

Europe Said to Back De Gaulle-LBJ Talks

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Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho) said yesterday that he had encountered widespread support in France and other NATO countries for a meeting between President Johnson and French President de Gaulle to discuss the problems of the NATO alliance.

Church made the statement

in an interview after returning from a two-week European fact-finding tour for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Church, who saw de Gaulle for 50 minutes on May 3, is the first American to meet with the French President in the last three months. No American Embassy official was present. Church described the meeting as cordial and said that it ranged over a wide number of subjects dealing with U.S.-European relations.

In his tour, Church met with high government officials in London, Bonn, Berlin, Brussels and Geneva, as well as in Paris.

These officials included British Prime Minister Harold Wilson, German Chancellor Ludwig Erhard, French Premier Georges Pompidou, and French Foreign Minister Couve de Murville.

Church, who is Chairman of the International Organizations Subcommittee of the Foreign Relations Committee, is expected to hold public subcommittee hearings on the

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*State Department's over-
occupation with counter-
ing de Gaulle's ploys seen.*
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De Gaulle-Johnson Talks Backed

NATO crisis in late May or early June.

Church cautioned yesterday that the United States "must restrain any inclination it has to wage political guerrilla warfare against President de Gaulle."

Church listed three restraints which he thought should characterize U.S. policy toward France:

"First, we should certainly avoid the temptation to reach over de Gaulle's head to court the French people, which is futile.

"Second, we should reduce our comment and restrain our insult.

"Third, we should recognize that the French do continue to adhere to the underlying alliance even though they propose to withdraw from the integrated military command of NATO."

Church said that he did not find European leaders much concerned about de Gaulle's forthcoming June visit to Moscow. "No one thinks that de Gaulle will bring about a reversal of alliances when he visits Moscow," he said.

Church said that there was general dislike of de Gaulle's abrupt methods in other European countries, but some sympathy for his ideas. He attributed this partly to a "growing European restiveness over what they call the American hegemony over Europe. He said this concern is felt on the economic front. There is a growing apprehension that the European economy is going to be dissolved like a cube of sugar in an American cup of tea."

Church said that he was

asked about Vietnam in all his interviews with European leaders. He said that the question often took the form "What about Vietnam? Is there any way that the war can be stopped?"

Church said that the Europeans are "very concerned" about the Vietnam war, not only because they fear possible European involvement, but also because they think it makes chances for a "detente" in Europe much more difficult by hardening Soviet attitudes. Church added that "The Europeans feel a kind of misgiving about the war itself. It seems to them to be a neo-colonial war. There is much questioning of the American capacity

to deal with situations of this type.

Church said that as a result of his trip he had formed "three general impressions about the consensus of European opinion."

"First, Europeans long for a larger role within the alliance and within the world at large which is commensurate with their new-found affluence.

"Second, the European impression is that the danger of war in Europe is subsiding.

"Third, Europeans feel that opportunities for a widening measure of detente between the two halves of Europe are now taking root and that the task of statesmanship is to exploit them."

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