

Poll of Frenchmen Ranks Johnson Near

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PARIS, May 25—Frenchmen believe that Mao Tse-tung is the greatest threat to world peace among national leaders, but only 2 per cent of them think Mao more dangerous than President Johnson.

This surprising figure re-

sulted from a poll made by the French Institute of Public Opinion, published today in a copyrighted article in France-Soir, the country's most widely read newspaper.

France-Soir attributes it to the fact that the poll was taken at the beginning of May, when escalation in the

Viet-Nam war and the intervention in Santo Domingo convinced French citizens that President Johnson's policy is dangerous.

Five week ago, the same question was put to American newspaper editors. Of 65 voting, 52 considered Mao (and Chou En-lai) the most

dangerous for world peace. The runner-up was Gen. President Sukarno of Indonesia, 3 votes; Breshnev-Kosygin, two; and Ho Chi Minh, one.

In the French poll, announced today, 32 per cent of those questioned put Mao at the top of the list, but an amazing 30 per cent thought

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Mr. Johnson constitutes the greatest danger.

Fifteen per cent of Frenchmen think the Breshnev-Kosygin tandem is the most dangerous, and the same percentage would give the title to Egypt Gamal Abdel Nasser. Fidel Castro and de Gaulle are tied at 3 per cent each,

and Algeria's Ahmed Ben Bella at 2 per cent.

Also attributable to French anxiety about recent American military involvements is the sharp drop the United States has suffered in the number of Frenchmen who want to be allied with the United States.

The poll asked whether

France should place herself on the side of the Soviet Union, on the side of the United States, or on neither.

The scanty 7 per cent who were for the Soviet Union one year ago, when the same question was last put, are still for the Soviet Union today.

But a year ago, 30 per cent of Frenchmen thought their

country should stay on the American side. That percentage has now slumped to 14.

This left 62 per cent of Frenchmen voting for attachment to neither side (as against 51 per cent a year ago), the policy de Gaulle proclaimed during his speaking tour last week. Seventeen per cent did not answer.