

April 15, 1969

Memorandum from Henry A. Kissinger to President Nixon, 'Guidance to State and Defense Department on Our Attitude Toward Military Cooperation with the French'

Citation:

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Summary:

Kissinger informs Nixon of a discussion he had with British Defense Minister Denis Healey about French/U.S. military cooperation. Kissinger has told Healey that the French have not approached the U.S., and that any decision to aid France would have to be heavily weighed beforehand. Kissinger and Healey have agreed to inform one another should he be approached for such assistance by France in the future.

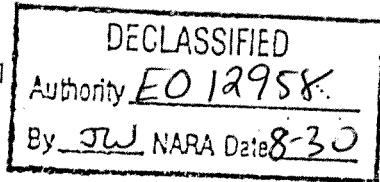
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MEMORANDUM



WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

63SECRET/NODISACTION

April 15, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger *K*SUBJECT: Guidance to State and Defense Departments on Our Attitude
Toward Military Cooperation with the French.

There is a great deal of interest -- in the press, among European governments and within our own government -- in whether you have initiated talks with General de Gaulle on US-French military cooperation, especially in the field of nuclear weapons. In a talk with Denis Healey, who raised the subject with me, I took the following line:

1. Speculation that negotiations on US-French military and nuclear weapons cooperation were initiated in your conversations with General de Gaulle is inaccurate. The French have made no requests to us in these areas and we have made no offers.

2. We have not had any indication whether the French intend to approach us about cooperative arrangements and we have some doubt that the General would want to put himself in the position of a "demandeur."

3. If we should be approached we would consider any proposition made to us on its merits, without prejudice and with full consideration of the interests of our allies.

4. In any event we will be making a systematic study of the pros and cons of possible bilateral military cooperation with France through the NSC machinery.

(I also told Healey that we would inform the British if we should get a specific approach from the French and he agreed to let us know if the British should receive an approach.)

I believe it would be useful to provide guidance along the lines set forth in numbered paragraphs 1 through 4 above to Secretaries Rogers and

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Authority <u>EO 12958</u>
By <u>JW</u> NARA Date <u>8-30</u>

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Laird so that we will have a uniform line within the Government.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you approve my sending guidance to the Secretaries of State and Defense, as set forth in numbered paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4, above.

Approve 

Disapprove _____