

De Gaulle on Vietnam: 'No Military Solution'

On Sept. 1, 1966, President Charles de Gaulle delivered a speech in Phnom Penh, addressed to Prince Norodom Sihanouk, in which he praised Cambodia for remaining neutral in the conflict that was then emerging between Vietnam and the United States, and warning that a military solution would not be possible. He said:

“France considers that the fighting that is ravaging Indochina, by and of itself, offers no end. In France’s view, if it is unthinkable that the American war apparatus will be annihilated on the spot, there is, on the other hand, no chance that the peoples of Asia will subject themselves to the law of the foreigner who comes from the other shores of the Pacific, whatever his intentions, however powerful his weapons.



De Gaulle in Phnom Penh, September 1966.

“In short, as long and cruel as the ordeal must be, France holds for certain that it will have no military solution. . . .”

The [speech](#), in French, is posted online.