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U.S. TOLD FRANCE TO SETTLE WITH HO

In '47, It Bid Paris Satisfy
Desires of Vietnamese
NYTimes

WASHINGTON, June 24—(Reuters)—The United States told France 25 years ago that she should be most generous in her attempts to settle the war against Ho Chi Minh and the Vietminh forces in Indochina or she might play into the hands of the Communists in Southeast Asia, according to State Department documents released this week.

The then Secretary of State, George C. Marshall, also said the United States—still to play its leading role in Vietnam—had no solution of its own and would not attempt to intervene in the situation, in which France was fighting to retain her hold on her Indochina colony.

The advice was contained in a message from the Secretary of State to the United States Embassy in Paris for relaying to the French Government. It was part of a 1,159-page volume of classified documents detailing American foreign policy in the Far East in 1947, released here.

Secretary Marshall warned that France should not try to restore Emperor Bao Dai as ruler of Vietnam or install a puppet government.

No U. S. Solution

"While we are still ready and willing to do anything we can which might be considered helpful," Mr. Marshall said in a message to the United States Embassy in May, 1947, "the French will understand that we are not trying to come forward with any solution of our own or to intervene in the situation."

"However," he said, "they will also understand we are inescapably concerned with the situation in the Far East generally, upon which developments in Indochina are likely to have a profound effect."

The Western democratic system was on the defensive in almost all emerging nations in Southeast Asia, Secretary Marshall said, and many of the countries were vulnerable to attacks by ultranationalist or Communist demagogues.

Vietnam 'a Rallying Cry'

"The Vietnam cause is proving a rallying cry for all anti-Western forces and is playing into the hands of the Communists in all areas," he said. "We fear continuation of the conflict may jeopardize the position of all Western democratic powers in southern Asia and lead to the very eventualities of which we are most apprehensive."

"We are confident the French are fully aware of the dangers inherent in the situation and therefore venture to express the renewed hope they will be most generous in an attempt to find an early solution, which, by recognizing the legitimate desires of the Vietnamese, will restore peace and deprive antidemocratic forces of a powerful weapon."

Mr. Marshall said the State Department was concerned "lest French efforts to find a 'truly representative Vietnam' with whom to negotiate will result in the creation of an impotent puppet government along the lines of the Cochinchina regime, or that the restoration of Bao Dai may be attempted, implying that the democracies are reduced to resorting to monarchies as a weapon against Communism."

Bao Dai, Emperor of the former French protectorate of Annam from 1925 to 1945, abdicated in the face of the Vietminh uprising after World War II, and served as head of state from 1949 until 1955, when he left Indochina and moved to the south of France to live.