

June 30, 1970

Letter from Gerard C. Smith to Henry A. Kissinger

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Summary:

Gerard Smith advises Kissinger against assisting the French weapons program. He warns that this assistance might jeopardize SALT negotiations and also hurt US relations with Germany.

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UNITED STATES DELEGATION
TO THE
STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TALKS
WITH THE SOVIET UNION
VIENNA, AUSTRIA

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June 30, 1970

EYES ONLY

Dear Henry:

We returned to Europe on Johnny Foster's plane and I got a rather vague idea of his mission to Paris.

In this connection, I'm sure you will keep in mind the "no transfer" aspect of SALT. If we were to help France develop its strategic delivery systems, the viability of any SALT deal might well be jeopardized. Perhaps it goes without saying that I continue to believe that US help for the French weapons program--nuclear or delivery systems--would hurt our relations with Germany and over the long term not help in the search for a comfortable place for Germany in Europe. We have with one or two exceptions resisted the French temptation when it had much more allure than the 1970 Marianne displays. With twenty years of weapon cooperation scars on my head (and regret for my part in the US/UK deal of 1957-58), I send along the friendly advice "please don't."

Best regards.

Sincerely,

Gerard Smith
Chairman of the Delegation

Dr. Henry A. Kissinger,
Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs,
The White House.

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