

**November 12, 1976**

**London Embassy telegram 18324 to State  
Department, 'London Nuclear Suppliers' Meeting,  
November 11 - 12'**

**Citation:**

"London Embassy telegram 18324 to State Department, 'London Nuclear Suppliers' Meeting, November 11 - 12'", November 12, 1976, Wilson Center Digital Archive, State State Department and Defense Department FOIA releases respectively. Obtained and contributed by William Burr.

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**Summary:**

This telegram describes what the nuclear suppliers' countries accomplished during their November 11-12 meeting. Continued discussions of safeguards and enlarging the group, and agreed that they would wait on publishing results until after their next meeting, which was scheduled to be the following March in London.

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**Original Language:**

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DODE-00 ERDA-05 PM-04 SS-15 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /106 W  
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R 122235Z NOV 76  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7651  
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
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AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS  
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS  
USMISSION IAEA VIENNA  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
AMEMBASSY ROME

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~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 01 OF 03 LONDON 18324

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PARM, TECH  
SUBJECT: LONDON NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS' MEETING, NOVEMBER  
11 - 12

SUMMARY. NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS MEETING ON NOVEMBER 11 -  
12 (A) CONSIDERED REPORT OF WORKING GROUP ON MULTINATIONAL  
FUEL CYCLE CENTERS AND INTERNATIONAL PLUTONIUM AND SPENT  
FUEL STORAGE; DECIDED THAT NEXT STEP SHOULD BE  
CONTINUATION OF IAEA STUDIES OF THESE SUBJECTS WITH

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
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ADVICE FROM INTERESTED MEMBER STATES TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE WORKING GROUP REPORT AND THE DISCUSSION AT THIS MEETING;

(B) HELD LENGTHY DISCUSSION ABOUT FULL FUEL CYCLE SAFEGUARDS AS A CONDITION OF NUCLEAR EXPORTS (USSR AND UK PROPOSED TO AMEND GUIDELINES TO THIS EFFECT BUT GROUP DECIDED TO DEFER ANY DECISION ON THIS MATTER UNTIL NEXT MEETING);

(C) CONSIDERED U.S. PRESENTATION ON (I) MAXIMUM RESTRAINT FOR AT LEAST 3 YEARS IN EXPORT OF SENSITIVE FACILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY; (II) DESIRABILITY OF NATIONAL PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF POLICIES PARALLELLING PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ON SANCTIONS AGAINST VIOLATION OF SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENTS; (III) THE NEW EXPORT CRITERIA RECENTLY ANNOUNCED BY THE PRESIDENT; AND (IV) THE RELATIONSHIP OF ALL OF THE FOREGOING RELATED TO THE PRESENT GUIDELINES (THE U.S. PROPOSED THAT NEXT MEETING SHOULD CONSIDER AMENDMENTS OR AGREED INTERPRETATIONS OF THE GUIDELINES SUPPORTING THESE NEW POLICIES);

(D) DECIDED TO DEFER DECISIONS ON ENLARGEMENT OF GROUP UNTIL NEXT MEETING;

(E) AUTHORIZED RELEASE TO PRESS OF MEMBERSHIP OF GROUP AND OF FACT THAT ONE UNNAMED STATE (SWITZERLAND) WAS PRESENT AS AN OBSERVER;

(F) DECIDED TO DEFER PUBLICATION OF THE SUBSTANTIVE RESULTS OF THE GROUP'S WORK UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING AT WHICH EXTENT, NATURE AND TIMING OF SUCH PUBLICATION WOULD BE DISCUSSED FURTHER;

(G) DISCUSSED THE RELATIONSHIP OF VARIOUS IAEA ACTIVITIES TO THE WORK OF THE GROUP, BUT DECIDED AGAINST INVITING THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE IAEA OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE TO THE NEXT MEETING AS AN OBSERVER; AND

(H) DECIDED TO HOLD NEXT MEETING IN LONDON, UNDER BRITISH CHAIRMANSHIP, ON MARCH 24-25, WITH A VIEW TO  
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COMPLETING THIS REVIEW OF THE GUIDELINES AND REACHING DECISIONS ON ANY AMENDMENTS, SUPPLEMENTS, INTERPRETA-

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TIONS, OR IMPLEMENTATION THAT MAY BE UNCLASSIFIED END SUMMARY.

