

Interview with René Pleven (1 April 1966)

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It appears that a large number of French men and women were shocked by the step taken by the Government and that they are also protesting against the way in which this step was taken. Seeking a way in which to express themselves, they came up with the idea of a petition which we have taken on board.

As you know, petitions are provided for under the Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly. They are a traditional right guaranteed to all French citizens.

It is a very simple procedure, one which does not cause chaos and which allows people from various backgrounds and from all social strata to express their agreement on a particular issue.

This is what we are seeking to achieve by means of the national petition. We know all too well, of course, that this petition is difficult to organise. Indeed, it is only worthwhile if a large number of signatures — at least one million — are collected. However, we feel that an in-depth study of this idea will be useful, and that is why it is currently being considered by the appropriate members of our group.