

Spotlight



Percentage the Only Question

French to Vote on Accords Sunday

By JOSEPH E. DYNAN
Of the Associated Press

PARIS—Centuries of colonial history will be written off Sunday as French voters approve Gen. Charles de Gaulle's accords with the Algerian Nationalists.

The accords provide for Algeria's independence this year. France will furnish large-scale economic aid in return for guarantees to Algeria's European minority plus an equal share of Sahara oil.

President De Gaulle, riding a new crest of public confidence and popularity, has asked for a massive "yes" to confirm the agreements.

The only question is what the percentage will be. It may run as much as 80-90 per cent. The average Frenchman

seems not much concerned at how the accords will work out. He is not expected to strike a heroic pose at the ballot box as he turns his back on 130 years, covering Algerian colonization and that area's later incorporation into the French state. He'll be in too much of a hurry to get to the movies or to go for a drive in the country.

Waiting impatiently in line at the polls, he may have time for a sigh of relief at—so he feels—the final settlement of a long and anguishing problem.

De Gaulle's firm hand, he feels, has clamped the lid on activity of the Secret Army Organization in France itself.

There are still occasional plastic bombings, but far fewer than several months ago. If the word "plastiquer" has

joined the French vocabulary it is used these days mostly as a joke.

In Algeria, the deadly earnest leaders of the Secret Army who oppose letting the Arabs and Berbers have Algeria may cast themselves as shining knights of France. In France itself the average citizen is simply glad for the prospect of peace and glad to get rid of Algeria.

He and his family now are thinking of an Easter outing, and making plans for their summer vacation. Le Figaro carries more than a page of travel advertisements, vaunting the rival claims of Italy, Portugal, Bavaria and Greece.

"In Corsica, it never rains in summer," boasts one.

Every day there is a long line waiting to see the U.S. movie "West Side Story," a

hit here. Other crowds are flocking to see the French film, "Le Bateau d'Emile," or Rock Hudson and Doris Day in "Un Pyjama Pour Deux," French title for "Lover Come Back."

The Sunday traffic jams are proverbial, and one newspaper complains that France is 40 years behind Germany in roads. Some people feel that with Algeria out of the way, the government will find money for roads, housing, schools and parks.

This being a weekend in the spring, the autoroute de l'ouest which leads to Deauville or Charters will be bumper-to-bumper while the referendum votes are being tallied. The major police headache will not be plastic bombs, but how to control traffic and keep the accident toll down.

Will US Create Void for Reds in Africa?

By HAROLD K. MILKS
Of the Associated Press

MADRID—As Spain sees it, a dangerous vacuum is developing in North Africa because of the withdrawal of French and U.S. forces.

The French are getting ready to leave Algeria. Within 20 months the United States is to pull out of Moroccan bases set up for the Strategic Air Command.

Spanish military experts, and some American officials as well, believe these withdrawals will mean that hostile elements may move in.

"Let the Russians or other pro-Communist elements move into this vital area and both Spain and the NATO organization have been effectively flanked," said one Spanish official.

Spain can do nothing about the approaching French withdrawal from Algeria. It seems to hope the United States will renegotiate its expiring base agreement with Morocco's King Hassan II.

The installations at Sidi Slimane, Nouasseur and Ben Guerir in Morocco are manned with nuclear bombs.

President Roosevelt agreed with King Mohammed V, who died in 1961, that the U.S. Air Force would abandon Moroccan bases by the end of 1963.

The bases were built under a crash program in the 50s at a cost of around half a billion dollars.

Spanish air experts argue that the Moroccan government can never operate these bases. They say the result could be

that the Moroccans would call in some other foreign nations to help them.

There seems no doubt the Soviet Union aims to be active in North Africa. Soviet Premier Khrushchev rushed to recognize the provisional Algerian government, without waiting for the plebiscite to ratify the French-Algerian agreement.

The tiny Moroccan air force flies MIG 17 jet fighters, approximately a match for the U.S.-supplied F86 sabre-jets of the Spanish air force. The Soviet minister of defense has just concluded an official visit to Morocco.

The United States has bases in Spain, and one question concerns the need for bases in Morocco.

Aviation experts here answer this by drawing a series of circles on a map with the hub in the Soviet Union.

"Notice that the SAC bases in Spain are all within range of intermediate ballistic missiles from the Soviet Union," they say. "The SAC bases in Morocco are outside the 'intermediate' circles and would require expenditure of precious intercontinental missiles in event of war."

U.S. Air Force officials here decline to talk for publication about the schedule for giving up the bases. Privately some say they hope Washington will raise the question of renegotiation with King Hassan.

They suggest the possibility of a jointly operated series of bases such as those maintained in Spain. Others visualize conversion of one major base—probably Nouasseur—into an international airport.

In Greece

Princess' Dowry Stirs Communists

By EUGENE LEVIN
Of the Associated Press

ATHENS—Pretty, blue-eyed Princess Sophie will be married May 14 to the crown prince who some day may rule Spain, Don Juan Carlos.

In the midst of the preparations, the Greek royal family is coming under more public criticism than at any time since King Paul assumed the throne 15 years ago.

The king is a constitutional monarch theoretically above politics but opponents of Premier Constantine Caramanlis attack the crown along with the government.

Caramanlis, a handsome, shrewd, 55-year-old politician, has been premier six years. He has guided Greece toward economic recovery and his rightist party, the National Radical Union, easily won elections last October.

The two big opposition parties—the anti-Communist Center Union, led by George Papandreu, and the pro-Communist Pame—charged coercion was used to give Caramanlis his victory.

