

June 16, 1972

**Cable from Holsey G. Handyside to Ronald I. Spiers,
'Guidance on Nuclear Weapons Safety Talks with
French'**

Citation:

"Cable from Holsey G. Handyside to Ronald I. Spiers, 'Guidance on Nuclear Weapons Safety Talks with French'", June 16, 1972, Wilson Center Digital Archive, National Archives, Record Group 59, Subject-Numeric Files, 1970-73, Top Secret Files, box 1. AE 1-1 FR-US 1973. Obtained and contributed by William Burr and included in NPIHP Research Update #2. <https://wilson-center.drivingcreative.com/document/112404>

Summary:

Handyside sends guidance for discussions with British diplomat Clive Rose on US nuclear assistance to France. The cable outlines points of discussion and emphasizes the secret nature of these talks as "we do not plan to inform French of fact that we are keeping UK generally informed."

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND969057
By K.C. NARA Date 12/30/88

FORM DS 322 (OCR)

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TOP SECRET

AE 1-1 FR-25
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DOD/ISA:RBARTHOLOMEW:PM/AE:HGHANDYSIDE:BPW
6/16/72 EXT 21835
PM:TRPICKERING

EUR/NE:MR. GEORGE {DRAFT}
DOD/ATSD/AE:MR. WALSKE {DRAFT}
S/S - MR. CURRAN

EUR/WE:MR. BEIGEL {DRAFT}
DOD/ISA-EUR:MR. MORSE {DRAFT}

PRIORITY

LONDON

~~NOTES~~

NOTES REVIEW

Cat. A - Caption removed;
transmitted to O/TADRC

Cat. B - Transmitted to O/TADRC
with additional access
control by S/S

Cat. C - Caption and body
retained by S/S

Reviewed by: Ambassador W. Witman, II
Date: 8/27 1975

FOR GALLOWAY AND PM DIRECTOR RONALD SPIERS ONLY

JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE

SUBJECT: GUIDANCE ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS SAFETY TALKS
WITH FRENCH

1. SHOULD CLIVE ROSE AGAIN PROBE FOR INFORMATION ON
ABOVE SUBJECT DURING SPIERS' SCHEDULED MEETING WITH HIM
ON JUNE 19. WE RECOMMEND HE DRAW ON FOLLOWING POINTS IN
RESPONDING:

A. THIS IS MATTER OF GREAT SENSITIVITY TO BOTH USG
AND GOF AND EVEN KNOWLEDGE OF CONTACTS IS HIGHLY
RESTRICTED WITHIN TWO GOVERNMENTS.

B. TALKS TOOK PLACE IN PARIS WEEK OF JUNE 5.

C. TALKS DEALT WITH DESCRIPTIONS BY BOTH SIDES OF
ORGANIZATION, PROCEDURES AND SYSTEMS FOR NUCLEAR SAFETY.

D. EXCHANGES FELT TO BE USEFUL BY BOTH SIDES IN
ENHANCING RESPECTIVE UNDERSTANDING ON COMMON PROBLEM.

E. FRENCH SHOWED FULL APPRECIATION OF IMPORTANCE OF
SAFETY AND DEMONSTRATED A CONSERVATIVE REPEAT CONSERVATIVE
APPROACH TO PROBLEM.

PM:TRP
RB & HGH
EUR/NE
EUR/WE
ATSD/AE
DOD/ISA
S/S RTC

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F. POSSIBLE SECOND MEETING TENTATIVELY DISCUSSED
OR AUTUMN.

2. BEGIN FYI: FOLLOWING IS FYI ONLY. AS YOU KNOW,
ACCORD SIGNED WITH FRENCH ON NUCLEAR SAFETY EXCHANGES
PROHIBITS TRANSFER OF INFORMATION TO THIRD PARTIES BY
EITHER SIDE WITHOUT OTHER'S CONSENT. WE DO NOT PLAN TO
INFORM FRENCH OF FACT THAT WE ARE KEEPING UK GENERALLY
INFORMED AND ARE CONCERNED THAT FRENCH NOT GET WIND
~~OF THIS FROM BRITISH.~~ HIGH
OF THIS FROM BRITISH. HIGH-LEVEL FRENCH OFFICIAL ASKED
MEMBER OF US DELEGATION IF US CONDUCTED SIMILAR SAFETY
DISCUSSIONS WITH UK. RESPONSE GIVEN WAS THAT US AND UK
EXCHANGED INFORMATION ON SAFETY IN CONTEXT OF ONGOING
PROGRAMS OF COOPERATION UNDER 1958 AGREEMENT. WE WISH,
TO EXTENT POSSIBLE, TO DISCOURAGE EXCESSIVE BRITISH
PROBING ON THIS SUBJECT. END FYI.

3. WE ARE TAKING STEPS HERE WITH DOD AND AEC TO RE-
ESTABLISH SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT BETWEEN USG AND HMG
ON THIS SUBJECT, AND PLAN SPECIFICALLY TO UTILIZE
GALLOWAY-ROSE CHANNEL FOR THIS PURPOSE.

4. EMBASSY REQUESTED INFORM SPIERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
AFTER ARRIVAL OF RECEIPT THIS MESSAGE. EXEMPT HANDYSIDE,
PM/AE {3} YY
PM/AE {3} YY

TOP SECRET