

With German Help

Doves Win a Round In Hassle on NATO

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The NATO problem, like Vietnam, has its hawks and doves and the latter have just won an important opening round.

The hawks are those who are so angry with French President de Gaulle that they want to be tough with him. The doves are those who say such an attitude is childish, that France will remain after de Gaulle and the sensible thing to do is to work out the necessary arrangements with him in expectation that France someday will be once again an active partner.

These two points of view, in varying degrees, exist both within the Johnson Administration and among the European allies. In Washington the betting is that President Johnson will end up with the doves though he has yet to render a formal judgement.

The Washington hawks are led by Under Secretary of State George Ball, a dove on Vietnam. His opponents consider Ball something of a spurned lover, considering his long pre-Government work for France and his advocacy of all forms of European unification.

2 Eviction Problems

Since de Gaulle served his eviction notice on NATO the problems he created have focused on two points:

- Should the 14 other NATO nations move their political headquarters out of France, although de Gaulle would like it to remain since he says he is staying in the alliance?

- How much effort should be made to keep the 75,000 French troops and airmen in West Germany?

It is on this latter point that the doves scored yesterday when West Germany

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nounced that these forces will be withdrawn from NATO command on July 1, negotiations to keep them in Germany will have to begin soon. The Bonn visit of the French foreign minister on April 18 may disclose de Gaulle's terms.

The hawks would like to move NATO's political headquarters to London. The military headquarters, which de Gaulle is evicting, are likely to end up in one of the Benelux countries, possibly Luxembourg or Belgium. Some military men argue on grounds of efficiency that both headquarters should be in the same area, as now. Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara is said to take this view.

Some of the hawks want to make de Gaulle pay the eviction costs, de Gaulle has indicated he will not pay.

Hawks on Payment

Both hawks and doves in Washington agree that de Gaulle's eviction notice is based on shaky legal grounds at best. The lawyers say that in such cases the aggrieved party is entitled to costs and Sen. Paul H. Douglas (D-ILL.), a hawk on Vietnam, yesterday said France must be made to pay. In a Senate speech Douglas said that if de Gaulle refuses, the U.S. should act to reduce France's gold claims by the amount of the bill a figure not yet determined.

One legal argument is that if the U.S. does not at least demand payment it is creating precedents that could plague it all over the world.

All these issues fall within the five categories of NATO problems on which the 14 allies agreed Monday. They are: military consequences of withdrawal of French forces from NATO command, opportunities for reorganization and streamlining organization and command, effects of French withdrawal from NATO infrastructure and air defenses, relocation of NATO facilities, and financial implications.

indicated a willingness to come to terms with de Gaulle rather than to pose conditions he would be expected to reject.

The United States is agreeable to having West Germany negotiate bilaterally with France as the agent for the other allies. The question here, however, is whether de Gaulle really wants to keep his forces in Germany and whether he will do so only at a diplomatic price the Germans cannot accept.

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