

June 1975

Briefing Paper, 'The Nuclear Suppliers Conference'

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Summary:

The U.S. delegation agreed to develop a policy paper that would take into account French and other views so as to reach agreement on the most "stringent" safeguards possible. A central but divisive issue was whether safeguards should apply to the entire nuclear fuel cycle (later known as "full-scope" safeguards). Another issue was whether multinational auspices for reprocessing and enrichment plants should be mandatory or a matter of discretion by a supplier country. This document specifically addresses the concerns of West Germany.

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BRIEFING PAPERTHE NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS CONFERENCE

At the multilateral exploratory meeting of key nuclear suppliers on April 23 in London, the U.S. agreed to prepare a new paper of supplier understandings reflecting the various views expressed at this meeting. The paper, which is to be used as the basis for multilateral discussion at a second meeting of suppliers, was distributed to other participants during the week of May 21. We have offered to hold bilaterals with the other countries prior to the next meeting. The FRG is presently studying our paper and has not yet given us any reaction to it. Our expectation is that the FRG may resist those sections of the paper suggesting special constraints on sensitive exports (e.g., reprocessing and enrichment technology), and in particular the suggestion that these exports be undertaken only under agreements providing for active participation by the supplier government in resulting nuclear plants at the policy, management, and operational level.

The FRG Embassy has called our attention to a recent UPI story datelined Washington which made reference to the "nuclear suppliers conference" which has been picked up in the German papers (although not, apparently, in the U.S. press). While a number of participating countries have stressed the importance they attach to maintaining the confidentiality of the conference, German sensitivities are probably particularly heightened by the recent flurry of press interest in the FRG/Brazil nuclear assistance agreement (see following item).

Talking Points

If Scheel mentions the UPI item, you may wish to say

-- We regret that a reference to the proposed Suppliers Conference has appeared in a UPI ticker item recently. We share the views of the FRG and others on the importance of keeping this effort confidential.

Department of State
June 1975

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GDS