

## Report from Paris by P. O. E.

### A glance through postwar archives

*The late Gen. Charles de Gaulle had some harsh words for the U.S. and European "de-couplers" of 1951.*

**O**n a recent trip to the city of Nimes, I was tipped off by a charitable soul that this city, famous for its Roman ruins and bull-fighting, was the stage from which the late Gen. Charles de Gaulle made an important speech against decoupling Europe and the United States.

Remember 1951? The war was raging in Korea. Tensions were very sharp in Europe, and people were concerned about how to defend the Old Continent. On Dec. 19, 1950, upon a request from the ministers of the Atlantic Alliance, U.S. Gen. Dwight Eisenhower was nominated Supreme Allied Commander in Europe; "Ike" arrived in France on Jan. 7. Here are excerpts of what de Gaulle said:

"The fight which is raging in Korea and in Tonkin has finally awakened the world. Peoples are distinguishing, while still rubbing their eyes, that the curtains are open onto the harsh light of danger. In Washington as in Paris, in Rome as in London, in Bonn as in Madrid, this slumber at the brink, this deliberate illusion, this forced indifference in which we have been plunged for so long because we were afraid of seeing things clearly, all this, we must quit. . . . The concessions that we had lavishly offered, in the hope that they would soften [the enemy], appear for what they are, i.e., absurd and ruinous. One discovers now that our only opportunities are strength and firmness. . . .

"In truth, it is high time, on this shore of the Atlantic Ocean as well as on the other, that we stop dancing the

ballet of hesitations. After so many council meetings, conferences, committees, plans, studies, releases, it is time that common action be really built and prepared. . . . On the side of freedom, there are different responsibilities upon which the future depends and on the basis of which nations and the world must be explained. In this grave hour, surrounded by the anxious masses of French people gathered here, I wish to explain what they are and how they are shared between the United States, Europe and France.

"Responsibilities? Americans! It is on you that, for the time being, most of them rest. As a nation, you are intact. As a power, no other has the means that you have. As a state, you are still standing, because the circumstances have kept you, as yet, away from the disasters which destroy institutions. On the grand table of history, where the merits and the mistakes of each people are written, you have now the case number one. This is a very heavy privilege. . . . Upon what you are going to do in the drama in which we all are involved, your destiny rests, as well as that of the rest of the world.

"*Americans! Do defend Europe! Europe needs you. You need Europe.* . . . Europe being what it is, its salvation is the condition for yours. . . . Letting the Soviet system engulf French, Germanic, Latin, and Scandinavian soils, even after having burnt them, would be to give [the Soviets] an incalculable reinforcement. . . .

"No! The side of freedom can-

not—under no circumstances and at no price—lose what it still has in Europe. This is a priority. . . . The masters of the Kremlin, through trapping in Asia as much as possible of the Western Forces and through demanding loud and often what they call the demilitarization of Germany, want to get the United States to decouple from Europe. . . .

"Let the United States, let Europe, and let France do their duty."

So much for those liberal Eastern Establishment liars who tried to describe Charles de Gaulle as a "communist," the same charge that U.S. Gen. Gorman and Henry Kissinger recently made about the government of Mexico.

Attracted by the clarity of those statements, I decided, back in Paris, to have a further look at de Gaulle's intervention into that period of history. Here is how he stresses the same point again on Feb. 25, 1951, in the city of Bourges:

"In front of the Soviets, the solidarity of the New and the Old Worlds is the law of salvation for one as well as for the other. I beseech the Americans to entertain no illusions. If Europe were to be lost, whatever is still free in Asia would also be lost. Africa would soon be indefensible. And then, what would the United States become, cut off from the rest of the Universe, in the middle of a continent shaken by deep unrest?

"No, if Free Europe were attacked, American forces should massively intervene immediately. And, when I say Free Europe, I mean all of it. . . . Of course such a policy cannot be left to America alone. The nations of Europe must also supply a vast effort, and we want them to do it."

It is quite clear that de Gaulle would not have permitted Kissinger to rant about decoupling in *Time* magazine without reacting.