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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

Date: May 6, 1957
Time: Noon
Place: Hotel Matignon, Paris
(Prime Minister's Office)

Participants:

United States

Secretary Dulles
Ambassador Houghton
Assistant Secretary C. Burke Elbrick
Mr. Charles W. Yost
Mr. William R. Tyler

France

G. Mollet
C. Pinson
L. Jone
J. Lalcy
P. Scaillean
P. De Beaumarchais

Copies to: S/S, G, W, EBR, U/IRA, S/AE, ERA, Embassy Paris (2), Embassy Cairo, Embassy Bonn.

After the usual opening, the Secretary opened the conversation by saying that the Mutual Security appropriation was being considered by Congress and that the US Government was encountering some difficulties. He said that there was a strong feeling in Congress in favor of making economies and that the President was personally making considerable efforts in support of the appropriations request. The Prime Minister asked whether Europe would be affected much by any cuts that would be made by Congress. The Secretary said that Europe would be affected to a certain extent, in the field of new weapons for NATO. He went on to describe the new organization of the Foreign Aid Program which was to be divided more sharply between the strictly defense and the economic development aspects. The Prime Minister returned to the subject of the effect on Europe of any cuts, and asked specifically whether these might bring about a change in the strength of US forces in Europe. The Secretary said that the latter would not necessarily be affected since they were financed by the regular Defense Budget. At this point the Secretary told the Prime Minister that he had already stated at the NATO meeting that the US Government adhered to the position it had taken in December 1956 and

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there was no intention at this time to make any significant reduction in US military strength in Europe. He said there would be some streamlining of US divisions everywhere in the world (some reduction of support elements), not exclusively in Europe.

There followed a brief discussion of the achievements of the recent NATO meeting in Bonn and it was agreed on both sides that it had been a good meeting.

Mr. Pineau then raised the subject of integrated nuclear equipment for NATO. He stressed the importance of this in the French view and said that it would be particularly effective as a reply to Soviet propaganda. Mr. Pineau recalled that he had raised this subject at the NATO meeting. The Secretary answered that he was aware of the French view. He thought that it was an interesting idea which should be studied carefully and that it might be possible that we should be able to do something. The Prime Minister stressed the importance of nuclear weapons for Germany. The Secretary said he had had a long talk with Chancellor Adenauer before leaving Bonn. He added that the subject of nuclear equipment is very complicated and that Mr. Adenauer himself was not sufficiently familiar with this field to be able to reply to the Soviet notes on the subject. The Secretary said the question of nuclear weapons was of great importance with regard to the forthcoming German elections, to which the Prime Minister replied that it was more than a political problem, for if Germany were to refuse equipment with atomic weapons, this would have an extremely adverse effect on the whole Western defense picture. The Secretary commented on the rapid current evolution of nuclear weapons, which is moving so fast that it renders the problem even more difficult. He said that formerly atomic weapons were capable only of being produced in such a way as to make a "big bang". Now, he said, smaller weapons were being developed which were susceptible of tactical utilization and were "clean" in the sense of minimizing radio-active fallout. These smaller weapons would be developed and this meant that one could look forward to the day when the present popular revulsion against the idea of huge nuclear weapons will yield to an acceptance of the protection which smaller and cleaner weapons would afford against a potential aggressor. The Prime Minister said that the smaller the weapons the more necessary it was that they should be readily located for use in Europe rather than being kept far away. He said that this was the basic change in the situation. He went on to define the three principles bearing on the problem of nuclear weapons with regard to Europe:

- a) The necessity of maintaining US troops, not merely as troops but as human beings, in Europe;
- b) The impossibility of relying exclusively on nuclear weapons for the defense of Europe;
- c) The necessity of having nuclear weapons available in Europe itself.

Mr. Pineau added briefly that it was necessary not only to have nuclear weapons but the training required to utilize them.

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The Secretary asked the Prime Minister how things were going in Algeria. The Prime Minister said that from a military standpoint things were improving but that the real issue, which is the political aspect, was not progressing as well. He said that the rebel leaders had not taken up the French Government offer for a cease-fire and were waiting for various reasons: for another session of the UN, or for a change of Government in France, or for some similar event. The Prime Minister said he thought that this negative approach was due largely to the following factors:

- a) The National Liberation Front was divided within itself;
- b) The rebels do not feel that it is in their interests to accept a cease-fire, although it undoubtedly is in the interest of the civilian population;
- c) The majority of the Algerian fighters are very young men, who preferred continuing to fight to looking for industrial jobs in metropolitan France. He added that for them the prospects of a democratic and viable society in Algeria held little practical attraction.

The Prime Minister went on to say the only thing the French Government could do was to persevere in its present course of action. He said that in the last few months over 1500 new municipalities had been created, and that while there had been some obstacles, on the whole, things were moving forward more smoothly in this respect. He said that progress was not being made in territorial and provincial organization. He said that in general it was very difficult to find Moslems who had real political authority and were in a position of carrying out in fact any commitments they might be willing to accept.

The Secretary recalled that in a speech earlier this year, the Prime Minister had said that the French Government would hold elections in Algeria. Mr. Pineau commented that elections would be held only after a cease-fire had taken place. The Prime Minister said that it would be possible as of now to hold municipal and even territorial elections, but that he had not taken a decision to hold them, because it would be claimed that any elections held now were not free but had been held under the threat of the French Army. He said that it was the intention of the French Government that elections should eventually be held in the presence of observers from various democratic countries.

The Secretary commented that there was another difficult problem: that of Cyprus, which had some similarities with that of Algeria. Both the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister seemed reluctant to agree that the resemblances were anything more than superficial.

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