

Reds Vow Cuts If NATO Does

From News Dispatches

PARIS, March 17 — Soviet Ambassador Valerian Zorin said today that any reduction in the strength or "aggressive character" of NATO would probably be matched by a similar reduction in the Warsaw Pact alliance, NATO's Communist bloc counterpart.

Zorin, who spoke at a luncheon of the Diplomatic Press Association here, also

gave what some reporters construed as an indication that Russia would be willing to sign a French-Soviet nonaggression treaty.

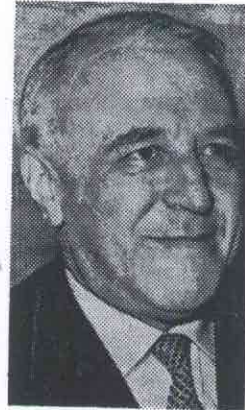
Asked what Soviet reaction would be if President de Gaulle proposed such a treaty during his visit to Moscow this June, Zorin replied:

"Our attitude toward French-Soviet cooperation is well known. We are in favor of the broadest possible development of such cooperation. It goes without saying that we will support anything of this kind acceptable to France."

There have been many reports recently that de Gaulle is contemplating such a treaty, but official French sources are insisting that de Gaulle does not intend to sign anything with the Russians.

Zorin said de Gaulle's forthcoming visit was of "great importance," but Washington Post Correspondent Waverley Root reported that he was cautious about what specific results the Soviet Union hopes or expects from the visit.

Zorin also said that to assure the security of Europe, "normalization" of relations



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VALERIAN ZORIN

... hints of new moves

between all European states—the same word the French are using—should be sought as soon as possible. He said that a coming together of the two Germanys was "necessary," but he did not indicate how this should be accomplished.

Zorin described NATO as an "offensive alliance," and said that the Warsaw Pact was a direct response to it, defensive in character.

Therefore, he said, it would be "normal" for the Warsaw Pact nations to react appropriately if NATO should reduce its "offensive capacity." But he pointed out that all the members of the Pact would have to consult about any changes in its organization.

LBJ, Aides Take Long Look at NATO

By Murrey Marder
Washington Post Staff Writer

President Johnson met with his foreign policy advisers again last night to plan strategy for short and long-range challenges to NATO that have been posed by French President de Gaulle.

Apart from de Gaulle's demands to remove American bases and NATO military headquarters from France, the over-all structure of the defense organization is under study.

Although little has been said about it publicly, within the Administration itself there has been a growing belief that NATO is overdue for modernization.

President Johnson, in addition to examining the problem of de Gaulle's action, reportedly is being urged to consider structural reforms for NATO and, more importantly, a redefinition of long-range American concepts for the Atlantic Alliance.

Germany Is Key

The sharpest concern centers on long-term effects on Germany.

It should not be assumed, sources here said, that the United States will concur in de Gaulle's attempt to keep

French forces in West Germany under war-won occupation rights after pulling the French units out of NATO.

Such an action could jar the postwar structure of Western Europe, whatever technicalities and legalities may be invoked to justify it, these sources said. West Germany already has sounded its intensive opposition to any such step backward to occupation concepts.

Germany is the central unresolved issue in a European settlement of World War II. Although it is forgotten by most Americans, one declared objective of the Brussels Treaty, a predecessor of NATO before West Germany joined the Alliance, was to prevent any "renewal by Germany of a policy of aggression."

It was for that reason that a German national army was authorized only on condition that its control would be "integrated" into NATO. The West Germans now, as well as all their allies, and perhaps France most of all, are anxious to keep West Germany's forces tied in that relationship. The concern is that may upset that delicate relationship.

Another example of the

pressures created by de Gaulle's move was a suggestion dropped in Paris yesterday by Soviet Ambassador Valerian Zorin.

Zorin Suggestion

If de Gaulle could succeed in getting his Allies to reduce the "offensive capacity" of NATO, Zorin suggested, it would be "normal" for the Warsaw Pact to follow suit.

The Warsaw grouping is an Eastern European Communist-bloc version of NATO, established to try to counteract the military and psychological effect of NATO.

President Johnson, whose attention has been concentrated on the Vietnamese war, usually gives only limited, pragmatic study to NATO's immediate problems. But he has given the subject unusual attention in the last two days.

He met at the White House again last night with advisers with whom he conferred for an hour on Wednesday: Secretary of State Dean Rusk; Under Secretary of State George W. Ball; former Secretary of State Dean Acheson, who is serving as a special strategy adviser on NATO; Charles E. Bohlen, Ambassador to

France; Deputy Defense Secretary Cyrus R. Vance and John M. Leddy, Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs.

In the Senate, Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.) said yesterday: "The Atlantic Alliance will endure no matter what de Gaulle does," and "France will be welcomed back as a full partner when the sober second thoughts of her people prevail."

But a subcommittee headed by Jackson also said recently that "the conduct of Atlantic affairs has gotten into a rut, with ritualistic" American reactions to longstanding problems and inadequate United States leadership. Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield, on Monday, said this may be the time "to reappraise the NATO structure."

A broader call for "a clear sense of 'strategic direction'" to revive the admittedly "stagnant" concept of Atlantic partnership, was sounded by J. Robert Schaetzel, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs. In the current edition of Foreign Affairs quarterly, Schaetzel cautioned that "The classical world order of sovereign national states leaves Germany alone once more to seek its own destiny."