Mrs. Eaton Reports From Paris

Did Woodrow Wilson Help Ho?

(Mrs. Cyrus Eaton Sr. is accompanying her husband on his current tour of Europe, visiting national leaders both in the West and behind the Iron Curtain. She is writing her observations exclusively for The Plain Dealer.)

By ANNE EATON

PARIS—The story here is about Woodrow Wilson and Ho Chi Minh in Paris, 1919.

Wilson was tying up loose ends of the First World War and Ho, a student, asked him if his principle of self-determination of nations was for everyone or just white Europeans. When Wilson said everyone, Ho went home to Viet Nam and has been self-determining ever since.

"He got rid of us," says a highly placed Frenchman, "and he'll get rid of you. You'll forgive me for pointing out that it's all Wilson's fault."

There's a certain amount of Gallic glee over U.S. repetition of France's Viet Nam experience, which mixes well with a low-grade anti-Americanism (suppressed at the Ritz) and De Gaulle's open hostility to U.S. policy in Viet Nam and Santo Domingo.

IT'S ALMOST as though Paris, with her beautiful face washed, well fed and prosperous, has recovered her savoir faire and is viewing the world with traditional sophistication. Absinthe doesn't make the heart grow fonder. Neither does full employment, steadily mounting gold and currency reserves and a growth rate of 5% this year.

Seven years ago we were here when the referendum reinstated De Gaulle and avoided war. (Our ambassador asked Mr. Eaton to take a message to President Eisenhower, since he himself couldn't get past a fourth secretary in the State Department). De Gaulle has apparently done the incredible with a country that insists on a choice of 174 different kinds of cheese: he has achieved a consensus.

Even newer than concensus, prosperity and scrubbing behind gargyole ears is the rapprochement with Moscow. Soviets. (So is his price for German reunification: an agreement on the Oder-Neisse Line and no nuclear weapons.)

The general evidently finds the Soviet-American conflict over U.S. policy in Viet Nam and Santo Domingo a nice change from the increasingly friendly Soviet-American relations that culminated in the test-ban treaty of 1963. There's no question that De-Gaulle wants "American hegemony" in Europe smashed to make way for his grand continental design, and looks down his remarkably suitable nose at a "country that believes the whole world is its responsibility."

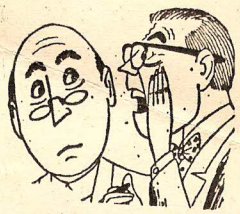
Because of France's relations with China, the U.S.S.R., the United States and Bonn, today's world probably is represented more realistically in Paris than in any other capital.

Another feeling expressed here is that eventually the United States will appreciate De Gaulle's way-breaking.

"He NOT ONLY can see what he looks at," says one official, "he can see beyond. That is a great and rare gift in the leader of a nation. Sooner or later you must deal with China. De Gaulle will have made it easier for you."

Meantime Paris is more beautiful than ever (even the inside courtyard of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is cream color), flags are flying, the chestnuts are in bloom, and 1945 is an honored and poignant memory.

a Tip-off service for married men



T.S.—Tell us the date of her birthday or anniversary and we'll promise to tip you off in plenty of time!

Russell *the FLORIST on Shaker Square*

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Gromyko has been to Paris to talk about Europe, i.e., Germany, as well as Viet Nam, more trade and the United Nations, and the charming Soviet ambassador, Vinogradov, whose wife raised magnificent black and red roses, has been replaced by our old friend Valerian Zorin, a higher official.

The Zorins came to tea with us, fresh from welcoming a Soviet military delegation here to help Paris celebrate the 20th anniversary of the end of the war. American and British were invited, too, but only the Soviets came. According to La Nation, 25 French pilots of the old Escadrille Normandie-Niemen who were on the Russian front from '43 to '45 have received decorations from the Soviet government.

IN A WAY, rapprochement is a natural. De Gaulle's independence, his stalling of a nuclear force for NATO, his opposition to American leadership, are appealing to the