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September 15, 1977

**State Department telegram 222114 to U.S. Embassy
Paris, 'Nuclear Suppliers Meeting'**

Citation:

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Summary:

This document reflects that while full-scope safeguards had wide support in the group, both the French and the West German remained opposed. The Carter administration tried to persuade the French but they were worried about being "isolated" in the group and talked about withdrawing or opposing further meetings because the NSG had "fully achieved" its objectives. Washington persuaded Paris not to withdraw, but the group's future was plainly uncertain.

Credits:

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Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

Message Text

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EB-08 NRC-05 DODE-00 ERDA-05 SP-02 AID-05 CEA-01
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TRSE-00 /123 RDRAFTED BY PM/NPP:GOPLINGER:BPW
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P 152327Z SEP 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 222114

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, TECH, ENRG, FR

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS MEETING

REF: PARIS 26750

1. EMBASSY SHOULD MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS TO LOUET IN RESPONSE TO HIS REMARKS REPORTED PARAS 3 AND 4 OF REFTEL.
2. US REGRETS THAT FRANCE IS NOT PREPARED TO AGREE TO FULL-SCOPE SAFEGUARDS PROPOSAL AT NEXT WEEK'S LONDON MEETING. WE BELIEVE THAT ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF ADOPTING COMMON SUPPLIER FULL-SCOPE REQUIREMENTS HAVE BECOME MORE COMPELLING; WE WILL WISH TO HAVE FURTHER EXCHANGE WITH FRENCH ON THIS SUBJECT AT LONDON BILATERAL.

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3. QUITE APART FROM THE FULL-SCOPE QUESTION, WE ARE CONCERNED BY FRENCH POSITION THAT LONDON SUPPLIER MEETINGS SHOULD BE TERMINATED. WE DISAGREE WITH THEIR REPORTED VIEW THAT NSG OBJECTIVES HAVE BEEN FULLY ACHIEVED. WE BELIEVE NSG AND INFCE SERVE DISTINCT AND SEPARATE PURPOSES AND THAT INFCE WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE AND INEFFECTIVE VEHICLE TO

CARRY OUT NSG FUNCTION, WHICH IS TO ACHIEVE MORE EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF NUCLEAR EXPORTS. IN OUR VIEW, THE NSG REMAINS NECESSARY AS A VEHICLE FOR INTERPRETING AND IMPLEMENTING THE GUIDELINES, AND TO ENCOURAGE THE CONTINUATION OF

EXCHANGES OF VIEW AMONG SUPPLIERS WHICH HAVE BEEN AMONG ITS MOST IMPORTANT BENEFITS.

4. WE RECOGNIZE AND SHARE CONCERNS OF SEVERAL SUPPLIERS ABOUT DISPELLING SUSPICIONS AND RESENTMENTS AMONG NON-MEMBERS OF THE LONDON GROUP. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT EXPANSION AND PUBLICATION COULD HAVE EFFECT OPPOSITE TO THAT INTENDED; EXPANSION COULD ATTRACT MORE ATTENTION TO

THE NSG, AND PUBLICATION OF DOCUMENTS COULD FURTHER IRRITATE THOSE STATES WHO FIND THEM OBJECTIONABLE. MORE-OVER, THE LAUNCHING OF INFCE IS LIKELY TO GO FAR IN SATISFYING NON-MEMBERS OF THE NSG THAT THEY HAVE A VOICE AND A ROLE IN INFLUENCING INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR POLICIES, AND SHOULD HELP TO REDUCE SUCH PRESSURES. EXPANSION AND PUBLICATION AT THIS TIME WOULD MAKE THE NSG CONSPICUOUS ONCE AGAIN JUST AS ATTENTION IS FOCUSED PRIMARILY ON INFCE.

5. TIMING WOULD ALSO BE UNFORTUNATE FROM PERSPECTIVE OF US NON-PROLIFERATION LEGISLATION, WHICH IS NOW BEING CONFIDENTIAL

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CONSIDERED BY CONGRESS. PUBLICATION AND EXPANSION COULD CREATE ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS FOR ADMINISTRATION IN NEGOTIATING WORKABLE AND REASONABLE BILL.

6. FOR THESE REASONS, US WILL NOT BE IN A POSITION TO AGREE AT THIS MEETING TO A GENERAL EXPANSION OF THE NSG, OR PUBLICATION OF THE GUIDELINES, OR TO TERMINATION OF OF NSG MEETINGS. WE WILL OF COURSE WISH TO DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS IN FULLER DETAIL WITH FRENCH DELEGATION AT SEPTEMBER 19 BILATERAL. VANCE

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Control Number: n/a
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