
Recommendation

That you call in Ambassador Alphand at your fairly early convenience and speak along the above lines to him.²

² Merchant initialed his approval on February 11. The source text also bears Merchant's handwritten notation: "But the time element makes it impossible to do myself before departure on leave. See my memo to S/S EIM 2/11/60." His February 11 memorandum to Calhoun endorsed Kohler's and Satterthwaite's suggestion and recommended that Herter or Dillon speak with Alphand (*Ibid.*). Herter suggested to Alphand on February 16 that the United States contact the UN through Tunisia or Morocco to suggest it begin negotiations with France. Alphand stated he doubted the Tunisian-Moroccan channels would be useful, but agreed to forward Herter's inquiry to Paris. (Memorandum of conversation, *ibid.*, 75IS 00/2-1660) On March 11, Alphand informed Herter France would be happy to receive U.S. assistance, publicly or indirectly, toward an Algerian settlement. Herter replied the United States would avoid details and would merely state the UN should enter into negotiations on the basis of de Gaulle's September 16 proposals. (Telegram 3821 to Paris, *ibid.*, 75IS 00/3-1160)

309. Editorial Note

On April 21, the African Chiefs of Mission met at their request with Under Secretary Dillon. President de Gaulle was scheduled to arrive in Washington on a State visit the following day, and the Chiefs of Mission wished to discuss their concerns about Algeria and French nuclear testing in the Sahara. They gave Dillon a memorandum expressing their positions and requesting that the President use his good offices with the French "with a view to achieving a peaceful and speedy solution, based on the principle of genuine self-determination, to the Algerian conflict." (Memorandum of conversation, Department of State, Secretary's Memoranda of Conversation, Lot 64 D 199)

Presidents Eisenhower and de Gaulle met on April 22, 24, 25, and 26. During their first conversation, at which only he, De Gaulle, and the U.S. and French interpreters were present, Eisenhower led into a short but substantive discussion of Algeria by mentioning the African aide-mémoire. The President introduced the topic again on April 25, when it was considered briefly by the two Presidents and their parties. Memoranda of these conversations are scheduled for publication in volume VII.

De Gaulle left Washington on April 26 for New York, San Francisco, and New Orleans, and left the United States on April 29. On April 27, Eisenhower was asked at a press conference if he and President de Gaulle had discussed Algeria. The President confirmed that they had and noted that de Gaulle had confirmed the French policy of