

Following is French text deGaulle letter to President Johnson:
March 7, 1966

Dear Mr. President:

In three years, our Atlantic Alliance will complete its first term. I wish to tell you that France appreciates the extent to which the solidarity of defense thus established among 15 free Western nations helps ensure their security, and, especially, what an essential role the United States of America plays in this respect. Therefore, France now expects to remain, when the time comes, a party to the treaty signed at Washington on April 4, 1949. This means that, unless events in the course of the next three years should change the fundamental elements of the relations between East and West, she would be, in 1969 and later, determined, just as today, to fight beside her allies if one of them should suffer unprovoked aggression.

However, France considers that the changes that have occurred, or are in the process of occurring, since 1949, in Europe, Asia, and elsewhere, as well as the evolution of her own situation and her own forces, no longer justify, in so far as she is concerned, the arrangements of a military nature made after the conclusion of the Alliance, either jointly in the form of multilateral agreements, or by special agreements between the French Government and the American Government.

*Original to Museum for
Lanning, 6/12/12*

That is why France intends to recover, in her territory, the full exercise of her sovereignty, now impaired by the permanent presence of Allied military elements or by the habitual use being made of its air space, to terminate her participation in the "integrated" commands, and no longer to place forces at the disposal of NATO. It goes without saying that, in order to implement these decisions, she is prepared to make arrangements with the Allied Governments, and in particular with the Government of the United States, regarding the practical measures that concern them. Furthermore, she is prepared to reach agreement with them regarding the military facilities to be accorded on a mutual basis in the event of a conflict in which she would join battle at their side, and regarding the conditions governing the cooperation between her forces and theirs in the event of joint action, especially in Germany.

And, so, Mr. President, my Government will get in touch with yours regarding all these points. However, in order to act in the spirit of friendly candor that should inspire the relations between our two countries, and, allow me to add, between you and me, I have sought, first of all, to let you know, personally, for what reasons, to what end, and within what limits France believes that she must, for her part, change

the form of our alliance without altering its substance.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of my very high consideration and my most cordial sentiments.