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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

May 25, 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Policy Recommendations:
NSAM 241 - French Gaseous
Diffusion Plant

NSAM 241 requested policy recommendations on possible German and other assistance to the French gaseous diffusion plant at Pierrelatte. You have already received the joint CIA-AEC report of May 13 on this subject. The following are my recommendations based on this report. The Chairman of the AEC and the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency concur that:

1. The CIA, AEC and Department of State should as a matter of top priority discreetly seek further information concerning German and Italian industrial, scientific and military interest in the Pierrelatte plant. CIA, AEC and State should also seek information on what financial or technical participation, if any, is contemplated by Germany and Italy, on either a bilateral or multilateral basis.

2. State and AEC should use the visit of German Science Minister Lenz to Washington on June 1-5 to seek more information on this subject and to make clear our concern based on the information now available.

3. If the reports of French overtures to the Germans and Italians are confirmed, the Department of State should follow up with more formal representations to the German Foreign Ministry. If warranted, you should, during your June 23 visit to Bonn, express concern over bilateral Franco-German nuclear cooperation which could even indirectly serve French nuclear weapons purposes. State should suggest in any case that the German Government take whatever steps may be necessary to discourage private and prevent official German participation in projects such as Pierrelatte.

Depending upon confirmation of French approaches regarding Italian participation in Pierrelatte or a joint Franco-Italian nuclear program, the Department of State should inform the Italian Foreign Ministry of our firm opposition to European participation in Pierrelatte.

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4. The Executive Branch should address itself to minimizing German or other foreign interest in acquiring additional non-United States sources of nuclear fuel by US assurances of a long-term supply of cheap nuclear fuel for peaceful uses. In particular, it should press strongly for the enactment of the legislation, which has already been submitted, which would enable us to provide enriching services for foreign uranium on a long-term basis and guaranteed credits for reactor products.


Under Secretary

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National Security Archive,
Suite 701, Gelman Library, The George Washington University,
2130 H Street, NW, Washington, D.C., 20037,
Phone: 202/994-7000, Fax: 202/994-7005, nsarchiv@gwu.edu