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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
2 June 1968

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs
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INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

98-87
1036

FRANCE

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs
(C)

1. Conditions in Paris on 1 June were fast returning to normal. Gasoline was readily available, radio programs seemed to be drifting back to usual schedules, and there was almost no evidence of the Armed Forces in the city.

2. Strasbourg University was under siege from 3,000 pro-Gaullists last night in a battle of songs, flags, sticks and stones. Left-wing students occupying the university held the attackers off as police stood impassively by.

3. Some militants, including Jean-Pierre Vigier, are trying to form a "revolutionary movement" to coordinate the groups professing to follow the revolutionary trend. The militants call for action committees to take up where the leaders of the workers' movement left off. Vigier was expelled from the French Communist Party recently for openly opposing its decisions.

4. Cohn-Bendit, speaking before 4-5,000 students at the Sorbonne, called for resistance to capitalism by all means. He asked strikers and students to prevent the reopening of factories and schools as long as their demands are not met and called for action committees in every factory, university and village to keep the mass movement of student and worker protest alive. He also denounced the Communists, "all organizations that will enable elections to take place in an orderly way," and the US and British governments, which he accused of supporting De Gaulle.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: OCT 1998

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2. According to a statement by Minister of Information Guena, the new cabinet at its meeting on 1 June decided to honor the engagements stemming from the agreement of 27 May with the unions; noted the need for measures "so that what has been achieved on the social plane will not be consumed in the fire of inflation"; and set its next meeting for Wednesday, 5 June. The minister of agriculture has approved a draft decree concerning a guaranteed minimum wage in agriculture.

3. Leaders of the French Communist Party and the Federation of the Left have announced their agreement to campaign separately for the first round of elections on 23 June and then join forces for the second round on 30 June. This is the arrangement the two groups used to good advantage in the parliamentary elections of March 1967.

4. [REDACTED] a meeting of Gaullist parliamentary leaders reacted favorably to President Johnson's expression of concern for the French situation and the group has decided to work for an improvement in France's relations with the US.

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EO 12958 3.4(b)(6)-25Yrs

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