

April 22, 1969

Memorandum from Henry A. Kissinger to William P. Rogers, US-French Military Relations

Citation:

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Summary:

This is a follow up of a memorandum from Kissinger to Nixon that was sent on April 15, 1969, where Nixon approved Kissinger to tell the Secretary of State the same points that were discussed in the original memorandum. Such points were that Kissinger has told Healey, British Defense Minister, that the French have not approached the U.S. for military assistance, and that any decision to aid France would have to be heavily weighed beforehand. The necessity for secrecy on these topics is stressed by Kissinger.

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English

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~~NODIS FILES~~

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

SADDLED

TOP SECRET/NODIS/NOFORN

April 22, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Secretary of State
FROM: Henry A. Kissinger *HK*
SUBJECT: US-French Military Relations

NODIS REVIEW

Col. A. Caption removed; considered to C/FADBC
 Col. B. Caption removed; considered to C/FADBC
 Col. C. Caption removed; considered to C/FADBC

Reviewed by: Ambassador W. Wines
 Date: *12/13/00*

The President has noted speculation concerning alleged US-French negotiations about bilateral military cooperation. He has asked that I send you the following talking points, which he approved for my talk with British Defense Minister Healey:

1. Speculation that negotiations on US-French military and nuclear weapons cooperation were initiated in the President's conversations with General de Gaulle is inaccurate. The French have made no requests to us in these areas and we have made no offers. (CONFIDENTIAL)
2. The President is not aware of any indication that the French intend to approach us about cooperative arrangements. It is doubtful whether the General would want to put himself in what he would consider the position of a "demandeur." (CONFIDENTIAL)
3. If we should be approached, the President wishes to consider any proposition put to us on its merits, without preconceptions and with full consideration of the interests of our allies. (SECRET/NODIS/NOFORN)
4. In any event, at the President's direction we are initiating through the NSC machinery a systematic study of the pros and cons of possible bilateral military cooperation with France. (TOP SECRET/NODIS/NOFORN)

DEF FR - US

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I should like to call attention to the extreme sensitivity of points 3 and 4 above.

~~CATEGORY "C"~~

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TOP SECRET/NODIS/NOFORN