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McCarthy Writing on '68 Race

SAINT-PAUL-DE-VENCE, France, Sept. 21 (AP) — Eugene McCarthy said today he is jotting down notes for a book on the American presidential campaign.

McCarthy, resting in the South of France after his unsuccessful bid for the Democratic presidential nomination, told a news conference he did not expect to see any French political personalities during his stay.

Asked how much a campaign costs to become president, McCarthy answered, "I cannot answer that because I've never been elected. But I can tell you what it costs to be defeated: \$4 million to \$5 million." He said the campaign expenses "have all been taken care of."

McCarthy said he had no plans for fighting the 1972 presidential election.

"This does not mean that I am disenchanted with politics. The Democratic convention went as I thought it would," he said.

"But if Robert Kennedy had not been assassinated, he and I would have been able to control the convention—meaning that Hubert Humphrey would have been nominated on our platform instead of his own.

McCarthy said he was "nearly in agreement" with French President Charles de Gaulle on Vietnam.

De Gaulle has repeatedly called for neutralization of South Vietnam. He came out recently in favor of complete and unconditional cessation of American bombing of North Vietnam.

McCarthy said he knew France well and felt relations were "not as bad as they might appear at first sight."

He said relations would probably be better "if we were a little less abrupt with each other." He said it was certain that the position taken by Secretary of State Dean Rusk on the problem of nuclear weapons cannot be accepted by France.

DATE ONLY HOUR