1. WORKING GROUP REPORT: WHILE REPORT OF WORKING GROUP ON MULTINATIONAL FUEL CYCLE CENTERS AND INTERNATIONAL PLUTONIUM MANAGEMENT WAS GENERALLY WELL RECEIVED, IT WAS DECIDED TO GIVE IT NO OFFICIAL STATUS. THERE CONTINUED TO BE GENERAL CONCURRENCE IN THE DESIRABILITY OF STUDYING INTERNATIONAL PLUTONIUM STORAGE, BUT SEVERAL DELEGATIONS (OF WHICH THE UK WAS MOST VOCAL) STRESSED THE DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN SUCH A REGIME AND A SPENT FUEL STORAGE REGIME. U.S. STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUING TO CONSIDER A SPENT FUEL STORAGE REGIME, AND URGED THAT IF OTHER DELEGATIONS WISHED TO EMPHASIZE TO THE IAEA SECRETARIAT THEIR INTEREST IN PLUTONIUM STORAGE, THEY SHOULD NOT OBJECT TO THE INCLUSION OF SPENT

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DODE-00 ERDA-05 PM-04 SS-15 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /106 W  
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R 122235Z NOV 76  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7652  
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
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AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
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FUEL IN THE SECRETARIAT'S STUDY. U.S. DEL ALSO POINTED OUT THE DESIRABILITY OF INCLUDING IN SUPPLY AGREEMENTS A PROVISION ON CONSENT AS TO WHERE SPENT FUEL OR SEPARATED PLUTONIUM IS STORED THAT WOULD BE BROAD ENOUGH TO COVER BOTH. IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE WORKING GROUP SHOULD NOT BE ASKED TO PROCEED FURTHER AT THIS TIME, BUT THAT THE NEXT STEP WOULD BE COMPLETION OF THE IAEA STUDIES ON THESE TWO SUBJECTS, AND THAT INTERESTED MEMBER STATES SHOULD MAKE THEIR VIEWS KNOWN TO THE IAEA SECRETARIAT, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE DELIBERATIONS OF THE WORKING

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GROUP AND OF THE PRESENT MEETING.

2. FULL FUEL CYCLE SAFEGUARDS: THE PRINCIPAL FOCUS OF DISCUSSION AT THE MEETING WAS WHETHER TO REVISE THE GUIDELINES TO REQUIRE FULL FUEL CYCLE SAFEGUARDS AS A CONDITION OF NUCLEAR EXPORTS. THE SOVIETS TABLED A DRAFT AMENDMENT TO THIS EFFECT. THE UK THEN TABLED A GROUP OF FOUR ALTERNATIVE AMENDMENTS, WHICH, IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE WOULD REQUIRE FULL FUEL CYCLE SAFEGUARDS AS A CONDITION OF THE EXPORT OF (A) ANY TRIGGER LIST ITEM; (B) EXPORTS OF SENSITIVE FACILITIES OR TECHNOLOGY, WEAPONS USABLE MATERIAL, OR REACTORS; (C) EXPORTS OF SENSITIVE FACILITIES OR TECHNOLOGY OR WEAPONS USABLE MATERIAL; OR (D) EXPORTS OF SENSITIVE FACILITIES OR TECHNOLOGY. A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS WERE RAISED ABOUT THE DRAFTS, MOST NOTABLY WHETHER THEY SHOULD INCLUDE A REQUIREMENT THAT THE SAFEGUARDS HAVE THE DURATION AND COVERAGE CALLED FOR BY GOV 1621 (WHICH SEEMED TO BE WIDELY FAVORED). THE FRENCH AND THE GERMANS EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS ABOUT AMENDING THE GUIDELINES IN THIS RESPECT, WITH THE FORMER POINTING OUT THEIR ANTIPATHY TO USING SUPPLY LEVERAGE TO COMPEL OTHER

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COUNTRIES TO MAKE BASIC DECISIONS NOT DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE ITEMS SUPPLIED, AND OBSERVING THAT A DECISION OBTAINED UNDER SUCH DURESS COULD PROVE OF DOUBTFUL DEPENDABILITY. THE CHAIRMAN SAID THE UK AND USSR WOULD TRY TO PREPARE A REVISED DRAFT AMENDMENT THAT WOULD INCORPORATE THE IDEAS IN BOTH THE SOVIET AND PREFERRED BRITISH DRAFTS AND REFLECT THE DISCUSSION OF THIS MEETING. THIS REVISED DRAFT WOULD BE CIRCULATED WELL IN ADVANCE OF THE NEXT MEETING SO THAT IT COULD BE GIVEN DUE CONSIDERATION IN CAPITALS. AT THE SAME TIME, THE ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES SUGGESTED BY THE BRITISH SHOULD ALSO REMAIN UNDER CONSIDERATION.

