

# DeGaulle, in Memoir, Sees

By Anatole Shub

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PARIS, Oct. 7—France's greatest master of political mystery and drama has again surprised his countrymen.

At the personal insistence of former President de Gaulle, and without prior warning, some 250,000 copies of the first volume of his memoirs appeared in book stores throughout France this morning—just as de Gaulle's successor, Georges Pompidou, began the first full day of a state visit to the Soviet Union.

Publication had previously been announced for Nov. 20, and the sudden appearance of de Gaulle's book, entitled "Renouveau" (The Renewal)—came as a distinct shock. As late as last evening, one foreign publisher was told that de Gaulle's text could not even be seen until Nov. 20. One of 17 specially bound copies, personally autographed by de Gaulle, was delivered to the Elysee Palace for Pompidou today.

According to publishing sources, de Gaulle himself firmly rejected plans for prepublication serialization or advance distribution in any form, even to book reviewers.

The general is reported to have remarked that he wished Pompidou, particularly, "to send somebody to the bookstore just like everyone else." However, de Gaulle's publishers, the Librairie Plon, claimed today that they had sent a copy to Pompidou before his departure for Russia yesterday morning.

## De Gaulle's Timing

Gen. de Gaulle is also said to have chosen the date for this sudden publication, which achieved twice as much prominence in Paris evening papers as Pompidou's Kremlin talks. De Gaulle is said to have been profoundly irritated by the publication last month of a book called "The Duel" by journalist Philippe Alexandre, which depicts Pompidou as a long-suffering, realistic statesman betrayed by



CHARLES de GAULLE  
... issues memoir

a cantankerous old tyrant, de Gaulle.

One of the striking features of de Gaulle's "Renouveau," which deals with the years 1958-1962, is that it describes Pompidou only as "my collaborator" and "qualified" to become Prime Minister in mid-1962.

This minimal praise, coupled with a retrospective condemnation of Pompidou's August 1969 devaluation of the franc, contrasts sharply with the eulogies accorded to such Gaullists as Michel Debre, Maurice Couve de Murville, Jacques Chaban-Delmas (the current Prime Minister), Andre Malraux and even lapsed Gaullist Jacques Soustelle.

## Kennedy Warning

There is little doubt that "The Renewal" reflects the political concerns of 1970 at least as much as it does the issues of 1958-1962.

Ample space is provided, for example, to warnings de Gaulle claims to have given former President Kennedy against intervention in Indochina, and to former Israeli Premier David Ben Gurion against his alleged plans to expand the Israeli frontiers.

The warning to Mr. Kennedy is said to have been made at their first official meeting, on May 31, 1961.

De Gaulle appears to go out of his way to compliment President Nixon,

whom he met as vice president in April 1959 and whom he said he discerned as "one of those frank and firm personalities on whom one could count in great affairs if one day he were to be called to the first rank."

There are few totally new disclosures in the book, although De Gaulle provides much colorful detail on the fateful Big Four summit meeting of May 1960, canceled after an American U-2 was shot down over Russia, and on previous meetings with Dwight D. Eisenhower, John Foster Dulles, Nikita Khrushchev, Harold Macmillan and Konrad Adenauer.

De Gaulle also says that Dulles offered to sell France atomic bombs as early as 1959; but that he was not willing to buy them so long as conditions were placed on

control of their deployment, or use by NATO.

De Gaulle's alleged warning to President Kennedy is likely to stir considerable controversy. Although Mr. Kennedy's biographers indicate that de Gaulle did indeed issue such a warning early in 1961, the general portrays a president more determined on massive intervention at that early date than American historians have thus far indicated.

"He did not hide from me," De Gaulle writes, "that the United States was preparing to intervene. In Siam, they were setting up air bases . . . In Laos they were introducing military advisers' . . . In South Vietnam, after having pushed for the assumption of dictatorial power by Ngo Dinh Diem and for the departure

# Predictions Borne Out

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of the French advisers, they were beginning to establish, under the pretext of aid, the first elements of an expeditionary corps. John Kennedy made me understand that the matter would develop with a view to establishing in the Indochinese peninsula a breakwater of resistance to the Soviets."

## Endless Entanglement

De Gaulle claims that he replied:

"For you, intervention in this region will be an entanglement without an end. From the moment when na-

tions awaken, no foreign authority, no matter how great its powers, has any chance of imposing itself. . . . Even if you find government leaders who, because of their own interests, agree to obey you, the people themselves will not agree. . . . The more you become involved there against communism, the more the Communists will appear as champions of national independence. . . . I predict that you will proceed step by step to be sucked into a bottomless political and military slough,

despite the losses and the expenditures that you may be able to squander."

De Gaulle also claims that while Mr. Kennedy assured him of American willingness to use nuclear arms rather than see Western Europe fall to the Soviets, the president "could not indicate to me either at what moment, or starting from what line after the invasion, or against what objectives, far or near, strategic or tactical, located inside or outside Russia, the missiles would in fact be fired."

Among those to whom De Gaulle sent specially bound copies of his book were Queen Elizabeth, Pope Paul, Macmillan, Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Khrushchev and the Count of Paris, royalist pretender to the French throne.

Among the philosophical disclosures in the book is De Gaulle's belief, in 1958, that he was endowing France with "the stability and continuity of which it had been deprived for 169 years"—that is, since the revolution of 1789.