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# U.S. Urged End to Viet War—in '47

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States told France 25 years ago the Vietnam war was playing into Communist hands and urged Paris to be "most generous" in seeking an early solution.

This was disclosed Tuesday when the State Department removed the secrecy label from another batch of official documents.

The advice came after a purported cease-fire offer from Vietnam Communist leader Ho Chi Minh went astray under mysterious circumstances.

Declaring the United States

had "no solutions or plans to intervene," then Secretary of State George C. Marshall said:

"We fear continuation of the conflict may jeopardize the position of all Western democratic powers in Southern Asia and lead to the very eventualities of which we are most apprehensive."

He urged France to be "most generous in the attempt to find an early solution which, by recognizing the legitimate desires of the Vietnamese, will restore peace and deprive anti-democratic forces of a powerful weapon."

The message to the U.S. Embassy in Paris for relay to French authorities was part of a 1,150-page volume of classified documents detailing U.S. foreign relations in the Far East in 1947.

Although Franco-American differences over Vietnam policy were reported at the time, the documents provided a new light on the degree of difference.

In another urgent dispatch to Paris Marshall said:

"We do not lose sight of the fact that Ho Chi Minh has direct Communist connections ... it should be obvious we are

not interested in seeing colonial empire administrations supplanted by the philosophy and political organizations emanating from and controlled by the Kremlin. But the fact remains, however, the situation in Indochina can no longer be considered local in character."

The cease-fire offer was reported to have been sent by a Vietnamese messenger bearing a letter of invitation for French Overseas Minister Marius Moutet to meet with Ho. The messenger disappeared under unexplained circumstances and the French said the letter from Ho never was received.