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*General's Last Battle  
The Official Position of the Yugoslav Authorities towards Charles de Gaulle  
and the 1969 Referendum Crisis in France*

*Summary*

After the end of student riots in May and the narrowly won parliamentary elections in June 1968, the president of the republic, General Charles de Gaulle decided to call a referendum on the restructuring of the Senate and the transformation of the départements whose hidden purpose was to ensure further popular support of his then policy. A small majority of French voters said „No“, which forced the proud general to completely withdraw from public life. Fierce political fighting followed and Georges Pompidou was elected president in the second round of the elections. He promised to continue a somewhat modified policy of de Gaulle. Caught off guard, at first, by de Gaulle's departure from political life, the Yugoslav authorities soon concluded that the chances of the French left to come to power were slim because of its lack of unity. That is why Belgrade assumed a neutral position with regard to these developments, having made a correct assessment that Pompidou was the likeliest winner of the elections. As he proved more cooperative than his predecessor, the end of the referendum crisis brought the Yugoslav authorities a new hope that the relatively static relations with France could improve sometime in the foreseeable future.