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Authority NND 959298
By PKW NARA Date 1/2/96



DEPARTMENT OF STATE INSTRUCTION

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NO: CA- 3456

October 13, 1958

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SUBJECT: Development of Nuclear Weapons on the European Continent:
Request for Information.

TO: BONN, BRUSSELS, USEC BRUSSELS, THE HAGUE, LONDON, LUXEMBOURG,
USEC LUXEMBOURG, PARIS, USRO PARIS, ROME, ROME FOR LIAISON OFFICER

USRO FOR THURSTON

Reference: NIE 100-2-58

Within the framework of normal reporting requirements in the field of nuclear energy, the Department wishes to receive as much information as possible concerning the timing and extent of (a) French efforts to develop an independent nuclear capability and (b) cooperation among various possible combinations of Western European nations--FIG, the Six, WEU--to the same end.

Appraisal of the material contained in NIE 100-2-58 (copies of which were sent to addressee Embassies under cover of Department's CA-951, July 29, 1958) indicated a deficiency of intelligence information on the above questions, and in view of the importance of potential fourth power nuclear capabilities for current US military and political assessments, the Embassy is urged to be particularly alert in the reporting of such material.

Reporting responsibility in this field is, of course, shared with other Government agencies, and the Department is keenly aware of the limitations on the ability of posts abroad to develop detailed information on military applications of nuclear energy in the countries to which they are accredited. Although the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, does not permit us to exchange information concerning atomic weapons design or manufacture with France or other potential "fourth" countries, the Embassy may nevertheless be able to take advantage of opportunities which may arise to acquire useful information in this field from foreign governmental sources without embarrassment or obligation to the United States. For example, while it does not appear advisable to approach the French directly with regard to their nuclear plans, it is possible that Germany or Italy or particularly the UK, because of their bilateral or multilateral relations with France

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Mr. Gyllantone, Mr. Courtney, and Mr. Lawrence had no objection to releasing this instruction and referenced dispatches to CIA 12/17/58 J. Gyllantone

PREPARED BY:

INCL: Cross-sectioned 10/10/58 DRI: Francis T. Williamson

CLEARANCES: Cleared for release by: [redacted] Courtney; DFI - Mr. [redacted]; RA - Messrs. Fesenden, Hartman; ICD - Messrs. Goodman, Collins; DRB - Mr. [redacted]; WE - Messrs. Brogan, Beigel.

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in the field of nuclear energy, might have pertinent information on this score. While we do not believe direct inquiries to officials of WEU countries advisable, it is still possible that information may be obtainable by indirection. WEU countries might likewise provide sources of information regarding cooperation among various Western European nations on nuclear weapons development.

In the meantime, it would be appreciated if the addressees would appraise the information and conclusions in NIE 100-2-58 regarding French plans and capabilities in nuclear weapons development and the outlook for cooperative programs among the WEU countries and would let us have their comments on the basis of what information may be currently available.

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