

November 15, 1971

**Cable from William P. Rogers to American Embassy
Paris, 'Military Relations with France'**

Citation:

"Cable from William P. Rogers to American Embassy Paris, 'Military Relations with France'", November 15, 1971, Wilson Center Digital Archive, National Archives, Record Group 59, Subject-Numeric Files, 1970-73 Top Secret Files, box 1, AE 1-1 70-71. Obtained and contributed by William Burr and included in NPIHP Research Update #2. <https://wilson-center.drivingcreative.com/document/112258>

Summary:

Text of a letter from Foster to Blancard discussing an exchange of nuclear safety information between the United States and France. Foster goes into detail about the specific procedures and systems which could be discussed. The US could not exchange any information classified as Restricted Data or Formerly Restricted Data.

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES



DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND969057By KC NARA Date 12/30/87 SECRET

Classification

SENSITIVE

Department of State

TELEGRAM

207972

AE 1-1 FR-45

INDICATE:

- ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

DISTRIBUTION

ACTION:

AMEMBASSY PARIS

STATE

207972

~~NO COPY~~

FOR AMBASSADOR WATSON

SUBJECT: MILITARY RELATIONS WITH FRANCE

REF: STATE 66637

,FYI,

There follows/text of letter dated November 12, 1971
from Dr. John S. Foster, Jr., Director of Defense
Research and Engineering, to Jean Blanchard, Delegate
Minister for Armaments:

QUOTE

Dear M. Blanchard:

During the past twenty months, Mr. John H. Morse,
Secretary Laird's Deputy Assistant Secretary for
European matters, and M. Marc Geneste of your CEA

NODIS REVIEW

Cat. A - Caption removed;
transferred to O/FADRC
Cat. B - Transferred to O/FADRC
with additional access
controlled by S/S
Cat. C - Caption and custody
retained by S/S

Reviewed by: Ambassador W. Witman, II

Date: 6/28/76

NODIS REVIEW

Cat. A - Caption removed;
transferred to O/FADRC
Cat. B - Transferred to O/FADRC
with additional access
controlled by S/S
Cat. C - Caption and custody
retained by S/S

Date: 9 Oct 1980

Paris
Tel. 207972

DRAFTED BY:

DRAFTING DATE

TEL. EXT.

APPROVED BY:

PM- JTKendrick/afp

11/15/71

23913

PM/ Ronald I. Spiers

CLEARANCES:

Clearance: EUR/FBX-Mr. Tanguy

S/S - SEE Mr. Miller

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES



DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND969057By K.C. NARA Date 12/30/87~~SECRET~~ SENSITIVE
Classification*Department of State*
TELEGRAM

INDICATE:

- ☐
- COLLECT
-
- ☐
- CHARGE TO

2

DISTRIBUTION

ACTION:

have explored informally the possibility of nuclear safety discussions between experts of our two governments. This possibility was also noted in meetings between Ambassador Watson and Ministers Debre and Schuman during July. We now consider it timely to proceed with such exchanges and I have been authorized to propose that we do so.

(PARA) As we see it, the nuclear safety discussions would be centered on the operational nuclear safety procedures followed in the field by our respective commanders. This could include strategic sea-based missile systems, strategic land-based missiles, strategic bombers, tactical missiles, and tactical aircraft. After a discussion of general principles

DRAFTED BY:

DRAFTING DATE

TEL. EXT.

APPROVED BY:

CLEARANCES:

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

Classification

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES



DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND969057By KC NARA Date 12/30/87 TOP SECRET SENSITIVE
Classification*Department of State*
TELEGRAM

INDICATE:

- ☐
- COLLECT
-
- ☐
- CHARGE TO

3

DISTRIBUTION

ACTION:

applicable to all these systems, each of us could explain something of the safety design of our nuclear weapon carriers, including, for example, division of critical controls, separation of conventional and nuclear control circuitry, bomb rack locks, etc. We each could then describe the procedures which would be followed in the actual use of the systems, such as authentication of execution messages and manipulation of separated firing keys.

(PARA) With regard to nuclear warheads themselves we would be able to discuss the general principles of safe nuclear designs, as well as the types of . . . electrical and mechanical components which are used to assure that an inadvertent or unauthorized nuclear detonation will not occur. In addition we could exchange information on storage and handling criteria, quality assurance, and minimum maintenance, as they

DRAFTED BY:

DRAFTING DATE

TEL. EXT.

APPROVED BY:

CLEARANCES:

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

Classification

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES



DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND969057By KC NARA Date 12/30/87

SECRET SENSITIVE

Classification

Department of State

TELEGRAM

INDICATE:

☐ COLLECT☐ CHARGE TO

4

DISTRIBUTION

ACTION:

enhance nuclear safety.

(PARA) While we would not be able to exchange information which we treat as Restricted Data or Formerly Restricted Data, this limitation does not appear to be an obstacle to the main objective of nuclear safety discussions. We would, of course, be able to talk about relevant information previously transmitted to you, as well as certain classified defense information.

(PARA) We could also, if desired, discuss past nuclear weapon accidents which we have experienced. These are those few accidents, such as the ones at Thule and Palomares, none of which has resulted in a nuclear explosion. We could discuss our reporting procedures, response capabilities and decontamination experience.

(continued)

DRAFTED BY:

DRAFTING DATE

TEL. EXT.

APPROVED BY

CLEARANCES:

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

Classification



DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND969057By KC NARA Date 12/30/88~~TOP SECRET~~ SENSITIVE
Classification

Department of State

TELEGRAM

INDICATE:

- ☐
- COLLECT
-
- ☐
- CHARGE TO

5

DISTRIBUTION

ACTION:

(PARA) Should this proposal meet with the approval of your authorities we on our side would designate as our point of contact and discussion team leader my colleague, Dr. Carl Walske, the Secretary of Defense's Assistant for Atomic Energy. Dr. Walske is Secretary Laird's senior staff member charged with responsibility for nuclear safety. His team would include three military officers knowledgeable in each general force area (strategic sea-based missiles, strategic land-based missiles and bombers, and tactical missiles and aircraft), an AEC laboratory expert on warhead safety, and Dr. Walske, a total of about five.

(PARA) If further preparatory work on an agenda is desired, Dr. Walske is prepared to undertake it with whomever is designated. There would also need to be an understanding between us against transfer of

DRAFTED BY:	DRAFTING DATE	TEL. EXT.	APPROVED BY:

CLEARANCES:

~~TOP SECRET~~ SENSITIVE
Classification

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES



DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND969057By KC NARA Date 12/30/87 ~~SECRET~~ SENSITIVE
Classification*Department of State*
TELEGRAM

INDICATE:

- ☐
- COLLECT
-
- ☐
- CHARGE TO

6

DISTRIBUTION

ACTION:

information to third countries, unless agreed to
by ~~xxx~~ the originator. Dr. Walske will, of course,
be able to discuss this matter as well.

(PARA) Finally, I am sure that you would agree that
this matter should remain quite confidential between
our two governments.

(PARA) With great respect, Sincerely,

UNQUOTE.

// -end- //

ROGERS

DRAFTED BY:	DRAFTING DATE	TEL. EXT.	APPROVED BY:
CLEARANCES:			

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

Classification