

February 1, 1958

US Embassy Paris Telegram 3600 to Department of State

Citation:

"US Embassy Paris Telegram 3600 to Department of State", February 1, 1958, Wilson Center Digital Archive, NARA, RG 59, Conference Files, 1949-1972, box 140, CF 947 NATO Hds. of Govt Meeting Paris Dec. 1957 Memcons; excised copy published in U.S. Department of State, Foreign Relations of the United States, 1955-1957, Central and Southeastern Europe, Volume XXVI (Washington, D.C: Government Printing Office, 1992), document 137; B: RG 59, Central Decimal Files, 1955-1959, 740.56/2-158. Contributed to NPIHP by Bill Burr.
<https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/177742>

Summary:

In this telegram, U.S. government officials were troubled by the possibility of shared nuclear weapons research in Western Europe. Jean Laloy, the French Foreign Ministry's director of European affairs, confidentially shared his apprehensions with an Embassy official.

Credits:

This document was made possible with support from Carnegie Corporation of New York (CCNY)

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

ACTION COPY

IS DOCUMENT MUST BE RETURNED
AM/R CENTRAL FILES

35-B
Action
SAE
Info
RMR
SS
G

~~TOP SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED
EO 13526, Sec. 3.3

Control: 249
Rec'd: FEBRUARY 1, 1958
10:49 AM

5142130/1

FROM: PARIS *By [Signature]* NARA, Date *8/18/80*

TO: Secretary of State STATE DEPT. DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW

NO: 3600, FEBRUARY 1, 3 Retain class'n Change/classify to _____
 Declassify with concurrence of _____ after _____

EO 12958, 25X
IPS/CR/IR by *[Signature]* Date: *9/23/99*

SENT DEPARTMENT 3600, REPEATED INFORMATION BONN 231, ROME 249

LIMIT DISTRIBUTION

IN DISCUSSING WITH US YESTERDAY FRENCH-GERMAN-ITALIAN ARMS COOPERATION PLANS, LALOY SAID POSSIBILITIES OF COOPERATION IN FABRICATION OF ATOMIC WEAPONS IN FRANCE HAD DEFINITELY BEEN DISCUSSED DURING BONN TALKS. LALOY SAID THAT IT WAS NOW PLANNED THAT THREE POWERS WOULD MAKE REPORT TO WEU VERY SHORTLY ON BONN NEGOTIATIONS, AND THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF THREE IN WASHINGTON WOULD "SIMULTANEOUSLY" REPORT TO DEPARTMENT ON THIS SUBJECT. ACCORDING TO LALOY, FRENCH FOREIGN OFFICE IS INSISTING THAT SUBJECT OF COOPERATION ON ATOMIC WEAPONS BE SPECIFICALLY INCLUDED IN SUCH REPORT, SINCE FOREIGN OFFICE FEELS THERE HAS BEEN ENTIRELY TOO MUCH ATTEMPT TO CLOAK THIS ASPECT IN SECRECY.

SPEAKING ON STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL BASIS AND WITH GREAT SERIOUSNESS, LALOY SAID THAT, IF DEPARTMENT AT HIGHEST LEVEL WISHED TO EXPRESS RESERVATIONS AND CONCERN OVER PROSPECT OF FRENCH-GERMAN-ITALIAN COOPERATION ON MANUFACTURE OF ATOMIC WEAPONS, FOLLOWING PRESENTATION OF TRIPARTITE REPORT IN WASHINGTON, FRENCH FOREIGN OFFICE WOULD BE VERY RECEPTIVE TO SUCH VIEWS. LALOY ADDED THAT GEN. BUCHALET WOULD ALSO WELCOME DEPARTMENT OBSERVATIONS OF THIS KIND. WE GATHERED SAME MIGHT NOT BE TRUE FOR CHABAN-DELMAS AND OTHERS IN DEFENSE MINISTRY, BUT THAT FOREIGN OFFICE AS WELL AS BUCHALET (WHO OF COURSE IS CLOSE TO GAILLARD) SAW MATTERS DIFFERENTLY.

