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NO: 1538, DECEMBER 10, 5PM

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ACTION DEPARTMENT 1538, INFORMATION PARIS 378, LONDON 375

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SINCE JOINT US-UK RPT US-UK ESTIMATE LAST SUMMER OF POSSIBILITIES OF FRANCO-GERMAN COOPERATION IN NUCLEAR FIELD (EMBTel 243, EMBTEL 6), DEVELOPMENTS HAVE REINFORCED OUR VIEW THAT NO RPT NO SUCH COOPERATION ACTIVELY UNDER CONSIDERATION.

IN LATE AUGUST ADENAUER PUBLICLY STATED THAT DE GAULLE NEVER DISCUSSED SUBJECT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS WITH HIM (A-466). SUBSEQUENT DE GAULLE VISIT HERE, AS WELL AS COMMUNICATIONS THEREAFTER EXCHANGED BETWEEN TWO GOVERNMENTS, DID NOT RPT NOT, AS FAR AS WE HAVE BEEN ABLE ASCERTAIN, INVOLVE NUCLEAR SUBJECTS. AT SAME TIME, DE GAULLE'S HAMBURG SPEECH SEPT 7 TO BUNDESWEHR RPT BUNDESWEHR ACADEMY, IN ITS REFERENCE TO "ORGANIC COOPERATION" IN MILITARY FIELD, PRODUCED CONSIDERABLE SPECULATION THAT HE MEANT NEW TYPES OF COOPERATION, INCLUDING NUCLEAR WEAPONS (A-757). ALTHOUGH FRENCH OFFICIALS (PARIS A-610) FLATLY DENIED THAT ANY DISCUSSION OF SUCH NUCLEAR COOPERATION TOOK PLACE, WE AGREE WITH EMBASSY PARIS' ESTIMATE THAT IT UNDOUBTEDLY REMAINS SUBJECT RESERVED FOR POSSIBLE CONSIDERATION IN FUTURE. ANOTHER SOMEWHAT UNSETTLING FACTOR IS RECURRENT STORY THAT FRENCH MEMORANDUM SENT AFTER VISIT CONTAINED SOME POTENTIAL "DYNAMITE", POSSIBLY EVEN INTIMATING PROSPECT OF NUCLEAR COOPERATION, AND HENCE WAS EXTREMELY CLOSELY HELD BY GERMANS (EMBTel 1188). NEVERTHELESS, THERE IS STILL NO RPT NO FIRM EVIDENCE OF FRENCH PUSHING FOR GERMAN COOPERATION IN NUCLEAR MATTERS.

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By RJ NARA Date 1-13-12

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ON GERMAN SIDE, CONTINUING STRONG LINE WHICH US RPT US HAS TAKEN RESPECTING NEED TO BUILD UP CONVENTIONAL FORCES AND RECENT CUBAN EXPERIENCE, HIGHLIGHTING PROBLEMS INHERENT IN STRATEGY RELYING PRIMARILY ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS, HAVE SOMEWHAT DAMPENED EARLIER GERMAN ENTHUSIASM FOR GREATER NUCLEAR EMPHASIS AND CAPABILITY. CURRENT GOVERNMENT CRISIS WHICH HAS REMOVED STRAUSS RPT STRAUSS FROM DEFENSE MINISTRY ALSO AFFECTS SITUATION SINCE HE HAS BEEN MOST PROMINENTLY IDENTIFIED WITH CONCEPT THAT DEFENSE OF FRG RPT FRG ONLY POSSIBLE THROUGH USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. AT SAME TIME, AS EMBASSY HAS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, PROBABLY ALL LEADING POLITICIANS HERE, INCLUDING POSSIBLE SUCCESSORS TO STRAUSS, MAY BE RELIED UPON TO SEEK ARRANGEMENTS ASSURING EQUAL TREATMENT FOR FRG RPT FRG IN ANY NUCLEAR PROGRAM DEVELOPED WITHIN ALLIANCE, SUCH AS CURRENT AMERICAN CONCEPT OF SEA-BORNE MLF RPT MLF.

ALTHOUGH ADENAUER CONTINUES PERSONALLY TO BE ATTRACTED TO BILATERAL FRANCO-GERMAN ARRANGEMENTS IN ALL FIELDS, HIS INFLUENCE IS NOT RPT NOT NECESSARILY DECISIVE, PARTICULARLY IF FRENCH ARE NOT RPT NOT PRESSING ANY JOINT NUCLEAR PROGRAM. EMBASSY UNAWARE OF ANYTHING TO SUBSTANTIATE BLANKENHORN RPT BLANKENHORN COMMENT (PARIS 139) THAT GERMANS HAD OFFERED TO BEAR SOME OF COST OF FRENCH FORCE DE FRAPPE RPT FORCE DE FRAPPE DESPITE HIS COMMENT (WHICH CONFORMS TO OUR OBSERVATIONS) THAT GERMANS OPPOSED IN PRINCIPLE TO INDEPENDENT FRENCH NUCLEAR FORCE. MOST RANKING GERMAN OFFICIALS CLEARLY CONTINUE TO APPRECIATE ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES WHICH ANY FRANCO-GERMAN PROGRAM MIGHT HAVE.

NEVERTHELESS, AS REPORTED REFTELS 6 AND 243, EMBASSY CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT: (1) AT SCIENTIFIC LEVEL FRANCO-GERMAN CONTACTS DO EXIST WHICH HAVE PROBABLY GIVEN COMPETENT GERMAN SCIENTISTS NECESSARY THEORETICAL AND TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE WHICH WOULD BE REQUIRED IN EVENT EITHER JOINT OR INDEPENDENT PROGRAM OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS SHOULD BE LAUNCHED; AND (2) IF ALLIANCE FAILS SIGNIFICANTLY TO MEET GERMAN SECURITY REQUIREMENTS AS SEEN BY GERMANS, FRG RPT FRG COULD STILL BECOME ACTIVELY INTERESTED IN INDEPENDENT OR FRANCO-GERMAN PROGRAM. ANOTHER PERTINENT FACT WOULD BE ADMITTED FAILURE TO MEET PROBLEM OF PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN DISARMAMENT

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CONTEXT, FURTHER LONG-RANGE RELATED POSSIBILITY WHICH DESERVES WATCHING BUT WHICH DEPENDS ON OUTCOME BRITAIN'S EEC RPT EEC NEGOTIATIONS AND SHAPE OF FUTURE EUROPEAN POLITICAL COMMUNITY IS INDEPENDENT DEVELOPMENT OF EUROPEAN NUCLEAR FORCE INCLUDING BOTH FRENCH AND BRITISH NUCLEAR COMPONENTS. BOTH OF LATTER FACTORS, HOWEVER, REMAIN TOO PROBLEMATICAL TO AFFECT PRESENT ANALYSIS AT THIS TIME.

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