

We are conscious of the contribution which France can make toward the reconstruction and development of Indo-China. We also have sympathy for the legitimate aspirations of the Annamese Nationalists for self-government. For these reasons we approve the efforts made by the French Government to achieve a settlement of the difficulties in the March 8th agreement. We have insufficient information to permit us to comment on the details of the agreement and realize that its implementation will require continuing understanding statesmanship on both sides. We hope, however, that the conclusion of this agreement will result in the progressive resolution of the difficulties in Indo-China so that Viet Nam and the other states of Indo-China, in cooperation with France, may play their full part in the development of the Pacific area.

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*Note du chef par intérim, direction des États-Unis et de l'Extrême-Orient*

*Memorandum by Acting Head, American and Far Eastern Division*

[Ottawa], October 18, 1949

*Memorandum for File*

The French Ambassador Monsieur Hubert Guérin called on the Under-Secretary on the afternoon of October 17 to receive our Note No. 124 dated October 10 regarding Indo-China.† Mr. Menzies was in attendance.

After handing Monsieur Guérin the Note, Mr. Heeney spoke along the lines of the oral communication that had been approved by the Minister. He emphasized that we had insufficient direct information concerning the existing situation in Indo-China to permit us to reach any conclusions as to the suitability of the details of the agreements to meet the requirements of the situation. He also emphasized that the situation in Indo-China seemed to us to be a developing one which would require continuing statesmanship on both sides to see to its full implementation.

Mr. Heeney drew attention to a paragraph in Section 2 of President Auriol's letter of March 8 in which the Government of the French Republic pledged itself to present and to support the candidacy of Viet Nam when the latter fulfils the general conditions defined by the Charter of the United Nations for admission to that organization. Mr. Heeney said that if we were to apply the normal criteria which we had been applying in other cases concerning the fulfilment of conditions defined in the Charter for admission of new members, he doubted if we could give support at this time to an application by Viet Nam for United Nations membership. Mr. Heeney said that he thought it would be advisable for the French to consult very fully with other friendly governments before advancing such an application in the United Nations, as a rebuff there by friendly powers would do a great deal of harm. Monsieur Guérin recognized the validity of Mr. Heeney's observations and said that it was for this reason that the paragraph regarding French support for Viet Nam's membership in the United Nations had been worded loosely.

In concluding the conversation, M. Guérin thanked Mr. Heeney for this expression of understanding on the part of the Canadian Government of what the French