LALOY EXPLAINED THAT FOREIGN OFFICE IS GREATLY CONCERNED OVER PROSPECT THAT WEST GERMANS WILL ACQUIRE THEIR OWN ATOMIC CAPABILITY THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN FRENCH PROGRAM.

740.56/2-158

JB
~~TOP SECRET FILE~~

FEB 24 1958
FILED

~~TOP SECRET~~

S/AE

UNLESS "UNCLASSIFIED" REPRODUCTION FROM THIS COPY IS PROHIBITED.

PERMANENT RECORD COPY

This copy must be returned to RM/R central files with notation of action taken.

Destroyed in RM/R
Name *[Signature]* Date *3/1/58*
Copy No(s) *6*

TOP SECRET

-2- 3600, FEBRUARY 1, 3 PM FROM PARIS

LALOY BELIEVES STRAUSS AND FEW GERMAN MILITARY REPRESENTATIVES ARE PUSHING HARD FOR THIS, DESPITE WHAT STRAUSS MAY SAY TO US. WHILE CHANCELLOR CAN BE EXPECTED TO OPPOSE, IT IS UNCERTAIN HOW WELL-INFORMED HE IS ON THIS MATTER. ALSO, CHANCELLOR MAY PASS FROM SCENE BEFORE LONG. FRENCH DO NOT LIKE IDEA OF PROVIDING ATOMIC WEAPONS TO A WEST GERMANY WHICH IS STILL SEPARATED FROM EAST GERMANY, AND THUS SUBJECT TO SPECIAL PRESSURES, AND FROM WHICH CHANCELLOR'S STABILIZING INFLUENCE WILL BE REMOVED IN COURSE NEXT FEW YEARS.

LALOY SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT US POSITION IN THIS SITUATION IS VERY DELICATE AND THAT ANY OBSERVATIONS MADE BY DEPARTMENT TO THREE POWERS WOULD HAVE TO BE PHRASED WITH UTMOST CARE. LALOY THOUGHT THAT IT WOULD PERHAPS BE BEST SIMPLY TO EXPRESS RESERVE BY INQUIRING WHETHER THREE POWERS HAD FULLY THOUGHT THROUGH ALL IMPLICATIONS OF ATOMIC WEAPON COOPERATION PLANS, NOTING AT SAME TIME DESIRABILITY FROM OVERALL NATO STANDPOINT, AS WELL AS THAT OF EFFICIENCY AND COST, OF PROFITING FROM UNITED STATES READINESS TO ASSIST IN PROVIDING NECESSARY NUCLEAR WEAPON CAPABILITY.

AS WE UNDERSTOOD HIM, LALOY WAS NOT IN ANY SENSE QUESTIONING FRANCE'S OWN DETERMINATION TO PROCEED WITH AT LEAST LIMITED ATOMIC WEAPONS PROGRAM. HE REMARKED AT ONE POINT THAT, WHILE HE HAD ONCE OPPOSED PROGRAM, HE NOW WAS COMING TO FEEL IT WAS ESSENTIAL IF ONLY TO GIVE FRENCH FEELING OF EQUALITY WITH UNITED STATES AND UNITED KINGDOM. WITHOUT ITS OWN ATOMIC WEAPONS, LALOY THOUGHT FRANCE WOULD BE MUCH MORE DIFFICULT ALLY OF UNITED STATES THAN IT WOULD BE IF SHE HAD SOME WEAPONS OF HER OWN.

DEPARTMENT WILL APPRECIATE THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL LALOY UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES BE REVEALED AS SOURCE OF ABOVE REMARKS.

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

-3- 3600, FEBRUARY 1, 3 PM FROM PARIS

LALOY'S COMMENTS APPEAR TO BE INCONSISTENT WITH HIS REPORT ON PINEAU-LLOYD TALKS (NUMBERED PARAGRAPH 5, EMBASSY TELEGRAM 3475) BUT IT IS POSSIBLE THAT EVEN PINEAU WAS NOT FULLY INFORMED AT THAT TIME RE BONN DISCUSSIONS.

✓ | EMBASSY WILL SUBMIT RECOMMENDATIONS SHORTLY.

HOUGHTON

DT

TOP SECRET