

Nixon and Pompidou Fail To Resolve Major Issues

NYTimes

By R. W. APPLE Jr. JUN 1 1973

Special to The New York Times

REYKJAVIK, Iceland, May 31—The United States and France failed today to narrow significantly the questions that divide them, but their Presidents agreed to a new series of negotiations by subordinates. Meeting for the first time in a year and a half, President Nixon and President Pompidou conferred twice for a total of almost five hours at Reykjavik's Kjarval Art Gallery.

Their talks, according to spokesmen, were carried out "in a useful and constructive spirit." But the only substantive agreement produced by the conversations between the two old allies, which will end tomorrow morning, was one to keep talking—hardly a surprise.

Broad Issues Unresolved

Left unresolved for the moment were such broad issues as the desirability of a new Atlantic charter or a declaration of common principles, and the feasibility of a European summit meeting during Mr. Nixon's European tour this fall, as well as myriad more technical questions of trade, agricultural and monetary policy.

Henry A. Kissinger, speaking for Mr. Nixon, and Denis Baudoin, speaking for Mr. Pompidou, briefed newsmen in similar terms after the meetings. They announced jointly that new contacts would begin next in Paris at a meeting between Mr. Kissinger, the White House adviser on national security, and Michel Jobert, France's Foreign Minister.

Both said that meetings on

Continued on Page 4, Column 3

Continued From Page 1, Col. 6

the level of deputy foreign minister might take place if enough progress was made in the French-United States talks and in economic negotiations along with other nations that are just beginning. And both spoke of working toward "common objectives."

But there were important, if subtle, divergencies.

Mr. Kissinger said, for example, that the deputy foreign ministers might want to evaluate progress in the French-United States talks and in the multinational negotiations "for possible incorporation in a declaration of principles." Mr. Baudoin omitted use of that phrase.

The United States is committed to placing European-American relations in a broad context. Mr. Kissinger stated that goal in an April 23 speech in New York, calling for a new Atlantic charter. Later, he said a declaration of principles would suffice.

But France prefers to deal with individual problems at once, and Mr. Baudoin's omission thus seemed significant.

Mr. Kissinger said that the two Presidents agreed "that our interests are identical and that the only difference between our two nations concerns how we can best achieve common objectives." Mr. Baudoin, emphasizing the French preoccupation with specifics, said that "the search for effective solutions is the best way to serve the interests" of the two.

In their formal toasts tonight at a state dinner given the visiting Presidents by President Kristjan Eldjan of Iceland, Mr. Pompidou emphasized "European unity." However, both Mr. Nixon and Mr. Pompidou spoke of the importance of French-American relationships.

Disagree on Timing

Finally, the two nations seemed to disagree with the potential timing of a European summit meeting. Asked whether one could be held in October or November during Mr. Nixon's tour of Europe, as the Americans had hoped, Mr. Kissinger replied:

"I think there is a possibility, but I wouldn't want to tie ourselves to it."

French officials, on the other hand, said that they saw no possibility for an early meeting which could involve as many as 15 nations.

The struggle between the two modes of procedure — the general vs. the specific — was foreseen before Mr. Nixon left Washington. It continued through late last night, when Mr. Kissinger and Foreign Minister Jobert held a meeting to set an agenda.

On Mr. Nixon's plane yesterday, American officials said that the French were coming around to the American view. Subsequently, a French official ridiculed the comment, remarking that "the Americans are standing Pat obstinately."

A Controversial Atmosphere

The Kissinger-Jobert talk ensued, but even afterward, another member of the French delegation termed the American officials' assessment "gratuitous." Thus the Presidential conferences began in an atmosphere of some controversy.

Nonetheless, Mr. Kissinger said "The two Presidents talked in a spirit of allies and of men

who have been meeting for a long time." Both sides apparently yielded a bit, although Mr. Nixon gained no concessions large enough to distract domestic attention from the Watergate case.

In fact, Mr. Kissinger conceded, after having referred several times to progress here, that it would be necessary to wait some months to determine whether "the basic objectives will emerge identical or different."

"We have never said that we know now what the common objective was," he added. "We have said there is a need to attempt to define it and establish a method of examining it. That I believe we made some progress toward."

Mr. Kissinger went to some lengths, as he has in other briefings, to put European fears of Americanation to rest. He insisted that "we are not going to hand them an American blueprint."

2,500 March in Protest

While the two Presidents were conferring, more than 2,500 Icelanders marched around the grassy square on which the museum is located. Somber, silent, they caused no

disruption and never came within 300 yards of the museum.

But the group, which included elements of four of this island nation's five political parties, including the three in the governing coalition, carried red banners protesting Mr. Nixon's presence here, American bombing in Cambodia, the American air base at Keflavik and the intrusion by British trawlers into what Iceland considers her fishing waters.

Others among the protesters held aloft cardboard telephones marked "Watergate" and flags of the Vietcong, the Pathet Lao and China.

Tomorrow's meeting, after which Mr. Nixon will fly back to Washington, will deal with some of the concrete questions on which the French want to focus — monetary reform, including the question of the convertibility of currency into gold, trade and agricultural problems.

Preliminary discussion of these topics began today. On the particular touchy monetary question, Mr. Kissinger said "The French President emphatically made his case and President Nixon agreed that we would study them most attentively and with a helpful attitude."