

FILE / SUBJ.
DATE / SUB-CAT.
8/66

De Gaulle Planning New Peace Appeal

WP-8/12/66

From News Dispatches

French President de Gaulle is planning a Vietnam peace initiative when he visits Cambodia this fall and is seeking Cambodian cooperation, government sources said yesterday in Paris.

The sources said that de Gaulle would launch his effort at a mass meeting scheduled for Aug. 31 in Phnom Penh, which he will be attending with Cambodian chief of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk. The essence of his move will be to appeal to Peking and Hanoi to join in peace talks and to ask the United States to make several major concessions, Harold King of Reuters reported.

The government sources were quoted as saying that de Gaulle would begin his appeal to Hanoi and Peking by stressing the real danger to all mankind of a third world war. Then he would tell North Vietnam and China that it was their duty to join in a roundtable conference to guarantee the neutrality of North and South Vietnam in return for U.S. concessions.

The concessions were envisioned:

- And end to bombardments of North Vietnam.
- A freeze on reinforcements for U.S. troops in South Vietnam.
- Recognition of the Vietcong leaders as parties to peace talks on Vietnam.
- An undertaking to evacuate U.S. forces from South Vietnam as soon as peace is re-established.

However, King reported that there was little hope in official quarters in Paris that Washington would accept de Gaulle's proposal.

There has been speculation that de Gaulle also hoped to confer with North Vietnamese President Ho Chi Minh in Hanoi during his Cambodia visit, which is scheduled to last from Aug. 30 to Sept. 3.

But United Press International reported from the French capital that reliable sources said Peking had sabotaged efforts by Poland and Rumania to bring the two leaders together.

Meanwhile, in Phnom Penh, United Press International quoted Sihanouk as saying that the forthcoming visit of U.S. roving Ambassador W. Averell Harriman would be made "very difficult" by the U.S. State Department.

Sihanouk was apparently angered by the State Department's statement that it would inquire into the alleged bombing of a Cambodian village by U.S. planes, instead of apologizing, expressing regrets or even staying silent.

The Cambodian said that Harriman could come to his country, but that the American announcement "lacked tact." He said the State Department could obtain all information on the raid from the International Control Commission, some of whose members witnessed the alleged attack, or from the Australian Embassy in Phnom Penh, which represents American interests in the absence of U.S.-Cambodian relations.

In Tokyo, Richard Halloran of The Washington Post reported that a Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman denied at a news conference that the U.S. officials in Saigon had asked the Japanese Embassy in Cambodia to check on reports of 28,000 Chinese guerrillas there.

Miss Kay Boyle, of the private American group "Americans Want to Know," made the allegation in Tokyo on returning from a 12-day visit to Cambodia.