

May 13, 1963

**Director of Central Intelligence John McCone and
AEC Chairman Glenn Seaborg to President Kennedy,
with Attachment 'Report on French Gaseous
Diffusion Project'**

Citation:

"Director of Central Intelligence John McCone and AEC Chairman Glenn Seaborg to President Kennedy, with Attachment 'Report on French Gaseous Diffusion Project'", May 13, 1963, Wilson Center Digital Archive, JFKL, National Security Study Memoranda, box 391, NSAM 241. Contributed to NPIHP by Bill Burr.

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Summary:

In this report, the CIA and the AEC found that because the French underestimated the cost of the Pierrelatte plant, they had a reason to consider West German financial aid. They conclude that the West Germans had relevant technical skill and the French may have regarded cooperation as a tactic to dodge Adenauer's 1954 commitment and also as a "way for German industry to improve its position in the nuclear technological race."

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