3. NEW U.S. POLICY POINTS: U.S. PRESENTEE RELEVANT POINTS FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL POLICY STATEMENT, NOTING THAT EACH OF THE POINTS COULD BE RELATED TO PROVISIONS IN THE PRESENT GUIDELINES. THUS THE CALL FOR MAXIMUM RESTRAINT FOR AT LEAST THREE YEARS IN SENSITIVE EXPORTS WAS A SPECIAL APPLICATION OF THE CALL IN PARAGRAPH 7 OF CONFIDENTIAL.

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THE GUIDELINES FOR RESTRAINT IN SUCH TRANSFERS. THE PRESIDENT'S TREATMENT OF SANCTIONS WAS A WAY OF FURTHER IMPLEMENTING ARTICLE 14 OF THE GUIDELINES, WHICH TOUCHED ON THIS SUBJECT. THE NEW CRITERIA ON NPT ADHERENCE OR FULL FUEL CYCLE SAFEGUARDS WERE DIRECTLY RELATED TO ARTICLE 4; AND THE CRITERION CALLING ON FOREGOING, DEFERRING OR SHAPING SENSITIVE FACILITIES TO MEET NON-PROLIFERATION NEEDS WAS CLEARLY RELATED TO THE VETO PROVISIONS IN ARTICLE 9. U.S. DEL SAID THAT WHILE WE WERE NOT PROPOSING SPECIFIC AMENDING LANGUAGE AT THIS MEETING, WE URGED THAT APPROPRIATE AMENDMENTS O AL EED#

INTERPRETATIONS OR IMPLEMENTING MEASURES SHOULD BE AGREED AT THE NEXT MEETING. FULFORD (CANADA) SAID THAT WHILE

HIS COUNTRY COULD SUPPORT MAXIMUM RESTRAINT FOR A PERIOD PENDING CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS TO THE PLUTONIUM MANAGEMENT PROBLEM, HE CONSIDERED IT UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT A PERMANENT POLICY OF DENIAL TO BE VIABLE. THE SWEDISH, DUTCH, BELGIAN AND SOVIET REPRESENTATIVES MADE STATEMENTS GENERALLY FAVORABLE TO THE NEW U.S. POLICY DECISIONS. THE FRENCH, IN REVIEWING THEIR OWN OCTOBER 11 COMMUNIQUE, NOTED THAT IN THEIR RESTRAINT ON SENSITIVE TRANSFERS AND PREFERENCE FOR FUEL SERVICES THE FRENCH POLICY WAS SIMILAR TO THAT IN THE

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PRESIDENT'S OCTOBER 28 POLICY STATEMENT. HE ADDED THAT UNCLASSIFIED  
THE FRENCH POLICY REVIEW WAS STILL IN PROCESS.

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4. ENLARGEMENT OF MEMBERSHIP: WHILE THE GROUP  
DISCUSSED ENLARGING ITS MEMBERSHIP, IT AGREED TO NO  
FURTHER ENLARGEMENT UNTIL AFTER THE NEXT MEETING, AT  
WHICH THE TOPIC WOULD BE DISCUSSED FURTHER. SUGGESTIONS  
FOR ENLARGEMENT INCLUDED THE REMAINING MEMBERS OF THE  
ZANGGER COMMITTEE (INCLUDING - IN ADDITION TO  
SWITZERLAND - FINLAND, NORWAY, DENMARK, IRELAND,

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NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

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DODE-00 ERDA-05 PM-04 SS-15 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /106 W  
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R 122235Z NOV 76  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7653  
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BERN  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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USMISSION IAEA VIENNA  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
AMEMBASSY ROME

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LUXEMBOURG, HUNGARY, AUSTRIA AND AUSTRALIA) WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS BY SWEDEN AND THE UK ON FINLAND AND DENMARK WHO HAD RECENTLY EXPRESSED THEIR INTEREST IN JOINING, AND BY CANADA ON AUSTRALIA AND POSSIBLY OTHER URANIUM SUPPLIERS. SEVERAL DELEGATIONS SUGGESTED INCLUDING CONSUMER COUNTRIES, ALTHOUGH IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT MOST OF THE SUPPLIER MEMBERS WERE ALSO RECIPIENTS.

