

De Gaulle Gives France Peace, Stable Economy

By DAVID MASON
 PARIS (AP) — "Under direction of General de Gaulle, the Fifth Republic has given France peace, a stable economy, its place in the world—and this while assuring the prosperity of Frenchmen and social progress."
 So goes the preface to a 36-page booklet published recently to tell the French they never had it so good and to tell the world to sit up and take notice of France.
 The booklet deals with France

largely attributed to de Gaulle himself. Through a combination of well-studied but often surprising moves, de Gaulle has succeeded in neutralizing most of his opposition at home and making the world swallow a lot of Gallic medicine.
ANGERS ALLIES
 He has angered and baffled his closest allies with many unilateral acts conducted with an almost disdainful attitude that he knows what's best, and that history will be on his side. Gaullists, basking in a sort of euphoria, argue that everyone eventually will understand. But some Gaullists themselves have trouble explaining what the haughty brigadier-general is up to.
 His allies grumble and fume, but in no major instance have they taken measures which have succeeded in putting de Gaulle back into the limits one might imply from France's pop-

ulation (48,000,000) and size (some 212,000 square miles). What is life like in de Gaulle's France?
 The government booklet treats the question alphabetically and starts with a surface impression, listed under "affaires culturelles." Most of the French capital's history-rich monuments and buildings have been scribbled over decades of grime. The sprawling city shines. Thousands of men have been employed to scour and sand blast the giant Louvre museum, de Gaulle's Elysee Palace, and hundreds of ordinary apartment and business buildings.
 But in some of these gleaming buildings, bath tubs and central heating units are rare and families are crowded into dark, inadequate quarters.
SHORT OF HOUSING
 Some estimates say the big

city housing crisis will not be solved for 20 years, although the government claims France is building 1,000 homes a day. France is at work and the country is booming by most every statistical yardstick which can be applied.
 Unemployed workers receiving government assistance dropped from 42,000 in 1959 to 19,000 in 1963.
 But nearly full employment and the business boom have brought with them inflation, cutting the real value of the worker's pay-check and recently sending him out on strike. The government launched a serious effort to "stabilize" the economy last September and has been pressing down hard since to keep the lid on.
 France's gross national product—the value of goods and services produced—has grown more than 5.1 per cent a year

since 1958, government statistics show. For the period 1959 to 1963, the GNP grew more than 20 per cent—one of the greatest growths in Europe and greater than that of the United States.
 Much of this prosperity can be attributed to the development of the six-country European Common Market—signed, sealed and started toward implementation well before de Gaulle returned to power. De Gaulle, however, has insisted that the customs union move on as scheduled from industrial spheres to agriculture—holding over his partners a threat of scuttling the whole Common Market if they don't go along.
FARMERS DISEMPLOYED
 Agriculture is one of de Gaulle's big headaches and the "peasants" have been showing their displeasure. Farmers in Brittany have let piles of articles go unmarketed because of

high prices. Blocked roads with their tractors, marched on city halls and clashed with riot police.
 France's schools are inadequate for the soaring population. University crowding has brought angry students streaming into the streets to demonstrate.
 De Gaulle's rejection of a multilateral nuclear defence in a sample of his attitude toward the West's major military alliance, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. De Gaulle gives NATO lip service, as being desirable, but that's about as far as he goes. He has erased most of his fleet from NATO planning charts, has refused close integration of his air force and has refused to let the United States stockpile nuclear weapons on his soil unless he can have a direct say in how they will be used.
 De Gaulle ordained a year

ago that Britain was not prepared to become a Communist member—a hotly controversial decision that many thought was more political than practical. De Gaulle clearly did not want the British on the continent but is insisting on preserving for French leadership.
 France, he believes, must assure for itself and for Europe an independent third-force role, standing between the Soviet Union and what he almost scornfully refers to as the "Anglo-Saxons." How can one be sure, he says, that the United States will again come to Europe's help in another war, particularly if it would mean Soviet missile retaliation on the United States?
 Meanwhile, in another pair of moves which stirred a much wrath in the United States, de Gaulle called for neutrality of Southeast Asia, and then recognized Communist China.
 De Gaulle at the same time

is preparing to spread France's "rayonnement" (radiance) to Latin America, and he plans a series of official visits there this year to underscore this effort.
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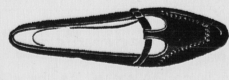
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