The attack on royalty has taken other forms, not sparing the bride-to-be, King Paul's 23-year-old daughter.

Caramanlis wanted a \$300,000 dowry. Parliament, with the premier's party holding a big majority of seats, approved.

The Communist-oriented PAME said Greece was too poor to provide such a dowry. Although 1961 was a record economic year, the average wage of a Greek working man remained low, less than \$60 a month.

Unemployment continued high—100,000 to 200,000 unemployed and 500,000 underemployed in a country with fewer than nine million inhabitants.

There was no sign the royal family would turn down Sophie's \$300,000. In Greek villages a girl without a dowry is likely to remain without a husband, and the royal family has recognized this fact of Greek life.

One of its charities is "dowry savings deposit books" for the poor. The royal family opens a savings account for a little girl, making the initial deposit of \$5 to \$10. After that it's up to the parents to add the rest.

Different From Korea

War in Viet Nam A Fits, Starts One

By MALCOM W. BROWN
Of the Associated Press

SAIGON, Viet Nam—The General who guides U.S. military policy in the bloodied jungles of Viet Nam says the chances are against open intervention by Red Powers in this nation's war against the Communists of the north.

Gen Paul D. Harkins, who assumed command of U.S. forces here in February, finds the Vietnamese forces have been doing a fine job since they went over to the initiative, "and I predict you're going to see some fine results."

Harkins' ticklish job is more like that of a corporation executive than of a field marshal. The four-star West Pointer has 5,000 U.S. servicemen to command but no combat units to direct, no battles to engineer. He sees that U.S. support and advice flow smoothly to Vietnamese forces doing the actual fighting against strong, hit-and-run Communist guerrillas from the Viet Cong organization of Red-ruled North Viet Nam.

"This is not the same kind of war as Korea," Harkins said. "The Vietnamese are doing the fighting and doing a fine job. The training they're giving their armed forces is some of the finest I've ever seen."

Harkins, 58, served with the late Gen. George S. Patton Jr. in World War II, and was chief of staff of the 8th Army in the Korean conflict.

"I wouldn't even guess how long this fight is going to take," Harkins said. "I've only got half a crystal ball."

What are the immediate military prospects?

"Judging from the reports I've seen, I don't think the Viet Cong is changing its tactics to meet the offensive against it. The Viet Cong is coming out in larger forces—200 or 300 at a time sometimes—but every time they do, they're being beaten. I think the fighting here is going to stay at about the same level."

"Of course, this war goes in fits and starts. Every year fighting increases during the dry season and then subsides in the rainy season."

The general waved his cigar at the map.

"Government operations are going on in each of the three corps areas of the country. The most heavily infiltrated area is the southern third. But there are big operations in the north, too. Vietnamese troops are sweeping westward across the mountainous parts of the north, toward the Laotian frontier."

The general said he believes Communist infiltration is continuing but that open intervention by North Viet Nam, Red China or the Soviet Union is unlikely.

If an attack should come, could Vietnamese and U.S. forces handle it?

"That's a question you could go into at any length," Harkins replied. "It would depend on where the attack came from, the kind of attack and so forth."

The Boston-born soldier understands that the Russians still are airlifting supplies on a large scale to Tchepone, a Red-controlled Laotian town 20 miles west of the South Viet Nam frontier.

Although Harkins commands U.S. Army helicopter companies flying direct support missions in which Vietnamese troops are airlifted into battle, his organization remains largely advisory. U.S. advisors are assigned to help command levels throughout the Vietnamese army, as low as battalions.

U.S. servicemen are under orders to shoot at the Viet Cong only if fired on, but they have been involved in many fire fights since the military assistance buildup began last December. U.S. Air Force pilots often fly fighters and bombers on combat missions in which Vietnamese pilots are being trained. So far, American casualties have been negligible.

A former polo player, Harkins has little time.

"I play a little golf sometimes, but my handicap is me. The ambassador (Frederick E. Nolting Jr.) and I play about the same."

Trouble Ahead

Neutralism Didn't Work In Ecuador

By THOMAS J. STONE
Of the Associated Press

QUITO, Ecuador — Smuggled arms stamped with the Russian star were moving in from Ecuador's Pacific beaches for use by trouble-makers.

Known Communists of poor hinterland communities pulled parish priests and teachers by flashing money around. Some even quit their jobs though they had no other visible means of support.

Czechoslovakia's Quito legation was turning over to the Ecuadorian Communist Party the profits from sales of trucks and other iron curtain products.

Funds, propaganda leaflets and instructions apparently were pouring into Ecuador from the Communist operational base in Havana via Cuban embassy diplomatic pouches.

All this, investigators say, lies behind last week's rupture of relations between Ecuador and Communist nations.

Ecuadorian military authorities concluded that the Communists were campaigning at the grass roots level to win this troubled Andean nation of four million people.

Taking steps to blunt the campaign, the military forced President Carlos Julio Arosemena to break relations with Cuba and two Iron Curtain countries.

Arosemena acted reluctantly. He had wanted his country to be friends with everybody, Red or not, but discovered it didn't work.

After he became President last November he said "We Ecuadorians are with the United States but we are also with the Soviet Union. We are with Cuba, but we are also with the Vatican because we are a free and sovereign nation."

The military moved in and made its strength felt — just as military forces have done in recent months in Argentina and Brazil.

One of Ecuador's keenest political minds summed it up this way:

"Obviously Ecuador is better now that it has broken with Cuba and the two Iron Curtain countries. But President Arosemena is left in a bad position."

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