

De Gaulle's Speech Indicates Wide Rift With LBJ on War

By Waverley Root
Washington Post Foreign Service

PARIS, July 13—"Disagreement has never been so total between de Gaulle and Johnson," a front-page headline in Paris-Pressé says tonight.

This is the conclusion drawn from a comparison between President Johnson's statements on Vietnam last night and what President de Gaulle said on the same subject yesterday on the occasion of the four-day visit to Paris of King Savang Vatthana of Laos.

De Gaulle's remarks take the strongest anti-American position he has yet assumed. His observations are particularly exceptional in character, since visits of crowned heads to Paris are usually characterized by protocol rather than politics.

King Cautious in Replies

The King seemed almost embarrassingly cautious in his replies to de Gaulle—an attitude some attribute to consciousness of America's power and presence in Indo China.

De Gaulle's harshest pronouncement came in the toast he proposed after last night's state dinner at the Elysee Palace. He said, "France condemns this war," and went on to do so in four long paragraphs clearly critical of the United States, by whose action "the Vietnamese populations of the north and of the south are being submitted to a crushing which is daily aggravated and which can have no other results than losses, ruins and accumulated hatreds, while the struggle may expand, crossing other frontiers and taking on a worldwide character."

De Gaulle also said that for negotiations "to be opened and be successful" it would be necessary to implement the terms of the 1954 Geneva ac-

country, which has suffered and is still suffering from the consequences of a war which is not its own."

Opinions are divided here about why de Gaulle is pushing the Vietnam theme so urgently now, despite what had seemed a general French belief that negotiations are not presently possible. The general opinion here is that it is the American escalation in the north that is making peace talks impossible, and that unless the bombings stop there is no prospect of opening them.

De Gaulle's special emissary to Ho Chi Minh, Jean Sainteny returned to Paris this morning. It is understood that Sainteny is convinced that North Vietnam is insisting more strongly than ever on its often-reiterated four conditions for opening talks—one of which is an American undertaking to evacuate.

Another theory is that de Gaulle's urgency is simply a reflection of increasing concern over the mounting intensity of the Vietnam war. He is believed to consider that the white vs. yellow aspect of the conflict is more fundamental than that of democracy vs. communism, and that the end result of American action, even militarily successful action, will be the uniting of all Asia against the Western world, with anti-communism becoming identified with the white race.

French Press Reserved

Meanwhile the French press shows itself reserved about Mr. Johnson's speech, while characterizing it as an appeal to China over the head of Hanoi. If it means that the American President is holding out the olive branch to China, French commentators think, this is a new and hopeful evolution of American policy.

But doubts are cast on its sincerity. "Is it only a pre-election declaration?" Le Monde asks, and Figaro, after Le Monde the second most respected paper in France, writes: "Perhaps, in the last analysis, President Johnson is trying once more to prevent the world from being able to reproach him for not having tried everything before going the limit."

cords: "That is, the effective end of foreign intervention." This sounds as if for the first time de Gaulle is calling on the United States to evacuate South Vietnam as a precondition for peace talks or at least take an engagement to do so—further than he has ever gone before.

Refers to Suffering

In his answering toast, King Savang Vatthana made only a cautious reference to "my