

## DeGaulle Greets Russian Chorus; Welcomes Impromptu Enthusiasm

Some ten members of the Yale Russian Chorus shook hands with French President Charles DeGaulle in Washington late Sunday afternoon. The encounter with De Gaulle, termed "a fantastic coincidence" by chorus member Tom Terry, occurred after a concert given by the Russian Chorus at George Washington University.

After an hour of fruitless waiting for a late bus driver, the singers wandered up Pennsylvania Avenue to get some dinner. Stumbling on a fleet of motorcycles and limousines aligned outside Blair House, the chorus discovered De Gaulle was about to issue forth. They jostled their way across the street for a closer look but the corps of police and secret service men bounced them back to the other side.

Finally there was some action at Blair House. Policemen started their motorcycles, and a large black limousine stopped in front of the house. When Mme. De Gaulle came out, Mickiewicz gave the pitch for "Many Years," a Russian song of tribute. When De Gaulle himself came out, the chorus started.

"De Gaulle had to stoop to get out the door," stated Terry, "and then he stopped and looked in our direction." After a wink of recognition De Gaulle got into his car. After one verse of the song an aide got out of the car, came across the street to ask who the singers were, and returned. After a third verse the chorus stopped.

"Then there was a fantastic silence," Mickiewicz said. "All the motors had been shut off while we were singing except his." DeGaulle tapped his driver on the shoulder and signaled him to turn off the car's engine. Then he got out of the car, walked over to where the chorus was standing. "He walked very slowly and deliberately across Pennsylvania Avenue at a most aristocratic, general-like pace. You could see that all of France rests on his shoulders."

"He didn't smile," continued Mickiewicz; "he didn't slap people on the back—he just shook our hands and said 'merci.'"

After General De Gaulle had returned to his car, the chorus sang another verse of "Many Years."

### Songs in Russian Greet de Gaulle

*United Press International*

WASHINGTON, April 25 — French President Charles de Gaulle stopped on the way to a reception at the French Embassy yesterday to hear a serenade in Russian by some American students.

De Gaulle ordered his limousine to halt, got out and walked over to the group of Yale University students with outstretched hand to express his appreciation.

Yale's Russian chorus, here for an afternoon concert, had rushed to the sidewalk from a restaurant when it heard de Gaulle was about to drive by.