32-page text. The summary covers all the main points but does not do justice to the complete essay, which is worth reading.