Washington Digest

Personalities Still Affect Relationships of Nations

Strain Between FDR and De Gaulle Complicates Postwar Understanding Between Two Great Powers.



By BAUKHAGE

tific organization, the Smithsonian in-stitution, discussed the possibility of a relationship between sun spots and a relationship between sun spots and wars. It was carefully explained that sun spots, which are really great explosions on the sun's surface, affected the weather on the earth and frequently bad weather in turn affected the dispositions of human beings and might conceivably render national leaders less amenable to reason and more likely to set their countries into trouble. ly to get their countries into trouble.

At first glance that seems rather far-fetched but the fact that a clash of personalities can affect the course of nations today, al-most as much as it did when people fought at the whim of a king, has been

brought out striking-ly in Franco-Amerian relations. There isn't much question that the common interests of



Reosevelt France and the United States would be better served if oe better served if one Franklin Roose-velt could "get along" better with one Charles De Gaulle.

Of course, it is only fair to say that there are others who don't "get along" with the tall, handsome and aristocratic French gen-eral. It is no secret

Stalin, although he arranged a highly advantageous treaty with France including some even more advantageous private understanding with De Gaulle, had no desire to invite him to Valte.

wite him to Yalta.

But the Roosevelt-De Gaulle differences seem to be recurrent and just when everybody thought, after the latter's visit to Washington when he latter's visit to Washington when he was understood to have given his colleagues in France the impression that the visit was highly satisfactory to him, came the answer "I regret" to Roosevelt's "respondezvous, s'il vous plais" and the meeting on the President's cruiser off Algiers did not take place.

Etiquette Poses Difficult Problem

Difficult Problem

In diplomatic circles it has been carefully explained that De Gaulle could not accept an invitation from a peregrinating president to call upon him in French territory, which it was explained was a sort of "come down and have a picnic with me in your backyard, I'm too busy to call on you in your parlor."

To which American diplomatic circles explained: it wasn't an invitation to De Gaulle to come to Algiers, which is French territory, but an invitation to call on the President aboard a U. S. warship, which is American territory.

two of the leading French newspa-pers (one conservative and one communist) insisting that De Gaulle was right and the apologists for Roosevelt explaining that the Presi-dent could not undertake what prob-ably would have amounted to a visit of state and a triumphal tour of France, when he had a war to win. It was also recalled that one thing Mr. Roosevelt prides himself to win. It was also recalled that one thing Mr. Roosevelt prides himself on avoiding is making the mistakes Wilson did. Wilson received a wild ovation in France and Italy BE-FORE the peace conference, and suffered the results of a most painful reaction afterward.

How great a part Roosevelt's failure to pay a visit to De Gaulle in Paris played in motivating the general's refusal, or, if it were the chief cause, how much was personal pique on the part of De Gaulle and how much a feeling that his nation had been slighted, it is impossible

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Washington, D. C.
Some years ago that highly scientific organization, the Smithsonian institution, discussed the possibility of a relationship between sun spots and American relations the moment it became clear that France was not invited to participate in the counsels of the Big Three. It was not expected that the role her armies are able to play would make her eligible to join-the military councils at Yalta but the French were ardently desirous of having a place at the general negotiations which made up the second part of the parleys. General De Gaulle was in no mood, when he received the President's invitation, to brook what he considered a further slight.

It was clear, on the other hand,

It was clear, on the other hand, that the President felt he had sound, practical reasons for omitting any visit to Paris before the San Francisco meeting. He also felt there cisco meeting. He also felt there were sound, practical reasons for a conversation with De Gaulle. He said there were a number of points that had to be cleared up which required French action before the United Nations meeting could be held. Indeed, I imagine, he felt that he was showing especial regard to France when he offered to review the accomplishments at Yalta personally for De Gaulle. sonally for De Gaulle.

FDR Comments

On Prima Donnas

That is supposed to account for the extemporaneous remarks he in-serted in his report to congress about "prima donnas."

