

Ball Calls de Gaulle Plan Peril to Europe

By Lewis Gulick

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Under secretary of State George W. Ball accused the de Gaulle government last night of trying to make France a first-class power while keeping other European nations in an inferior role.

Declaring France is too small to achieve President de Gaulle's grand design, Ball at the same time voiced concern that Paris policy may return Europe to the "self-centered nationalism" of past years which could once more lead to world war.

He said the de Gaulle policy would encourage European states to deal on their own with the Soviets, while France's NATO defense pullout will weaken the Western deterrent against Red attack and delay movement towards settling political issues like German reunification.

Ball did not mention de Gaulle by name in a speech prepared for the American Society of International Law but earlier, in speaking to some 700 U.S. newsmen and broadcasters at a State Department foreign policy briefing, U.S. officials made plain they have de Gaulle in mind.

The north Atlantic Treaty Organization is in crisis over de Gaulle's announced intent to quit the integrated military structure on July 1 and oust NATO units from French soil within a year.

Ball pronounced it both a right and an obligation for the United States to voice its views about Europe's future after having given thousands of American lives in Europe in two world wars.

The under secretary described the creation of NATO after World War II as an effort "to remove the underlying causes that had created so many disasters in the past." And he said the chief cause has been "the persistent rivalry among the individual nation-states of Europe."

"The people of Europe were themselves thoroughly tired of wars that sprang from the competing ambitions of nation-states, and so they began to work brilliantly, principally under French leadership, on a whole series of measures" toward European unity, he said.

But a force working against this now is "the decision of

the government of one European nation-state to separate itself from the others and to seek a special position of primacy in Western Europe," he stated, adding:

"Over and above the attack on NATO there is, therefore, grave cause for uneasiness in the resurgence of a self-centered nationalism."