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**Statement by Rep. Gerald R. Ford (R-Mich)
on Republican fact-finding mission to France**

June 21, 1965

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Republican fact-finding mission on NATO has returned from a busy schedule of conferences in Paris. The purpose was to study the Atlantic Alliance and to probe what appeared to be a deepening rift between France and the United States.

The mission received an enthusiastic and warm welcome by French leaders.

A full report and specific recommendations will be made to the Republican Conference at an early date, but it is obvious this mission has already made a significant contribution.

Toward the end of the 8-day period several notable developments occurred in U.S.-French relations.

President Johnson suddenly dispatched Vice President Humphrey to France where he praised France and met with President deGaulle.

The French government made a number of friendly gestures toward the United States. The government announced prepayment of \$178 million in World War II debt, 10 years ahead of schedule, and both Foreign Minister Couve de Murville and President de Gaulle expressed warmth toward this country in personal statements.

I am delighted to see that President Johnson is now apparently moving in a direction long advocated by Republicans. The Republican Task Force on NATO last April 20 urged President Johnson himself to go to Europe at the earliest possible date to visit deGaulle. I still hope he will do so.

Republicans are gratified by these developments and hope the President will now give priority to the difficult and urgent problems of the Atlantic Alliance.

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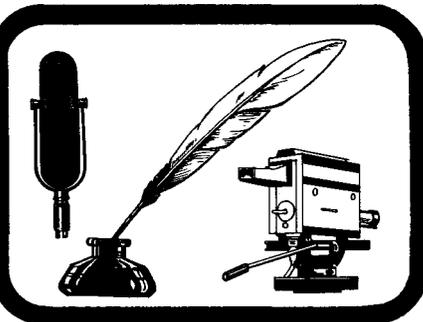
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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

FOR RELEASE UPON RECEIPT

APRIL 1, 1966

STATEMENT BY HOUSE MINORITY LEADER GERALD R. FORD, R-MICHIGAN

No "April-Fooling" about it--it has now become more and more urgent that Democrats in Congress join Republicans in looking for places to cut the President's \$112.8 billion budget instead of trying to inflate it.

The reason is that French President Charles deGaulle has announced he wants all allied commands and installations out of his country by April 1, 1967. France just announced it will not pay one penny toward the cost of removing the U. S. and other allied NATO bases from French soil, and I don't think there is any way we can force France to assume any of that tremendous expense.

Estimated cost of the move-out runs as high as \$2.5 billion, according to news dispatches from Paris where deGaulle and his cabinet yesterday met on the question for 2½ hours. The cabinet firmly rejected a demand by us and our NATO allies that France pay for removing the NATO bases.

It has been impossible for me to learn the extent to which our 13 NATO allies apart from France will share in the cost of base removal; but since most of the installations are ours, we know the U. S. will pay most of the bill. A good guess is that our share will exceed \$1 billion.

This will create an unanticipated and heavy drain on U. S. defense funds in fiscal 1967 at a time when we are pouring billions of dollars into Vietnam with no end in sight.

This is something that has received little attention, eclipsed as it is by the Vietnam war and by the problem of inflation here at home. It is an added reason why Congress should cut spending as a move to halt inflation and avoid a tax increase.

There is no question that the reorganizing of NATO's supply lines in Europe will require heavy military expenditures by the U. S. I personally am most concerned and feel this is another reason for Congress to cut back non-military spending.