Those remarks, which were uni-

versally interpreted as applying to De Gaulle, came as a distinct shock and immediately afterward Senator Brewster publicly labeled them "in-

I was following the text of the offi-cial release in the house radio gal-lery as the President spoke and had noted the many departures which he tossed off as familiar asides and which helped to give his talk the intimate note he desired. talk the intimate note he desired. But I was startled at what he said following the text as it dealt with an agreement with Yugoslavia. He read the sentence, "We hope that it is in the process of fulfillment" and then he looked up and with just a touch of what verged on sarcasm in his voice, remarked "But it is not only that, but in some other places we have to remember there are a great number of prima donnas in great number of prima donnas in the world, all who wish to be heard. Before anything will be done, we may have a little delay, while we

may have a little delay, while we listen to more prima donnas."

That startled me as I said but I must say I did not at first think he could mean De Gaulle. That seemed impossible. However, as others mentioned it, I began to take it for granted, for I knew that until the procedure of voting as agreed upon at Yalta was approved by France the agreement could not be announced. There were other things upon which France had to be consulted in advance of the meeting, as well.

dent aboard a U. S. warship, which is American territory.

Peut-stre, was the reply, but the chief of a great power, indeed an empire, cannot be expected to be treated any better than the rulers of such minor domains as Arabia, Egypt or Ethiopia, royal-blooded though they be. (Roosevelt entertained the gentlemen earlier.)

There the discussion bogged down in mutual chagrin with all but two of the leading French newspapers (one conservative and one slavia.

alavia.

That, of course, is a good alibi. And it is necessary that there be an alibi for I am convinced that had there been even unofficial admission that the President was hitting at De Gaulle a really difficult situation would arise. It is known that although many people consider the general what the French call "difficile," the French do not call De Gaulle that and his friends and admirers are warm in their loyalty and would instantly resent any unfavorable comment on his conduct.

No serious difficulties are expected to arise between the United

BARBS . . . by Bankhage

slavia.

A farmer in Indiana swapped a two-year-old horse for 15 cartons of cigarettes. Apparently he would rather burn up the carpet than the

The Germans have a new rocket that looks like a stove-pipe. Well, they have thrown up everything else but the kitchen sink and the aponge—the latter is overdue.

Ceiling prices on strawberries will be the same as last year. Which means, we hope, that short cake will be no shorter.

One of the causes of increase in illness among workers is described as due to mental strain of new workers who haven't been employed for a long time. Work has always been the curse of the leisure classes.

First Marine Flat Top Fliers



The first marine carrier-based squadron looks over a chart planning the attacks on Formosa and Okinawa Jima, in which they participated. Lt. Col. William A. Millington of Seattle, squadron commander, points to the target area. He was the first to draw Japanese blood of this crew, when he shot down an enemy plane during the attack which followed.

Filipino Children in Huddle



These Filipino children huddle in the debris of war left in the wake of the American and Nip fighting, and are shown bleeding and ill from lack of food and shelter. They were cared for by the liberating Yanks, after the Japanese garrisons in the city had been wiped out. All children showed lack of proper nourishment.

Red Cross Saved Another Life



Wounded by a Jap bomb hit on a navy carrier, a navy officer is given a transfusion on the deck of the warship by fellow officers, somewhere in the Pacific. On-the-spot transfusions, such as this one, have saved the lives of countless servicemen in this war. The collection of this blood is only one of the many ways in which the Red Cross is serving.

Allies Agree-Never Again!



U. S. 9th army signalmen repair wires while standing under a sign painted by Germans as part of a propaganda program in Echt, Holland. Translation: "1918? Never Again." The Allies have pledged themselves to this slogan—that never again will a peace be made that will permit Germany to conduct another world war.

Watch on the Rhine



A 9th army combat infantryman, the 1945 version of Germany's his-toric anthem. The wreeked Dusseldorf bridge acts as lookout station. Soon after this picture was taken the G.I. and his unit moved forward into German territory with advanc-

Mountain Trooper



Army mountain trooper keeps in trim on passage overseas. He goes aloft in practice to keep sharp for altitudinous action up the cliffs and peaks on European battle fronts, Agility from long training in session of "Rappelling" is shown.