5. PUBLICATION OF THE GROUP'S MEMBERSHIP AND DOCUMENTS:  
AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING PRESS GUIDANCE WAS  
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APPROVED THAT INCLUDED NAMING THE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP AND STATING THAT AN ADDITIONAL UNNAMED NATION (I.E. SWITZERLAND) HAD ATTENDED AS AN OBSERVER. THUS THE PRINCIPAL FOCUS OF DISCUSSION BECAME THE NATURE AND TIMING OF THE PUBLICATION OF THE GUIDELINES AND TRIGGER LIST. WHILE MOST SEEMED TO THINK THAT SOME FORM OF PUBLICATION WOULD BE REQUIRED LATER, THE GROUP AGREED THAT ANY PUBLICATION SHOULD BE DEFERRED UNTIL AFTER THE NEXT MEETING, AT WHICH THERE WOULD BE FURTHER DISCUSSION OF METHOD OF PUBLICATION. SUGGESTIONS INCLUDED INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS MAKING PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF THEIR NUCLEAR EXPORT POLICIES REFLECTING (OR GOING BEYOND) THE GUIDELINES, OR FOLLOWING THE ZANGGER COMMITTEE PRECEDENT OF SEPARATE NOTIFICATIONS BY EACH MEMBER TO THE IAEA OF ITS POLICY DECISION TO FOLLOW THE GUIDELINES. TWO DELEGATIONS SUGGESTED THAT THE GUIDELINES MIGHT BE EDITED TO IMPROVE THEIR PRESENTATION AND LANGUAGE, BUT THE FRENCH, U.S. AND OTHERS EXPRESSED STRONG RESERVATIONS ABOUT TAMPERING WITH THE PRESENT TEXT, AT LEAST UNTIL A NEW VERSION OF THE GUIDELINES WAS REQUIRED FOR SUBSTANTIVE REASONS.

6. RELATIONSHIP WITH THE IAEA: IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT RELATIONSHIP OF THE WORK OF THE GROUP TO IAEA ACTIVITIES HAD ALREADY BEEN DISCUSSED IN CONNECTION WITH POSSIBLE PUBLICATION OF THE GUIDELINES, AS WELL AS IN CONNECTION WITH THE FURTHER STUDY OF MULTINATIONAL FUEL

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CYCLE CENTERS AND INTERNATIONAL STORAGE. OTSUKA (JAPAN) UNCLASSIFIED  
ALSO NOTED THE POSSIBLE NEED TO CONSIDER AT THE NEXT  
MEETING THE RESULTS OF THESE AGENCY STUDIES, AND THE  
DRAFT AGREEMENT BEING PREPARED BY THE SECRETARIAT TO  
PROVIDE FULL FUEL CYCLE SAFEGUARDS. THE POLISH  
DELEGATION (WITH GDR AND CZECH SUPPORT) SUGGESTED THAT  
THE IAEA DG OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE BE INVITED TO ATTEND  
FUTURE MEETINGS AS AN OBSERVER, BUT THIS WAS OBJECTED TO  
BY SEVERAL DELEGATIONS AND TABLED WITHOUT ACTION. IT WAS  
POINTED OUT THAT THE DG HAS RATHER COMPLETE INFORMAL  
KNOWLEDGE OF THE GUIDELINES, AND THE LATER DECISIONS ON  
PUBLICATION WOULD BE THE BEST CONTEXT IN WHICH TO DECIDE  
HOW HE WILL GET FORMAL NOTIFICATION.

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7. DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING: IT WAS AGREED THAT  
A FURTHER MEETING SHOULD BE HELD, AIMED AT COMPLETING THE  
REVIEW OF THE GUIDELINES AND REACHING DECISION ON ANY  
REVISIONS, AMENDMENTS, SUPPLEMENTS, AGREED  
INTERPRETATIONS OR IMPLEMENTING MEASURES; THAT THIS  
MEETING SHOULD AGAIN BE HELD IN LONDON UNDER UK CHAIR-  
MANSHIP; AND THAT IT SHOULD BE SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 24-25.  
THE CHAIRMAN URGED THAT IF ANY POSTPONEMENT OF THIS DATE  
BECAME NECESSARY, THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE NOTICE THEREOF BE  
GIVEN.

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