

Recommendations

It is recommended that in view of the President's forthcoming trip to Europe, during which Algeria will be discussed, you avoid any substantive discussion of the Algerian problem, and that you comment along the following lines.

1. The views of the Arab representatives will be taken into account, within the context of US policy towards Algeria, which was reiterated as recently as last month: i.e. the US has long made known its deep concern over prolongation of the Algerian war, attaches high importance to the need for a peaceful, democratic and just solution and has always hoped France itself will be able to work out such a solution.

2. With regard to the UNGA debate on Algeria (if this is raised by the Arab representatives), the United States will be guided, in determining its position, by its desire to support any action which would tend to assist in achievement of a just solution, and to oppose any action which might pose obstacles to such a solution.³

³ A memorandum of Herter's conversation with the Arab Chiefs of Mission is in Department of State, Central Files, 7515 00/8-2559, a copy of the memorandum they left with him is in the Eisenhower Library, White House Office Files, Project "Clean Up." Herter informed Alphand the Ambassadors had left a memorandum of their position and asked for more active US participation in the Algerian situation, but had not mentioned the FLN. Herter had reiterated the US position on Algeria and said he hoped the French would develop a solution. (Memorandum of conversation, Department of State, Central Files, 7515 00/8-2559)

299. Editorial Note

On September 16, President de Gaulle gave a speech outlining French policy on Algeria. The address, which was televised in France and the French North Africa departments, proposed that Algeria's inhabitants determine its future in an election held no more than 4 years after the region was pacified. For text, see *American Foreign Policy: Current Documents, 1959*, pages 1096-1099. At Secretary Herter's Staff Meeting September 16, Assistant Secretary Satterthwaite "expressed the hope that the President would not make public comment too soon regarding de Gaulle's statement." When Herter noted a recommendation must be prepared for Eisenhower's press conference the following day, Assistant Secretary Merchant suggested it be "no comment." Satterthwaite agreed. (Record of the Secretary of State's Staff Meeting; Department of State, Secretary's Staff Meetings: Lot 61 D 75)