Led Marine Heroes



Maj. Gen. Graves B. Erskine, commander of the 3rd marine divi-sion, shown outside his quarters while directing his division's part in the capture of Iwo Jima. His unit has been making history in the Pacific, as one of the hero divisions of the

Giant Blimp Wins



Martin Levy, 640-pound "Big about for Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis' job as dean of baseball. Congressman Cochran of Missouri says: "If baseball gets Irey, they won the baseball gets Irey, they won

President Roosevelt got back from his notable achievements at Yalta to find serious problems awaiting him at home, particularly on the labor front. Some of his advisers felt, however, that these problems, especially the coal crisis, could have been averted by beginning to prepare for it earlier and by appointing a new secretary of labor.

The President left for Yalta al-

a new secretary of labor.

The President left for Yalta almost immediately after his inauguration. And, up until a day or two before his inauguration, he had not made up his mind what to do about appointing a new secretary of labor. In the end, he did nothing and Miss Perkins continued, despite her very firm desire to resign. very firm desire to resign.

Meanwhile, various moves could have been made to head off the coal crisis. One of them, discussed in the background but never brought forward, is an annual wage for minbe able to work all the year around, especially in peace times when they have been laid off for about one-third of the time, they might forego wage increases now. wage increases now.

Another move, proposed back-stage, was to appoint coal mine representatives on local OPA boards to make sure the cost of living did not go up, or if so, under circum-stances they understood.

But the most important move was to have appointed a new secretary of labor, with a new, fresh outlook, untarnished prestige, who could have tackled the job firsthand, and, if necessary, gone out to the mining areas to meet with the miners them-

selves.

No one is looking for this thankless job. But senate colleagues say the one man who could do it, if willing, would be forthright, fair-minded Senator Harley Kilgore, who comes from the great coal state of West Virginia, is known and trusted by labor but also would not hesitate labor but also would not hesitate to oppose labor when it is wrong.

FARM BLOC FUNCTIONS

Sometimes the congressional farm bloc feels its oats to such an extent that it demonstrates its power just for the fun of it. That was what happened when the house passed the Flannagan resolution - which does nothing more than say that congress considers a law it passed two years earlier still should be observed. This law is the Tydings amendment to the Selective Service act which provides for the deferment of farm workers.

The house spent several hours trying to decide whether it should pass the new resolution, even though pass the new resolution, even though everyone knew it would go through. Hard-hitting congressmen like Ed Izac of California, Gene Worley of Texas, and Ewing Thomason of Texas pointed out that all the resolution did was remind the nation that 340,-000 men from 18 to 25—the age group the army wants most for fight-ing—are being denied the army.

El Paso's Thomason declared his support for the Tydings amendment, but said he saw no reason to pass turther legislation on the subject. San Diego's Izac, a wounded and decorated lieutenant commander in the last war, came out against the Tydings amendment.

"If we turn this resolution down, maybe the senate will have back-bone enough to throw out all legislation that interferes with the winning of the war," Izac continued. "The 340,000 boys on the farm are no more precious to their fathers and mothers than are the other boys who have been taken away and are now serving in the army and the navy.'

however, the house passed the resolution by a voice vote, but not before the author of the resolution, John Flannagan of Virginia, was called upon to define ginia, was called upon to define what be meant by an "agricul-tural occupation." Republican Congressman Clason of Spring-field, Mass., was afraid the words might be interpreted as referring only to men growing or handling crops. Flannagan assured him it included also poultry farmers and livestock farmers.

CAPITAL CHAFF

Col. Harry Vaughan, now military aide to Vice President, was formerly his secretary. Vaughan is now virtually back on the office staff—in uniform

¶ There are about 375 baseball players in the American league, of which 130 are 4-Fs. Baseball moguls say: "If the 4-Fs are barred from base-ball, the game will have to be played by old men."

 Quoth Senator Tom Connally of Texas during prolonged hearings on the Mexican waterways treaty:
"The flood of oratory in this com-mittee room is as hard to control as the notorious floods of the Colorado

¶ Not as many people know about Elmer Irey as know of J. Edgar Hoover, but Irey is being talked about for Judge Kenesaw Mountain

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wasts to secumulate. For truly many
people feed tired, weak and miserable
when the kidneys fall to remove excess
acids and other wasts matter from the
blood.
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rheumatic pains, headaches, dizzioem,
getting up nights, leg pains, swelling,
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the kidneys or bladder.
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treatment is wiser than neglect. Use
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