

SECRET

EGIA-264

Chief, EE

19 August 1957

Chief, CACROZE

Info: COS
WE
POB

Operational/CALL/Liaison

RNMELLATE and Francois PONCET

W. Gen. Gant.

REF: EGIA-254

1. According to RNMELLATE the Poncet family is one of their closest family friends. The relations between Francois and RNMELLATE have been extremely close and intimate.

2. Although Poncet officially is out of public politics, according to RNMELLATE the extent of his influence on French government circles cannot be overstated, particularly in the foreign policy field of the government. In fact RNMELLATE remarked he would not be surprised if Poncet became the next President of France notwithstanding that as far as RNMELLATE knows, Poncet is still barred from appearing on the floor of Parliament (in view of his involvement with the prominent Nazis and the NSDAP; his children's activities with the Hitler Youth Movement; and his close friendship with Goebbels).

3. Reportedly Poncet is well known and popular as the President of the French Red Cross. RNMELLATE stated he considered Poncet's paper on Petain, written upon the occasion of the latter's death when Poncet took the vacant seat in the Society of the Immortals, as a brilliant piece of work.

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