

Favorable Press Provided

Criticism of U.S. Boosts Gaullism

By Waverley Root

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PARIS, July 10—The growing criticism of the United States in the French press, particularly over Vietnam, is taking on an aspect of pro-Gaullism, providing the government with the favorable press it has consistently complained it lacks.

Criticism of American policy turns into support for Gaullism because previously there had been a close correlation between anti-Gaullism and pro-Americanism in the press here.

An easy way to score off the government was to complain that its policies were alienating the world's most powerful nation and France's oldest ally.

Now, such consistent and bitter critics of the government as the rightist *Aurore* and the leftist *Combat* are finding themselves confusingly in agreement on excoriating the United States and thus being obliged grudgingly to concede some merit to President de Gaulle.

Viewed With Alarm

Even the most stalwart friends of the United States like *Le Figaro*, most serious of the morning papers, has been regarding the escalation in Vietnam with alarm. *Figaro* has often been critical of de Gaulle, but now it is tending to reconsider its firmest anti-Gaullist position — disagreement with the manner, and often with the matter, of de Gaulle's semi-secession from NATO.

Figaro is now wondering whether the de Gaulle was not well inspired in taking his distance from an ally who seems in the eyes of many Frenchmen to be blundering deeper and deeper into war.

Raymond Aron, a political-economic writer fundamentally friendly to America, compared the Korean and Vietnamese wars in a front-page *Figaro* article last week.

Aron said Western Euro-

peans are resolutely hostile to the Vietnamese war which "is in any case inhumane and which seems to them to be anachronistic."

He pointed to the contrast when "European states esteemed it a question of honor to

send symbolic detachments" to Korea.

The Washington correspondent of *Figaro* took the lead last week in finding the televised appearance of Presidential aide Walt Rostow on "Face the Nation" distasteful.

Becomes Least Palatable

With that broadcast, Rostow became the least palatable of the hawks in French opinion. His analysis that Peking will probably not react however great the escalation, and that therefore the United States can act with a free hand against the North Vietnamese strikes opinion here as inglorious if correct and dangerous to the peace of the world if not.

The same article in *Figaro* touched gingerly on another thesis that has not yet been much developed here—that the United States is assuming terrible risks for the whole world largely for reasons of internal politics.

Urges Action by Europe

Jean Daniel, the editor of the traditionally anti-Gaullist leftist weekly, *Nouvel Observateur*, has seemed to suggest

that Russia and China should do something to stop the escalation by the United States by threatening retaliation. But he also called upon Europe, under the leadership of France, to make the United States understand that it cannot continue to act with impunity in Vietnam.

Europe should shoulder this task, he wrote, "if we want to help the Americans understand that their President, under the pretext of saving the world from communism, is leading it to oblivion."

Concern about American action in Vietnam also is expressed almost daily in France's most respected paper, *Le Monde*, and the Catholic daily, *La Croix*, which has considerable influence in those elements of the popu-

lation most inclined to be pro-American.

Le Monde has been a consistent critic of U.S. policy at least as far back as the Korean war, and also a fairly constant critic of Gaullism. At present, it is sounding almost Gaullist as U.S. escalation provides it with more effective anti-American ammunition.

In addition to Vietnam, the prompt American expression of disapproval of the French atomic test in the South Pacific helped to unite anti-Gaullists behind de Gaulle in rebuttal to the United States.

Combat called the American statement "bad faith." *Aurore*, which up to now has been strongly opposed to the French atomic force, reminded the United States of its earlier tests in the atmosphere and

said American protests against the French blast "are difficult to admit."