

Ball Doubts de Gaulle Won Moscow Deal, Senators Told

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Under Secretary of State George W. Ball hopefully peered over the tall head of Charles de Gaulle yesterday to conclude that "reversions to nationalism" are a "localized and transient" phenomenon.

Ball told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee there is no evidence that the French President's recent Moscow trip produced any Soviet-French deal on Europe.

Diplomat Ball blanched when Sen. Bourke B. Hickenlooper (R-Iowa) bluntly suggested that de Gaulle probably tried to work out "a nutcracker relationship" with the Soviet Union, to "put Germany in the middle."

Wouldn't Say That

Said Ball: "I wouldn't put it that way." He said he understood that France and Russia simply stated separate views of Europe.

"A permanent East-West settlement cannot be achieved by fragmenting Europe or by loosening the institutional bonds that tie the West together," said Ball.

It is "unassailable logic," said Ball, that in the present technological age the dominant positions will be held by "states organized on a continent-wide basis." Others, he said, can be at best "only medium powers with a limited capacity to influence world events."

Ball was testifying in the committee's inquiry about the crisis caused for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization by France's withdrawal from the military system, while re-

maintaining in the 15-nation treaty.

The term, "crisis," has grated on the Johnson Administration. It began to exorcise it last weekend. Ball formalized the process. He told the committee, headed by Sen. J. William Fulbright (D-Ark.), that "the NATO crisis"—as it was known in the press—is over."

"The 14 members of NATO other than France," said Ball, "have made a clear decision to continue the organization with full vigor. What remains are largely technical discussions, such as those regarding the removal of American men and material from installations in France and the terms on which French forces may remain in Germany."

Under questioning by Sens. Eugene J. McCarthy (D-Minn.), Frank Church (D-Idaho), Fulbright and others, Ball insisted that the United States had done all possible to try to compromise with de Gaulle in earlier years. "I think it (the split) was in the cards," said Ball.

Questioned About MLF

Ball was questioned closely about the campaign he led to launch the ill-fated multilateral nuclear force (MLF), to give West Germany a voice in control of nuclear weaponry, and the continuing effects of that drive on negotiations to gain Soviet agreement on a treaty to halt the spread of nuclear weapons.

He insisted there never had been American "pressure" to create the MLF: "We never did press it . . . We suggested it . . . We leaned over back-

ward to not to try to impose it on the Europeans," said Ball. But President Johnson, in December, 1964, issued a National Security Council memorandum that he "leaked" to the press, to disclose that he ordered an abrupt end to hard-sell tactics for MLF.

Ball was pressed to concede that the MLF is "dead," as former Presidential adviser McGeorge Bundy told the Committee last month.