

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BRIEFING PAPER**CONFIDENTIAL** 15US/UK AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION ON THE USES OF
ATOMIC ENERGY FOR MUTUAL DEFENSE PURPOSES

This Agreement, which has been in force since 1958, is a corner-stone of Anglo-American relations. Both sides have obtained important military advantages from it. The Agreement permits the transfer of information and materials between the US and the UK but does not commit either party to do so. We weigh each British request on its merits.

Under Article II of the Agreement, the US and the UK exchange classified information relating to the military applications of atomic energy including certain information of nuclear weapons design, production and utilization. Last December, both countries decided that this should remain in effect for another five years.

Article III bis authorizes the transfer by either party of certain non-nuclear parts of atomic weapons systems and other nuclear materials for research on, development of, or use in atomic weapons. An amendment has just been signed by State/PM Director Reginald Bartholomew for the US and the UK Embassy's John Robinson for the UK, extending these provisions until December 1984.

The amendment has been forwarded to Congress for their statutory 60-day period of review, following which it will enter into force.

December 3, 1979

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